

Book of Mormon 21  
Alma Did Judge Righteous Judgments  
(Mosiah 29: Alma 1-4)  
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background with supportive evidence of its truths)

I. King Mosiah appointed judges so men could be judged according to the law.

A. "Let us appoint wise men to be judges that will judge this **people according to the commandments of God**" (Mosiah 29:11).

B. Mosiah acknowledges that while the judgments of God are always just, unfortunately the judgements of man are not (Mosiah 29:12).

C. Remember that Christ will be the only truly just judge, who will not judge after the seeing of the eyes or the hearing of his ears, but will know the true heart of each individual (Isa. 11:3).

II. There is significant evidence supporting the personage of Mosiah and his using the Ten Commandments as Law.

A. The Johnson-Humrich House Museum in Coshocton, Ohio, contains fascinating ancient artifacts which support the story of Mosiah. They were found in 1859 in the rubble of a huge burial mound made of stone. Inside a stone box was found a stone carving of a **bearded and robed man, and surrounding him are The Ten Commandments written in Hebrew**. Because of this the artifact is called the **"Ten Commandment Stone" or "The Ohio Decalogue Stone."** At first, some scientists insisted this was a forgery because the Hebrew was in a style they were not familiar with --- a block form of Hebrew. But since then the same block form of Hebrew has been found in Israel. And **block Hebrew is now recognized as a legitimate form of Hebrew used in ancient times**. (Knowledge about block Hebrew was not known, however, at the time of the finding of the stone, so it could not have been forgery).

Furthermore, subsequent research has shown that the man who found the artifacts could not have been their maker. **Scientific expert Cyrus Gordon has pointed out certain characteristics which help validate the authenticity of these artifacts**. Splinters of wood associated with these artifacts have been dated to the time of Christ. (See "An Annotated Transcription of the Ohio Decalogue Stone" by J. Huston McCulloch online or "The Newark, Ohio Decalogue Stone and Keystone"). [Note: there is a lot of anti-Mormon, misleading information on the internet about these finds. Look for the very supportive material written by authentic, non-LDS scientists]. Above the figure of the man is written his name -- "MSH." Some translate this as "Moses." However, other linguistic experts (not LDS) say it should be translated "Mosiah." The different opinions are not disturbing because **Mosiah is a variant form of Moses**. (See Spellcheck.net). Note again that King Mosiah stressed greatly that his people should be governed by the Law, and in particular **by the Law that God had given them**. The essential key of that Law was the Ten Commandments.

The Book of Mormon prophets knew of "types and shadows" (2 Nephi 11:4). We should recognize that Mosiah bore the same name and filled the same role as Moses, stressing to his people the Law which had come through God. So Mosiah is a pattern of Moses in every way.

B. **Orson Pratt learned of these very artifacts and went to see them. He wrote, "I have seen that sacred stone. It is not a hatched up story." He also pointed out that those things which had been added to Hebrew in the 2,000 previous years (a point system for vowels and new characters)**

were not found on them, thus showing their antiquity. (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 13, pp. 130-131).

III. Usually, the majority of the people will choose the right (Mosiah 29:26). Mosiah warned **if the time comes the majority of the people choose iniquity, the people will be destroyed, as had occurred with the Jaredites** (Mosiah 29:27).

A. This warning should be of great concern to us today, as we see more and more that the majority of people are supporting or indifferent to iniquity. In a letter to the editor, *Deseret News*, May 19, 2012, a young woman --- a senior at Bingham High School in South Jordan, Utah --- wrote that recently when an assembly was held discussing the destructive and addictive nature of pornography, many of her friends thought it pointless and went home or to McDonalds rather than attending. Furthermore, one laughed and said the assembly was a joke because their main argument was that pornography destroys marriages. She ended her letter by saying, "More and more teens are viewing marriage and sexuality as something short term and insignificant instead of something binding and long lasting.... The assembly was a good idea, but the sad reality is that teens just don't care"). This account is very disturbing.

