

1

Unity  
Warfare  
Mormon's Metaphor

# War in the Book of Mormon

An Eight Part Series of Lectures

20 January	Introduction to the Book of Mormon
3 February	War in Lehi's World, the Small Plates of Nephi, and Anti-Christ's
16 March	Zeniffites and Jaredites
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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2

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# More Details Available

Uploaded Slides



 SCAN ME

Podcast



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War in the Book of Mormon

- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/warinthefbookofmormon>)
- Email ([warinthefbookofmormon@gmail.com](mailto:warinthefbookofmormon@gmail.com))

3

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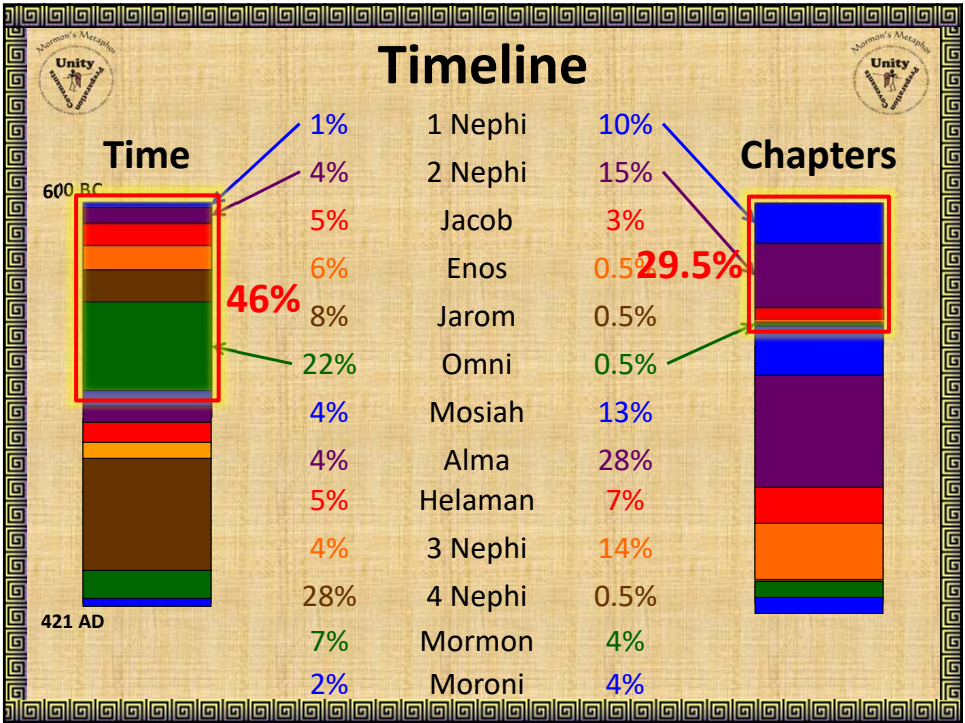
# Most Important Points

- Details Matter
- Know the Story
- War in the Small Plates of the Book of Mormon is Important
  - Prepares you to Understand Isaiah
    - Bruce R. McConkie – “Ten Keys to Understanding Isaiah”
      - 4. Use the Book of Mormon.
      - 7. Study Isaiah in Its Old Testament Context.
    - Old Testament Institute Manual (also gives ten keys)
      - 6. Understand the Historical Setting of Isaiah’s Writings
  - Prepares you to Understand Mormon

