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Mormon's Metaphor

# War in the Book of Mormon

An Eight Part Series of Lectures



Mormon's Metaphor

20 January	Introduction to the Book of Mormon
3 February	War in Lehi's World & the Small Plates of Nephi
16 March	Zeniffites, Jaredites, and Anti-Christ
13 April	Alma and the Power of Missionaries
25 May	Moroni at the Beginning
15 June	The Amalickiahite War
13 July	Gadianton Robbers and the Change in Warfare
3 August	Mormon

All are welcome to attend.  
At the Leavenworth Ward Chapel (1020 Limit Street, Leavenworth, KS)  
7:00 PM on the nights indicated

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Unity

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# More Details Available

War in the Book of Mormon

- **Uploaded Slides**  
(<https://www.narrativespace.net/war-in-the-book-of-mormon.html>)
- **Podcast**  
(<https://feeds.blubrry.com/feeds/warinthbookofmormon.xml>) also on Apple, Google, etc.
- **Facebook**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/warinthbookofmormon>)
- **Email**  
([warinthbookofmormon@gmail.com](mailto:warinthbookofmormon@gmail.com))

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# Most Important Points

- Details Matter
- Mormon's Thesis (Mormon 3:20-22)
- Mormon's Points of Emphasis
  - Preparation
  - Covenants
  - Unity

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## Engravers

- Nephi — **50 Chapters (21%)**
- Jacob — **12 Chapters (5%)**
- Others — **3 Chapters (1%)**
- Mormon — **149 Chapters (62%)**
- Moroni — **25 Chapters (11%)**

The four primary engravers all saw Jesus Christ and gained a personal testimony and witness of his life, ministry, atonement, and resurrection.

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## Engravers' Theses

- Nephi — 1 Nephi 1:20
- Jacob — Jacob 1:7-8
- Mormon — Mormon 3:20-22
- Moroni — Mormon 9:11, 27-28

Focused on power that comes from faith in Christ and intended to prepare the reader for judgment and meeting Christ.

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# Mormon's Thesis

## Mormon 3:20-22

And these things doth the Spirit manifest unto me; therefore I write unto you all. And **for this cause I write unto you**, that **ye may know that ye must all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ**, yea, every soul who belongs to the whole human family of Adam; and ye must stand **to be judged of your works**, whethe**r**

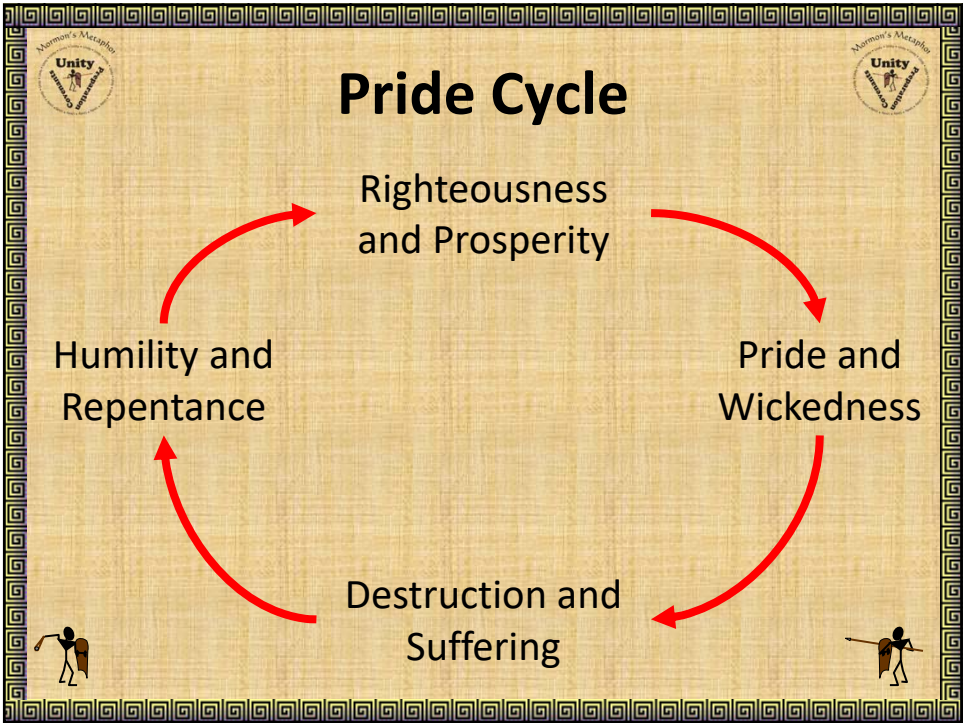
**Mormon—149 Chapters (62%)**

And **also** that ye may **believe the gospel of Jesus Christ**, which ye shall have among you; and also that the Jews, the covenant people of the Lord, shall have other witness besides him whom they saw and heard, **that Jesus**, whom they slew, **was the very Christ and the very God**.

