

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;[2]

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[3]

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.[4] 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;

b and this they did,
 vouching and covenanting with God,
 that rather than shed the blood of their brethren
 they would give up their own lives;
 and rather than take away from a brother
 they would give unto him;
 and rather than spend their days in idleness
 they would labor abundantly with their hands.[5] 19

a And thus we see that, when these Lamanites were brought to believe and to know the truth,
 they were firm, and would suffer even unto death rather than commit sin;

and thus we see that they buried their weapons of peace, or they buried the weapons of war,
 for peace. 20

A₁ And it came to pass that their brethren, the Lamanites, made preparations for war,

A₂ and came up to the land of Nephi for the purpose of destroying the king, and to place another in
 his stead,

A₃ and also of destroying the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi out of the land. 21

A Now when the people saw that they were coming against them they went out to meet them, and
 prostrated themselves before them to the earth, and began to call on the name of the Lord; and thus
 they were in this attitude when the Lamanites began to fall upon them, and began to slay them with the
 sword. 22

B And thus without meeting any resistance, they did slay a thousand and five of them;

C and we know that they are blessed, for they have gone to dwell with their God. 23

D Now when the Lamanites saw that their brethren would not flee from the sword,
 neither would they turn aside to the right hand or to the left, but that they would lie
 down and perish, and praised God even in the very act of perishing under the sword--
 24 Now when the Lamanites saw this they did forbear from slaying them;

E and there were many whose hearts had swollen in them for those of their
 brethren who had fallen under the sword,

F for they repented of the things which they had done. 25

F And it came to pass that they threw down their weapons of war, and they
 would not take them again,

E for they were stung for the murders which they had committed;

D and they came down even as their brethren, relying upon the mercies of those whose
 arms were lifted to slay them. 26 And it came to pass that the people of God were
 joined that day by more than the number who had been slain;

C and those who had been slain were righteous people,
 therefore we have no reason to doubt but what they were saved. 27
 And there was not a wicked man slain among them;

B but there were more than a thousand brought to the knowledge of the truth;

A thus we see that the Lord worketh in many ways to the salvation of his people.[6] 28

- 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.

Notes

1. The name signifies Lehites who are not descendants of Nephites.
2. Their children would include those who became Helaman's stripling warriors.
3. The H's are forced into position by the strong parallels in the G's and I's, which forces us to consider their relationship with each other. The first emphasizes the king's perception of the futility of a second cleansing, while the second emphasizes the enormity of their effort for the cleansing they have received.
4. The second D is the king's proposal to seal the cleansing detailed in the first.
5. In the second b they add two other behaviors in addition to not fighting, generosity and industry. The gospel really does transform one.
6. The A's are framing statements rather than parallels. Nevertheless, the chevron in 21-27 can be read word-for-word as a spiral (AABBCC...FF).

AMMON GLORIES IN THE LORD

Alma 26

And now, these are the words of Ammon to his brethren, which say thus:

- AA A₁ My brothers and my brethren, behold I say unto you, how great reason have we to rejoice; for could we have supposed when we started from the land of Zarahemla that God would have granted unto us such great blessings? 2
 And now, I ask,
 what great blessings
 has he bestowed upon us? Can ye tell? 3
- A₂ Behold, I answer for you; for our brethren, the Lamanites,
- A₃ were in darkness, yea, even in the darkest abyss, but behold, how many of them are brought to behold the marvelous light of God!
- B And this is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God to bring about this great work. 4
- C Behold, thousands of them do rejoice, and have been brought into the fold of God. 5
 Behold, the field was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with your might, yea, all the day long did ye labor;
 and behold the number of your sheaves!
- D₁ And they shall be gathered into the garners,
- D₂ that they are not wasted. 6
 Yea, they shall not be beaten down by the storm
 at the last day;
 yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds;
- E but when the storm cometh
- D₁ they shall be gathered together in their place,
- D₂ that the storm cannot penetrate to them;
 yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them. 7
- C But behold, they are in the hands of the Lord of the harvest, and they are his; and he will raise them up at the last day. 8
- B Blessed be the name of our God;
 let us sing
 to his praise,
 yea, let us give thanks
 to his holy name,
 for he doth work righteousness forever. 9
- A₁ For if we had not come up out of the land of Zarahemla,
- A₂ these our dearly beloved brethren, who have so dearly beloved us,
- A₃ would still have been racked with hatred against us,
 yea, and they would also have been strangers to God. 10
- BB And it came to pass that when Ammon had said these words, his brother Aaron rebuked him, saying: Ammon, I fear that thy joy doth carry thee away unto boasting. 11 But Ammon said unto him: