

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 217)

LESSON 43: MORMON 1-6; MORONI 9

“How Could Ye Have Departed from the Ways of the Lord?”

Hook	These chapters are heartwrenching and haunting. We read about the end of Nephite civilization and Moroni 9 especially is darker than anything else in the Book of Mormon. In the midst of this cautionary tale, however the example of Mormon shines the brighter.
Goal	
Overview	<p>Mormon 1:1-4 Ammaron passes the records to Mormon</p> <p>1:5-3:10 An account of Nephite battles interspersed with details about Mormon</p> <p>3:11-22 Mormon refuses to lead his people, speaks to modern readers of the Book of Mormon</p> <p>4 The Lamanites consistently defeat the Nephites</p> <p>5 Mormon again leads the people but without hope; account of their scattering and slaughter interspersed with Mormon speaking about the purpose of the Book of Mormon</p> <p>6:1-15 Preparations for and the final battle of the Nephites</p> <p>6:16-22 Mormon’s lament</p> <p>Moroni 9: A letter from Mormon to Moroni that seems to parallel the events of Mormon 4.</p>
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fall of the Nephites (close reading of these chapters; look at Moroni 9 after Mormon 4) • Progression of the Nephite-Lamanite/Gadianton Robber war: • 1:8, 11-12. A year of war (321, many battles; Mormon is 11, thus born in 310) • 2:1. After four years of peace, war begins again (325, Mormon is 15) • 2:3-8. Lamanites come against Nephites so powerfully they flee; Lamanites drive them even from fortified cities, a constant scene of blood and carnage (330, Mormon is 20) • 2:16. Nephites flee and are pursued to Jashon (345; Mormon is 35) • 2:20-22. Nephites continue to be “hunted and driven”, fortify the city Shem, and gather their people as much as possible. • 2:23-29 Mormon inspires the people (look for an ironic and poignant parallel or echo between Mormon and his hero Moroni) and they fight off the Lamanites. A treaty divides the land, Nephites to the north and Lamanites to the south (350; Mormon is 40). • 3:1. Ten years of relative peace. • 3:4-9. King Aaron warns the Nephites that he is preparing to wage war against them; they gather at Desolation, beat the Lamanites, and boast in bloodlust and swear vengeance; Mormon refuses to lead them (362; Mormon is 52) • 4:1-5. Nephites go fight the Lamanites and are defeated (363)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:6-15. Nephites boast in their strength when they win, but the Lamanites defeat them and sacrifice their women and children to their gods. • Nephites are angered and so defeat the Lamanites (367; Mormon is 57) • 8 years without battle (367-375) • 4:16-23. Nephites resist at points but are slaughtered and driven, women and children again sacrificed. • Moroni 9: (Note the detail not shared in Mormon's summaries; I don't think he intended this to be in the Book of Mormon) • Mormon 5:1-7. Mormon again leads his people; Nephites maintain some cities but are destroyed and trodden underfoot (380; Mormon is 70) • 6. The last battle (384; Mormon is 74. Over 230,000 killed, about 24 remain). • Emotional highlights (or lowlights): 2:18; 3:8-10; 4:10-21; 5:3-7; 6:7-15 • The example of Mormon (1:1-6, 15-17; 2:1-2, 12-19, 23-27; 3:1-3, 5, 11-22; Moroni 9; Mormon 5:1-2 (Mormon's willingness to lead his people again is all the more striking and impressive after reading Moroni 9), 8-24; 6:1-22)
Other Comments/ Discussion Starters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Concluding Points	