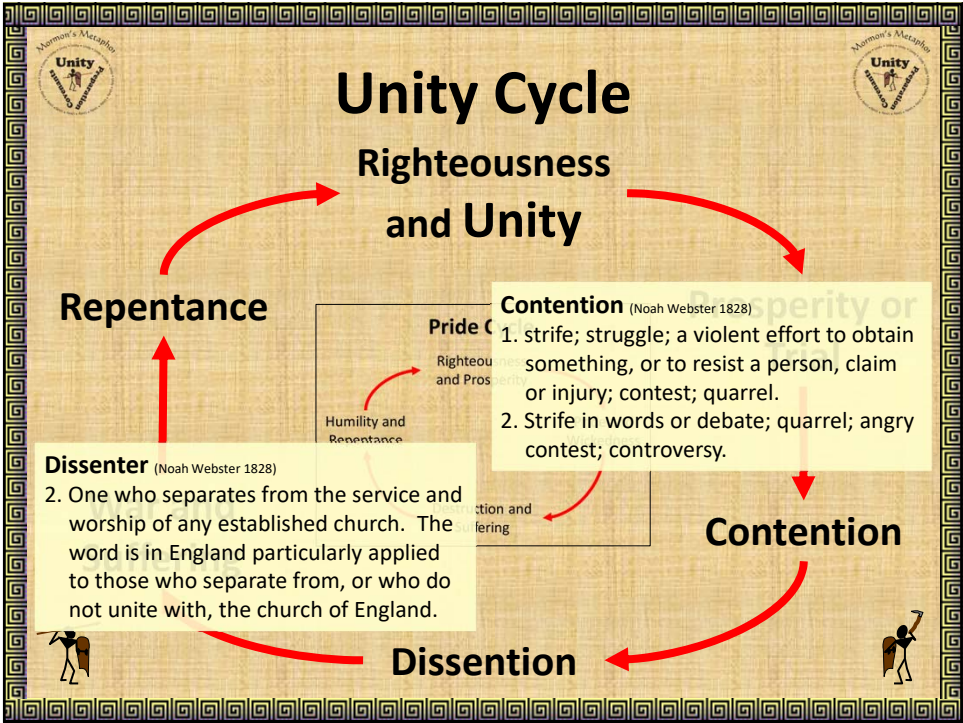
22 And I would that I could **persuade all ye ends of the earth to repent and prepare to stand before the judgment-seat of Christ**.

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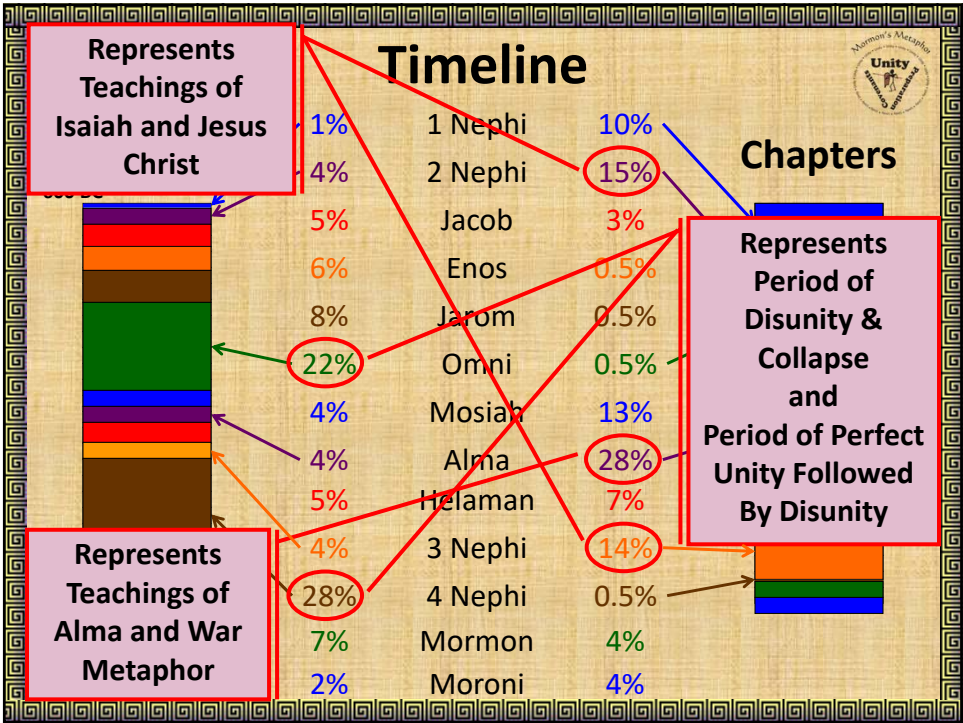
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Love  
Peace

# Timeline

- Ether 59 Generations
- 1 Nephi 600-588? BC
- 2 Nephi 588?-544 BC
- Jacob 544-480? BC
- Enos 480?-420 BC
- Jarom 420-361 BC
- Omni 361-130 BC
- W of M 160?-130 BC
- Mosiah 130-91 BC
- Alma 91-51 BC
- Helaman 51-1 BC
- 3 Nephi 1 BC-36 AD
- 4 Nephi 36-322 AD
- Mormon 322-400? AD
- Moroni 400?-421 AD

Of the nearly 1021 years of recorded history in the Book of Mormon—~636 years (62%) are covered in 4 of the 224 chapters (2%).

