

Alma 17–22: Ammon and Lamoni

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Quotes

- Some of God's greatest blessings come wrapped as undesirable problems.
- You're the answer to my prayers ... not quite what I prayed for, but nevertheless, the answer.
- The gospel is not insurance against pain and suffering. The gospel is a resource to help us in times of pain and suffering.
- Discouragement is like a new baby. The more you nurse it the more it grows.
- Love may be blind, ... but marriage is a real eye-opener.

1. How long were Alma and Amulek in prison?

- **7/04/10**—Amulek saw an angel
- Alma stayed “many days” with Amulek
- Alma and Amulek taught people
- Male believers stoned and cast out. They went to Sidom.
- Their women and children cast into fire and died.
- Alma and Amulek put in prison and questioned after 3 days
- **10/12/10**—After they had suffered “for many days,” a quake freed them and killed chief judge, lawyers, priests, teachers.
- Alma and Amulek went to Sidom.
- Zeezrom healed and joined them.
- **2/05/11**—Ammonihah destroyed in one day

2. Ammon and his brothers return from their mission

² Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see his brethren. ... They had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; for they were men of a sound understanding and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God. ³ ... They had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting; therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority of God. ⁴ And they had been teaching the word of God for the space of fourteen years among the Lamanites, ... yea, by the power of their words many were brought before the altar of God, to call on his name and confess their sins before him. (Alma 17:2–4)

3. Ammon and his brothers start their mission

⁹ They journeyed many days in the wilderness, and they fasted much and prayed much that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of his Spirit to go with them, and abide with them, that they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring, if it were possible, their brethren, the Lamanites, to the knowledge of the truth, to the knowledge of the baseness of the traditions of their fathers, which were not correct. ... ¹⁰ And ... the Lord did visit them with his Spirit, and said ... Be comforted. ... ¹¹ Be patient in long-suffering and afflictions, that ye may show forth good examples unto them in me, and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls. (17:9–11)

²⁷ Now when our hearts were depressed, and we were about to turn back, behold, the Lord comforted us, and said: Go amongst thy brethren, the Lamanites, and bear with patience thine afflictions, and I will give unto you success. (26:27)

¹⁴ They had undertaken to preach the word of God to a wild and a hardened and a ferocious people; a people who delighted in murdering the Nephites, and robbing and plundering them; and their hearts were set upon riches, ... yet they sought to obtain these things by murdering and plundering, that they might not

labor for them with their own hands. ¹⁵ Thus they were a very indolent people, many of whom did worship idols, (17:14–15)

¹⁸ Ammon being the chief among them, *or rather* he did administer unto them, and he departed ... after having blessed them ..., having imparted the word of God unto them, or administered unto them. (17:18)

4. What was Ammon's “door approach” to king Lamoni?

5. Ammon and the scattering of the king's flocks?

²⁷ Lamanites ... scattered the flocks. ... ²⁸ Now the servants of the king began to murmur, saying: Now the king will slay us, as he has our brethren because their flocks were scattered by the wickedness of these men. And they began to weep exceedingly. ... ²⁹ When Ammon saw this his heart was swollen within him with joy; for, said he, I will show forth ... the power which is in me, in restoring these flocks unto the king, that I may win the hearts of these my fellow-servants, that I may lead them to believe in my words. ... ³¹ He flattered them by his words, saying: My brethren, be of good cheer and let us go in search of the flocks, and we will gather them together and bring them back unto the place of water; and thus we will preserve the flocks unto the king and he will not slay us. (17:27–31)

6. How did Ammon defend the flocks?

7. What report did the servants give king Lamoni?

8. Where was Ammon during the report?

Lamoni: “There has not been any servant ... that has been so faithful as this man; for ... he doth remember all my commandments to execute them.” (18:10)

9. What happened when Ammon saw king Lamoni?

²² Ammon being wise, yet harmless, he said unto Lamoni: Wilt thou hearken unto my words, if I tell thee by what power I do these things? ... ²³ And the king answered him, and said: Yea, I will believe all thy words. And thus he was caught with guile. (18:22–23)

10. What was the outline of Ammon's first discussion?

To king and his servants.

- a. Do you believe there is a God? (Great Spirit)
- b. Do you believe God created heaven and earth?
- c. He began at the creation of the world,
- d. the creation of Adam, and the fall of man,
- e. rehearsed and laid before him the records and the holy scriptures of the people, (brass plates)
- f. rehearsed all the journeyings of their fathers in the wilderness, and the rebellions of Laman and Lemuel,
- g. expounded all the Nephite records and scriptures
- h. the plan of redemption, and the coming of Christ,
- i. all the works of the Lord did he make known unto them.

11. How did king Lamoni receive Ammon's message?

- Prayed for mercy,
- Fell to the earth as if dead
- Lay as if dead for the space of two days and two nights
- Wife asks Ammon what to do. Bury him?
- Wife said, “to me he doth not stink.”
- Arose on the third day.

