

Ir-BoM-20  
My Soul is Pained No More  
(Mosiah 25-28: Alma 36)  
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background)

I. The Lord *will* deliver us from past sins or transgression, but **then we have a responsibility to bear witness of God's goodness.**

A. Mosiah read the records of both Zeniff's and Alma's people so that everyone might know how the Lord had delivered them (Mosiah 25:5-6).

B. Alma Senior needed no reminder. Because of his deliverance from being a false priest, he automatically became very active in teaching how the Lord had freed all (Mosiah 25:14-17).

C. Because of his witness, many people were baptized and several churches of God were formed (Mosiah 25:17-24).

II. But in time, many of the younger generation did not believe (See Mosiah 26:1-5).

A. And some of these lured others away with flattering words (Mosiah 26:6-7).

B. Alma Sr. sought to bring all those who strayed back into the fold. However, he met with little success in their case.

C. The Lord promises Eternal blessings when we witness, while those who are engaged in iniquity and will not repent bear the consequences of their own sins (Mosiah 26:8-36).

D. Alma is even persecuted, but continues to serve the Lord and to bear witness to all.

III. **It is made clear that persecution or bullying of the faithful is a serious sin** (Mosiah 27).

A. Mosiah proclaims that there should be no persecutions of others (Mosiah 27:2-4).

B. He stressed that neither pride nor haughtiness should disturb the peace, and each man should esteem his neighbor as himself.

C. The Lord promises the greatest of blessings to those who endure persecution,

D. Brigham Young explained why the righteous are persecuted. "[God] led this people in different parts of the United States, and the finger of scorn has been pointed at them. ... The Lord has his design in this. You may ask what his design is. You all know that the Saints must be made pure, to enter into the celestial kingdom. It is recorded that Jesus was made perfect through suffering [see [Hebrews 5:8-9](#)]. Why should we imagine for one moment that we can be prepared to enter into the kingdom of rest with him and the Father, without passing through similar ordeals? (*DBY*, 346).

Joseph could not have been perfected, though he had lived a thousand years, if he had received no persecution. If he had lived a thousand years, and led this people, and preached the Gospel without persecution, he would not have been perfected as well as he was at the age of [thirty-eight] years. You may calculate, when this people are called to go through scenes of affliction and suffering, are driven from their homes, and cast down, and scattered, and smitten, and peeled, the Almighty is rolling on his work with greater rapidity (*DBY*, 351).

**Every time you kick "Mormonism" you kick it upstairs; you never kick it downstairs.** (*DBY*, 351). (Emphasis added).

IV. Sadly, Alma the younger and the sons of Mosiah are among those who persecute the church.

A. In response to the prayers of Alma Senior, an angel of the Lord appears to them. Alma the younger is struck dumb. All the people saw what had been done to Alma and the others (Mosiah 27:21) as a witness of God's power and judgments.

B. Alma Senior further prayed and encouraged all to fast and pray that his son might regain his speech (27:22).

C. Alma the younger regains his faculties.

1. He testifies that when he had seen the horror of his everlasting fate, that he had repented of his sins and had received hope of redemption.

2. He testifies he has been reborn of the spirit and bears strong testimony of what it is like to be reborn through Christ (Mosiah 27:25-27).

3. He testifies of what it is like to be redeemed from the gall of bitterness (Mosiah 27:28-29).

4. But now **with joy he testifies that his soul is pained no more** (Mosiah 27:29).

VI. Alma the younger and the Sons of Mosiah subsequently become strong testifiers of Christ and of His power to redeem (Mosiah 27:30-32).

A. Alma the younger now becomes, himself, the victim of persecution from unbelievers.

B. Meanwhile, the sons of Mosiah also become strong witnesses of Christ.

1. They travel through Zarahemla trying to repair the damage they did to the Church (27:35). **Because of their experiences, they are empowered to explain the prophecies and scriptures to all who are willing to listen.** Many listened now because they recognize these were once wicked men and unbelievers (27:35).

C. Alma and the others thus become blessed instruments in the hands of the Lord in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth, and of their Redeemer (Mosiah 27:36-37).

D. **So powerful have all these experience been upon the sons of Mosiah, they plead to go back to the Lamanites to save them** (Mosiah 28:1-9). For:

**"...they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thought that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble"** (Mosiah 28:3).