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Peace

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Peace

# Why Talk About War?

- It is the primary technique used by Mormon to teach us.
- It is one of the most recurring topics found in the Book of Mormon—24% of Chapters
- Example Word Counts

Fight	71 times	Battle	136 times
War	194 times	Sword	156 times
Charity	27 times	Love	74 times
- This is not a statement that war is more important than love.
- It is the crucible of people and societies.

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## Why Talk About War?

... and thus they had had wars, and bloodsheds, and famine, and affliction, for the space of many years.

And there had been murders, and contentions, and dissensions, and all manner of iniquity among the people of Nephi; nevertheless for the righteous' sake, yea, because of the prayers of the righteous, they were spared.

But behold, **because of the exceedingly great length of the war** between the Nephites and the Lamanites **many had become hardened** . . . and **many were softened** because of their afflictions, insomuch that they did humble themselves before God, even in the depth of humility.

—Alma 62:39-41



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## Mormon's Medium of Choice

Even though Mormon is not teaching history or military tactics, he does provide tremendous insight into them. **War is Mormon's medium of choice for teaching his readers.** The **details** he includes in his military events are there to teach us specific lessons. **We must understand conflict as he did to understand the messages he is sending us.**

## Details Matter!



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Another way to put it.  
Chekhov's Gun

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What is Mormon showing me?

Ask this question to yourself. A lot.  
(By the way, he also tells us.)

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Exemplars

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people and events that served as THE example

How does Mormon show his reader?

(By the way, he also tells us.)

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# How

## Mormon's three great sermons

1st Battle of Manti (Alma 43-44)  
Amalickiahite War (Alma 46-62)  
Gadianton Robber War (Helaman & 3 Nephi)

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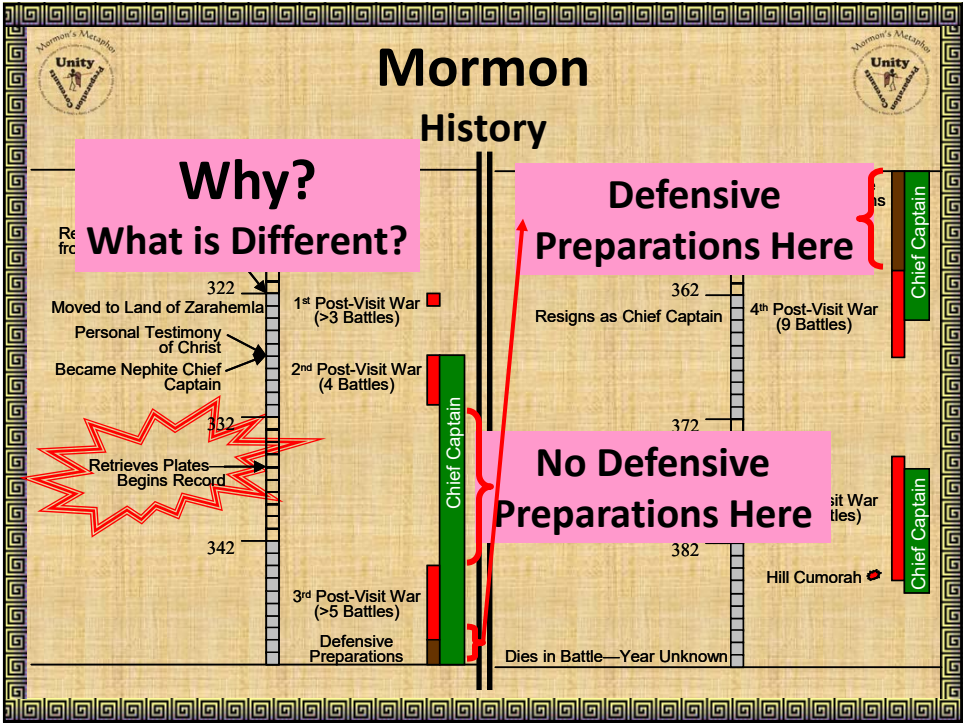
## Mormon

### Who was he? (2 of 2)

- Disciple of Christ—Called to declare His Word (3 Nephi 5:13)
- Chose the record based on inspiration (3 Nephi 5:8-9, 14-18) and direct commandment (3 Nephi 26:12)
- Pure descendant of Lehi through Nephi (3 Nephi 5:20, Mormon 1:5)
- **General of the Nephite armies** (~45 years). (Commanded in >46 Battles/Campaigns)

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The figure is a slide titled "Mormon Changed View of Armed Conflict" with a parchment background and a decorative border. It contains a bulleted list of two points. The first point states that the text was not designed as a military manual but as a treatise on achieving victory in battle with a clean conscience. The second point provides an example from the Anti-Nephi-Lehis, highlighting their emphasis on submission to a sacred covenant over battlefield victory. The slide is flanked by two circular logos with the text "Mormon's Metaphor" and "Unity". At the bottom, there are two small illustrations of figures with spears and a reference to Alma 24:19 x2, 27, 30.