12. What happened to Lamoni while he was out?

⁶ Lamoni was under the power of God; he knew that the dark veil of unbelief was being cast away from his mind, and the light which did light up his mind, which was the light of the glory of God, which was a marvelous light of his goodness—yea, this light had infused such joy into his soul, the cloud of darkness having been dispelled, and that the light of everlasting life was lit up in his soul, yea, he knew that this had overcome his natural frame, and he was carried away in God. (19:6)

13. What did Lamoni say happened? Then what?

- “I have seen my Redeemer; and he shall come forth, and be born of a woman, and he shall redeem all mankind who believe on his name.”
- Lamoni, queen, Ammon, and servants fell to the earth.

14. What happened when Abish gathered a crowd to see?

- Abish (a Lamanite Christian) gathers people
 - Brother of thief leader tries to kill Ammon, falls dead
 - Arguing. Is Ammon the great spirit or a monster.
 - Queen, Lamoni, servants, and Ammon teach crowd
- ³³ Their hearts had been changed; that they had no more desire to do evil. ³⁴ ... They had seen angels and had conversed with them; and thus they had told them things of God, and of his righteousness. (19:33–34)

15. How did the crowd respond?

³¹ As many as heard his words believed, and were converted unto the Lord. ³² But there were many among them who would not hear his words; therefore they went their way. ... ³⁵ As many as did believe were baptized; and they became a righteous people, and they did establish a church among them. (19:31–35)

16. What happened when Ammon wanted to get brothers out of prison?

- Lamoni goes with Ammon
- Meets Lamoni’s father who calls Ammon a child of a liar
- Lamoni refuses to obey father’s command to kill Ammon
- Ammon smites the father’s arm but does not cut it off.

17. What does Ammon want from the Lamoni’s father?

- Brothers out of prison
- Lamoni keep kingdom and govern freely

18. What was his response to Ammon’s request?

- Rejoiced for his life
- Saw Ammon had no desire to kill him (king had wanted to kill Ammon)
- Saw great love Ammon had for his son
- Granted request
- Asked Ammon to come see him (wanted to know more)

19. Aaron went to Jerusalem to teach Amalekites and the people of Amulon. What were their beliefs?

- Nephite blood, but Lamanite politics
- Religion of Nehor
- Build sanctuaries and assemble to worship God
- God will save all men
- Not believe foolish traditions about Christ
- Not know things to come
- Angry with Aaron, mocked him,

20. What did Aaron do after getting out of prison?

¹⁶ They went forth whithersoever they were led by the Spirit of the Lord, preaching the word of God in every synagogue of the Amalekites. ... ¹⁷ The Lord began to bless them, insomuch that they brought many to the knowledge of the truth; yea, they did convince many of their sins, and of the traditions of their fathers, which were not correct. (21:16–17)

21. Amalekites and Amulonites

¹⁴ The Amalekites were not converted, save only one; neither were any of the Amulonites; but they did harden their hearts, and also the hearts of the Lamanites. (23:14)

Jerusalem was a Lamanite city, built by Amulonites and Amalekites. It was destroyed at the time of Christ's death. The Lord said, “Waters have I caused to come up in the stead thereof to hide their wickedness and abominations from before my face, that the blood of the prophets and the saints shall not come up any more unto me against them” (3 Ne. 9:7).

22. How did Aaron approach and teach Lamoni’s father?

23. What was the prayer of Lamoni’s father?

¹⁸ O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; and if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day. (22:18)

Quotes

Henry B. Eyring: I am struck by the way [Ammon] taught. ... Ammon prepared himself, but he did more. He prepared his student to be taught the doctrines of salvation. ... Now, remember that he not only protected the servants and the animals at the waters of Sebus, but he drove off the enemy. When the other servants brought the evidence of what Ammon had done, King Lamoni said, “Where is he?” They said, “Oh, he is in the stables. He is doing every little thing to serve you” (see Alma 18:8-9).

Isn’t that odd? He was called to teach the doctrines of salvation, but he was in the stables. Don’t you think he should have been praying and fasting and polishing his teaching plan? No, he was in the stables. (“The Book of Mormon Will Change Your Life,” *Ensign*, Feb. 2004, 13)

Neal A. Maxwell: The submission of one’s will is placing on God’s altar the only uniquely personal thing one has to place there. The many other things we ‘give’ are actually the things He has already given or loaned to us. However, when we finally submit ourselves by letting our individual wills be swallowed up in God’s will, we will really be giving something to Him! It is the only possession which is truly ours to give. Consecration thus constitutes the only unconditional surrender which is also a total victory. (*If Thou Endure It Well*, 44-55)

Other quotes exemplified by the Sons of Mosiah

- We get nearer to God not by traveling, but by loving and serving His children as we seek to know and do His will.
- Service is love in work clothes.
- Preach the gospel always, but use words only if necessary!
- I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends.
- ⁴⁴ Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you; ⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven (3 Ne 12:44–45; Mt 5:44–45).