

Book of Mormon 46  
By Faith All Things Are Fulfilled  
(Ether 7-15)  
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(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Book of Mormon)

I. Reading these chapters is like reading the headlines of today. There are too many parallels.

A. Prophets, sent by the Lord, warned the people of destruction if they did not repent.

1. Initially some mocked the prophets and rejected them (Ether 7:23- 24).

2. Fortunately, **some leaders gave the prophets freedom to bear their witness** (Ether 7:25).

3. Because they were allowed religious freedom, the people who heard them repented, and **thus the people were saved at that time** (Ether 7:26).

II. **Lusting for power**, others arose and used flattering words to gather supporters (Ether 8:2).

A. This same lust caused one leader to initiate secret combinations (Ether 8:17-18).

1. Moroni **attributes the destruction of both Jaredites and Nephites to such secret combinations** (Ether 8:21).

2. The Lord allowed the destruction of Jaredites and Nephites because they had let secret combinations flourish unimpeded, and these had brought tribulations upon His saints.

a. **"behold they [Jaredites and Nephites] shall be destroyed; for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by [the secret combinations], shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them and yet he avenge them not"** (Ether 8:22).

B. The Lord had previously warned, "...whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, would be destroyed.

C. Parallels are prophesied for our day. "Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and **suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you**, which are built up to get power and gain --- and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you" (Ether 8:23).

D. Moroni explains the terrible purpose of such groups and why they are so treacherous.

1. "[They] **seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people...**" (Ether 8:25).

E. Communism is definitely such a threat. While abandoning a communal economic system for a more capitalistic form [which is heavily embedded with corruption], there is little doubt it still seeks to "overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries."

1. However, we will be deceived if we watch for secret combinations from only one source. **Secret combinations can arise from many different elements of society**: Criminal and drug organizations; terrorist groups; independent nationalistic military groups; extreme political groups, which can come from more than one side of the political spectrum.

III. Among the Jaredites, leaders rose and fell, their own righteousness or unrighteousness influencing the people in positive or negative ways.

A. **Some leaders misled through gross and prevalent immorality.**

"And [Riplakish] did have many wives and concubines..." (Ether 10:5); and "he did afflict the people with his whoredoms and abominations" (Ether 10:7)

B. Some government leaders became corrupt and burdened people with heavy taxes **for their personal aggrandizement**.

1. "Yea, he did tax them with heavy taxes, and with the taxes he did build many spacious buildings. And he did erect him an exceedingly beautiful throne, and he did build many prisons, and whoso would not be subject unto taxes he did cast into prison; and he did cause that they should labor continually for their support; and whoso refused to labor he did cause to be put to death. Wherefore he did obtain all his... fine gold." (Ether 10:5).

C. The pursuit of wealth became the dominant purpose of life for many.

1. Wealth was like a god or an idol.

2. **Theft grew rampant**: "And now there began to be a great curse upon all the land because of the iniquity of the people, in which, if a man should lay his tool or his sword upon his shelf, ... behold, upon the morrow, he could not find it, so great was the curse upon the land" (Ether 14:1).  
[We see parallels in our day as thieves con or scam or take others wealth through ID theft].

3. As a result, men became selfish and took up the sword to protect their goods (Ether 14:2).

"Wherefore every man did cleave unto that which was his own, with his hands, and would not borrow neither would he lend; and **every man kept the hilt of his sword in his right hand, in the defense of his property and his own life and of wives and children**" (Ether 14:2).

[Are there not parallels to nearly all these things?]

IV. Prophets again warn that destruction is nigh unless repentance comes.

A. The prophets were rejected (Ether 11:1-2; 12-13; 20-22).

B. "And... in that same year in which he [the prophet Ether] was cast out from among the people there began to be a great war among the people" (Ether 13:15).

C. Ether was specifically sent to Coriantumr to prophesy that he and all others should repent or be destroyed. He "should only live to see the fulfilling of the prophecies which had been spoken concerning another people receiving the land for their inheritance" (Ether 13:21-22).