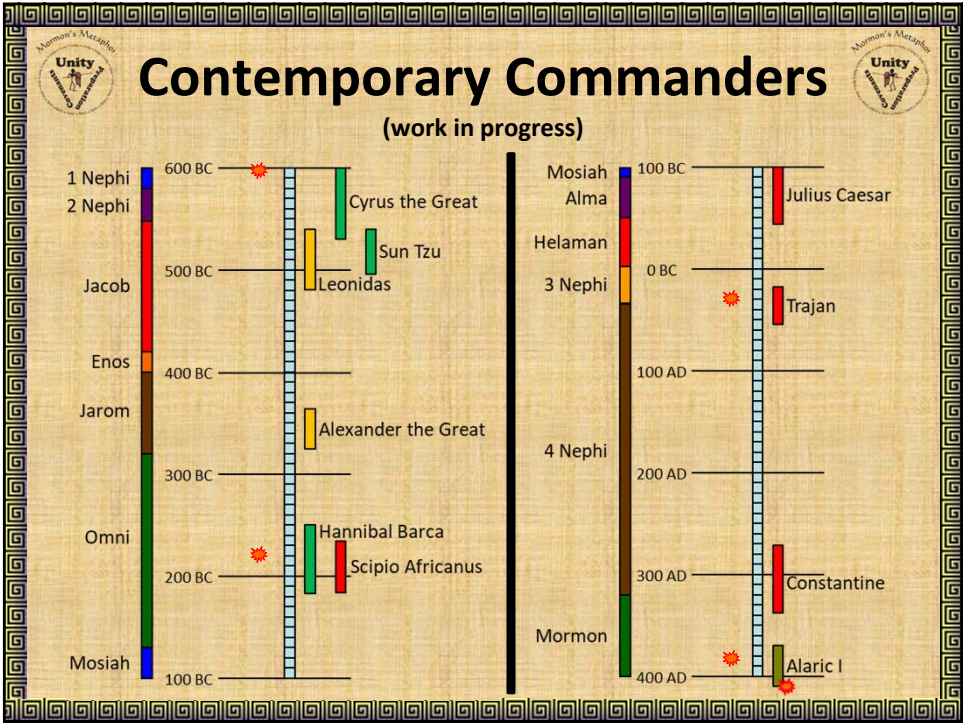
**Mormon**

**Changed View of Armed Conflict**

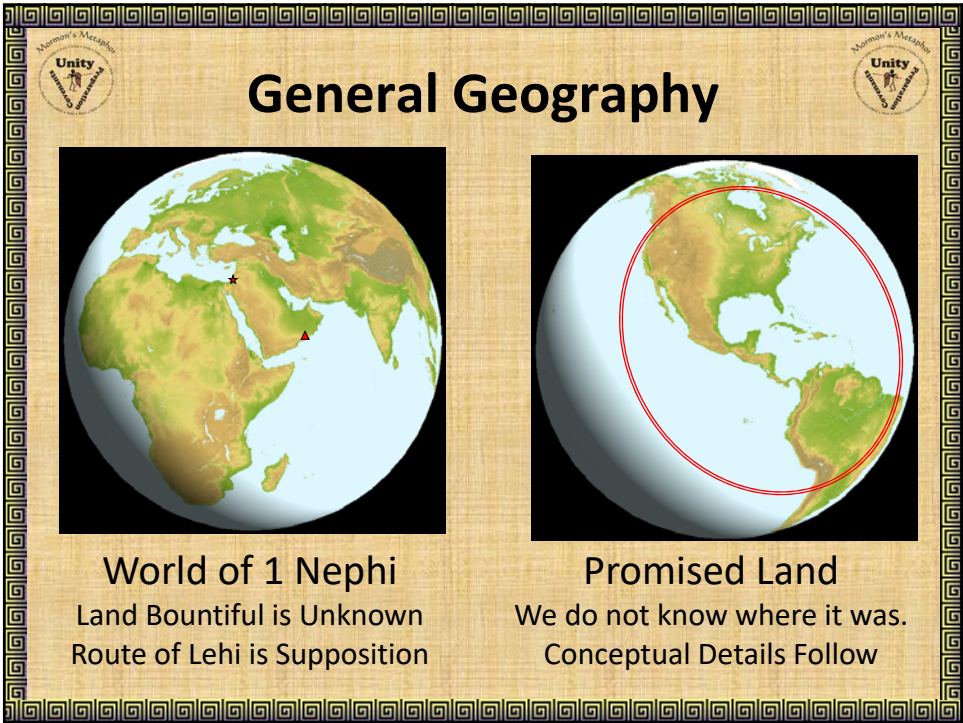
- This was not designed to be a manual for a military academy, but to be a treatise on preparing ourselves to achieve victory in the battle with evil and stand on the field clean of sin facing our Savior and Redeemer without guilt.
- Example: Anti-Nephi-Lehis—He used the “thus we see”-ish phrase three times in an effort to point out that submission to the enemy in support of a sacred covenant was more important than victory on a battlefield.

