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THE BOOK OF  
MORMON  
=  
THE KEYSTONE

**MOSIAH**

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December 2023, Jan/Feb 2024

## **The Book of Mormon**



**The  
Keystone  
of Our  
Religion**

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## Summary

- 13 chapters; 1072 verses
- Abridged account of King Benjamin and Mosiah II reigns, institution of system of the judges
- Covers 33 years (~124BC – 91BC)
- 12.3% of the BoM
- Takes place primarily in the Land of Zarahemla with expedition in Land of Nephi
- Written by Mormon

# Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)

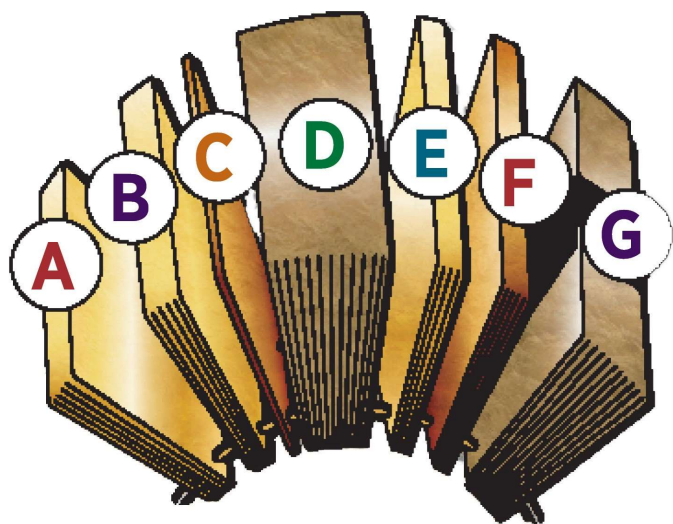


Land of  
Zarahemla

City of  
Nephi

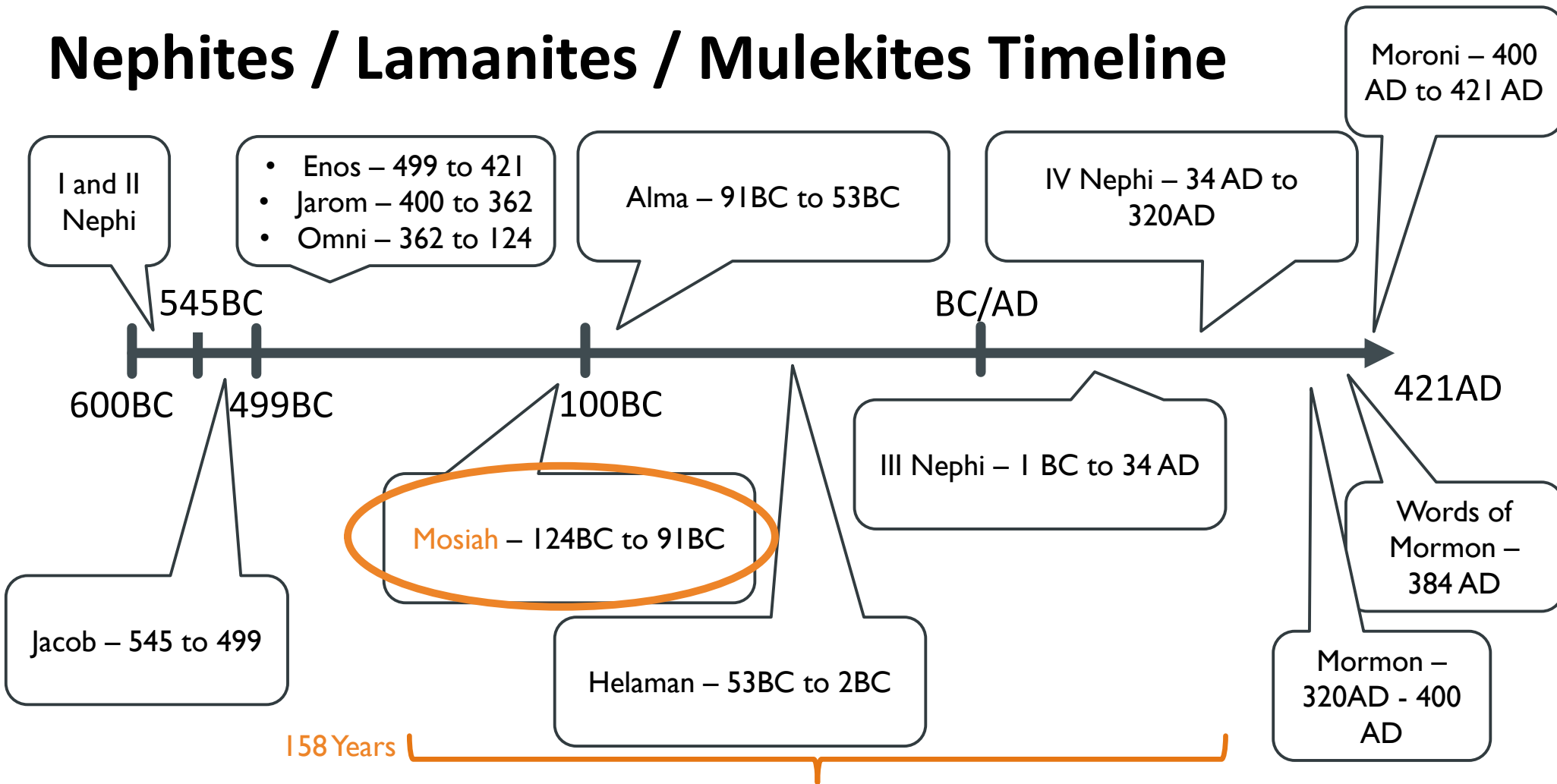
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# THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE PLATES



