

ANCIENT TRAVELS IN A NEW WORLD

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(All dates are approximate)

The Land of Zarahemla

The Land of Lehi-Nephi
(Left Israel) - BC 597

BC 586 - (Left Israel)



BC 566 - (Arrival in N.W.)
(Led by Mulek)
567



(Arrival in N.W.) - BC 587
(Led y Lehi)
(Nephi)
(Into the Wilderness) - BC



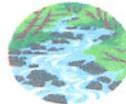
(Jacob) - BC 542
(Enos)
(Jarom)
(Omni)
(Amaron)
(Chemish)
(Abinadom)
(Mosiah I) BC 200

BC 200 - (Mosiah I)

(Benjamin)

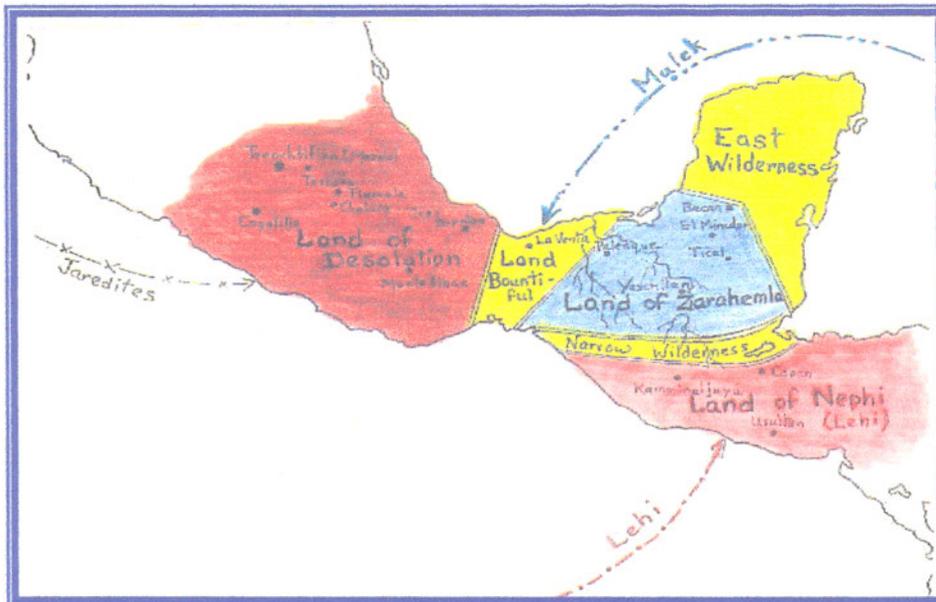
(Zeniff) (Laman)

(Noah) (Laman II)



BC 121 - (Mosiah II)
(Limhi)

BC 118



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- B.** Time of departure easily pin-pointed. **1 Nephi 1:3** sets the scene: **"For it came to pass, in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah..."** Known to be **597 B.C.** (BofM says 600 B.C.- 3 yr. difference)
- 1.** **(Use Laser.)** Show route followed on **Map 2** -
 - 2.** Reaching a specific point, Nephi writes, **"...we did travel nearly eastward, from that time forth."** (**1 Nephi 5:55**)
 - a.** Interesting article in *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*, Nov.98
 - b.** A couple spent 4 yrs. investigating So. coast of Arabian Penn.
 - c.** Place fitting BofM description lay in Dhofar region **(Use Laser.)** near Yemen.
- C.** I show arrival in N.W. **10 years** after departure from Jerusalem, or **587 B.C.**
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 - 2.** I postulate 2 years for Red Sea journey, building ship & ocean voyage.
- D.** We return to Israel for another group: Jerusalem fell to Babylonia in **B.C. 586**.
- 1.** Just as the city was about to fall, King Zedekiah and his court (including his sons old enough to battle) escaped through gate in the king's garden.
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 - 3.** Jeremiah & part of king's family were exiled to Mizpah. **(Use Laser.)**
 - 4.** Upon murder of the Governor, **Jeremiah 43:5-7** tells us the prophet, the king's family and others fled to Egypt, Jeremiah was taken against his will.
 - 5.** Mulek but a **small child**. I envision him reaching adulthood before a remnant would follow him to the New World. (Perhaps aided by Phoenicians) Hence arriving here some **20 years** after fall of Jerusalem.
 - 6.** They landed on the Gulf Coast where Jaredite civilization ended:
 - a.** Mormon tells us they came **"...into the land which had been peopled, and been destroyed, which was discovered by the people of Zarahemla; it being the place of their first landing."** (**Alma 13:74**)
 - b.** They found stone with final days of Jaredite history (**Omni, 36**).
 - c.** Also found Coriantumr, who lived with them 9 mo. (**Omni, 37**).
 - d.** Mormon further tells us, **"And they came from there up into the south wilderness."** (**Alma 13:74**)
- E.** Back to the Nephite people:
- 1.** Prior to B.C. 567, the rebellion of Nephi's brothers increased.
 - 2.** In **2 Nephi 4:7** we read, **"And it came to pass that the Lord did warn me, that I, Nephi, should depart from them, and flee into the wilderness, and all those who would go with me."**