(Alma 24:19 x2, 27, 30)

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# General Geography

## Jerusalem to Bountiful



Route is a supposition based on the research and writing of Lynn and Hope Hilton

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# General Geography

## Promised Land



The Story Generally Tends to Move North

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Wars in the Book of Mormon					
I.	Lehite Family War	c. 588-559 BC	XIV.	Tubaloth's War	53-51 BC
II.	Mulekite War	c. 585-220 BC	XV.	2nd Nephite Civil War	46-38 BC
III.	1st Lehite Clan War	c. 544-520 BC	XVI.	Dual Dissension War	38-29 BC
IV.	2nd Lehite Clan War	c. 520-420 BC	XVII.	3rd Nephite Civil War	20-18 BC
V.	1st Lehite Tribal War	c. 399-361 BC	XVIII.	Gadianton Robber War	12 BC-27 AD
VI.	1st Lehite Tribal Group War	c. 323-279 BC	<b>2nd Destruction of Nephite State 30 AD</b>		
VII.	2nd Lehite Tribal Group War	c. 279-220 BC	XIX.	2nd Nephite Tribal War	30-34 AD
<b>1st Destruction of Nephite State c. 220 BC</b>			XX.	1st Post-Visit War	322 AD
VIII.	Zeniffite Colony War	201-121 BC	XXI.	2nd Post-Visit War	327-330 AD
IX.	1st Nephite Civil War	c. 180-170 BC	XXII.	3rd Post-Visit War	344-350 AD
X.	Anti-Nephi-Lehi War	91-77 BC	XXIII.	4th Post-Visit War	361-367 AD
XI.	Amlicite War	91-87 BC	XXIV.	5th Post-Visit War	375-385 AD
XII.	Zoramite War	75-74 BC	<b>3rd Destruction of Nephite State 385 AD</b>		
XIII.	Amalickiahite War	73-61 BC	XXV.	Intra-Lamanite Wars	c. 385-401 AD

Wars in this Presentation (Lehite)	
• Wars	25
• Campaigns	44
• Battles (and Engagements)	174
– Open Field	54
– “Surround”	?? (~100% detailed)
– City Events (assaults, sieges, etc.)	96
– Raids	12
– Other (civil disturbances/wars)	9
– Unknown	3

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Languages

1. Hebrew (inferred, Mormon 9:33)

2. Aramaic (inferred) and Others (Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic scripts) (JS-H 1:64)

3. Egyptian (1 Nephi 1:2, Mosiah 1:4)

4. Reformed Egyptian (Mormon 9:32)

5. Mulekite (Omni 1:17)

6. Nephite (Omni 1:18)

7. Lamanite (Mosiah 24:4)

8. Jaredite (Mosiah 8:9-12)



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Languages-Details

1. **Hebrew** (inferred, Mormon 9:33)—the language of the common people of the Kingdom of Judah

2. **Aramaic and Others** (inferred)—the language spoken by educated people of the Kingdom of Judah and businessmen in the Near East. Also Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic scripts (JS-H 1:64).

3. **Egyptian** (1 Nephi 1:2, Mosiah 1:4)—the language of the Brass Plates

4. **Reformed Egyptian** (Mormon 9:32)—the language of the Gold Plates record

5. **Mulekite** (Omni 1:17)—a corrupt language, probably a mixture of native Aramaic-Hebrew and American languages

6. **Nephite** (Omni 1:18)—this is actually called Mosiah’s Language and could refer to a royal language or a language of the people. Later the Lamanites are taught the Language of the Nephites (Mosiah 24:4).


7. **Lamanite** (Mosiah 24:4)—this implies that the Lamanites spoke a different language.

8. **Jaredite** (Mosiah 8:9-12)—Limhi was unable to read the record recorded on the gold plates found by his expedition.




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## Rules of Ancient Warfare




1. You can only kill as far as you can reach.
2. A commander can only command that which he can control.
3. Contests of champions
4. Wars were not necessarily for societal destruction.
5. Campaign season — weather and harvest
6. Open field battles were by mutual consent.
7. There was no battlefield medicine.