- A – Lost abridgement
- B – Small plates of Nephi (unabridged)
- C – Words of Mormon
- D – Large plates of Nephi (abridged)
- E – 24 Gold Plates (abridged)
- F – Moroni's writing
- G – Sealed Portion

# Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites Timeline



## LESSONS FROM MOSIAH

- Continuation of Words of Mormon and King Benjamin's reign
- Benjamin appoints Mosiah II
- King Benjamin's famous speech (Ch 1-4)
- Discover what happened to Zeniff's group that left (Ch 5)
- Flashback (Ch 6-9) ; Parallel timeline occurring in Land of Nephi
- Escape to return to Zarahemla (Ch 10)
- Alma and the church escape to Zarahemla (Ch 11)
- Alma Jr and the Sons of Mosiah conversion
- Great missionary efforts (Ch 12)
- Shift to system of Judges (Ch 13)

# SUMMARY OF MOSIAH

## Part 1 – In the Land of Zarahemla

- Ch 1 – 4: King Benajmin's message; people make covenant; Benjamin dies; Mosiah II becomes king

## Part 2 – In the Land of Nephi

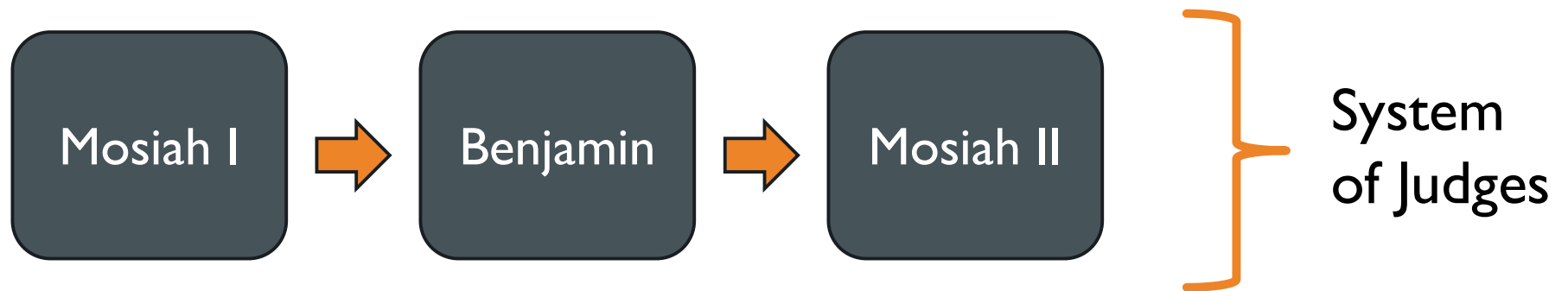
- Ch 5-11: Ammon and 16 men go to the land of Nephi and find Limhi
  - Flashback: Zeniff – Noah (Abinadi, Alma) – Limhi
  - Ammon returns to Zarahemla with Limhi
  - Alma I and his people gather

## Part 3 – In the Land of Zarahemla

- Ch 11-13: Alma I establishes 7 churches
  - Conversion of Alma II and sons of Mosiah II
  - Mosiah II translates the 24 gold plates
  - Mosiah II is the last Nephite king; Alma II is first judge

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## NEPHITES: REIGN OF THE KINGS



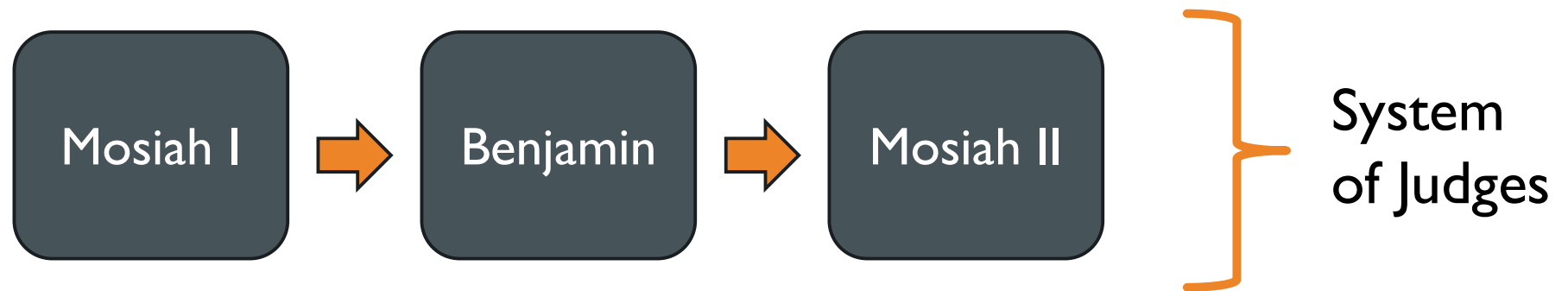
REIGN OF THE KINGS (570 BC to 91 BC) - 2 Nephi 4:27 to Mosiah 12:14

- From King Nephi in 570 BC to King Mosiah 2 in 91 BC.
- Last three kings: Mosiah 1, Benjamin, Mosiah 2, then reign of the Judges.