3. Traveled many days before finding ideal location (Laser Wilderness).
4. Planted, built a temple (simpler version of Solomon's temple) & now, according to v. 44, it is 30 years after they left Jerusalem, or B.C. 567.

F. B.C. 542 Nephi gave records to younger bro., Jacob (Use Laser) (Jac. 1:1,2).

1. Nephi appointed another person to be ruler (2nd Nephi, 3rd Nephi, etc.)
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G. The Nephites, in times of Mosiah I, were again harassed by the Lamanites

1. *Omni 1:20 says, "For behold, he being warned of the Lord that he should flee out of the land of Nephi, and as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord, should also depart out of the land with him, into the wilderness."*
2. In verse 23, we read, "...and they were led by the power of his arm, through the wilderness, until they came down into the land which is called the land of Zarahemla." Notice the wording: "they came down into" Zarahemla.
3. (Use Laser) They were in highlands of Guatemala & went down into Chiapas Basin. Followed one of the river drainage systems downward.
4. Here, on edge of River Sidon, they found city of Zarahemla (Mulekites).
5. (Use Laser) Two possibilities: R. Grijalva and R. Usumacinta. (Sect. K)
6. Mosiah became king of the now unified people, Nephites & Mulekites.

H. As Mosiah is consolidating & teaching the two peoples, another story unfolds:

Omni 1:48-50: "And now, I would speak somewhat concerning a certain number who went up into the wilderness, to return to the land of Nephi: For there was a large number who were desirous to possess the land of their inheritance; wherefore, they went up into the wilderness. And their leader being a strong and a mighty man, and a stiff-necked man, wherefore he caused a contention among them; and they were all slain, save fifty, in the wilderness, and they returned again to the land of Zarahemla."

1. This is the first of **SEVEN** journeys that will span three generations. The stories are out of sequence and generally undated for the reason given earlier. This all causes some confusion. Begins in *Omni*, jumps to *Mosiah 6 - 9*, back to *Mosiah 4 & 5*, then jumps to *Mosiah 9, 10 & 11*.
2. The story picks up in *Mosiah 6*: A man named Zeniff was a member of this party. He was sent to spy on Lamanites. (Use Blue Marker Trip 1) He saw some good things among them & didn't want to slay them.
3. The stiff-necked leader wanted to; so now he wished to slay Zeniff.
4. Zeniff rescued by shedding of much blood & 50 lived to return to Zar.
5. He was eager to inherit the land again; found another group to return with him. (Use Blue Marker - Trip 2). He was made king of this group.
6. He made a treaty with King Laman to possess a portion of the land.
7. In their 30th yr., attacked by Lamanites; won a great, expensive, battle.

8. Enjoyed 22 yrs. of peace & prosperity when Laman died & his son, **Laman II** became king. Began to battle again & drove Laman II from land.

I. Zeniff now more than 70; & conferred kingdom on his son, **Noah. (Use Laser)**

1. A wicked man. Had many wives & concubines; levied heavy taxes.

2. Removed priests of God and installed his own, these also wicked.

3. Their land was now badly oppressed by the Lamanites.

4. A prophet, **Abinadi**, appeared among them. Spoke against Noah and his worldly priests. Later he returned to prophesy destruction upon this people.

(Propheied about east winds to destroy & insects to pester.)