4



5



6



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# Mormon's Thesis

## Mormon 3:20-22

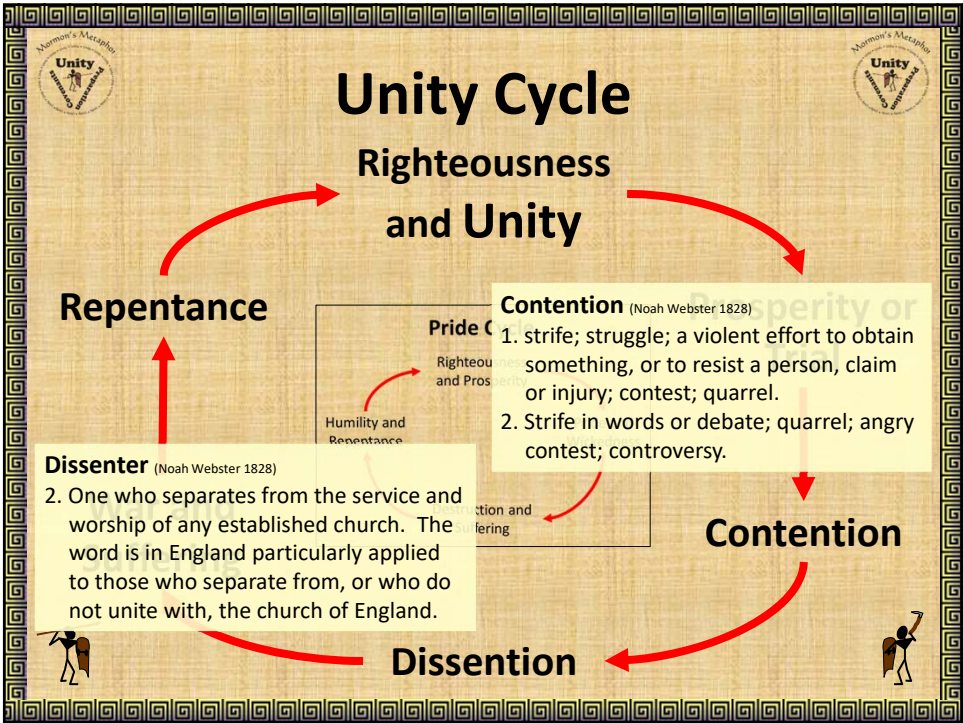
And these things doth the Spirit manifest unto me; therefore I write unto you all. And **for this cause I write unto you**, that **ye may know that ye must all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ**, yea, every soul who belongs to the whole human family of Adam; and ye must stand **to be judged of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

**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**.

7



8

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Preparation  
Covenants  
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9

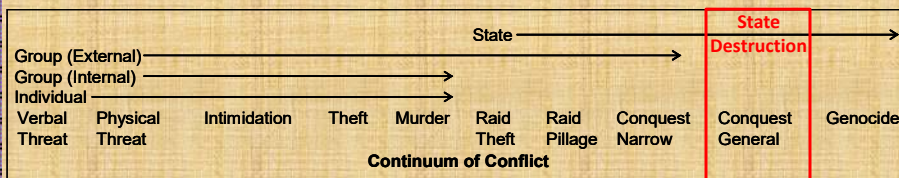
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Part 2 of 8

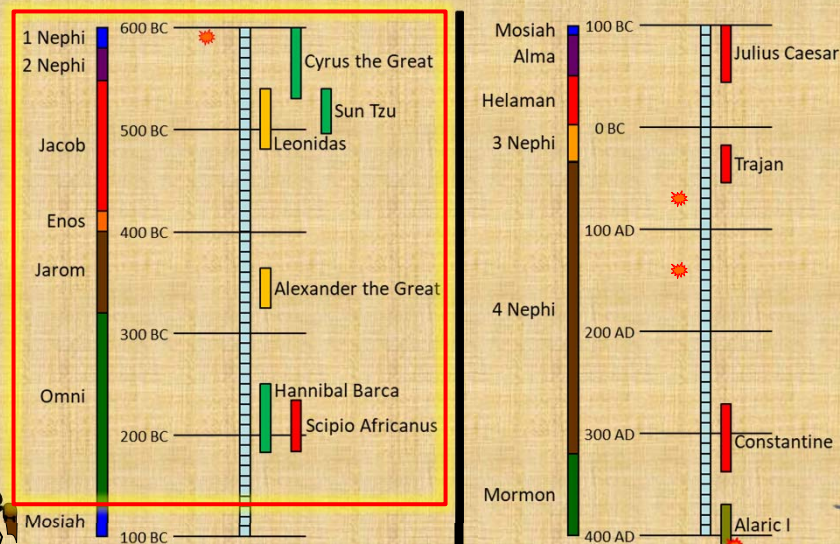
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- Tribal Culture and Tribal Conflict
- Dissentions and War Linked
- Complexity Increases, but Never Complex
- Progression of War x 3
  - Omni—Mosiah<sub>1</sub> fled Land of Nephi
  - 3 Nephi—Tribalization, Death of Christ
  - Mormon—Destruction of Nephite Culture



11



(work in progress)



12



## From Whom Did Nephi Learn?



1. Organized and formalized war by states and empires
2. Raids by Arabian tribes
3. Raids by tribes in western hemisphere

13

## 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. *[note: this meant that once all elements of an army were engaged then there was little opportunity to alter the battle]*
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.
8. Motivations based on culture and conditioning — warriors and soldiers

