

MORMON'S COMMENTARY

Helaman 12

- A And thus we can behold how false, and also the unsteadiness of the hearts of the children of men;
- B yea, we can see that the Lord in his great infinite goodness doth bless and prosper those who put their trust in him. 2
- C Yea, and we may see at the very time when he doth prosper his people,
- D yea, in the increase of
their fields,
their flocks and
their herds, and
in gold, and
in silver, and
in all manner of precious things of every kind and art;[1]
- E sparing their lives, and
delivering them out of the hands of their enemies;
softening the hearts of their enemies
that they should not declare wars against them; yea, and in fine,
doing all things for the welfare and happiness of his people; 4 = *man in the world*
- F yea, then is the time that they
do harden their hearts, and
do forget the Lord their God, and
do trample under their feet the Holy One— 3 = *complete*
- E yea, and this because of their ease,
- D and their exceedingly great prosperity. 3
- C And thus we see that
except the Lord doth chasten his people
with many afflictions, yea,
except he doth visit them
with death and
with terror, and
with famine and
with all manner of pestilence,
- B they will not remember him. 4
- A a O how foolish, and
how vain, and
how evil, and devilish, and
how quick
to do iniquity, and
how slow
to do good,
are the children of men; yea,
- b how quick
to hearken unto the words of the evil one, and
to set their hearts upon the vain things of the world! 5 Yea,

- c how quick
to be lifted up in pride; yea,
- c how quick
to boast, and
do all manner of that which is iniquity; and

- b how slow are they
to remember the Lord their God, and
to give ear unto his counsels, yea,
how slow
to walk in wisdom's paths! 6

Behold, they do not desire that the Lord their God, who hath created them, should rule and reign over them;
notwithstanding his great goodness and his mercy towards them, they do set at naught his counsels,
and they will not that he should be their guide. 7

- a O how great is the nothingness of the children of men;
yea, even they are less than the dust of the earth.[2] 8
For behold, the dust of the earth moveth hither and thither, to the dividing asunder,
at the command of our great and everlasting God.[3] 9

Yea, behold at his voice do the hills and the mountains tremble and quake. 10
And by the power of his voice they are broken up, and become smooth, yea, even like unto a valley. 11
Yea, by the power of his voice doth the whole earth shake; 12
Yea, by the power of his voice, do the foundations rock, even to the very center. 13

Yea, and if he say unto the earth--
Move--
it is moved. 14

Yea, if he say unto the earth--
Thou shalt go back, that it lengthen out the day for many hours--
it is done; 15 And thus, according to his word the earth goeth back, and it appeareth unto man that the sun standeth still; yea, and behold, this is so; for surely it is the earth that moveth and not the sun. 16

And behold, also, if he say unto the waters of the great deep--
Be thou dried up--
it is done. 17

Behold, if he say unto this mountain--
Be thou raised up, and come over and fall upon that city, that it be buried up--
behold it is done. 18

And behold, if a man hide up a treasure in the earth,
and the Lord shall say--
Let it be accursed, because of the iniquity of him who hath hid it up--
behold, it shall be accursed. 19

And if the Lord shall say--
Be thou accursed, that no man shall find thee from this time henceforth and forever--
behold, no man getteth it henceforth and forever. 20

A And behold, if the Lord shall say unto a man--
Because of thine iniquities, thou shalt be accursed forever--
it shall be done. 21

And if the Lord shall say--

Because of thine iniquities thou shalt be cut off from my presence--
he will cause that it shall be so. 22

And wo unto him to whom he shall say this, for it shall be unto him that will do iniquity,

B and he cannot be saved;

C therefore, for this cause, that men might be saved, hath repentance been declared. 23

D Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; for these are they that shall be saved. 24

C And may God grant, in his great fulness, that men might be brought unto repentance and good works,

B that they might be restored unto grace for grace, according to their works. 25 And I would that all men might be saved.

A But we read that in the great and last day there are some
who shall be cast out, yea,
who shall be cast off from the presence of the Lord; 26 Yea,
who shall be consigned to a state of endless misery,
fulfilling the words which say:
They that have done good shall have everlasting life; and
they that have done evil shall have everlasting damnation.
And thus it is. Amen.

Notes

1. An interesting list of six items. Six usually is associated with imperfection, evil. Here it refers to the people's prosperity (see the second D). It infers, and the rest of the text confirms, that when people become prosperous they tend to forget their Redeemer.
2. Eleven "how" statements. 11 = Disorder, imperfection, confusion, disintegration.
3. The second A is a huge elaboration of the first.

SAMUEL THE LAMANITE

Helaman 13-15

And now it came to pass in the eighty and sixth year, the Nephites did still remain in wickedness, yea in great wickedness, while the Lamanites did observe strictly to keep the commandments of God, according to the law of Moses.[1] 2

A And it came to pass that in this year there was one Samuel, a Lamanite, came into the land of Zarahemla,
B and began to preach unto the people.

C And it came to pass that he did preach, many days, repentance unto the people, and they did cast him out, and he was about to return to his own land. 3

A But behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, that he should return again,

B and prophesy unto the people whatsoever things should come into his heart. 4

C And it came to pass that they would not suffer that he should enter into the city; therefore he went and got upon the wall thereof, and stretched forth his hand and cried with a loud voice,

B and prophesied unto the people whatsoever things the Lord put into his heart. 5 And he said unto them:

A Behold, I, Samuel, a Lamanite, do speak the words of the Lord
which he doth put into my heart;
and behold he hath put it into my heart
to say unto this people that[2]

A the sword of justice hangeth over this people;

B and four hundred years pass not away save the sword of justice falleth upon this people. 6

C Yea, heavy destruction awaiteth this people, and it surely cometh unto this people,

D and nothing can save this people save it be repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ, who surely shall come into the world, and shall suffer many things and shall be slain for his people. 7

E And behold, an angel of the Lord hath declared it unto me, and he did bring glad tidings to my soul. And behold,

F I

G was sent unto

H you

I to declare it unto you also, that ye might have glad tidings;
but behold

H ye

G would not receive

F me. 8

E Therefore, thus saith the Lord:

D Because of the hardness of the hearts of the people of the Nephites, except they repent