

ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI TO HIS PEOPLE

Alma 24

- A₁ And it came to pass that the Amalekites and the Amulonites and the Lamanites who were in the land of Amulon, and also in the land of Helam, and who were in the land of Jerusalem, and in fine, in all the land round about, who had not been converted and had not taken upon them the name of Anti-Nephi-Lehi, were stirred up by the Amalekites and by the Amulonites to anger against their brethren. 2
- A₂ And their hatred became exceedingly sore against them, even insomuch that they began to rebel against their king, insomuch that they would not that he should be their king;
- A₃ therefore, they took up arms against the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi. 3 Now the king conferred the kingdom upon his son, and he called his name Anti-Nephi-Lehi. 4 And the king died in that selfsame year that the Lamanites began to make preparations for war against the people of God. 5
- B Now when Ammon and his brethren and all those who had come up with him saw the preparations of the Lamanites to destroy their brethren, they came forth to the land of Midian, and there Ammon met all his brethren; and from thence they came to the land of Ishmael that they might hold a council with Lamoni and also with his brother Anti-Nephi-Lehi, what they should do to defend themselves against the Lamanites. 6 Now there was not one soul among all the people who had been converted unto the Lord that would take up arms against their brethren; nay, they would not even make any preparations for war; yea, and also their king commanded them that they should not. 7
- C Now, these are the words which he said unto the people concerning the matter:
- D I thank my God, my beloved people,
 that our great God has in goodness sent these our brethren, the Nephites, unto us
 to preach unto us,
 and to convince us of the traditions of our wicked fathers. 8
 And behold, I thank my great God
 that he has given us a portion of his Spirit to soften our hearts,
 that we have opened a correspondence with these brethren, the Nephites. 9
 And behold, I also thank my God,
 that by opening this correspondence
 we have been convinced of our sins, and of the many murders which we have
 committed. 10
- And I also thank my God, yea, my great God,
- a that he hath granted unto us that we might repent of these things,
- b and also that he hath forgiven us
- c of those our many sins and murders which we have committed,
- d and taken away the guilt from our hearts, through the merits
of his Son. 11
- c And now behold, my brethren, since it has been all that we could
do, (as we were the most lost of all mankind) to repent of all our
sins and the many murders which we have committed,
- b and to get God to take them away from our hearts,
- a for it was all we could do to repent sufficiently before God that he would take
away our stain--12
- E Now, my best beloved brethren, since God hath taken away our stains,

F and our swords have become bright,
 then let us stain our swords no more with the blood of our brethren. 13
 Behold, I say unto you, Nay, let us retain our swords
 that they be not stained with the blood of our brethren;

G for perhaps, if we should stain our swords again

H they can no more be washed bright through the blood of the Son
 of our great God, which shall be shed for the atonement of our
 sins. 14

I And the great God

J has had mercy on us,

K and made these things known unto us that we
 might not perish; yea, and he has made these
 things known unto us beforehand,

L because he loveth our souls as well as he
 loveth our children;

K therefore, in his mercy he doth visit us by his
 angels, that the plan of salvation might be made
 known unto us as well as unto future
 generations. 15

J Oh, how merciful

I is our God!

H And now behold, since it has been as much as we could do

G to get our stains taken away from us,

F and our swords are made bright, let us hide them away that they may be kept
 bright,
 as a testimony to our God at the last day,
 or at the day that we shall be brought to stand before him to be judged,
 that we have not stained our swords in the blood of our brethren

E since he imparted his word unto us and has made us clean thereby. 16

D And now, my brethren, if our brethren seek to destroy us, behold, we will hide away our
 swords, yea, even we will bury them deep in the earth, that they may be kept bright, as
 a testimony that we have never used them, at the last day; and if our brethren destroy
 us, behold, we shall go to our God and shall be saved. 17

C And now it came to pass that when the king had made an end of these sayings,

B a and all the people were assembled together, they took their swords, and all the weapons
 which were used for the shedding of man's blood, and they did bury them up deep in the
 earth. 18

b And this they did,
 it being in their view a testimony to God, and also to men,
 that they never would use weapons again for the shedding of man's blood;

- A Now the greatest number of those of the Lamanites who slew so many of their brethren
 - B were Amalekites and Amulonites, the greatest number of whom were after the order of the Nehors. 29
- A Now, among those who joined the people of the Lord,
 - B there were none who were Amalekites or Amulonites, or who were of the order of Nehor, but they were actual descendants of Laman and Lemuel. 30
 - C And thus we can plainly discern, that after a people have been once enlightened by the Spirit of God, and have had great knowledge of things pertaining to righteousness, and then have fallen away into sin and transgression, they become more hardened, and thus their state becomes worse than though they had never known these things.