

Alma 43:3-8**1** *Zarahemnah's approach*

Zarahemnah's appointment of apostate captains of his armies to preserve hatred towards the Nephites (Alma 43:2-7) was contrary to the Nephite's custom of appointing captains who "had the spirit of revelation and also prophecy" (3 Nephi 3:19). Thus the battle of Satan and Michael that was begun in heaven, or in the pre-mortal life, commenced once more on the earth at this time (see Revelation 12:7). The desire of the Lamanites to bring the Nephites into bondage (Alma 43:8) had been their traditional aspiration through the years, and was a tool of Satan.

Monte S. Nyman, *Record of Helaman*, p. 17

Alma 43:8-9, 29-30, 43-46**2** *Righteous Cause*

We have to be careful as to what spirit we are guided by. If we want to go out to battle, to encroach upon other peoples' liberties and rights, to gain their lands, to destroy their property without any right or reason, that is one thing; but if somebody comes against us to destroy us and our property and our homes and our rights and our privileges, either on land or sea, then we have the right under divine law to rise for our own protection and take such steps as are necessary.... We Latter-day Saints must watch ourselves and not give way to passion and desire to shed blood and to destroy.

Charles W. Penrose, *Conference Report*, April 1917, 21.

3 When threatened, we become anti-enemy instead of pro-kingdom of God... We forget that if we are righteous the Lord will either not suffer our enemies come upon us—and this is the special promise to the inhabitants of the land the Americas (2 Nephi 1:7)—or he will fight our battles for us.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, June 1976.

4 There are, however, two conditions which may justify a truly Christian man enter—mind you, I say enter, not begin—a war: (1) An attempt to dominate and to deprive another of his free agency, and (2) Loyalty to his country. Possibly there is a third, viz., Defense of a weak nation that is being unjustly crushed by a strong ruthless one.

Davie O. McKay, *Conference Report*, Apr. 1942, p. 7

Elder Bruce R. McConkie said:

5 "Self-defense is as justifiable where war is concerned as where one man seeks to take the life of another... Righteous men are entitled, expected, and obligated to defend themselves; they must engage in battle when there is no other way to preserve their rights and freedoms and to protect their families, homes, land, and the truths of salvation which they have espoused."

Mormon Doctrine, p. 826.

Alma 43:8-9**6** *Righteous cause*

We recognize and teach that all the people of the earth are of the family of God...

But as citizens we are all under the direction of our respective national leaders... Those in the armed services are under obligation to their respective governments to execute the will of the sovereign....

One of our Articles of Faith, which represent an expression of our doctrine, states, "We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law" (Articles of Faith 1:12)....

However, we all must also be mindful of another over-riding responsibility, which I may add, governs my personal feelings and dictates my personal loyalties in the present situation.

When war raged between the Nephites and Lamanites, the record states... [President Hinckley then quoted Alma 43:45-47 and Alma 46:12-13].

It is clear from these and other writings that there are times and circumstances when nations are justified, in fact have an obligation, to fight for family, for liberty, and against tyranny, threat, and oppression....

We are a freedom-loving people, committed to the defense of liberty wherever it is in jeopardy. I believe that God will not hold men and women in uniform responsible as agents of their government in carrying forward that which they are legally obligated to do. It may even be that He will hold us responsible if we try to impede or hedge up the way of those who are involved in a contest with forces of evil and repression....

Never let us become a party to words or works of evil concerning our brothers and sisters in various nations on one side or the other. Political differences never justify hatred or ill will.

Gordon B. Hinckley, in *Conference Report*, Apr. 2003 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2003], 83-84.

7 When I was 18 years old, I was inducted into the military. While I had no reason to wonder about it before, I became very concerned if it was right for me to go to war...[World War II]. In time, I found my answer in the Book of Mormon:

“They [the Nephites] were not fighting for monarchy nor power but they were fighting for their homes and their liberties, their wives and their children, and their all, yea, for their rites of worship and their church.

“And they were doing that which they felt was the duty which they owed to their God; for the Lord had said unto them, and also unto their fathers, that: Inasmuch as ye are not guilty of the first offense, neither the second, ye shall not suffer yourselves to be slain by the hands of your enemies.

“And again, the Lord has said that: ye shall defend your families even unto bloodshed. Therefore for this cause were the Nephites contending with the Lamanites, to defend themselves, and their families, and their lands, their country, and their rights, and their religion” (Alma 43:45-47).