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## NEPHITES: REIGN OF THE JUDGES

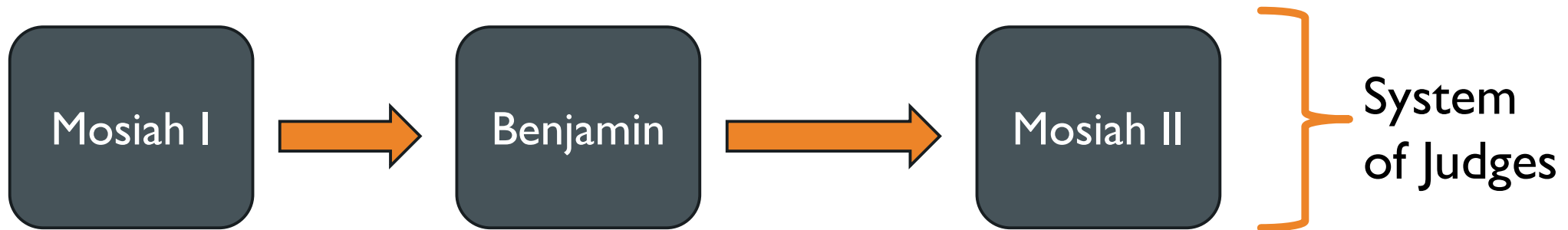


REIGN OF THE JUDGES (begins in 91 BC) - Mosiah 12:14–13:68

- 1 Nephi 3:4 – Messiah would come 600 years from time Lehi left Jerusalem.
- Mosiah 13:67 – King Mosiah 2 died 509 years from time Lehi left Jerusalem.

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## THE LAST 3 NEPHITE KINGS



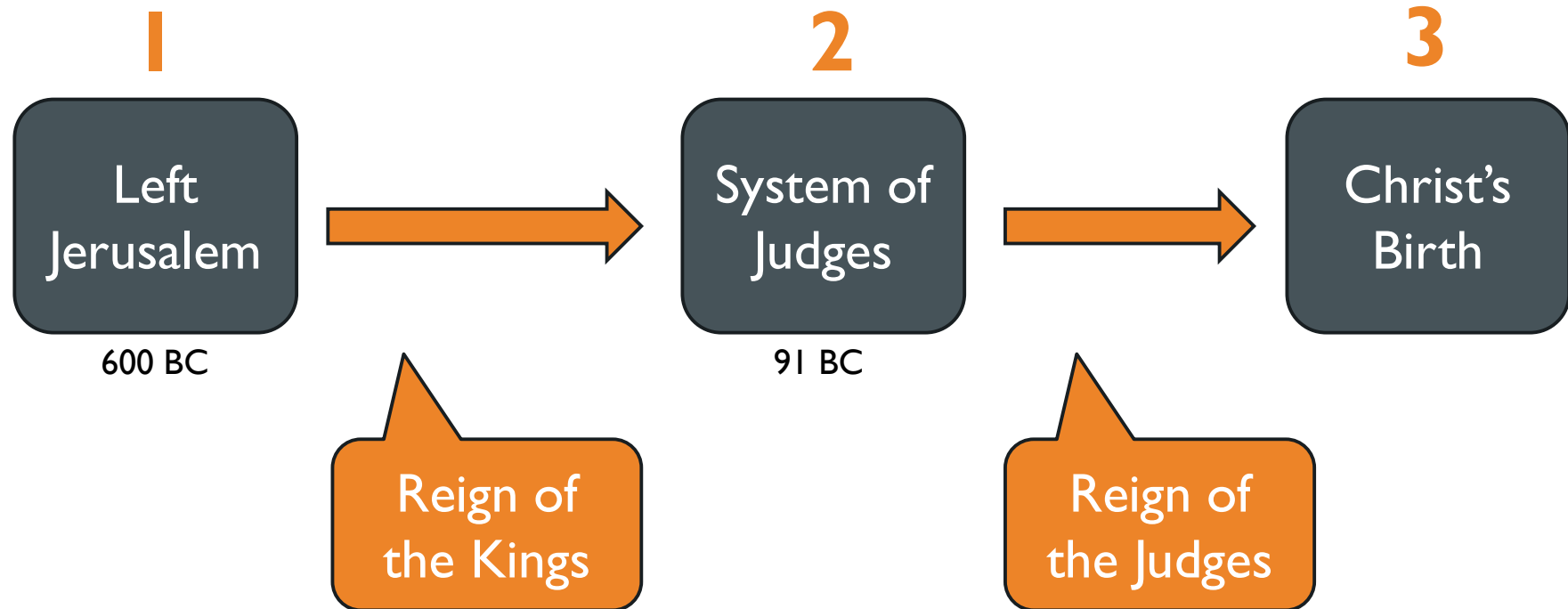
The only existing record of this king is 22 verses found in the “Amaleki section” of the book of Omni (Omni 1:19-40).

- First introduction to this king is in Omni 1:40.
- Most of what we know about him is in: Omni 1:40-43, Words of Mormon 1:15-27, Mosiah 1-3
- Benjamin passed away in Mosiah 4:7

- Begins to reign in Mosiah 4:5.
- Last of the Nephite kings
- With his death in Mosiah 13:67 the Reign of the Judges begins in 91 BC

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## KEEPING TIME – 3 CALENDAR RECKONINGS



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## TIMELINES IN 3 LANDS

Dates (BC)	Nephite Kings in Zarahemla	Zeniff's Colony in Land of Nephi	Lamanite Kings in Land of Nephi
200 – 180	Mosiah I	Zeniff (self made king)	Laman
150	Benjamin	Noah (king) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abinadi</li><li>• Alma I</li></ul>	Laman II
124	Mosiah II	Limhi (king) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alma I (prophet)</li></ul>	Laman II <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amulon (priest of Noah)</li></ul>

