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THE BOOK OF  
MORMON  
=  
THE KEYSTONE

**MOSIAH**

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## **The Book of Mormon**



**The  
Keystone  
of Our  
Religion**

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# THE RECORD OF ZENIFF OVERVIEW

- **Mosiah 6** – Written by Zeniff; Expeditions back to Land of Nephi, agreement with the Lamanites, Zeniff becomes king, battles with the Lamanites
- **Mosiah 7** – Noah takes over, departs from way that Zeniff ruled, doesn't appear to be written by him
  - Abinadi's first sermon
  - Abinadi's second sermon (2 years later)
  - Debate with priests of Noah
- **Mosiah 8** – Abinadi's second sermon completed
- **Mosiah 9** – Abinadi killed, Alma converted and begins to teach / baptize / church formed



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# NOAH TAKES OVER – MOSIAH 7

- Not like his father
  - Ignored God's commands, polygamy, very sinful leader
  - 20% tax, just to support his house and his leadership
- Brought in his own priests as corrupt as him
- The people worked hard to support iniquity (vrs 9)
- The people also became idolatrous because they were deceived by vain words and flattery
- Built elegant and elaborate structures, towers, vineyards and winepresses (vrs 21)
- Fixated on riches -> riotous living -> polygamy -> winebibber

Sound like today?

# WHAT IS ZIFF? – MOSIAH 7:6

- Mentioned twice in the BoM
- Its an unknown material, likely a precious metal of some type given the context that it's listed with
- Hebrew word means “brightness”; therefore it was likely a lustrous metal – Chris Hartshorn
- John L. Sorenson speculated that it was tumbaga, a combo of gold and copper or silver

## Tumbaga - Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tumbaga>

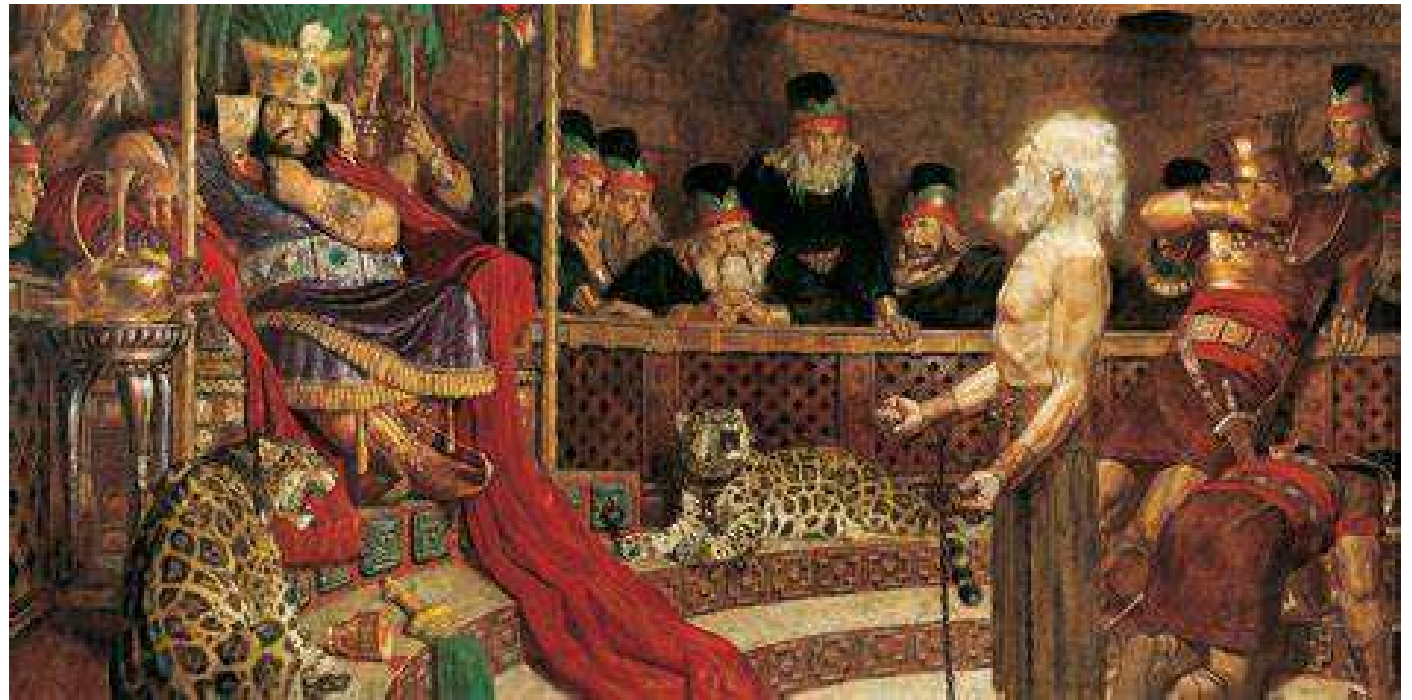
Tumbaga is the name for **a non-specific alloy of gold and copper given by Spanish Conquistadors to metals** composed of these elements found in widespread use in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica in North America and South America.