14

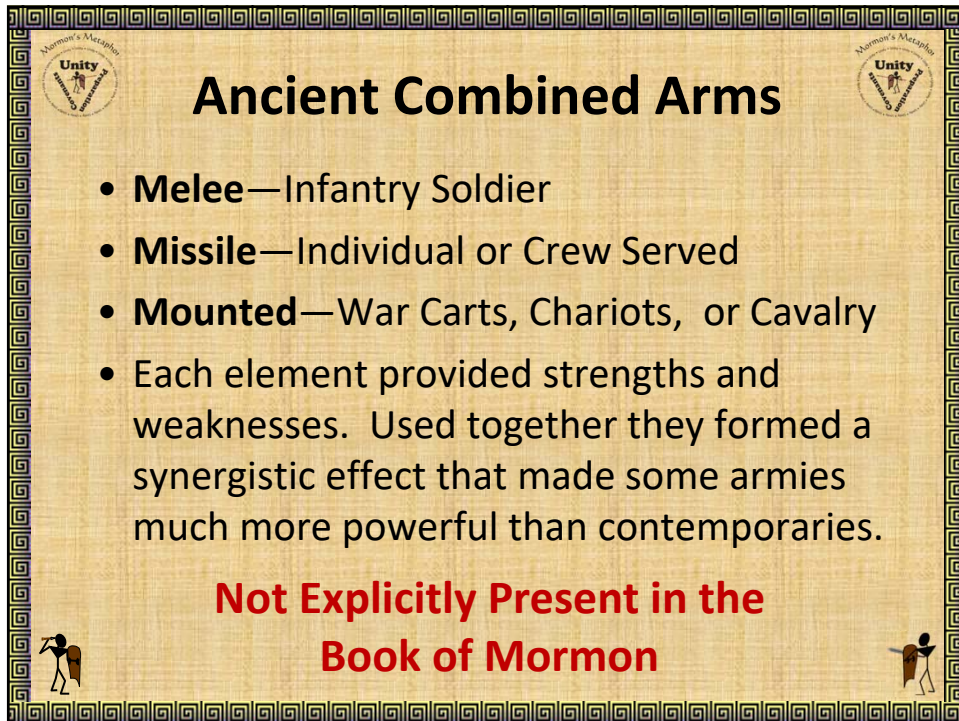


## Different Arms

- **Infantry**—people trained and equipped to fight chiefly on foot
- **Cavalry**—people trained and equipped to fight mounted on chariots or horses
- **Artillery or Missile Forces**—people trained and equipped to fight through the use of hurled projectiles
- **Engineers**—people trained to build or destroy fortifications
- **Logistics**—people trained to support





15



## Ancient Combined Arms

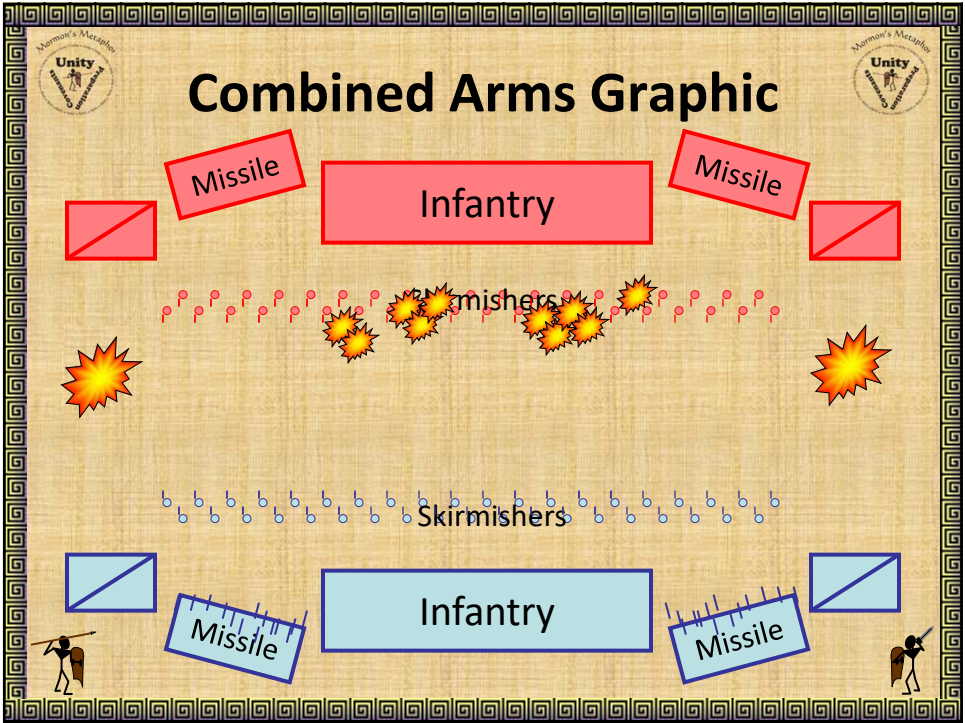
- **Melee**—Infantry Soldier
- **Missile**—Individual or Crew Served
- **Mounted**—War Carts, Chariots, or Cavalry
- Each element provided strengths and weaknesses. Used together they formed a synergistic effect that made some armies much more powerful than contemporaries.