Knowing this, I could serve willingly and with honor.

Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, May 2005 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2005], 7-8.

8 Our question is, however, is there ever a time when war, or the taking up of arms is justified?

Yes, there are such times. There have been many instances when the Lord has justified the taking up of arms and has approved his people in their obedience to such action. When it becomes necessary for a righteous people to take arms against their enemies who are the aggressors, in protection of their lives and in defense of their possessions, the Lord has approved. If you will read the scriptures carefully, you will discover that the Lord commanded his chosen people to prepare for war and even to be the aggressors in the accomplishment of his purposes. Here are a few examples:

“And Israel vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people unto my hands, then I will utterly destroy their cities.

“And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of place Hormah” (Numbers 21:2-3).

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

“Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people.

“And Moses spake unto the people, saying, Arm some of yourselves unto the war, and let them go against the Midianites, and avenge the Lord of Midian” (Numbers 31:1-3).

“When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, and the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

“And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them.

“Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son” (Deuteronomy 7:1-3).

All through the Old Testament you will find commandments which were given to Israel to go to war. There were good reasons for this which may be discovered by reading these parts of the Bible.

The Lord has always upheld a people which righteously defends itself against wicked aggression. He has said that he cleansed this American continent by the shedding of blood and justified the American colonists in their war of the American Revolution. Through Samuel, the Lord commanded Israel to make war on Israel's enemies.

Answers to Gospel Questions, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., 5 vol. (1954-56), 3:50-55.

Alma 43: 18- 21

9 *Armor*

Ephesians 6:11-16

Loins = truth

Breastplate = righteousness

Feet = Preparation of gospel

Shield = faith

Helmet = salvation

Sword of spirit = word of God

Continued Prayer

10

The heavy armor worn by soldiers of a former day, including helmets, shields, and breastplates, determined the outcome of some battles. However, the real battles of life in our modern day will be won by those who are clad in a spiritual armor—an armor consisting of faith in God, faith in self, faith in one's cause, and faith in one's leaders. The piece of armor called the temple garment not only provides the comfort and warmth of a cloth covering, it also strengthens the wearer to resist temptation, fend off evil influences, and stand firmly for the right.

Carlos E. Asay

11

We have the four parts of the body that the Apostle Paul said or saw to be the most vulnerable to the powers of darkness. The loins, typifying virtue, chastity. The heart typifying our conduct. Our feet, our goals or objectives in life and finally our head, our thoughts.

... We should have our loins girt about with truth. What is truth? Truth, the Lord said was knowledge of things as they are, things as they were and things as they are to come [D&C 93:24]...."Our loins shall be girt about with truth," the Prophet said.

And the heart, what kind of a breastplate shall protect our conduct in Life? We shall have over our hearts a breastplate of righteousness. Well, having learned truth we have a measure by which we can judge between right and wrong and so our conduct will always be gauged by that thing which we know to be true. Our breastplate to cover our conduct shall be the breastplate of righteousness.

[By] what shall we protect our feet, or by what shall we gauge our objectives or our goals in Life?... "Your feet should be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Ephesians 6:15)...

And then the helmet of salvation.... What is salvation? Salvation is to be saved. Saved from what? Saved from death and saved from sin....

Well, now the Apostle Paul.... Had his armoured man, holding in his hand a shield and in his other hand a sword, which were the weapons of those days. That shield was the shield of faith and the sword was the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God. I can't think of any more powerful weapons than faith and a knowledge of the scriptures in the which are contained the Word of God. One so armoured and one so prepared with those weapons is prepared to go out against the enemy.

Harold B. Lee, *Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace*, Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year [Nov. 9, 1954], 2-3, 6-7; see also Ephesians 6:13-17; D&C 27: 15-18.

12 **The Whole Armor of God**

The “helmet of salvation” guards our reasoning, intellect, and thoughts.

The “breastplate of righteousness” helps us to have the Spirit with us always, guarding our heart and soul.

Having our “loins girt about with truth” gives us the foundation to build faith and develop our testimony.

The “sword of the Spirit” is the word of God to pierce the darkness so that we may have light and truth to guide our way in life.

The “shield of faith” helps us withstand the fiery darts of the adversary.

Having our “feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” by reading and studying the scriptures helps us be obedient to the laws, ordinances, commandments, and covenants of God.

