

Alma 8–12: Alma and Amulek

Monte F. Shelley

Quotes

- I considered atheism but there weren't enough holidays.
- Smile! ... It is the 2nd best thing you can do with your lips.
- The man who does as he pleases ... is seldom pleased with what he does.
- The darkest hour has only 60 minutes!
- God wisely designed the human body so that we can neither pat our own backs nor kick ourselves too easily.
- I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I do know **who** holds tomorrow.

1. Compare Alma's message to different people

To people of Zarahemla: "To gain salvation, men must repent and keep the commandments, be born again, cleanse their garments through the blood of Christ, be humble and strip themselves from pride and envy, and do the works of righteousness—The Good Shepherd calleth his people—Those who do evil works are children of the devil—Alma testifies of the truth of his doctrine and commands men to repent—Names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life." (5:Heading)

"The Church in Zarahemla is cleansed and set in order" (6:Heading)

To people of Gideon: "Christ shall be born of Mary—He shall loose the bands of death and bear the sins of his people—Those who repent, are baptized, and keep the commandments shall have eternal life—Filthiness cannot inherit the kingdom of God—Humility, faith, hope, and charity are required." (7:Heading)

⁶I trust that ye are not in a state of so much *unbelief* as were your brethren; I trust that ye are *not lifted up in the pride* of your hearts; ... that ye have *not set your hearts upon riches* and the vain things of the world; yea, ... that you do *not worship idols*, but that ye do worship the true and the living God. (7:10)

Jesus "shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers." (7:6)

¹¹ He shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people. ¹² And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, ... that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities. (7:11–12)

How is this relevant to us?

To people of Melek: ⁴ He began to teach the people throughout all the land of Melek. ⁵ And ... the people came to him. ... And they were baptized throughout all the land. (Alma 8)

To people of Ammonihah: (Alma 8)

⁹ Satan had gotten great hold upon the hearts of the people of the city of Ammonihah; therefore they would not hearken unto ... Alma. ... ¹¹ They hardened their hearts, saying ... we are not of thy church, and we do not believe in such foolish traditions. ... thou hast no power over us. ... ¹³ [They] reviled him, and spit upon him, and caused that he should be cast out of their city.

- What was their church, its teachings and scripture? (16:11)
- Which city is most like our ward?

¹⁴ While Alma was thus weighed down with sorrow, behold an angel ... appeared unto him, saying: ¹⁵ Blessed art thou, Alma; therefore, lift up thy head and rejoice, ... for thou hast been faithful in keeping the commandments of God from the time which thou receivedst thy first message from him. Behold, I am he that delivered it unto you. ¹⁶ ... Return to the city of Ammonihah, and preach again. ... Yea, say unto them, except they repent the Lord God will destroy them. ¹⁷ For behold, they do study at this time that they may destroy the liberty of thy people.

How did Alma respond to the angel's message?

2. Amulek

- a. Why did Amulek help Alma? (8:20)
- b. Why did Alma tarry "many days with Amulek before he began to preach unto the people"? (8:27)
- c. Amulek was a descendent of _____? (10:2–3)
- d. What was Amulek's social class? (10:4)
- e. Was Amulek a righteous man? (10:5–6)
- f. At what cost did Amulek follow Alma? (15:16)

3. Alma's Message to Ammoniahites (Alma 9)

¹ As I began to preach ..., they began to contend with me, saying: ² ... Suppose ye that we shall believe the testimony of one man? ... We will not believe thy words if thou shouldst prophesy that this great city should be destroyed in one day. ... Who is God, that sendeth no more authority than one man among this people, to declare unto them the truth of such great and marvelous things? ⁸ O ye wicked and perverse generation, how have ye forgotten the tradition of your fathers; yea, how soon ye have forgotten the commandments of God."

¹⁵ It shall be more tolerable for [the Lamanites] in the day of judgment than for you, if ye remain in your sins, yea, and even more tolerable for them in this life than for you, except ye repent.