**Not Explicitly Present in the  
Book of Mormon**



16





17

### Sieges

- Not simply to surround
- Passive and Active
- Generally accepted rules
- Results
  - Privation
  - Starvation
  - Atrocities — internal and external (2 Kings 6:24-33)
  - Torture, Death, Rape, Slavery
- There was **NOTHING WORSE** in the ancient or medieval world then enduring a siege by a powerful army.

Significant Siege Imagery  
in the **Book of Isaiah**



18

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Chariots and Horses


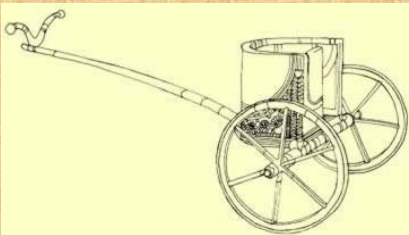


- Israel not a chariot people until the days of David and Solomon
- Fought against chariots — prestige weapon of the day
- Solomon had 1400 chariots and 12,000 cavalry (2 Kings 10:26)
- 🏰 Chariots are labor intensive and complex
  - 144 References to Chariot in the Old Testament prior to the Book of Jeremiah
  - 2 Uses in Book of Mormon—Lamoni (Alma 18:9, 10, 12 and 20:6) and the Consolidated Settlement (3 Nephi 3:22)



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Chariots and Horses



🏰



21



22



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# Weapons

## in the Small Plates of Nephi

- Melee
  - Rod (1 Nephi 3:28)
  - Sword—thrusting (1 Nephi 4:9)
  - Cimeter—slashing (Enos 1:20)
  - Ax (Enos 1:20)
  - Club (inferred) (Mosiah 9:16)
  - Spear (inferred) (2 Nephi 12:4)
- Missile
  - Bow and Arrow (1 Nephi 16:14-15)
  - Sling and Stone (1 Nephi 16:14-15)
  - Javelin (Jarom 1:8)
  - Dart (Jarom 1:8)

Short Hand  
“Weapons of Every Kind”  
Mosiah 10: 1; Alma 2:12,14; Alma 60:2; 3 Nephi 3:26

So What?  
How do you fashion weapons of every kind?

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# Armor

## in the Small Plates of Nephi

### Israelite

(1 Nephi 4:19)

- Laban’s Armor (inferred)
  - Chest Protection
  - Possible Skirt

### Nephite

- No armor is mentioned

### Lamanite

(Enos 1:20)

- Short Skin Girdle about Loins
- Heads Shaven



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24

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# Fortifications

## in the Small Plates of Nephi

- Fortification begins by Jarom — c. 399-361 BC
  - Cities (Jarom 1:7)
  - Places of Inheritance (Jarom 1:7)

“... began to fortify our cities, or whatsoever place of our inheritance.” (Jarom 1:7)
- Fortifications based on need and therefore probably not complex
  - Observations from Middle East
  - Arabian Peninsula vs. Levant Fortifications
  - Why are they different?

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25

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# Fortifications

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Peace


Golan, Israel




Bahrain





Ajman, UAE



Al Ain, UAE





26




## War in Ancient Judah

### 700-600 BC

- Judean Army
  - Spear-based infantry
  - Limited mounted forces
  - Slings more common than archers
  - Levied by king—standing army, but increased in times of emergency through levy.
  - Army manned border posts. Concentric rings of security.
  - Greek mercenaries?






27



## Battle of Megiddo

### Open Field Battle—609 BC

- Josiah led an army against Necho at Megiddo  
(2 Kings 23:29-30)(2 Chron 35:20-24)
- Josiah fought in disguise (2 Chron 35:22)
- Josiah wounded by archers (2 Chron 35:23)
- Josiah removed from the battlefield from one chariot to another (2 Chron 35:24)
- Was Lehi or Laman present?



28




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# Location of Megiddo

Note: Routes of  
armies are  
suppositions.

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armies are  
suppositions.