Elder Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, Aug 2008, p. 39

13 This shield of faith is best fabricated in a cottage industry. While the shield can be polished in classes in the Church and in activities, it is meant to be handcrafted in the home and fitted to each individual.

Boyd K. Packer, “Do Not Fear”, May 2004

14 **Sword = Word of God**

Ephesians 6:17

1 Nephi 15:24

Heleman 4:12

Heleman 3: 29, 30

Matthew 4:1-11

Exodus 14:13

1 Nephi 17:26

Alma 5:5, 7

15 Take hold of the scriptures! Cling to them, walk by them, live by them, rejoice in them, feast on them. Don't nibble. They are “the power of God unto salvation”...

We boldly declare that the answer to the terror, destruction, and even genocide of these last days is found in the scriptures....

Faithful will be able to withstand the fiery darts of the adversary when he is loosed upon this earth.

Elder Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, Nov. 2006, p. 24-26.

16 **Alma 43: 23-24** *Follow the Prophet*

Our best defense is the quiet offense of allegiance to the teachings which have come to us from those whom we have sustained as prophets of God.

Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Jan. 2005 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2005], 4.

17 When we sustain our President, we agree to follow his direction. He is the mouthpiece of the Lord for today, and that has great and significant meaning... As members of the Church, by voting to sustain our new President, we have placed ourselves under a solemn covenant to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life as he gives them to us.

Mark E. Peterson, Conference Report 1974 Apr. 81

18 Let us harken to those we sustain as prophets and seers, as well as the other brethren as if our eternal life depended upon it, because it does!

Spencer W. Kimball, in Conference Report, Apr. 1978, 117; or *Ensign*, May 1978, 77.

19 President Grant used to say to us time and again: “Brethren, keep your eye on the President of the Church. If he tells you to do anything and it is wrong and you do it, the Lord will bless you for it. But you don’t need to worry; the Lord will never let his mouthpiece lead this people astray.”

Harold B. Lee, (*To Brigham Young University student body*), “Ye Are the Light of the World” p. 36., TLDP: 666

20 Our relationship to living prophets is not one in which their sayings are a smorgasbord from which we may take only that which pleases us. We are to partake of all that is placed before us, including the spinach, and to leave a clean plate!

Neal A. Maxwell, *Really Are*, p.74

21 Neal A. Maxwell: “Make no mistake about it, brothers and sisters, in the months and years ahead, events are likely to require each member to decide whether or not he will follow the First Presidency. Members will find it more difficult to halt longer between two opinions.”

Ensign, Feb. 1979, 69

22 Some members assume that one can be in full harmony with the spirit of the gospel, enjoy full fellowship in the Church, and at the same time be out of harmony with the leaders of the Church and the counsel and direction they give. Such a position is wholly inconsistent, because the guidance of the Church comes not alone from the written word but also from continuous revelation to the Church through his chosen prophet. It follows, therefore, that those who profess to accept the gospel and who at the same time criticize and refuse to follow the counsel of the prophet are assuming an indefensible position. Such a spirit leads to apostasy.

Marion G. Romney, *Ensign*, May 1983.

23 It is exceedingly important for members of the Church to get experience following the prophets in little things, so that they can follow in large matters. By following the prophets in fair weather we become familiar with their cadence, so that we can follow them in stormy times too, for then both our reflexes and our experience will need to combine to help us; the stresses will be so very real.

Neal A. Maxwell, *All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience*, 102.

24 When the prophet speaks, the debate is over!

Elaine Cannon

25 **Alma 43: 25-28, 35**

Strategy = Revelation

“We believe in the principle of direct revelation from God to man—

This is a part of the gospel, but it is not peculiar to this dispensation. It is common in all ages and dispensations of the gospel. The gospel cannot be administered, nor the Church of God continue to exist, without it. Christ is the head of his Church and not man, and the connection can only be maintained upon the principle of direct and continuous revelation. It is not hereditary principle, it cannot be handed down from father to son, nor from generation to generation, but is a living, vital principle to be enjoyed on certain conditions only, namely—through in absolute faith in God and obedience to his laws and commandments.

The moment this principle is cut off, that moment the Church is adrift, being severed from its ever-living head. In this condition it cannot continue, but must cease to be the Church of God and, like the ship at sea without captain, compass or rudder, is afloat at the mercy of the storms and the waves of ever contending human passion and worldly interests, pride and folly, finally to be wrecked upon the strand of priestcraft and superstition.