# IS THE BOOK OF MOSIAH ONE LARGE CHIASM?

BOOK OF MOSIAH	
A	King Benjamin teaches his sons (1:1-13)
B	Benjamin confers kingdom on his son Mosiah (1:14-16)
C	Mosiah II is given charge of the records (1:23)
D	Benjamin's proclamation, the words of the Lord, and the angel (1:36-2:50)
E	People believe and enter into a covenant (3:1-4:2)
F	Priests appointed to teach the people (4:4)
G	Ammon leaves Zarahemla for the land of Lehi-Nephi (5:4-8)
H	1st account: Ammon put in prison; King Limhi rejoices; 24 gold plates (5:9-86)
I	Flash-back: The record of Zeniff begins as he leaves Zarahemla (6:1)
J	Lamanites fight against people of Zeniff (6:14-57)
K	Zeniff confers kingdom upon his son (Noah) (6:58-7:1)
L	King Noah and priests wicked, lazy and idolatrous (7:1-21)
M	Abinadi prophesies Noah to be burned and judgments (7:28-38)
N	Abinadi confounds priests with law of Moses, repentance and hope in Christ; condemned to death (7:74-9:27) <i>old covenant</i>
N'	Alma I repents, teaches Abinadi's words, people enter into a covenant (9:28-68) <i>new covenant</i>
M'	King Noah suffers death by fire (9:96-97)
L'	Wicked priests flee into wilderness (9:100)
K'	Kingdom conferred by people upon Limhi, son of Noah (9:103-107)
J'	Lamanites threaten the people of Limhi (9:113-139)
I'	Flash-back ends (9:162)
H'	2nd account: Ammon in prison; Limhi rejoices; record [24 gold plates] (9:163-170)
G'	Ammon and people of King Limhi leave land of Nephi for Zarahemla; and then Alma I and his people (9:181-10:19; 11:66-76)
F'	Alma I establishes churches in land of Zarahemla (11:97-104)
E'	Unbelievers refuse to enter covenant (11:105-120)
D'	The words of Alma II, the Lord, and the angel (11:116-199)
C'	Mosiah II translates gold plates; Alma II receives the records (12:16-13:2)
B'	Judges appointed instead of a king (13:7-62)
A'	Mosiah II writes to his people (13:7-62)

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## THE SONS OF BENJAMIN

1. Mosiah II

2. Helorum

3. Helaman

The Book of Mosiah starts out in the middle of the timeline near the end of King Benjamin's life

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# THE SONS OF BENJAMIN – THEIR UPBRINGING

- Language
- Plates of Brass

## Remember:

- Plates helped avoid ignorance, understand God's mysteries, and remember His commands (1:4)
- God's sayings and the records are true (1:9)
- Search God's messages (1:11)

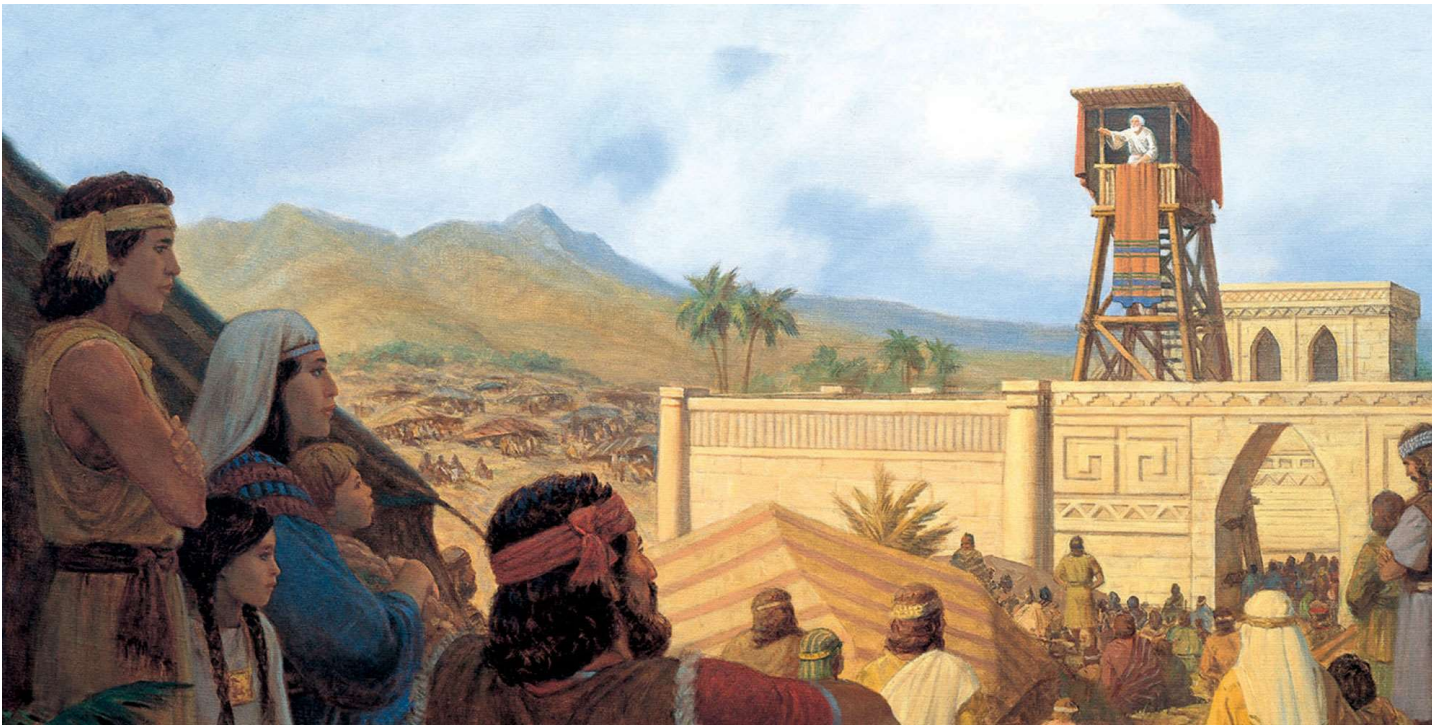
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# BENJAMIN -> MOSIAH (COUNSEL & TRANSITION)