[plague of chiquistas that followed Hurricane Gilbert in Yucatan]

5. The people bound him & took him to King Noah. Then follows 13 pages of Abinadi's teachings and prophecies in **Mosiah 7, 8 & 9.**

6. Noah ordered the execution of Abinadi and he was burned at the stake.

J. A young man, named **Alma**, of King Noah's court, believed words of Abinadi.

1. He had pleaded for Abinadi, so King Noah ordered Alma's death also. Alma fled and hid himself for a while. He repented of all his sins.

2. Alma taught people privately in their homes; many believed & were baptized in the waters of Mormon, located in a forest far from the city.

3. A church was established among these believers. King Noah became aware of their activities and sent an army to destroy them.

4. Alma & 450 believers fled **(Use Red Marker, Trip 3)** into wilderness.

5. **Mosiah 11:3** says they traveled **8 days**, found a beautiful spot, built a city called Helam and sowed their crops.

6. Meanwhile, the people of Noah were overwhelmed by their enemies.

7. Noah & his priests fled. He was later killed by his angry followers.

8. His son, **Limhi (Use Laser)**, was now made king. His people had to pay a tariff of 1/2 of all they produced. They were virtual slaves of Lamanites. Land continued in violence.

K. This King Limhi sent a party of **43 men** to find the land of Zarahemla to obtain help from their Nephite brethren they had left behind two generations earlier.

1. They became lost in the wilderness. **(Use Red Marker - Trip 4)**

2. They finally arrived in a land of ruined cities and great destruction. **(Use Laser - Land of Desolation)** They thought it was Zarahemla. Why didn't they find Zarahemla?

3. Discuss Rio Grijalva and Rio Usumacinta debate.

4. Found a record engraved on 24 golden plates which no one could read & brought it back to King Limhi.

5. Finding no help, the people of Limhi truly humbled themselves before God. The time is now **118 B.C.**

L. We return now to **Chapter 4 of Mosiah** & the Land of Zarahemla. King Benjamin had turned over the kingship to his son, **Mosiah II (Use Laser).**

1. Three yrs. later, **B.C. 118, Mosiah II** was concerned about the people who had followed Zeniff back to the land of Nephi about 80 years earlier.

2. He sent **15 men under Ammon** to endeavor to locate them.

3. They wandered **40 days (Use Blue Marker - Trip 5)** before arriving at a high place where they could see the city of Limhi's people.

4. Limhi was overjoyed to see them. He brought out the 24 plates & told the story of his exploratory party. ¿Can anyone read them? Ammon gave the explanation of a seer and said King Mosiah II had such a gift.

5. We now pick up the story in **Chapter 10 of Mosiah**.

M. Ammon and Limhi devised plan for his people to escape from their bondage.

1. They paid their normal large tribute of wine to the Lamanites.

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3. That night the people all left through a gate in the back wall.

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After **many days** travel, Limhi's Nephite people, guided by Ammon, arrived at Zarahemla. **(Use Red Marker - Trip 6)**

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1. Those Lamanites who had pursued Limhi and became lost, now accidentally stumbled upon the city of Helam.

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Close with a reading of Mosiah 11:81-87, 97.

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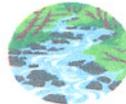
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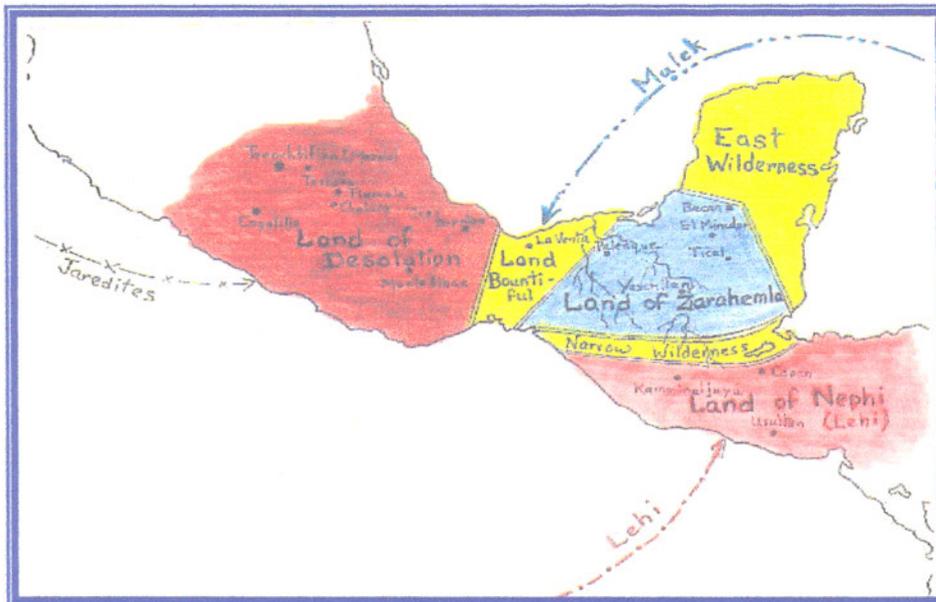
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Teachers Copy