Joseph F. Smith

26 This is the true light, which in some measure illuminates all man. It is, in its less refined particles, the physical light which reflects from the sun, moon and stars, and other substances.... It is also in its higher degrees, the intellectual light of our inward and spiritual organs, by which we reason, discern, judge, compare, comprehend and remember the subjects within our reach. Its inspiration constitutes instinct in animals life, reason in man, vision in the Prophets, and is continually flowing from the Godhead throughout all His creatures.

Parley P. Pratt

27 Our...first and foremost duty [is] to seek the Lord until we open the path of communication from God to our own soul.

Brigham Young

28 A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon (i.3.) Those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Jesus Christ.

Joseph Smith

29 What are these great principles that are calculated to unite the whole human family, and to cause them to worship the same God, adhere to the same counsel and be governed by the same voice:~ They are the principle of revelation, the power of God revealed to His people, the belief in the hearts of the people that it is God's right to rule and dictate, and that it is not the right of any man to say it shall be thus and so; nor are the people required to obey these principles blindly—without knowledge.

Joseph Smith

30 Let us all revive our individual and family prayers. Prayer is an armor of protection against temptation and I promise you that if you will teach your children to pray, fervently and full of faith, many of your problems are solved before they begin.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Teachings*, 117.

31 Prayer is the means by which men communicate with God. Revelation is the means by which God communicates with men.

Elder Marion G. Romney, Conference Report, April 1964, Afternoon Meeting. P.122.

32 Now I say that we are entitled to revelation. I say that every member of the Church, independent and irrespective of any position that he may hold, is entitled to get revelation from the Holy Ghost; he is entitled to entertain angels; he is entitled to view the vision of eternity; and if we would like to go the full measure, he is entitled to see God the same way that any prophet in literal and actual reality has seen the face of Deity.

Bruce R. McConkie, *Sermons and Writings of Bruce R. McConkie*, p. 154

33 It is the grand privilege of every Latter-day Saint to have the manifestations of the spirit every day of our lives.

President Lorenzo Snow, Conference Report, April 1899, Third Day—Morning Session.

34 No man can receive the Holy Ghost without receiving revelations. The Holy Ghost is a revelator.

Joseph Smith *History of the Church*, 6:58.

35 We live far beneath our privileges. We settle for twilight when sunlight is readily available.

Robert L. Millet, *Alive in Christ: The Miracle of Spiritual Rebirth*, p.1

36	Formula to Receive Revelation:	1 Nephi 11:1-6 Desire Believe Ponder Ask Worthiness	1 Nephi 16:10, 28-29 Faith Diligence Heed
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37 The ability to qualify for, receive, and act on personal revelation is the single most important ability that can be acquired in this life.

Julie B. Beck, *Choose Ye This Day to Serve the Lord*, 2010 BYU Women's Conference.

Alma 43:45-47

38 The nations of the earth have been divided over the present situation. Feelings have run strong. There have been demonstrations for and against. We are now a world Church with members in most nations which have argued this matter. Our people have had feelings. They have had concerns.

War, or course, is not new. The weapons change. The ability to kill and destroy is constantly refined. But there has been conflict throughout the ages over essentially the same issues.

The book of Revelation speaks briefly of what must have been a terrible conflict for the minds and loyalties of God's children. The account is worth repeating:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

"And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7-9).

Isaiah speaks further concerning that great conflict (see Isaiah 14:12-20). Modern revelation gives additional light (see D&C 76:25-29), as does the book of Moses (see Moses 4:1-4), which tells of Satan's plan to destroy the agency of man.

We sometimes are prone to glorify the great empires of the past, such as the Ottoman Empire, the Roman and Byzantine Empires, and in more recent times, the vast British Empire. But there is a darker side to every one of them. There is a grim and tragic overlay of brutal conquest, of subjugation, or repression, and an astronomical cost in life and treasure.

The great English essayist Thomas Carlyle once ironically shared the observation, "God must needs laugh outright, could such a thing be, to see his wondrous manikins below" (quoted in Sartor Resartus [1836], 182). I think our Father in Heaven must have wept as He has looked down upon His children through the centuries as they have squandered their divine birthright in ruthlessly destroying one another.

In the course of history, tyrants have arisen from time to time who have oppressed their own people and threatened the world. Such is adjudged to be the case presently, and consequently great and terrifying forces with sophisticated and fearsome armaments have been engaged in battle.