1. Call everyone to the temple so I can address them
  - They were still segregated (vrs 15)
2. I'm going to name you as the next King
  - Clear transition of power; "out of mine own mouth" (vrs 16)
3. I'm going to give this people a name (1:17)
  - We need an identity as a people to integrate us together
4. Put him in charge; gave him all the sacred relics – records, sword of Laban, Liahona



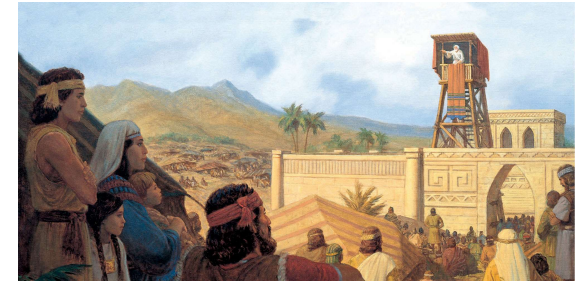
# KING BENJAMIN'S SPEECH



- Everyone called to gather @ temple
- Built a tower to try to reach more
- Camped by family groups in tents
- Gave thanks – law of Moses, thanks for promised land, good teachers and leaders
- His speech written down

# WHY TENTS?

## *Likely Feast of Tabernacles Celebration*

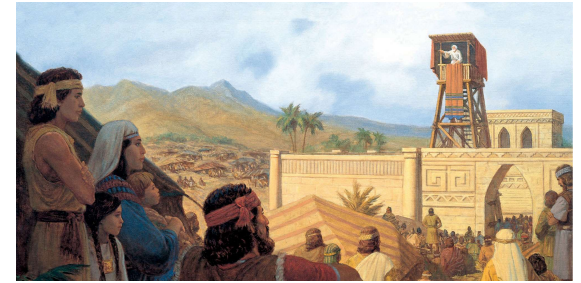


Feature	Old Testament	King Benjamin's Speech
Travel to the temple (with family)	Deuteronomy 16:14; 31:10-12	Mosiah 1:33
Remain in booths/tents	Leviticus 23:41+; Exodus 33:8; 1 Kings 8:55; Hosea 12:9	Mosiah 1:34
Speaker on platform	Nehemiah 8:4	Mosiah 1:35,36
Sacrifices	Numbers 29; Exodus 24:5	Mosiah 1:30
Reading law and renewal of covenant; commandments	Deuteronomy 4; Nehemiah 8	Mosiah 1:44,45,55,70-72,88-91
Blood of the covenant applied to people	Exodus 24:8; Leviticus 16:14+	Mosiah 1:107, 113; 2:3
Blessings/curses	Deuteronomy 27:14-26	Mosiah 1:55, 74, 75
Ritual response, prostration on ground	Nehemiah 8:6	Mosiah 2:1-4

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# KING BENJAMIN'S SPEECH

- Open your ears – that you may hear
- Open your hearts – that you may understand
- Open your minds – that the mysteries of God may be unfolded to you
- Benjamin preserved by God just as his people, supported himself to keep taxes low
- “When you are in the service of your fellow beings, you are only in the service of your God” (1:49)
- God created us and preserves us all from day to day, lends us breath, gives us free will // we could serve Him all our days and still be unprofitable



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# WHAT GOD REQUIRES



55 "And behold, **all that He requires of you** is to keep His commandments; And He hath promised you that if ye would keep His commandments, ye should prosper in the land;

56 And He never doth vary from that which He hath said; Therefore, if ye do keep His commandments, He doth bless you and prosper you.

57 "And now in the first place, He hath created you and granted unto you your lives, for which ye are indebted unto Him.

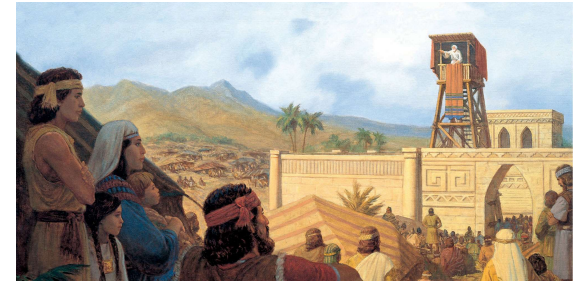
58 "And secondly, He doth require that ye should do as He hath commanded you, for which, if ye do, He doth immediately bless you, And therefore, He hath paid you,

59 And ye are still indebted unto Him and art and will be forever and ever; Therefore, of what have ye to boast?

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## BENJAMIN -> MOSIAH II

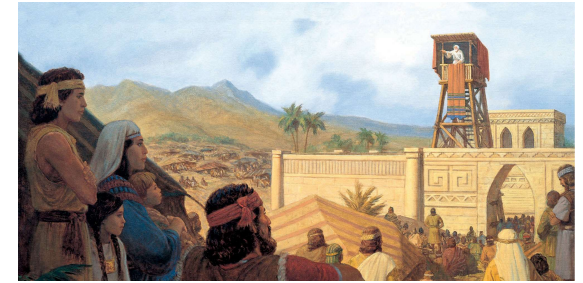
- Benjamin can no longer serve as teacher nor king
- Benjamin named Mosiah as king (1:69)
- Just keep doing what you've been doing for me – follow his leadership (1:70-72)
- Good leaders enact God's commands, not their own (1:72)