IV. Under influence of Satan, Nehor initiated priestcraft. Note its down-spiraling steps:

A. His motive in preaching was **to elevate himself**, which **led to preaching false doctrine**.

B. He also sought to **use force** to support his priestcraft (Alma 1:12).

C. Further, those using priestcraft began **to persecute** the true church of God (Alma 1:19-20).

D. The law could not prosecute Nehor for his beliefs (Alma 1:17), but only for his actions.

1. Rex Lee, former Solicitor General of the United States, once said he found this truth from the Book of Mormon a good guiding principle in prosecuting cases for the United States. He recognized it was **not appropriate to prosecute anyone for what that person believed. But they could be prosecuted if their beliefs caused them to act against the laws of the nation**.

E. Nehor's apostasy eventually led Amlici to seek power as King (Alma 2:1-2).

1. Amlici's follower consecrated Amlici as king against the will of others (v. 9). War was the result, which eventually involved Lamanite forces as well (Alma, Ch. 3).

V. Joseph Smith experienced, as has the LDS Church as a whole, the full impact of a conflict with priestcraft. We can find many and various forms of it in the world today.

A. (1) Those practicing priestcraft seek to preach for their own personal glorification; (2) Many preach to receive money; (3) They obtain their audiences with flattery; (4) They teach false doctrine; (5) They seek to stir up anger --- sometimes even to enforce their views with violence; (6) They use the pulpit to tear down the reputation of others, basing a good share of their teaching on falsified or misleading statements. [We find continual deceit and misinformation about the church on the internet].

B. Jeremiah called such persons "waterless canals." **They only destroy; they do not build up.**

VI. Nephiah was chosen to be chief judge so Alma could devote full time to strengthening the church (4:19).

A. "... that he himself might go forth among his people... that he might preach the word of God unto them, to stir them up in remembrance of their duty, that he might pull down, by the word of God, all the pride and craftiness [etc.] among his people, seeing no way that he might reclaim **them save it were in bearing down in pure testimony against them**" (Alma 4:19).

B. Here is a marvelous example of a modern day judge who did the same:

Mario Facione had been raised by a father whose conscience did not keep him from using his business and position to enrich himself with shady deals. So Mario developed a similar lifestyle when he was grown, enriching himself considerably with his connections and support of underground crime. All seemed to go well until two missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were guided to his door. Because he had been raised with what he recognized were faulty notions regarding God and religion, and because he had a lot of questions, he asked those questions. And he could not help but be intrigued by the mostly logical answers he was hearing. His thirst for knowledge kept him asking questions, until he eventually had to realize he had found the truth.

Because he also had spiritual experiences, he asked for baptism. The priesthood leaders were at first hesitant. But eventually he was given permission. The priesthood leaders may have had suspicions of his real life, but they had no concrete evidence, as on the surface he seemed to be just a regular businessman.

Mario enjoyed his new life as a Mormon. He was delighted to be learning so much, and he did most things that were requested of him, even paying tithing on those financial means which were legitimate. But he still continued his more lucrative illegitimate business.

After being a member for only four months, his bishop asked him to come in. When alone, the bishop looked deeply into his eyes and said, "I don't know what you're doing or how you're doing it but you can't serve two masters. Get rid of one. You must make that choice."

These words came as a shock to Mario. But they also came with undeniable power. Mario not only knew exactly to what he was referring, but that it was true. The problem was, if he quit, he was likely to be killed. No one got out of intimately working with organized crime, and lived.

Mario replied that this was his living and he did not see how he could leave.

The bishop did not hesitate, telling him he could not be a member of the church and make his living the way he did. He told him he had to choose between his church and his living.

Mario went into seclusion and sought guidance from the Lord. He had developed enough of a testimony to know that he did not want to give up the church. He had developed, in particular, a great desire to someday go to the temple. So in time he called the bishop and asked for another meeting. This time he told the bishop he wanted to stay a member, but if he left his current situation, he would be killed.

The bishop simply told him to have faith and even more bluntly, *so what if he did get killed.*

This was very sobering. The bishop did not hesitate speaking the truth in pure testimony. Mario could not continue to serve two masters. He had to choose one, **even if it meant his own death.**

The power of the bishop's pure and blunt testimony caused Mario to choose the likelihood of death, rather than give up what he knew was the truth.

Miraculously, and with careful planning and preparation, Mario was blessed to cut his ties with organized crime without losing his life, though he lost everything else of this world as a result.

In the end, however, he was blessed with a new and far richer life. His strong desire to go to the temple was realized. And he knows that blessing will multiply to far greater riches in Eternity. (See Mario Facione, *Mafia to Mormon*).