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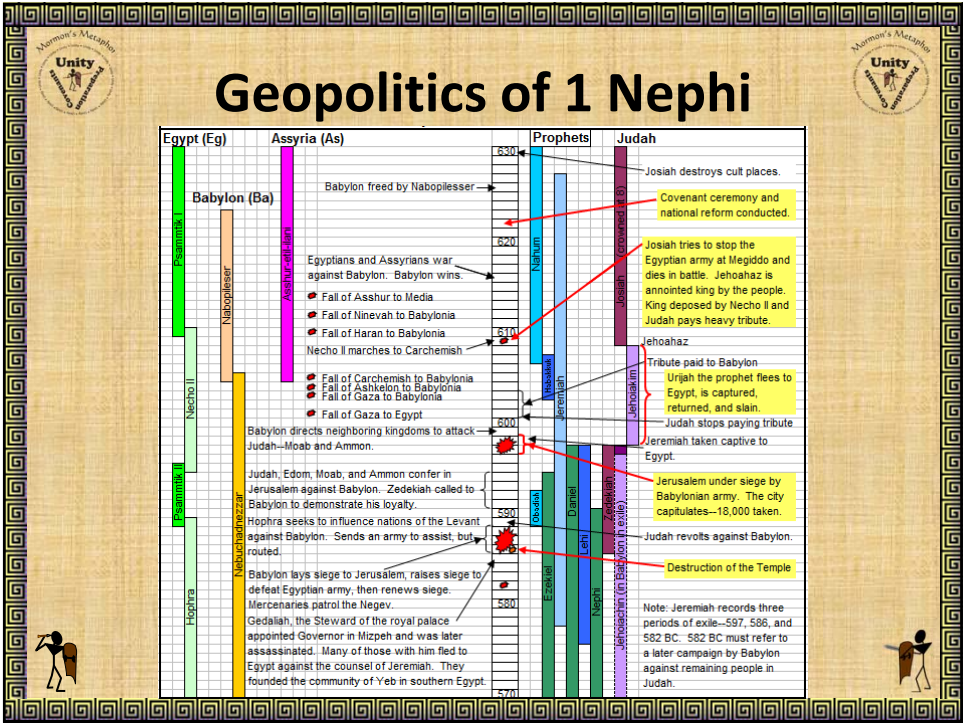


## Key Line



- “For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah...in that same year there came many prophets....” (1 Nephi 1:4)
  - What does this mean?
    - A year of significant turmoil.
- Why would someone think Jerusalem wouldn't be destroyed? (1 Nephi 2:13)

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**Geopolitics in the Near East**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Century (a long century)**

- An extremely dynamic period of history!
- From 721 – 586 BC
  - Assyria      triumphant → fallen
  - Babylon      province → empire
  - Egypt      dominated → troublemaker
  - Overlapping & Competing Influence
- Powerful and Complex Militaries
- Small States in the Gaps/Overlaps

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# Lehi's Experience

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The map shows the Middle East region. Egypt is highlighted in blue on the left. Assyria is highlighted in red in the upper center. Babylon is highlighted in purple to the east of Assyria. Arabian Tribes are labeled in red in the south. Sheba is labeled in red in the southeast. Two battle sites are marked with starburst icons: the Battle of Carchemish between Assyria and Babylon, and the Battle of Megiddo near the border of Egypt and Assyria.

## Tremendous Change

- Discovery of “the law” in temple walls
- Covenant Ceremony (~622 BC)
- Population of Jerusalem (~50,000)(Num ??:??)
- Defeat of Josiah at Megiddo (609 BC)
- Assyria Falls—Neo-Babylonia Rises
- Puppet king by Necho II (Jehoiakim)
- Urijah the Prophet (during reign of Jehoiakim)
- Siege of Jerusalem by Babylon (598-597 BC)
  - 18,000 deported

## Regional Powers

Neo-Assyrian	934-609 BC
Egypt XXVI <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	685-525 BC
Neo Babylonian	626-539 BC

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# Politics

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King	Reign	In Power
Josiah	640-609 BC 31 years	Birthright
Jehoahaz	609 BC 3 months	People of Judah
Jehoiakim	609-597 BC 11 years	Egypt
Jehoiachin	597 BC 3 months	Babylon
Zedekiah	597-586 BC 11 years	Babylon

## From Judah's Perspective

Egypt dominant (though defeated at Carchemish)

Babylon dominant – pushed Egypt back into Egypt

Babylon defeated in Egypt

Babylon dominant – Egypt defeated trying to help Judah

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# Lehi's Experience

- Discovery of "the law" in temple walls (2 Kings 22:8, 2 Chron 34:14)
- Covenant Ceremony (2 Kings 23:3, 2 Chron 34:32)
- Population of Jerusalem – ~50,000 (41,400) (2 Chron 35:7-9)
- Defeat of Josiah at Megiddo (2 Kings 23:29-30, 2 Chron 35:20-24)
- Assyria Falls—Neo-Babylonia Rises
- Josiah—Jehoahaz (Judah)—Jehoiakim (Egypt)—Jehoiachin (Babylon)—Zedekiah (Babylon)
- Urijah the Prophet (during Jehoiakim) (Jeremiah 26:20-23)
- Siege of Jerusalem by Babylon (598-597 BC) (2 Kings 24:10-16)
  - 18,000 deported (2 Kings 24:14-16)

**"none remained save the poorest sort"**  
(2 Kings 24:14)

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# Conclusion

- "Written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. . . . Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile. . . ." (Title Page)
- Written for Us (Mormon 8:35)
- Every Story Carefully Selected (Jacob 3:12; Words of Mormon 1:5; Helaman 3:14; 3 Nephi 5:8, 26:6; Ether 15:33—Not even an hundredth part)

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# The Book of Mormon is for us!

The Lessons from Mormon are designed to help us return and stand clean in the presence of Christ.

## Details Matter!

Ask yourself:

Why is this here?

What does the Lord want me to learn from this?

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War in the Book of Mormon

War

in the

Book of

Mormon

on Apple Podcasts

on Android

by Email

More details than these presentations.

