

Prelude to Mormon 4

1 Now if a nation essays to go forth against another nation for the purpose of conquest, to gain territory, to grasp something that does not belong to that nation, then the nation thus assailed has the right to resist even to the shedding of blood, as it was in this land in the war for independence. But we have to be careful as to what spirit we are guided by . . . We Latter-day Saints must watch ourselves and not give way to passion and desire to shed blood and to destroy, for that is the power of the evil one. . . .

. . . There is a very great difference between arising to go forth for conquest, for blood, for plunder, to gain territory and power in the earth, and in fighting to defend our own possessions in the spirit of justice and righteousness and equity, and standing up like men for those things that we have a right to contend for.

Charles W. Penrose, in Conference Report, Apr. 1917, pp. 21-22.

2 Mormon 4:4-5

“Punished”

Often, very often, we are punished as much by our own sins as we are for our sins.

Boyd K. Packer, *Teach Ye Diligently*, 262

3 When souls become wicked they will . . . hurt one another; and this, perhaps, accounts for four-fifths of the suffering of men. It is men, not God, who have produced racks, whips, prisons, slavery, guns, bayonets, and bombs; it is by . . . human stupidity, not by the churlishness of nature, that we have poverty and overwork.

C. S. Lewis, *Problems of Pain*, 89

Mormon 4:8

Arm of Flesh

4 One of the most common of all sins among worldly people is relying on and then boasting in the arm of flesh. This is a most serious evil. It is a sin born of pride, a sin that creates a frame of mind which keeps men from turning to the Lord and accepting his saving grace. When a man knowingly or unknowingly engages in self-exultation because of his riches, his political power, his worldly learning, his physical prowess, his business ability, or even his works of righteousness, he is not in tune with the Spirit of the Lord.

Elder Marvin J. Ashton, “Neither boast of faith Nor of Mighty Works,” *Ensign*, May 1990, p. 67

Mormon 4:11

5 *Delight in Shedding of Blood*

In 1985 hand guns killed eight people in Great Britain, 48 people in Japan, 34 people in Switzerland, 52 in Canada, 58 in Israel, 21 in Sweden, 42 in West Germany, and 10, 728 in the United States. There are more murders each year on Manhattan Island which is 3 miles by 12 miles than in the United Kingdom including Ireland.

Hugh Nibley, *Collected works*, 7:400-401

6 The last days will be rampant with the cardinal sins, just “as in the days of Noah.” Society in the days of Noah, scriptures advise, was “corrupt before God” and “filled with violence.” Corruption and violence—sound familiar? Both of these awful conditions crest because of surging individual selfishness. When thus engulfed, no wonder men’s hearts in our day will fail them because of fear (see Luke 21:26; D&C 45:26). Even the faithful can expect a few fibrillations.

Neal A. Maxwell, in Conference Report, Oct. 1990 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1990] 15-16.