Why will it be more tolerable for the Lamanites?

4. Amulek’s Message to Ammoniahites (Alma 10)

- a. How did the people respond when Amulek testified that Alma’s words were true?
- b. How did the lawyers respond?
- c. How was Amulek able to handle the questioning?
- d. Did the lawyers and people repent?

5. Why does Mormon explain the money system? (Alma 11)

Measures	Silver	Gold	Like
7	Onti	Limnah	\$7.00
4	Ezrom	Shum/shun	\$4.00
2	Amnor	Seon	\$2.00
1½		Antion	\$1.50
1	Senum*	Senine*	\$1.00
½	Shiblon		\$0.50
¼	Shiblum		\$0.25
⅛	Leah		\$0.125

* Daily wage for a judge

“The beauty of this mathematical configuration is its simplicity. The values of 1, 2, 4, and 7 can be expressed with the use of a single piece, and the values 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 14 can be achieved with only two, while values of 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 18 can all be formed by using only 3 in combination. Not until one exceeds 13 does one need two of the same weights. ... We can detect links between Nephite measures and grains and similar systems ... known from the ancient Near East, including names, relative amounts, and official functions.” (Welch)

6. Did Zeezrom know scripture and words of prophets?

- a. “Is there more than one God?”
- b. Will the son of God come?
- c. “Shall he save his people in their sins?”
- d. “Is the Son of God^{Jesus} the very Eternal Father^{Jehovah?}” (11:38)

7. Alma’s Second Message (Alma 12)

⁹It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; nevertheless they are laid under a strict command that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word which he doth grant unto ... men, according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him.

	Amulek	Alma
1. Atonement	11:40	12:33–34
2. Repentance	11:40	12:24
3. Judgment	11:41	12:14
4. Resurrection	11:41–42	12:24–25

⁴³The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; and we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt.

8. Our Words, Works, Thoughts

¹³If we have hardened our hearts against the word ... ¹⁴our words ... our works ... and our thoughts will ... condemn us; and ... we shall not dare to look up to our God. ... Then cometh ... a second death, which is a spiritual death ... yea, he shall die as to things pertaining unto righteousness. (Alma 12:13–14)

- a. **How do I relate to God and his words?**
- b. **How do I treat those who do “not believe [and do] according to [my] own will and pleasure”?** (4:8)

“The central feature of <i>pride</i> is <i>enmity</i> [hatred] ... toward God and ... our fellowmen.” (ETB)	The central feature of <i>humility</i> is <i>love</i> toward God and our fellowmen.

9. How do the thoughts, words, works (deeds) differ?

	Proud	Humble
Pharisee or publican		
Rich or poor		
Athlete or not		
Smart or not		
Talented or not		
Old or young		
Member or not		
Active or inactive		
Teacher or hearer		

10. How to “gratify our pride, our vain ambition” (D&C 121:37)

- Not pray or read scriptures daily.
- Find fault with others:
Joseph: “The devil flatters us that we are very righteous, when we are feeding on the faults of others.” (TPJS, 41)
- Make fun of others. (“Put down humor,” name calling)
- Look down on, mock, scorn, or pick on others.
- Provoke others to anger. (Top 10 ways)
Hurt people hurt people.
- Pat ourselves on the back.

11. Could the Book of Mormon have been written by a 23 year-old American in the 1820s?

Quotes

Neal A. Maxwell: How can you and I really expect to glide naively through life, as if to say, Lord, give me experience, but not grief, not sorrow, not pain, not opposition, not betrayal, and certainly not to be forsaken. Keep from me, Lord, all those experiences which made Thee what Thou art! Then let me come and dwell with Thee and fully share Thy joy! (Ensign, May 1991)

- Marriage and church are schools of love where we learn, practice, and are tested on our ability to love people who are different than us.
- Marriage and church are to perfect us. They are not rest homes for the perfect.