D. In fulfillment, the people became caught up in an unending cycle of war and revenge --- to their utter destruction (Ether 14 and 15).

1. There are few more heartrending words than Ether's describing the battles to the death and the "howling and lamentation for the loss of the slain of their people; and so great were their cries, their howlings and lamentations, that they did rend the air exceedingly" (Ether 15:16-17).

V. Previously, **Moroni and Ether blended their voices, teaching Faith in God is the way to keep from this ripening in iniquity and of such destruction**.

A. Ether "could not be restrained because of the Spirit of the Lord which was in him." He cried "from the morning, even until the going down of the sun, exhorting the people to believe in God unto repentance lest they should be destroyed, saying unto them that by faith all things are fulfilled" (Ether 12:2-3).

B. **Faith and repentance would not only preserve them an inhabitation on their land in mortality, but obtain for them an Eternal inheritance** and bring other blessings.

1. "Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, **maketh an anchor to the souls of men**, which would make them sure and steadfast, **always abounding in good works**, being led to glorify God" (Ether 12:4).

C. Moroni interjects his voice to counsel "dispute not because ye see not, because ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith (Ether 12:6).

1. As Latter-day Saints we should remember that the **whole purpose of our coming to earth was to “be proved.”** And we can only really be proved through great trial and trials of faith. So we should not expect to see the end or purpose of all things.

VI. Moroni gives many examples of faith rewarded. In the midst of writing, Moroni thinks his efforts fall short of what is needed.

A. He laments awkwardness in writing [trying to write on metal plates was surely difficult].

B. He laments he could write but little of what he wanted or should write (Ether 12:24).

C. He laments discrepancies in the power of what they spoke and what they wrote: "Thou hast also made our words powerful and great [through the spirit], even that we cannot write them."

D. He feared the Gentiles would mock his writings (Ether 12:25).

E. The Lord responds that **by humbly acknowledging his weakness, and then exercising faith in the Lord, he would actually become stronger.**

"And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for **if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them**" (Ether 12:27).

F. The Lord blesses the humble who exercise faith in Him to conquer through **His might.**

G. Thus Moroni not only taught the need for faith in what he wrote, but **demonstrated it through his life.** He struggled with inadequacies in writing these scriptures, but by accepting his weaknesses and **exercising the faith to continue and trust in God, his words became powerful.**

V. Moroni prayed that all in our day might have charity [and not misjudge his records].

A. The Lord responds, "If they have not charity, it mattereth not unto thee, thou hast been faithful; wherefore thy garments shall be made clean. And **because thou hast seen thy weakness** thou shalt be made strong, even unto the sitting down in the place which I have prepared in the mansions of my Father" (Ether 1:37).

B. Divine encouragement causes Moroni to **write this moving testimony to us in our days.**

"And now I, Moroni, bid farewell unto the Gentiles, yea, and **also unto my brethren whom I love,** until we shall meet before the judgment-seat of Christ, where all men shall know that my garments are not spotted with your blood.

"And then shall ye know that I have seen Jesus, and that he hath talked with me face to face, and **that he told me in plain humility,** even as a man telleth another in mine own language concerning these things." [Note the testimony of Jesus' humility, even though now glorified].

"And now, I would commend you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be and abide in you forever. Amen" (Ether 12:38-39).

VI. In spite of his weaknesses, Moroni wrote, and gave hope, some of which is fulfilled.

A. A choice land with its New Jerusalem is already somewhat realized (Ether 13:1-8).

B. In time, "a new heaven and a new earth; *[and] all things have become new*" (Ether 13:9).

C. And those who dwell there? "they whose garments are white through the blood of the lamb" are *those who are numbered* among its dwellers (Ether 13:10). (Emphasis added)

**The italicized words show that Moroni wrote of these future things as if they were already fulfilled.**

**And that is the very essence of true faith!**