- Josiah seeks to prevent Necho II from supporting Assyria
- He is struck by an arrow as he seeks to inspire his soldiers
- He dies on the return to Jerusalem



29

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# Valley of Armageddon

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30

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Survival



# Battle of Jerusalem

## Siege—598-597 BC

- Jehoiachin king in Judah (2 Kings 24:8)
- Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem (2 Kings 24:10-16)
- Judah surrendered leading families, money, and artisans (2 Kings 24:12-16)
  - Treasures of the House of the Lord
  - 10,000 Captives
  - 7,000 Men of Might
  - 1,000 Craftsmen and Smiths

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

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31

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Survival



# General Geography

## Jerusalem to Bountiful



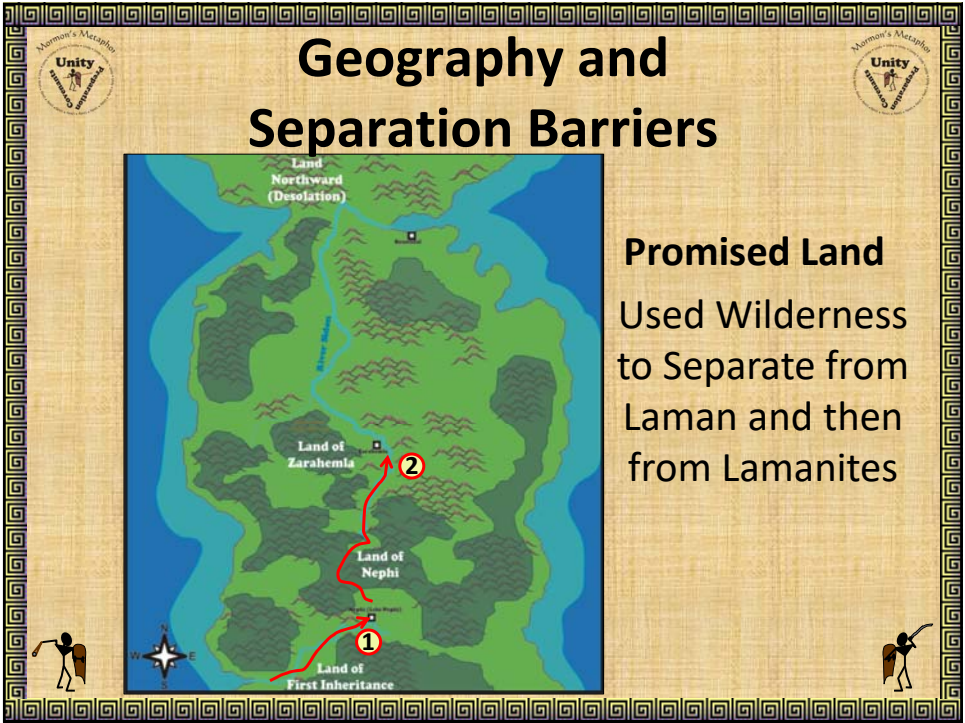
Route is a supposition based on the research and writing of Lynn and Hope Hilton

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32





33

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# Demographic Differences

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**Jarom 1**

5 And now, behold, two hundred years had passed away, and the people of Nephi had waxed strong in the land. ...

6 And they were scattered upon much of the face of the land, and the Lamanites also. And **they were exceedingly more numerous than were they of the Nephites ...**

## Why?

Maybe ...

- Birthrate
- Servants
- Plural Marriage
- Native Allies

Lamanitish (Alma 17:26, 19:16)

Ishmaelitish (Alma 3:7)

Also in Mosiah 25:2-3 – Many dissensions

34



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## Demographic Pressures

- Ether—Direct Correlation Between Population Expansion and Armed Conflict
- Nephite Record—Correlation Between Population and Armed Conflict, but this is Less Clear
  - Nephite growth in each land probably forced direct resource competition, especially hunting
  - Armed Conflict within a Generation of Population Expansion

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35

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## Cultures

Seven Cultures Referred to in the Book of Mormon

1. Gospel of Jesus Christ
2. Nephite
3. Lamanite
4. Mulekite
5. Gadianton Robber
6. Tribal
7. Jaredite

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Culture is what people ...  
Think  
Do  
Make

36

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# War in Small Plates?

The majority of comments on war, conflict, and their related topics are found in the Large Plates of Nephi:

Book	Total	Conflict	Book	Total	Conflict
1 Nephi	22	1	WoM	1	1
2 Nephi	33	1	Mosiah	29	6
Jacob	7		Alma	63	27
Enos	1		Heleman	16	6
Jarom	1		3 Nephi	30	5
Omni	1		4 Nephi	1	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2</b>	Mormon	9	7
<b>(Small Plates)</b>			Ether	15	8
			Moroni	10	2
			<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>61</b>
			<b>(Large Plates)</b>		
			<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>63</b>

Reasons given in  
1 Nephi 6:1, 9:2-5

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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</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>385 AD</b>
XIII.	Amalickiahite War	73-61 BC	XXV.	Intra-Lamanite Wars	c. 385-401 AD

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38

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# Wars in this Presentation

## (Lehite)

- Wars7
- Campaigns?
- Battles (and Engagements)~9
  - Open Field?
  - “Surround”?
  - City Events (assaults, sieges, etc.)?
  - RaidsMost
  - Other (civil disturbances/wars)?
  - Unknown?