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- 1.** They traveled southeastward along the Red Sea for 1500 miles.
- 2.** Reaching a specific point, Nephi writes, "...we did travel nearly eastward, from that time forth." (**1 Nephi 5:55**)
- 3.** An interesting, illustrated article in the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*, Nov. 98, tells the story of a couple who spent 4 yrs. investigating South coast of Arabia, looking for a place fitting the BofM description of Bountiful. Such a place lay in the Dhofar region, just east of Yemen.

C. I show the Nephites arriving in the New World 10 years after departure from Jerusalem, or **587 B.C.**

- 1.** Nephi writes, "And we did sojourn for the space of many years, yea, even eight years in the wilderness". (**1 Nephi 5:61**) (This time accounts only for the eastward leg of the journey through the desert.)
- 2.** I postulate 2 years for the journey along the Red Sea, building their ship in Bountiful and the ocean voyage.

D. We return to Israel to consider another group who came to America (the Mulekites): We know that Jerusalem fell to Babylon in **B.C. 586**.

- 1.** Just as the city was about to fall, King Zedekiah and his court (including sons old enough to battle) escaped through a gate in the king's garden.
- 2.** They were caught by the Chaldeans, and the King's sons were put to death before his eyes, he was then blinded and led to Babylon, fulfilling prophecies of Ezekiel & Jeremiah.

a. " My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it (because he is now blind - dem), though he shall die there." (**Ezekiel 12:13**)

b. "And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, (this took place after his capture and before he was blinded in Syria) and thou shalt go to Babylon. Thou shalt not die by the sword: (he died in prison) But thou shalt die in peace:" (**Jeremiah 34:3-5**)

3. Jeremiah & part of king's family were exiled to Mizpah, about 7 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

4. Upon the murder of the Governor, Jeremiah 43:5-7 tells us the prophet, the king's family and others fled to Egypt, Jeremiah was taken against his will.

5. Mulek (son of Zedekiah) was but a small child. I envision him reaching adulthood before a remnant would follow him to the New World. (Perhaps aided by Phoenicians) Hence arriving here some 20 years after the fall of Jerusalem, or about **566 B.C.**

a. Another prophecy of Ezekiel speaks of Mulek: "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent:" (**Ezekiel 17:22**)

b. When one reads **verses 3-8**, it seems a riddle. Then in **verses 12-15** the players are identified, and one can see identity of the youngest son of Zedekiah, *supposedly* the last king of Judah.

6. This group landed on the Gulf Coast where Jaredite civilization ended:

a. Mormon tells us they came "...into the land which had been peopled, and been destroyed, which was discovered by the people of Zarahemla; it being the place of their first landing." (**Alma 13:74**)

b. They found stone with final days of Jaredite history (**Omni, 36**).

c. Also found Coriantumr, who lived with them 9 mo. (**Omni, 37**).

d. Mormon further tells us, "And they came from there up into the south wilderness." (**Alma 13:74**)

E. Now we return to the story of the Nephite people:

1. Prior to B.C. 567, the rebellion of Nephi's brothers increased.

2. In **2 Nephi 4:7** we read, "And it came to pass that the Lord did warn me, that I, Nephi, should depart from them, and flee into the wilderness, and all those who would go with me."

3. Traveled many days before finding ideal location in the wilderness.

4. Here they planted, built a temple (simpler version of Solomon's) & now, according to v. **44**, it is 30 years after they left Jerusalem, or **B.C. 567**.