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## ABINADI ARRIVES ON THE SCENE – M 7:28

- Mosiah 7:28



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# ABINADI'S FIRST MESSAGE

- Mosiah 7:28-38
  - Chastisement from God
  - Repent or judgment and bondage are coming
  - God will be slow to hear their cries after judgment sets in
- People wanted to kill him; King Noah wanted to kill him
- Their eyes were blind, their hearts were hardened = no repentance was found
- Abinadi escaped and stayed hidden for 2 years

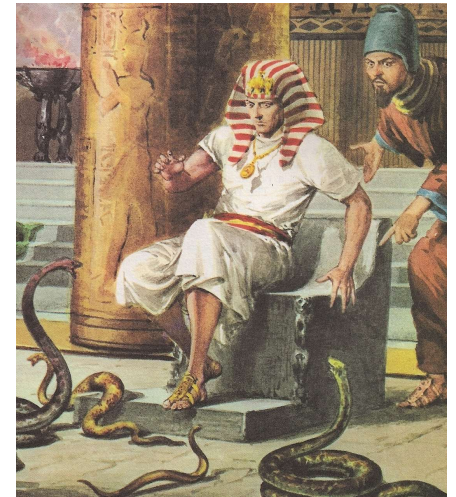
# WHO IS THE LORD THAT HE SHOULD JUDGE ME?



■ Mosiah 7:41 King Noah



■ Genesis 5:4 Cain



■ Exodus 5:2 Pharaoh

*Pride and arrogance always goes before the fall*



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# ABINADI'S COSTUME AND WHY?

- Perhaps it was just in order for him to gain access back into the city
- Mosiah 7:106
- The eyes of the people were blinded (vrs 43)
- It doesn't say that they recognized him from before
- Sometimes we see similar approaches when a hard message must be delivered
- Many similarities to Moses going to Pharaoh
- The priests of Noah supposedly held Moses in such high regard, but were blind when a prophet comes in a similar way



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# ABINADI'S SECOND MESSAGE

- God will visit them in His anger BECAUSE they did not listen nor repent from prior calls
- Prophecy – unless repent:

1. Bondage is coming
2. Driven by men and slain
3. Wild beasts will devour them
4. King Noah's life valued like a garment in a fire
5. Sore afflictions of famine and pestilence
6. Burdens lashed upon their backs
7. Hail
8. Smitten with the east wind
9. Insect infestation and pestilence
10. Utter destruction

Mosiah 7:48-58

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# ABINADI STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND

- Mosiah 7:48 – The Lord told Abinadi to “stretch forth thy hand and prophesy”
- Mosiah 8:70-71 – Abinadi obeys God’s commands
- Why did he do this while prophesying?
- Similar to other times where the Lord commands this type of behavior to emphasize the power and importance of the message and the potential consequences
  - Gen 22:12 – Abraham as was about to slay his son
  - Exodus 10:22 – Moses as 3 days of darkness were brought in Egypt
  - I Chron 21:15 – An angel was about to in order to bring destruction to Jerusalem and was stopped
  - I Nephi 5:163 – Nephi to his brothers to shock them

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# STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND



- Prophets stretch their hands to condemn
- Jesus stretches his hand to catch or call all to Come Unto Him



*Matthew 14:26 And immediately Jesus **stretched forth his hand**, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

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# ABINADI'S IMPRISONMENT AND QUESTIONING

- Mosiah 7:69-75
- What does Isaiah 52:7-10 mean (vrs 7:76)
- Abinadi chastises the priests – they claim to teach law of Moses but don't understand it
- Path to gain wisdom (vrs 7:82-83)
- Walk the talk (vrs 7:85 – you claim to teach, why don't you keep?)
- Don't touch me until I finish delivering the message (vrs 7:101,102)
- His face shone (vrs 7:106 like Moses)
- What you do to me is a type and shadow of what's to come

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# ABINADI'S REMINDERS

- Mosiah 7:111,112
- Reads the 10 Commandments to them
- Self reflection : Are they written on our hearts?
- The commandments don't save us, we NEED the ATONEMENT (vrs 8:5)
- God HIMSELF shall come down among children of men and redeem His people (vrs 8:28)
  - Remember the message of the Book of Mormon is Jesus

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# “BANDS OF DEATH”

- Mosiah 8:34,35
  - First time this phrase appears in the BoM, used by Abinadi
  - Used 11 times in the BoM, only in Mosiah and Alma
- Exact phrasing not found in the Bible or D&C
- However, similarity of phrasing and imagery can't be overlooked, such as – Psalms 73:4; 107:14
  - Similar phrasing to Hebrew word “heveli mot” which can be translated as “bands of death” or “cords of death”, “ropes of death”, or “snares of death”
  - Psalms 18:5; 116:3
- There is deep correlation with the Hebrew phrasing to provide this imagery of what Christ accomplished thru his death and resurrection to complete the atonement

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# BREAK THE BANDS => RESURRECTION

- Mosiah 8:54
- “But behold, the bands of death shall be broken, and the Son reigneth, and hath power over the dead; therefore, he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead.”
- Mosiah 8:70-71 = Abinadi stretched forth his hand, all shall see the Salvation of the Lord and confess His judgments are just
- If Christ had not risen, could have been no resurrection for us (vrs 8:80)
- Mosiah 8:89-91
- “And now had ye not ought to tremble and repent of your sins, and remember only in and through Christ ye can be saved? Therefore, if ye teach the Law of Moses, also teach that it is a shadow of those things which are to come; Teach them that redemption cometh through Christ the Lord, who is the very eternal Father. Amen.”