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39

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# Anti-Christ

There are other related and separate people and groups, but these are the ones most significantly discussed in the record

- Sherem
- Priests of Noah
- Nehor
- Korihor
- Zoramites
- Amalickiah
- Gadianton Robbers  
(Secret Combinations)

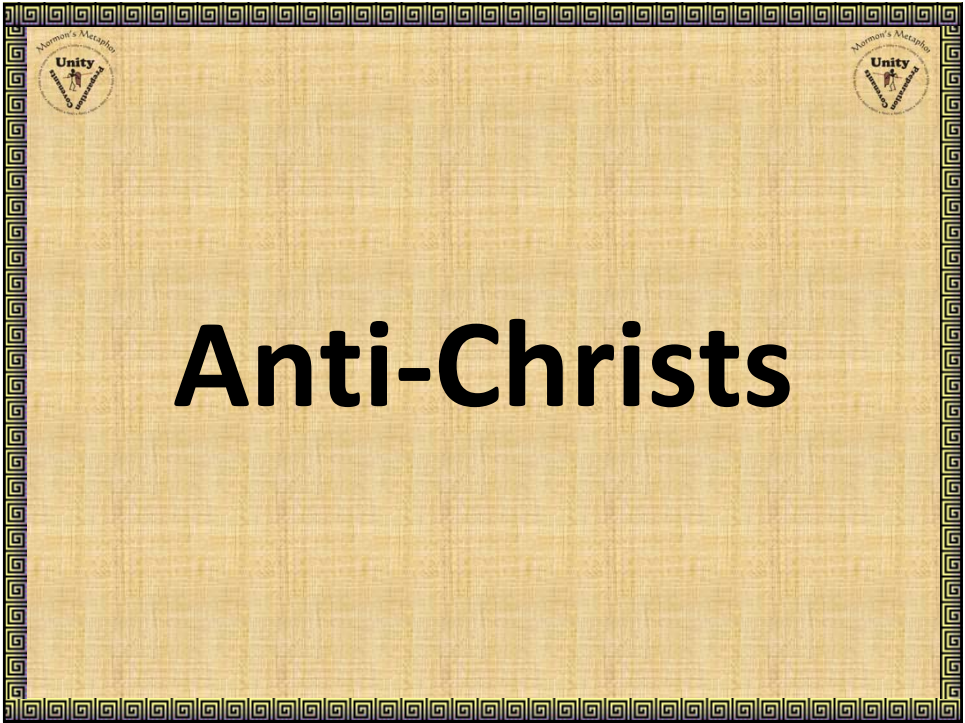
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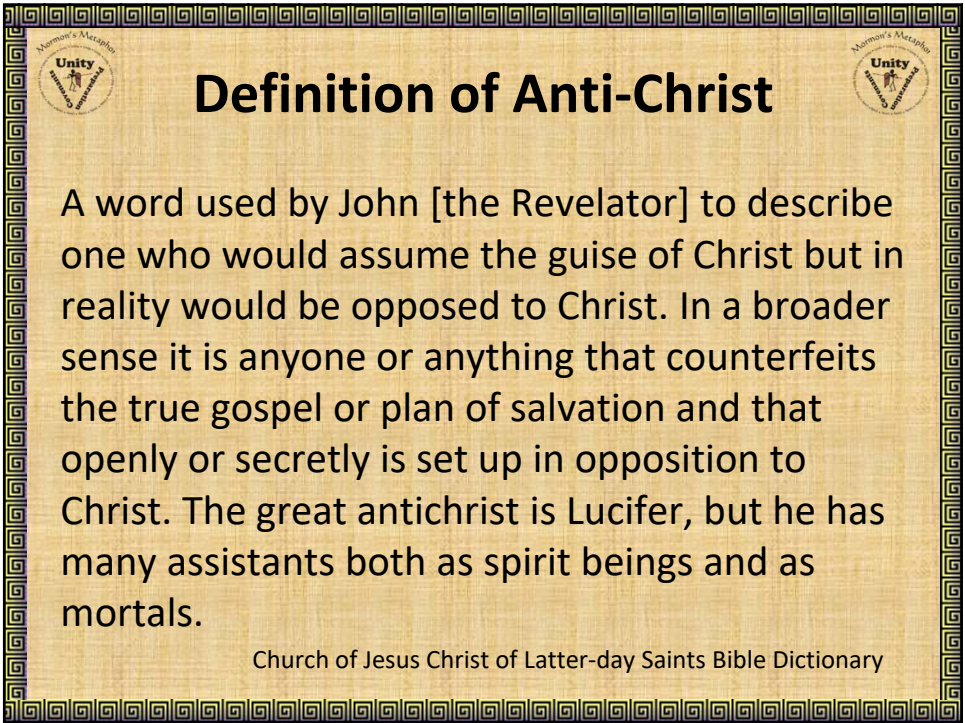
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40