Many of our own Church members have been involved in this conflict. We have seen on televisions and in the press tearful children clinging to their fathers in uniform, going to the battlefield....

The question arises, "Where does the Church stand in all of this?"

First, let it be understood that we have no quarrel with the Muslim people or with those of any other faith. We recognize and teach that all the people of the earth are of the family of God. And as He is our Father, so are we brothers and sisters with family obligations one to another....

But as citizens we are all under the direction of our respective national leaders. They have access to greater political and military intelligence than do the people generally.

Those in the armed services are under obligation to their respective governments to execute the will of the sovereign. When they joined the military service, they entered into a contract by which they are presently bound and to which they have dutifully responded.

One of the Articles of Faith, which represents an expression of our doctrine, states, “We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law” (Articles of Faith 1:12).

But modern revelation states that we are to “renounce war and proclaim peace” (D&C 98:16). In a democracy we can renounce war and proclaim peace. There is opportunity for dissent. Many have been speaking out and doing so emphatically. That is their privilege. That is their right, so long as they do so legally. However, we all must be mindful of another overriding responsibility, which I may add, governs my personal feelings and dictates my personal loyalties in the present situation.

When war raged between the Nephites and the Lamanites, the record states that “the Nephites were inspired by a better cause, for they were not fighting for... power but they were fighting for their homes and their liberties, their wives and their children, and their all, yea, for their rites of worship and their church.

“And they were doing that which they felt was the duty which they owed to their God” (Alma 43:45-46).

The Lord counseled them, “Defend your families even unto bloodshed” (Alma 43:47).

And Moroni “rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it—In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole.

“And he fastened on his head plate, and his breastplate, and his shields, and girded on his armor about his loins; and he took the pole, which had on the end thereof his rent coat, (and he called it the title of liberty) and he bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren” (Alma 46:12-13).

It is clear from these and other writings that there are times and circumstances when nations are justified, in fact have an obligation, to fight for family, for liberty, and against tyranny, threat, and oppression.

When all is said and done, we of this Church are people of peace. We are followers of our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the Prince of Peace. But even He said, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34).

This places us in the position of those who long for peace, who teach peace, who work for peace, but who also are citizens of nations and are subject to the laws of our governments. Furthermore, we are a freedom-loving people, committed to the defense of liberty wherever it is in jeopardy. I believe that God will not hold men and women in uniform responsible as agents of their government in carrying forward that which they are legally obligated to do. It may even be that He will hold us responsible if we try to impede or hedge up the way of those who are involved in a contest with forces of evil and repression.

Now, there is much that we can and must do in these perilous times. We can give our opinions on the merits of the situation as we see it, but never let us become a party to words or works of evil concerning our brothers and sisters in various nations on one side or the other. Political differences never justify hatred or ill will. I hope that the Lord’s people may be at peace one with another during times of trouble, regardless of what loyalties they may have to different governments or parties.

Let us pray for those who are called upon to bear arms by their respective governments and plead for the protection of heaven upon them that they may return to their loved ones in safety.

To our brothers and sisters in harm’s way, we say that we pray for you. We pray that the Lord will watch over you and preserve you from injury and that you may return home and pick up your lives again. We know that you are not in that land of blowing sand and brutal heat because you enjoy the games of war. The strength of your commitment is measured by your willingness to give your very lives for that in which you believe.

We know that some have died, and others may yet die in this hot and deadly contest. We can do all in our power to comfort and bless those who lose loved ones. May those who mourn be comforted with that comfort which comes alone from Christ, the Redeemer.

Gordon B. Hinckley, Conference Report April 2003, 82-84.

39 **Alma 43:48-50**

Captain at the Helm

Moroni was fearless, heroically leading his men and fighting at the front alongside them—as is evident from his always apparently clear view of and earshot distance from the opposing forces, allowing him a battlefield position from which he could at any time call a halt to the fighting and immediately begin negotiations with the opposing army. Moroni's behavior perfectly illustrates what historian Keegan calls “the first and greatest imperative of command,” that of example, which means the commander must “be present in person. Those who impose risk must be seen to share it,” for “it is the spectacle of heroism, or its immediate report, that fires the blood.”

From *Father and Sons in the Book of Mormon*, by Clark and Clark, p. 161.