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# REJECTING THE MESSAGE



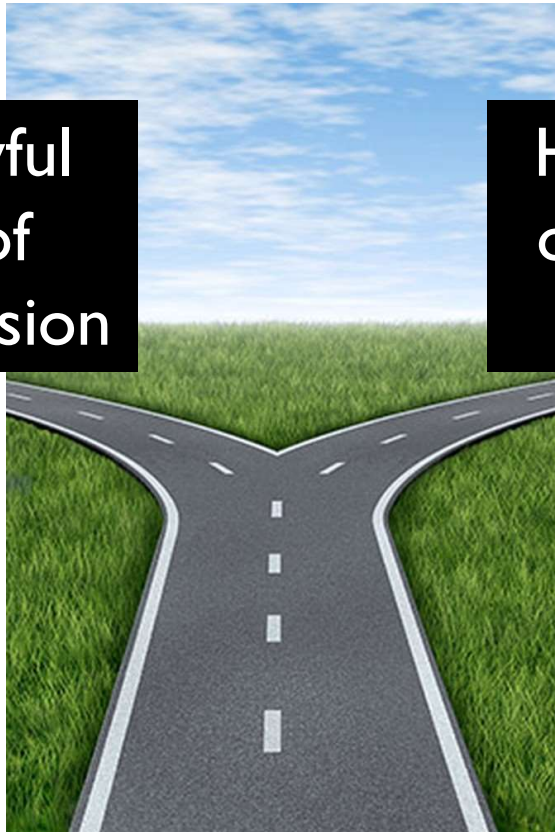
- If you continue to reject the message after having been taught, to the end of your days, you'll receive the punishment that you're due (1:77-85)
- An endless sense of your own guilt = like an unquenchable fire (vrs 83,84)
- Recalling your guilt forever, is never-ending torment



# REMEMBER THAT THIS IS TRUE

Your awful  
state of  
transgression

Happy state  
of following  
God

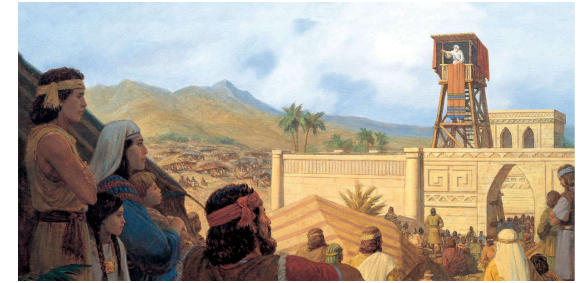


1:91 "O remember,  
remember that these things  
are true, **for the Lord God  
hath spoken it!**

# WAKE UP!



*Awake and hear what I tell you!, the rest of his speech is the 'angel message'*



97 'For behold, the time cometh and is not far distant, that with power the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, which was and is from all eternity to all eternity, Shall come down from heaven among the children of men, And shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay,

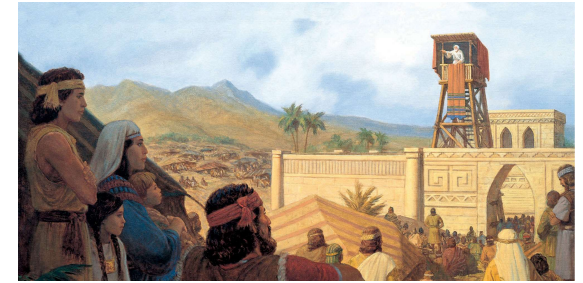
98 And shall go forth amongst men, Working mighty miracles, such as - healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases;

99 And He shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits, which dwelleth in the hearts of the children of men.



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# JESUS CHRIST IS COMING!



1:100 'And lo, He shall suffer temptations and pain of body, hunger, thirst and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death;

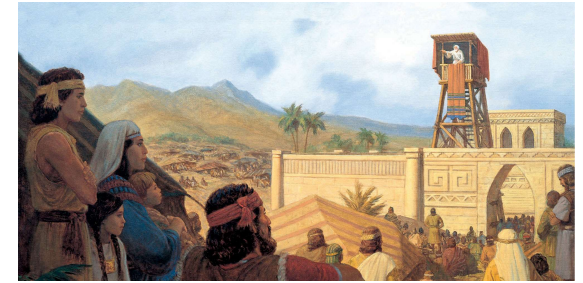
101 For behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be His anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of His people.

102 'And He shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning; And His mother shall be called Mary;

103 And lo, He cometh unto His own **that salvation might come** unto the children of men, even through faith on His name.

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# ATONE FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW



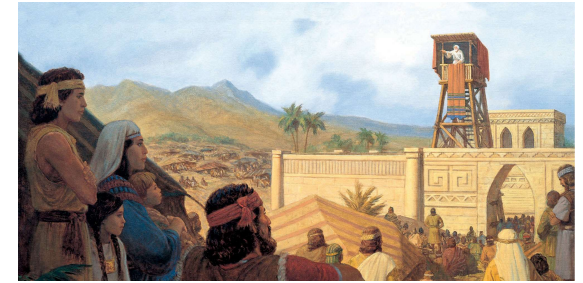
Mosiah 1:106 'And behold, all these things are done that a righteous judgment might come upon the children of men.