F. In **B.C. 542** Nephi gave the records to his younger bro., Jacob (**Jac. 1:1,2**).

1. Nephi appointed another person to be ruler (2nd Nephi, 3rd Nephi, etc.)

2. The book of Omni follows with a list of those who kept the records (probably the spiritual leaders as well), but the rulers are not named.

3. This list brings us to Mosiah I, who ruled in **about 200 B.C.**

a. In this part of the history, from Chemish (in **277 B.C.**) through the reign of King Benjamin, dates are not given. (**Omni 1:7-10**)

b. Many think this was the portion of the MMS lost by Martin Harris.

c. In **Words of Mormon**, he tells of placing small plates in record.

d. This shorter history, lacking dates, was probably used for this section.

G. The Nephites, in times of Mosiah I, were again harassed by the Lamanites.

1. **Omni 1:20** says, "For behold, he being warned of the Lord that he should flee out of the land of Nephi, and as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord, should also depart out of the land with him, into the wilderness."

2. In **verse 23**, we read, "...and they were led by the power of his arm, through the wilderness, until they came down into the land which is called the land of Zarahemla." Notice the wording: "they came down into" the land of Zarahemla.

3. They were in highlands of Guatemala & went down into Chiapas Basin. No doubt they followed one of the river drainage systems downward.

4. There were two possibilities, the Rio Grijalva or the Rio Usumacinta.

5. Here, on edge of River Sidon, they found city of Zarahemla (Mulekites).

6. Mosiah became king of the now unified peoples, Nephites & Mulekites.

H. As Mosiah is consolidating & teaching the two peoples, another story unfolds:

Omni 1:48-50: "And now, I would speak somewhat concerning a certain number who went up into the wilderness, to return to the land of Nephi: For there was a large number who were desirous to possess the land of their inheritance; wherefore, they went up into the wilderness. And their leader being a strong and a mighty man, and a stiff-necked man, wherefore he caused a contention among them; and they were all slain, save fifty, in the wilderness, and they returned again to the land of Zarahemla."

1. This is the first of **seven** journeys that will span three generations.

The stories are out of sequence and generally undated for the reason given earlier. This all causes some confusion.

2. This story in Omni continues in **Mosiah 6:1**: A man named Zeniff was a member of this party. In the Land of Nephi he was sent to spy on Lamanites (**Trip 1**) He saw some good things among them & didn't want to slay them.

3. The stiff-necked leader wanted to; so now he wished to slay Zeniff also.

4. Zeniff was rescued by his friends and supporters, but only by the shedding of much blood. Only 50 men lived to return to Zarahemla.

5. But Zeniff was eager to inherit the land again. He found another group to return with him. (**Mosiah 6:6 - Trip 2**). In the land of Nephi he was made king of this group.

6. He made a treaty with King Laman I (**Mosiah 6:9**) to possess a portion of the land. They repaired the abandoned city and planted their crops.

7. In their 13th year, they were attacked by Lamanites. They won a great, yet expensive, battle. (**Mosiah 6:17-25**)

8. They enjoyed 22 years of peace & prosperity. But then Laman died & his son, Laman II, became king. The new king began to battle again, but was finally driven from the land of the Nephites.

I. Zeniff was surely now more than 70; (**Mosiah 6:58**) and now conferred the kingdom to his son, Noah.

1. Noah was a wicked man. He had many wives & concubines and levied heavy taxes upon his people. (**Mosiah 7:2 - 7**)

2. He removed the priests of God and installed his own; these were also wicked and licentious men. (**Mosiah 7:8 - 10**)

3. Their land was now badly oppressed by the Lamanites.
4. A prophet, Abinadi, appeared among them. (**Mosiah 7:28**) He spoke against Noah and his worldly priests. Later (**Mosiah 7:45**) he returned to prophesy destruction upon this people. (I was interested in his prophesy about east winds to destroy & insects to pester. It reminded me of the plague of chiquistas that followed Hurricane Gilbert into Yucatan. It is another confirmation of the basic geography. Had this narrative taken place on the western coast of South America as many once believed, this prophesy would not ring true.)
5. The people bound Abinadi and took him to King Noah. Then follows **13 pages** of Abinadi's teachings and prophecies in **Mosiah 7, 8 and 9.**
6. Noah ordered the execution of Abinadi and he was burned at the stake. (**Mosiah 9:27**)