40 Take time to always be at the crossroads when your children are either coming or going—when they leave and return from dates- when they bring friends home. Be there at the crossroads whether your children are six or sixteen. In Proverbs we read: “A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Proverbs 29:15). Among the greatest concerns in our society are the millions of latchkey children who come home daily to empty houses unsupervised by working parents.

Ezra Taft Benson, *The Teaching of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 516

41 President Spencer W. Kimball taught: “The righteous woman's strength and influence today can be tenfold what it might be in more tranquil times. She has been placed here to help, to protect, and to guard the home—which is society's basic and most noble institution. Other institutions in society may falter and even fail, but the righteous woman can help to save the home, which may be the last and only sanctuary some mortals know in the midst of storm and strife.”

Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, [1982], 326-27.

42 Be vigilant to detect and fearless to oppose.

President Gordon B. Hinckley

43 I have said lately that women are like lionesses at the gate of the home. Whatever happens in that home and family happens because she cares about it and it matters to her. She guards that gate, and things matter to that family if they matter to her. For example, if the lioness at the gate believes in the law of tithing, tithing will be paid in that family. If that family has a humble little portion of ten pesos coming in, that lioness will safeguard the one peso if tithing is important to her. If that lioness at the gate knows about renewing her baptismal covenants with God, she will be in sacrament meeting on Sunday, and she will prepare her children to be there. They will be washed, cleaned, combed, and taught about that meeting and what happens there. It isn't a casual event, but it is serious to her, and it will be serious to them. The lioness at the gate ensures that temple worship is taken care of in the family. She encourages that participation. She cares about seeking her ancestors. If the lioness at the gate knows about and understands about missions, missionaries, and the mission of the house of Israel, she will prepare future missionaries to go out from that home. It is very difficult to get a lion cub away from a lioness who doesn't believe in missions, but if the lioness believes in a mission, she will devote her life to preparing the cub to go out and serve the Lord. That's how important she is. Service happens if she cares about it.

Julie B. Beck, “Choose Ye This Day to Serve the Lord”, 2010 BYU Women's Conference

44 **Alma 43: 53-54 & Alma 44**

No Desire for Blood Negotiation (Repentance- Forgiveness)

We are often reminded that Moroni “did not delight in the shedding of blood” and would do anything to avoid it, repeatedly urging his people to make covenants of peace and to preserve them by faith and prayer. He refused to talk about “the enemy.” For him they were always “our brethren,” misled by the traditions of their father. He fought them only with heavy reluctance, and he never invaded their lands, even when they threatened invasion of his own....

At the slightest sign of weakening by an enemy in battle, Moroni would instantly propose a discussion to put an end to the fighting. The idea of total victory was alien to him—no revenge, no reprisals, no reparations, even for an aggressor who had ravaged his country. He would send the beaten enemy home after the battle, accepting their word for good behavior..., even when he knew it was taking a risk.

E. Douglas Clark & Robert S. Clark. *Fathers and Sons of the Book of Mormon*, p. 167.

45

So fundamental in man’s eternal progress is his inherent right to choose that the Lord would defend it even at the price of war. Without freedom of thought, freedom of choice, freedom of action within lawful bounds, man cannot progress. The Lord recognized this and also the fact that it would take man thousands of years to make the earth habitable for self-governing individuals.

Throughout the ages advanced souls have yearned for a society in which liberty and justice prevail. Men have sought for it, fought for it, have died for it. Ancient freemen prized it; slaves longed for it; the Magna Charta demanded it; the Constitution of the United States declared it.

“This love of liberty which God has planted in us,” said Abraham Lincoln “constitutes the bulwark of our liberty and independence. It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling seacoasts, our army, and our navy. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere. Destroy this spirit, and we have planted seeds of despotism at our very doors.”

Gospel Ideals: Selections from the Discourses of David O. McKay, comp. G. Homer Durham [Salt Lake City: Improvement Era, 1953], 286.

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[Speaking of Captain Moroni]: His Magnanimous nature as a lover of peace and fair play always prevailed.... You cannot ask for a less warlike spirit than that of an army who “were compelled reluctantly to contend with their brethren...” who were “sorry to take up arms... because they did not delight in the shedding of blood” (Alma 48:21-23). In battle Moroni... refused to take advantage of an enemy... (Alma 55:19)... With never a thought of punishing a beaten foe... he was satisfied to take his defeated adversaries at their word and trust them to return to their homes.

Hugh Nibley, *Prophetic Book of Mormon*, 353.