107 'For behold, and also His blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who hath died not knowing the will of God concerning them and who have ignorantly sinned.

108 'But wo, wo unto him who knoweth that he rebelleth against God! For salvation cometh to none such, except it be through repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.

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# HE'S BEEN FORETELLING THIS



Mosiah 1:111 'And many signs and wonders and types and shadows showed He unto them concerning His coming;

112 And also holy prophets spake unto them concerning His coming,

113 And yet they hardened their hearts and understood not that the law of Moses availeth nothing, except it were through the atonement of His blood.

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# NO OTHER NAME

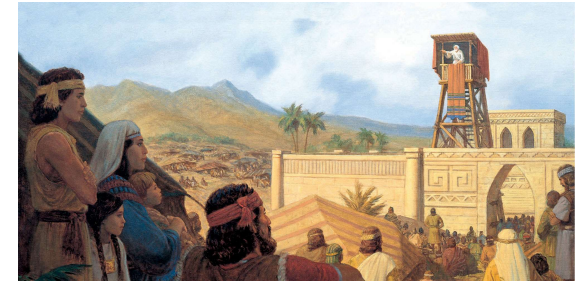


116 'And moreover, I say unto you that there shall be **no other name given**, nor no other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men - **Only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.**

**Jesus is the ONLY WAY!**

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# THE WAY OF SALVATION

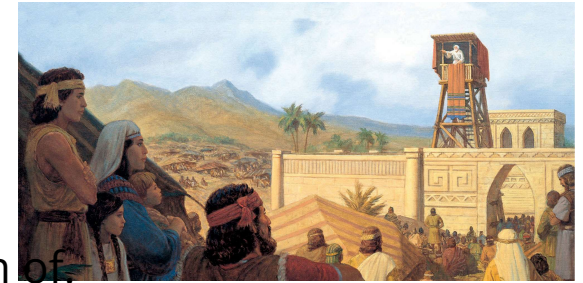


1:119 'For the natural man is an enemy to God and has been from the fall of Adam and will be forever and ever,

120 But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and putteth off the natural man - And he becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, And becometh as a child - submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

# PARALLELISMS

And this is the means whereby **salvation** cometh,  
And there is none other **salvation** save this which hath been spoken of.  
Neither are there any **conditions** whereby man can be saved  
Except the **conditions** which I have told you.  
Believe in God, **believe** that he is  
And that he created **all** things **both in heaven and in earth**.  
**Believe** that he has **all** wisdom  
And **all** power **both in heaven and in earth**.  
**Believe that man** doth not **comprehend all** the things  
Which the Lord can **comprehend**.  
And again **believe that ye** must **repent** of your sins  
And **forsake** them.  
And **humble** yourselves before **God**  
And **ask** in sincerity of heart that **he** would forgive you.  
And now if **you** believe all **these things**  
See that **ye** do **them**.



Mosiah 2:11-17

# CHIASM

And now it shall come to pass,

(A) that whosoever shall not take upon him the **name** of Christ

(B) must be **called** by some other name;

(C) therefore, he findeth himself on the **left hand of God**.

(D) And I would that ye should **remember** also,  
that this is the **name** that I said I should give unto you

(E) that never should be **blotted out**,

(F) except it be through **transgression**;

(F') therefore, take heed that ye do not **transgress**,

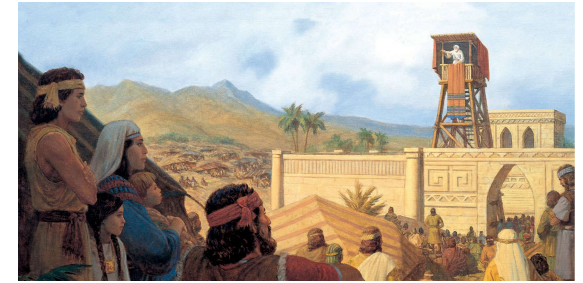
(E') that the name be not **blotted out** of your hearts.

(D') I say unto you, I would that ye should **remember**  
to retain the **name** written always in your hearts,

(C') that ye are not found on the **left hand of God**,

(B') but that ye hear and know the voice by which ye shall be **called**,

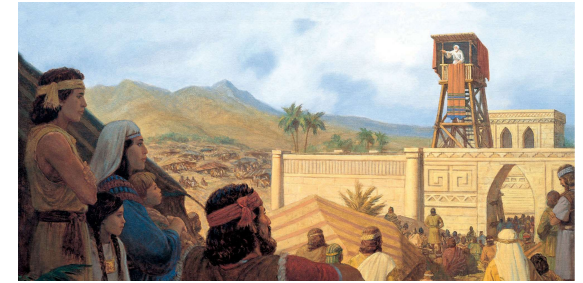
(A') and also, the **name** by which he shall call you.



Mosiah 3:13-16

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# THE PEOPLE MADE A COVENANT



- Mosiah chapter 3 is where the Nephites made a covenant with God
- Benjamin gave them the new name that he had promised them

***New Name = The Children of Christ***

- 100% of Nephites present there had entered into a covenant with God (4:2)



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124	Mosiah II	<div>Ammon →</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linhi (king)</li><li>• Alma I (prophet)</li></ul>	Laman II <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amulon (priest of Noah)</li></ul>



WHAT HAPPENED TO  
THOSE WHO WENT  
BACK TO LAND OF  
NEPHI?