Mormon's metaphor of war and how we can apply the lessons to our lives today....

warinthebookofmormon@gmail.com

Also on Facebook at "War in the Book of Mormon"

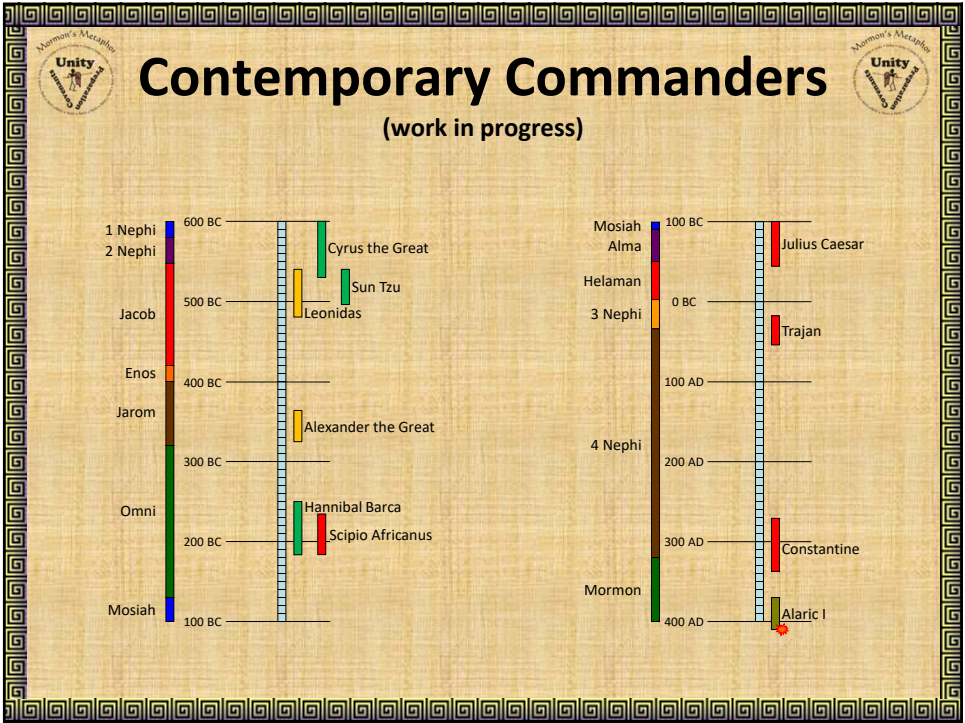
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Back-up

