

## Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 206)

### LESSON 32: ALMA 53-63

#### *They Did Obey...Every Word of Command with Exactness*

Goal	
Hook	These chapters read like a great work of literature—heart wrenching accounts of war, victory and loss (the wars at the end of Alma covered 12 years!). There are complex motivations and tales of heroes and villains that end up being surprisingly nuanced. And brief mentions and allusions point to stories untold. Finally, after tremendous conflict there are conclusions and transitions (and just like “great literature”, some people have a hard time getting through it! But we are going to engage in close reading that hopefully all will find rewarding)
Overview	<p>Lots of letters!</p> <p>53:1-7: Prisoners and fortifications; Story of Helaman’s Stripling Warriors (name comes from 53:22 btw)</p> <p>54: Letters between Ammaron and Moroni</p> <p>55: Moroni takes City of Gid with alcoholic assistance</p> <p>56-58: Helaman’s letter to Moroni detailing the difficult circumstances of the war on the western front</p> <p>59: Moroni’s reaction to Helaman’s epistle; Nephiah falls because of inadequate protection, chief captains fear</p> <p>60: Moroni’s letter to Pahoran</p> <p>61: Pahoran’s hasty but gracious response</p> <p>62: Denouement: Nephites beat the Lamanites and work to recover, Moroni retires, Helaman dies</p> <p>63: Shiblon’s record, Moroni dies, the curious story of a curious man. Shiblon dies, Helaman’s son takes over the records, Moronihah repels a Lamanite battle.</p>
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning from letters (impressive nuance and complexity of character as well as lessons about how to treat others, react including to misunderstandings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Moroni to Ammaron (54:5-14)</li> <li>-Ammaron to Moroni (54:16-23)(also look at how Moroni’s reaction lines up with the letter)</li> <li>-Helaman to Moroni (56:2-58:41)</li> <li>-Moroni to Pahoran (60)</li> <li>-Pahoran’s response to Moroni (61)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lessons from the war chapters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sons of Helaman, childhood beliefs, and trustworthiness (53:20-21). Also, what is right depends on circumstance (opposite covenants; 53:15-17)</li> <li>- 53:5 “easier to guard them while at their labor” (also build our own prisons)</li> <li>-“cleanse the inward vessel first”—the importance of being unified, “on the same team” (53:9;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Other Comments/ Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These are tremendously poignant chapters. Do a word search on “food” “provisions” “famine” hunger”, 58:7, and the summary in 60:9</li> <li>• Funny story of liberation through wine (note wine is not condemned)</li> </ul>

Starters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What insights from these chapters apply to current wars and conflict?</li><li>• 62:29: People want to thrive, not wage war</li></ul>
Concluding Points	

Have to say I am impressed by the complex subtlety of these chapters

Word searches

Food: (6x)

Provisions (9x)

Famine (2x)

Hunger (1x)

Conflicts both internal and external (multi front war and then internal divisions)

Spend time with amazing figures in book of Mormon in these chapters

Pahoran's response to Moroni is an amazing model of conflict resolution too often overlooked