WHAT BECAME  
OF THE PEOPLE  
OF ZENIFF  
(MOSIAH 5-9)

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# TIME FOR AN EXPEDITION

- Ammon to lead (he was a Mulekite)
- Took Amaleki, Helem, Hem along with 12 others (16 in total)
- Curious that Ammon was selected, since he didn't come from there, likely why they wandered for a while before finding their way to the destination (5:5)
- Meet King Limhi, son of Noah, son of Zeniff
- People of Limhi in bondage and heavily taxed by Lamanites, would prefer to be slaves to the Nephites
- Limhi gathers his people at the Temple; speech is 5:27-5:52
- Grievous burden = 50% taxation to the Lamanites

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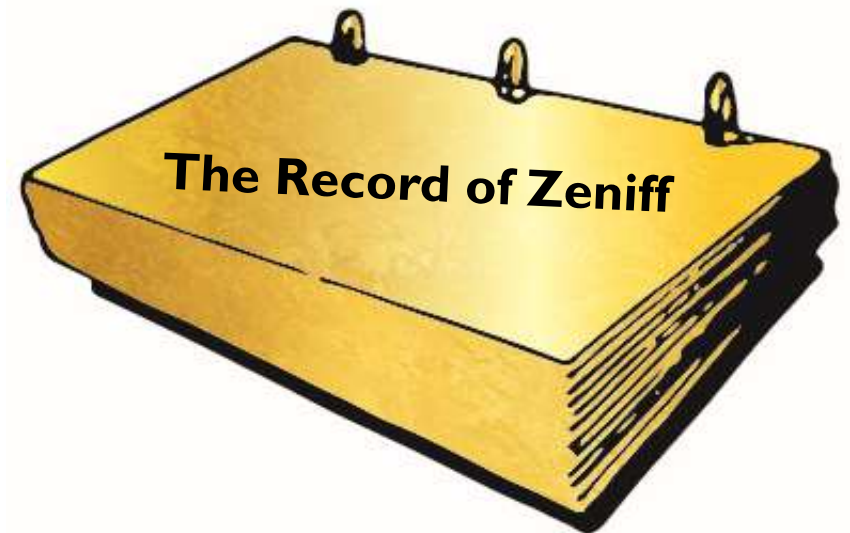
# LIMHI SPEECH

- God blessed His people before, rejoice for He will bless and deliver us
  - God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
  - God who delivered Israelites out of Egypt
  - God who delivered Nephites out of Jerusalem
- People in bondage (spiritual and physical)
- They had slain Abinadi, but what he had preached was TRUE
- Sow filthiness and reap the consequences (chaff in the whirlwind, east wind of destruction – both references back to Abinadi's preaching)
- Turn now to the Lord and He will deliver us!

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# THE RECORD OF ZENIFF

- A set of plates detailing the history of the people of Limhi
- Goes back to when they left Zarahemla
  - Meaning covers the time of Zeniff, Noah, Limhi
- Will be included by Mormon as chapters 6-9 of Mosiah (not clear if directly translated or abridged)
  - Chapter 6 seems to be directly translated, Chapter 7+ seems to be more of an abridged summary by Mormon



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## LIMHI'S OWN EXPEDITIONARY TRIP

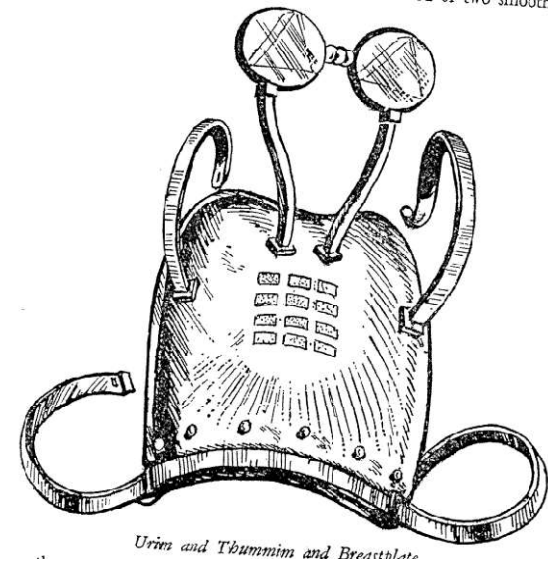
- Limhi looking for help from the Nephites, sent expedition of 43 people to go to Zarahemla
- Got lost, traveled in a land 'of many waters', found covered with bones of men and beasts and ruined buildings
- Brought back 24 gold plates of Ether; also large breastplates and rusted swords
- Limhi REALLY wanted to know the interpretation of the Jaredite history – know the cause of their destruction



*Those who don't study history  
are doomed to repeat it*

# THE INTERPRETERS (MOSIAH 5:72-83)

- Ammon tells Limhi that Mosiah II has the Interpreters and can translate with them
  - He already had them, not found with 24 gold plates
- Whomever has them is called a seer and can translate languages
- Seer > Prophet
- Seer = Revelator + Prophet
- Interpreters first referenced by Brother of Jared (Ether 1:88+) and given to him by God



## The Interpreters

*Different from the Urim and Thummim described in the Old Testament?*



# THE INTERPRETERS = URIM & THUMMIM?



## Urim & Thummim

- Mentioned 7 times in the Old Testament
- Lev 8:8 says they were to be put into the breastplate, no biblical description
- Used by Levitical priests
- First described when God gave Moses directions on the breastplate (Ex 28,39)
- Used for receiving counsel or direction, NOT translation

## The Interpreters

- First referenced in Ether 1:86-93
- Given by God to Brother of Jared for translation
- Described as two stones
- Use and purpose described – Mosiah 13:15-22 & 5:2-83

***Perhaps were two different items?***

***What about D&C 3:1a, 15:1b, 17:2c?***