J. A young man, named Alma, of King Noah's court, believed words of Abinadi.

1. He had pleaded for Abinadi, so King Noah ordered Alma's death also. (**Mosiah 9:3 and 4**) Alma fled and hid himself for a while. He repented of all his sins.
2. Alma taught people privately in their homes; many believed & were baptized in the waters of Mormon, located in a forest far from the city.
3. A church was established among these believers. King Noah became aware of their activities and sent an army to destroy them. (**Mosiah 9:69 - 71**)
4. Alma & 450 believers fled (**Trip 3**) into wilderness. (**Mosiah 9:72-73**)
5. **Mosiah 11:3 - 22** says they traveled **8 days**, and found a beautiful spot. Here they built a city called Helam and sowed their crops.
6. Meanwhile, the people of Noah were overwhelmed by their enemies.
7. Noah & his priests fled. He was later killed by his angry followers.
8. His son, Limhi, was now made king (**Mosiah 9:103**). His people had to pay a tariff of 1/2 of all they produced. They were virtual slaves of Lamanites. Their land continued to be plagued with violence.

K. We read in **Mosiah 5:60 - 67** and in **Mosiah 9:166 - 169** that this King Limhi sent a party of 43 men to find the land of Zarahemla to obtain help from their Nephite brethren they had left behind two generations earlier.

1. They became lost in the wilderness. (**Trip 4**)
2. They finally arrived in a land of ruined cities and great destruction. They thought it was Zarahemla, but it was the remains of the Jaredite kingdom.
3. While in this land of Desolation, they found a record engraved on 24 golden plates which no one could read & brought it back to King Limhi.
4. Finding no help, the people of Limhi truly humbled themselves before God. The time is now **118 B.C.**

L. We return now to **Mosiah 4: 3** and the Land of Zarahemla. King Benjamin had turned over the kingship to his son, Mosiah II. It is **B.C. 121** (see verse 6).

1. Three years later, in **B.C. 118**, Mosiah II was concerned about the people who had followed Zeniff back to the land of Nephi about 80 years earlier. (**Mosiah 5:1 and 2**)

2. He sent 15 men under Ammon to endeavor to locate them. (See **Mosiah 5: 3 & 4.**)

3. They wandered **40 days (Trip 5)** before arriving at a high place where they could see the city of Limhi's people. (**Mosiah 5: 6 to 8**)

4. Limhi was overjoyed to see them. He brought out the 24 plates & told the story of his exploratory party. ¿Can anyone read them? Ammon gave the explanation of a seer and said King Mosiah II had such a gift.

5. We now pick up the story in **Chapter 10 of Mosiah.**

M. Ammon & Limhi devised a plan for his people to escape from their bondage.

1. They paid their normal large tribute of wine to the Lamanites. (**10:10**)

2. They sent even more wine to the Lamanite guards outside the city. (**13**)

3. That night the people all left through a gate in the back wall. (**10:14**)

4. They fled into the wilderness and their Lamanite pursuers then became lost. (**Mosiah 10:19**)

5. After many days travel, Limhi's Nephite people, guided by Ammon, arrived back in Zarahemla. (**Trip 6**) They were received with joy by people of Zarahemla & King Mosiah II. (**Mosiah 10:16 and 17**)

N. We left Alma & his followers in the city of Helam in the wilderness where they had fled from King Noah. (We pick up the story in **Mosiah 11:28**)

1. Those Lamanites who had pursued Limhi and became lost (see M4), now accidentally stumbled upon the city of Helam. (**Mosiah 11:28**)

2. Alma cast himself at their mercy and they were not harmed.

3. He showed them the way by which they could return to the land of Nephi.

4. However, the Lamanites left guards over the people of Helam.

5. The Lord caused a deep sleep to come over these guards and Alma and his people fled during the night. (**Trip 7**) (**Mosiah 11:68 - 69**)

6. They traveled **13 days (Mosiah 11: 69 & 76)** and they, too, found the people of Zarahemla.

Close with a reading of Mosiah 11:81-87, 97.