

Alma 60:7-13

1 The sin, as Moroni of old said, is upon those who sit in their places of power and “in a state of thoughtless stupor” (Alma 60:7), in a frenzy of hate, who lust for unrighteous power and dominion over their fellowmen, and who have put into motion eternal forces that they do not comprehend or cannot control. God in His own due time will pass sentence upon such leaders.

Therefore, let us endeavor to banish all bitterness from our hearts and to rest judgment with God, as did the Apostle Paul when he wrote, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Romans 12:19).

The Teachings of Harold B. Lee, 359.

Alma 60:11

“... sit upon your thrones”

2 Recently a college student about to graduate, and under notice from the selective service, came to my office. Confused and worried, he told me of the pressure from fellow students and from faculty members to refuse induction, to leave the country, if necessary. When the issues are so confusing—and they are confusing—what can a man do? How can he know which way to turn?

First, the scriptures are not silent on the subject. These are not new issues. 75 years B.C., the Nephites faced such a challenge. There encircled them an ominous threat to liberty, the home, the family, and their rights of worship. While our present dilemma is not quite like theirs, all too soon the very circumstances they faced could come upon us. We would do well at least to ponder the words of their prophets: “Behold,” said Moroni, “could ye suppose that ye could sit upon your thrones, and because of the exceeding goodness of God ye could do nothing and he would deliver you? Behold, if ye supposed this you have supposed in vain” (Alma 60:11).

These Nephites faced not only the hostility of invading enemies, but also indifference, dissension, and corruption in their own land. But the record confirms that “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 hand of your enemies.

“And again, the Lord had 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 43:46-47).

Boyd K. Packer, CR, April 1968, 33-34.

Alma 60:10-14

3 Why are Righteous Slain?

In this terrible war now waging, thousands of our righteous young men in all parts of the world and in many countries are subject to a call into the military service of their own countries. Some of these, so serving, have already been called back to their heavenly home; others will almost surely be called to follow. But “behold,” as Moroni said, the righteous of them who serve and are slain “do enter into the rest of the Lord their God,” [Alma 60:13] and of them the Lord

has said “those that die in me shall not taste of death, for it shall be sweet unto them.” (D&C 42:46) Their salvation and exaltation in the world to come will be secure. That in their work of destruction they will be striking at their brethren will not be held against them. That sin, as Moroni of old said, is to the condemnation of those who “sit in their places of power in a state of thoughtless stupor,” those rulers in the world who in a frenzy of hate and lust for unrighteous power and dominion over their fellow men, have put into motion eternal forces they do not comprehend and cannot control. God, in His own due time, will pass sentence upon them. Heber J. Grant, J. Reuben Clark, Jr., David O. McKay in CR, Apr. 1942, pp. 95-96

4 Recently I received a letter from parents in California whose son had written home just before last Christmas and then shortly thereafter his life was taken in the war in Vietnam. This is part of what he wrote: “War is an ugly thing, a vicious thing. It breaks up families, causes immorality, cheating, and much hatred. It is not the glorious John Wayne type thing you see in the movies. It is going a month without a shower and a change of clothing. It is fear creeping up your spine when you hear a mortar tube in the jungle. It is not being able to get close enough to the ground when coming under enemy fire; hearing your buddy cry out because of being ripped with a hot piece of shrapnel. You... be proud of your American citizenship, because many brave and valiant men are here preserving your freedom. God has given you the gift of a free nation, and it is the duty of each of you to help in whatever was you can to preserve it. America is the protector of our Church, which is dearer to me than life itself.” And then this young man said this very significant thing: “I realize now that I have already received the greatest gift of all, and that is the opportunity to gain exaltation and eternal life. If you have this gift, nothing else really matters.”

Harold B. Lee, *From the Valley of Despair to the Mountain Peaks of Hope* [Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1971], 5-6.

5 It is my conviction that the present devastating scourge of war in which hundreds of thousands are being slain, many of whom are no more responsible for the causes of war than are our own boys, is making necessary an increase of missionary activity in the spirit world and that many of our boys who bear the Holy Priesthood and are worthy to do so will be called to that missionary service after they have departed this life.

Harold B. Lee, in Conference Report, Oct. 1942 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1942], 72-73.

Alma 60:21

6 President Spencer W. Kimball taught:
 “God does notice us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through another mortal that he meets our needs. Therefore, it is vital that we serve each other in the kingdom.”

The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 252

Alma 60:23-24

7

All is not well in Zion. As Moroni counseled, we must cleanse the inner vessel (see Alma 60:23), beginning first with ourselves, then with our families, and finally with the Church. . . .

If we are to cleanse the inner vessel, we must forsake immorality and be clean. . . .

My beloved brethren and sisters, as we cleanse the inner vessel, there will have to be changes made in our own personal lives, in our families, and in the Church. The proud do not change to improve, but defend their position by rationalizing. Repentance means change, and it takes a humble person to change. But we can do it.”

President Ezra Taft Benson, “Cleansing the Inner Vessel,” *Ensign*, May 1986, pp. 4-7

Alma 60:36

8

Moroni was bursting with pent-up emotions and the accumulated memories of reverses that could have been avoided and operations that could have ended the war had the necessary support been forthcoming from home. He knows, as Helaman suspects, that someone in high places is working against him, and for his noble and idealistic nature the thought that anyone should make capital of the miseries of others was simply maddening—yet he had seen that sort of thing going on in the capital all his life. . . .

It was, to say the least, not the most tactful letter in the world, but Moroni’s patience was worn out. Also it turned out, he was right—on every point but one. And that point was an important one: he had accused the wrong man. Aside from that, he had the situation correctly sized up—his long experience with the king-men had not been for nothing.

Hugh Nibley, *Since Cumorah: The Book of Mormon in the Modern World*, pp. 362-63