VII. Mosiah passes on all the records for the spiritual benefit of all people (Mosiah 28:11-20).

A. First he translates the records of the Jaredites (Mosiah 28:11-17).

B. The people now have another compelling witness of the Lord's acts of deliverance.

C. But it includes another warning that when God's people forsake true worship, they are later destroyed (Mosiah 28:18).

VIII. Alma testified in his later life of those things which changed his life.

A. **He contrasts the terror of facing total destruction to the joy of knowing the mercy of God. "Yea, and from that time even until now, I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance; that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

**"Yea, and now behold... the Lord doth give me exceedingly great joy in the fruit of my labors.**

**"For because of the word which he has imparted unto me, behold, many have been born of God,"** (Alma 36:26).

[Note the similarities between the story of Paul in the New Testament and Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon. All were persecutors of the true church. All were diverted from their disastrous path by a miraculous visitation from Heaven. **But in every case they became powerful missionaries, and they were more effective precisely because they had seen the horrors of the end of the path they were on and could testify of the great love and power of the Lord's atonement in the process of their redemption.**

In the case of Paul and Mosiah's sons, their experiences had so awakened in them the horrors of Eternal destruction that they **suffered everything possible to bring salvation to a people like themselves, considered hardened, cast off and unredeemable.** (The Gentiles in the case of Paul; the Lamanites in the case of Mosiah's sons). Bearing testimony of redemption from their own experience made their testimonies bold and more believable. And so indebted did they feel to the Lord, they would endure anything and everything in order to bear witness of Christ's truths.

We should not be troubled by these parallels. The Lord brought to pass these things for the sake of the Gentiles in the Old World and the Lamanites in the New. They were all His children, and He still loved them. Thus in both situations He would help to prepare strong, unwavering missionaries to bring about their deliverance. All of these future missionaries were obviously good persons from the beginning. **It appears their minds were allowed to be blinded for a time. Likely they had not received a witness from the Holy Ghost.** It served the ultimate purposes of the Lord to let them stumble, and then for them to see the absolute and total reality of the wages of sin vs. the blessings of Heaven, and to come to feel great indebtedness to the Lord for rescuing them. **Thus they were willing to bear all things to serve as His great missionaries.**

We should not read into these events that it is better to be sinners, for most sinners get mired in sin and never extricate themselves. Ordinarily it is best to avoid sin. **One of the great dangers of sin is that those involved come to feel so unworthy they cannot bring themselves to feel hope even when they have changed their lives.]**

D. In regard to the latter, Elder Tad Callister tells the following pertinent and true story.

"While serving as a priesthood leader, I became acquainted with an exceptionally good man who some years before had committed a transgression that brought him great remorse. His suffering was prolonged and intense. My heart went out to him. In time I believed he was fully prepared to seek renewal of his temple recommend. I encouraged him in this pursuit, but he was reluctant to proceed. Even though I felt he had been forgiven, he could not seem to forgive himself. He may have been cleansed, but he was not convinced, neither was he consoled. As a result he deferred his return to the House of the Lord. His condition weighed on my mind. One day while reflecting on him, my mind was forcibly struck with this impression: 'Brother \_\_\_\_\_ has paid the uttermost farthing.' A short time later the same impression returned with equal force. I shared the experience with this good brother and soon thereafter he found sufficient peace to renew his temple covenants. I have subsequently wondered --- why did that impression come to me rather than the man himself? Perhaps his inability to forgive himself proved an impenetrable barrier to spiritual promptings. Perhaps he would have dismissed or rationalized away as self-generated any such impression if it had come directly to him. Maybe the Lord, in his loving kindness, knew the only way to reach him was by a message through an outside source, namely, his priesthood leader, which would be impossible to dismiss as his own wishful thinking. In any event, peace, that peace that heals and comforts and consoles the wounded soul eventually found its place in another human heart" (Elder Tad Callister, *The Infinite Atonement*, p. 198).

X. **Because the sons of Mosiah** sinned terribly, yet were redeemed, they became God's powerful missionaries. **They were willing to go to the most hardened of hearts and to endure the most terrible of sufferings, in order to bear witness of Christ's great love and His marvelous power of redemption.** They were absolute witnesses that through Christ's atonement, one can be totally cleansed and can find peace. (Not only peace but **Eternal Blessings**). This is one of the greatest messages the world can receive! And it was necessary for both continents to hear it.