41



42

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# Anti-Christ

Three people and two groups identified.

Sherem

Priests of Noah

Nehor

Korihor

Zoramites

	Scripture	Teachings	Actions	Intent	Character	Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>First in the record</b></li><li>• <b>Sets the standard</b></li><li>• <b>Rejects concept of Christ</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Warning: Don't seek a sign</b></li></ul>	Overthrow the doctrine of Christ (2), Lead away the hearts of the people (3), Shake Jacob's faith (5)	Learned (4), Perfect knowledge of the language (4)	Led away many hearts (3), Confounded by Jacob (8), Smitten by God for a sign (14-15), Death bed recanting (17-19), Death (20), Power of God came upon witnesses of events (21)

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43

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# Anti-Christ

Three people and two groups identified.

Sherem

Priests of Noah

Nehor

Korihor

Zoramites

	Scripture	Teachings	Actions	Intent	Character	Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Compilation of priests and King Noah</b></li><li>• <b>Personal benefit</b></li><li>• <b>False claim of proper obedience</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Warning: Don't persecute (or prosecute) a prophet of God</b></li></ul>	Maintain a comfortable life, Sought to confuse and accuse a prophet (12:19), Governed by fear (17:11)	Effectively manipulated every leader other than a prophet of God	Noah and his priests burned by fire

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44

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Anti-Christ

Three people and two groups identified.

Sherem

Priests of Noah

Nehor

Korihor

Zoramites

Scripture

Teachings

Actions

Intent

Character

Results

Location

Land of Zarahemla

• Most influential

• People of Ammonihah

• Amalekites

• Amulonites

• Shortest discussion

• **Warning:** Don't use violence to promote anti-Christ teachings

Alma 1:27-28 BC

Alma 2

popular,

y; and

n with

maybe)

5);

Death (15); Priestcrafts spread (16); Profession of Nehor (Alma 2:1,14:18,15:15,16:11); Order of Nehor (Alma 14:16,24:29)

45

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Anti-Christ

Three people and two groups identified.

Sherem

Priests of Noah

Nehor

Korihor

Zoramites

Location

Jershon, Gideon, Zarahemla, Antionum

• Longest description of teachings.

• Smallest description of his personality.

• Rejection of divine existence and interaction.

• **Warning:** There is no protection granted by Satan

Character

Results

Anti-Christ

Led away many hearts, Led people to commit whoredoms, Trampled to death by Zoramites

46



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# Anti-Christ

Three people and two groups identified.

Sherem	Priests of	Nehor	Korihor	<b>Zoramites</b>
	Noah			
		Location		Land of Antionum

- Influential group – future leaders
- Longest description of teachings.
- Smallest description of his personality.
- **Warning:** Anti-Christ's are not conciliated by separation – they want control

Intent	Dissenters from the Nephites, Motivated by wealth and success.
Character	Wealthy, successful, and influential
Results	Believers left and came over to Jershon. (35:6-9)

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47

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# Anti-Christ's Lessons


## What is Mormon showing his reader?

(By the way, he also tells us.)

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48



## Lessons Learned by Nephi

- Weapons and Armor—Laban, Bow
- Raids—Family War
- Law of War—Defensive rather than Offensive
- Complexity of War—Manufacturing of Weapons, Animals, Soldiers
- Horrors of Sieges