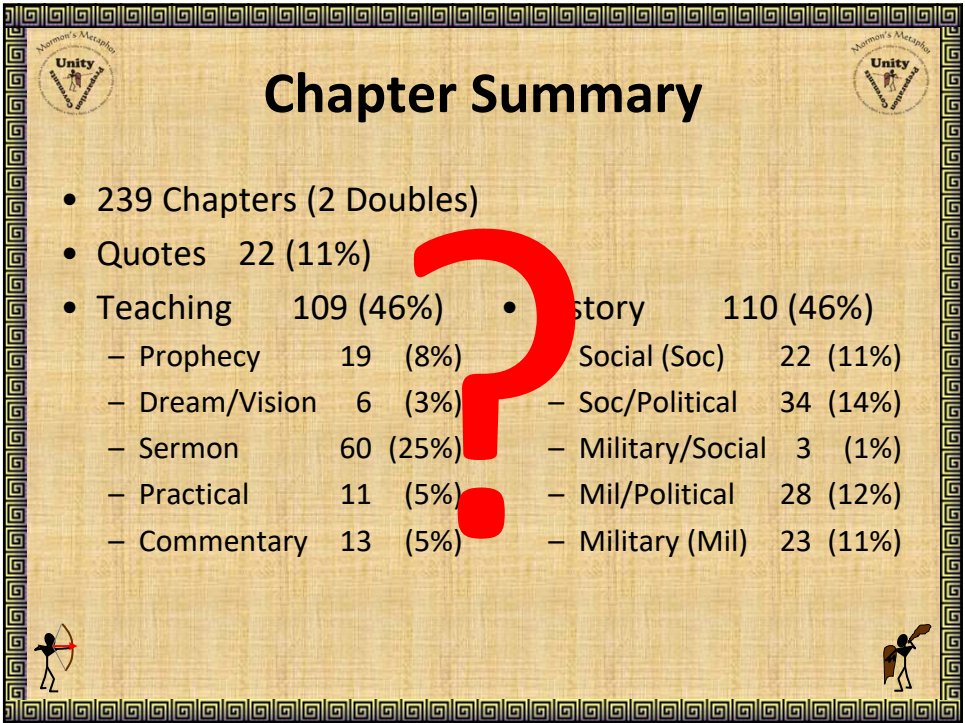
Slides

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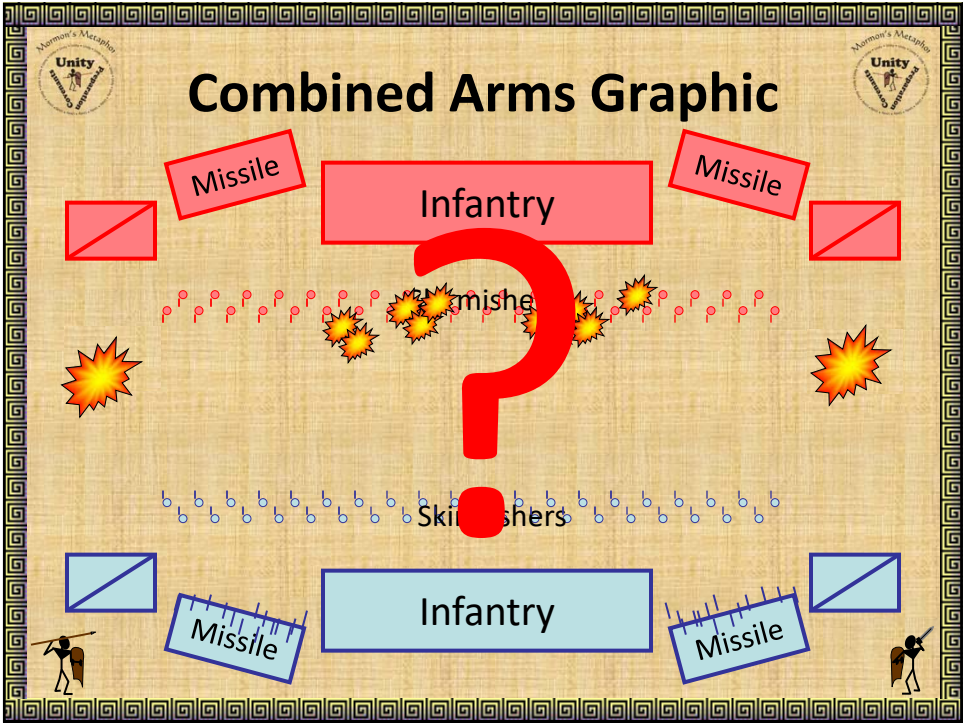




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### Book of Mormon Evolution of Armor


**Jaredite**  
Breastplates—Large, Made of Brass & Copper, Perfectly Sound  
Shields, Breastplates, Head-plates, Clothed after the manner of war




**Lamanites**  
Short skin girdle about loins, Heads shaven  
Armor girded about them




**Roman Armor**



**Aztec Armor**



**Modern Armor**



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# Words

- War → **war** [noun, verb, adjective: wawr]  
**verb** (used without object)  
to make or carry on war; fight  
to carry on active hostility or contention  
**noun**  
a conflict carried on by force of arms, as between nations or between parties within a nation; warfare, as by land, sea, or air.  
a state or period of armed hostility or active military operations  
a contest carried on by force of arms, as in a series of battles or campaigns  
**adjective**  
of, belonging to, used in, or due to war
- Warfare
- Conflict
- Engagement
- Battle
- Campaign

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/war?s-t>

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# Words

- War
- Warfare → **warfare** [noun: wawr-fair]  
**noun**  
the process of military struggle between two nations or groups of nations; war.  
armed conflict between two massed enemies, armies, or the like.  
conflict, especially when vicious and unrelenting, between competitors, political rivals, etc.
- Conflict
- Engagement
- Battle
- Campaign

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/warfare>

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• War

• Warfare

• Conflict

• Engagement

• Battle

• Campaign

# Words

conflict

[verb kuhn-flikt; noun kon-flikt]

verb (used without object)

to come into collision or disagreement; be contradictory, at variance, or in opposition; clash

to fight or contend; do battle

noun

a fight, battle, or struggle, especially a prolonged struggle; strife

controversy; quarrel

discord of action, feeling, or effect; antagonism or opposition, as of interests or principles

a striking together; collision

https://www.dictionary.com/browse/conflict

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• War

• Warfare

• Conflict

• Engagement

• Battle

• Campaign

# Words

engagement

[noun: en-geyj-muhnt]

noun

an encounter, conflict, or battle

https://www.dictionary.com/browse/engagement

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# Words

- War
- Warfare
- Conflict
- Engagement
- Battle
- Campaign

**battle** [verb, noun: bat-l]

**verb** (used without object)  
to engage in battle  
to work very hard or struggle; strive

**verb** (used with object)  
to fight (a person, army, cause, etc.)  
to force or accomplish by fighting, struggling, etc.

**noun**  
a hostile encounter or engagement between opposing military forces  
participation in such hostile encounters or engagements

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/battle>

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# Words

- War
- Warfare
- Conflict
- Engagement
- Battle
- Campaign

**campaign** [verb kuhn-flikt; noun kon-flikt]

**verb** (used without object)  
to come into collision or disagreement; be contradictory, at variance, or in opposition; clash  
to fight or contend; do battle

**noun**  
a fight, battle, or struggle, especially a prolonged struggle; strife  
controversy; quarrel  
discord of action, feeling, or effect;  
antagonism or opposition, as of interests or principles  
a striking together; collision

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/campaign>

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