

---

THE BOOK OF  
MORMON  
=  
THE KEYSTONE

**MOSIAH**

Elder Eric English  
December 2023, Jan/Feb 2024

**The  
Book of Mormon**



**The  
Keystone  
of Our  
Religion**

---

# “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

---

# BREAK THE BANDS => 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.”

# TIMING OF ABINADI’S MESSAGE – PENTECOST?

- John W. Welch has persuasively argued that Abinadi’s trial happened close to the time of Pentecost.
- Pentecost came fifty days after the Passover, concluding the celebration of Israel’s escape from Egyptian bondage and the receiving of the Ten Commandments.
- It also coincided with the spring harvest, and was thus a time to celebrate the bounty of spring.
- “Abinadi reversed the festival’s blessings and rejoicing, and turned them into curses and predictions of gloom.”
- Correlations – the giving of the 10 commandments, Abinadi’s shining face, Pentecost lasted 3 days which might explain Abinadi’s trial postponement for 3 days (M 9:9), Psalms 50 likely sung at Pentecost and ideas used by Abinadi

# CORRELATION WITH PENTECOST

“Charting the BoM”  
By John W. Welch

Israelite Pentecost	Abinadi
Celebrating first grain harvest	Cursed the grain
Rejoicing in bounty	Sent hail, winds, insects
Fifty days after Passover	Specific day unknown
Remembering deliverance from bondage in Egypt	Prophesied that the people would be brought into bondage
Celebrating the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses	Recited the Ten Commandments given to Moses
Moses' face shone	Abinadi's face shone
Sinai became a furnace	Prophesied that Noah's life would be like a garment in a furnace
3 day festival	Cast into prison for 3 days
Stern admonitions	Stern admonitions
Use of Psalm 50	Use of ideas from Psalm 50
Our God shall come	God... shall come down

---

## ALMA BELIEVES – CHAPTER 9

- Alma converted
- He tries to convince Noah to spare Abinadi; thrown out and servants sent to kill him
- Alma wrote down Abinadi's words
- Abinadi tossed into prison for 3 days
- **Accusation for capital punishment** – he said God Himself should come down
  - However, Noah will waive if Abinadi just recants the things he said about Noah & the people
- Noah scared, wants to release him; priests convince him otherwise

# ABINADI'S SCOURGING & DEATH

- Abinadi's curse – how I die is how you will die (M 9:21)
- Abinadi dies by fire
- He sealed the truth of his words by his death (9:27)
- Abinadi was only “one the scene” for a few brief days
- His prophetic impact was MUCH greater on Nephite culture that came after him



---

# ALMA TEACHING THE WORDS OF ABINADI

- He repented and then began sharing the words of Abinadi
- He taught: (9:28-29)
  1. That which was to come
  2. Resurrection of the dead
  3. Redemption of the people
  4. Suffering and death of Christ
  5. His resurrection and ascension into heaven



# THE LAND OF MORMON



*The Waters of Mormon (9:38)*

- Alma taught in a place called Mormon (9:32)
- In this land, the people repented, entered into a covenant with their Lord, were baptized, and were called the church of Christ from that time forward
- A great restoration took place here in the land of Mormon since the Nephites had departed from God a number of generations before
- This was ~ 20 years BEFORE King Benjamin was inspired to preach his sermon and lead those Nephites in Zarahemla to a covenant with the Lord

---

# QUESTIONS TO ASK A BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE

- M9:38 And it came to pass that he said unto them, Behold, here are the waters of Mormon; for thus were they called.
- 39 And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light;
- 40 Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life:
- 41 Now I say unto you, If this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?
- 42 And now when the people had heard these words, they clapped their hands for joy, and exclaimed, This is the desire of our hearts.

---

# THE CHURCH IN THE WILDNERNESS

- 204 people baptized
- Called the church of Christ (no eraser in 9:49)
- Ordained 1 priest for every 50 members – to preach and teach about the Kingdom of God
- No contention within their ranks; one faith and one baptism
- Hearts knit together in unity and love
- Kept Sabbath day holy; gave thanks to God; all labored with their own hands
- Weekly worship
- Concepts of Oblation and Stewardship taught (9:60-64)

---

# THE REAL MEANING OF MORMON

Recent BoM Developments, Vol 2  
Pages 44,45 by David Lamb


- Mosiah 9:65-67
  - How important the Land of Mormon was
- Mosiah 11:121-124
  - Nephites were blessed because of what happened at the Waters of Mormon
- Helaman 2:66,68-69
  - Habit of naming children after good role models or important locations
- III Nephi 2:96
  - **Mormon was named after the Land of Mormon, where the church was established**
- Mormon 1:1,6
  - Mormon DOESN'T say that he was named after this father, just that his father's name was same
  - He called it the book of Mormon; but already told us he was named after the Land of Mormon

---

# ESCAPE, CIVIL WAR, LAMANITES ATTACK

- The King had spies who found the church in the wilderness and sent army to kill them
- They learned of the plan and 450 of them escaped further into wilderness
- Gideon leads a rebellion against the king; about to slay him when the Lamanites attack
- King tells the people to flee the city into the wilderness
- Lamanites begin to overtake them, Noah leading the escape, he tells men to leave their families behind to save themselves
- Gave up daughters to Lamanites; all put into bondage; taxed 50% and pay more tribute in future

# THE END OF NOAH

- Limhi takes over; Gideon sends men to find the king; discovers that those men who had followed the king and left families were so angry, they burned king to death
- 
- What is the 'ceremony' referenced in M9:101
    - There are execution ceremonies referenced in the BoM – Nehor and Zemnarihah
    - Other theories include a purification/cleansing ceremony or a surrender ceremony
  - Nevertheless, found out that their wives and children had NOT been slain and all returned to Land of Nephi