49

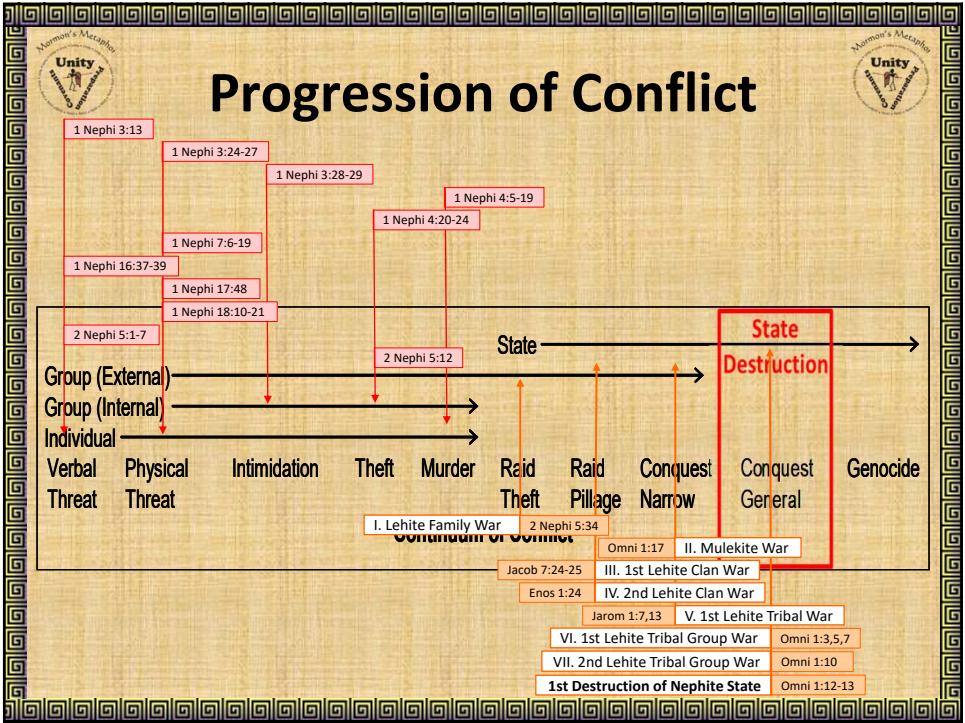


## Armed Conflict in the Small Plates of Nephi

- Fraternal Conflict—Demonstrated Progression
- Nephi's Formative Experience—Laban
- Nephi's Leadership
  - Retrieving Brass Plates
  - Building a Ship
  - Departing with Birthright Possessions
- Probable Tribal Conflict—Raids, not Battles





50



51

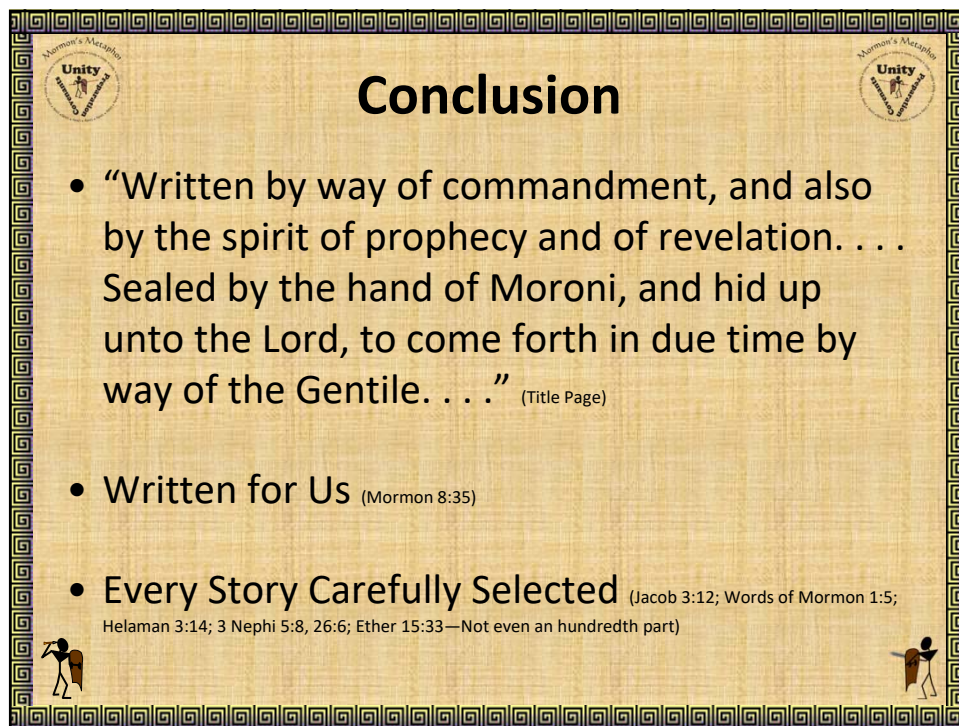
## General Notes

- Objectives
  - Birthright Possessions
  - Failed Missionary Attempts — Nephites
  - Destroy Records — Competing Foundation Stories
- Objectives Change with Passing of Generations





52



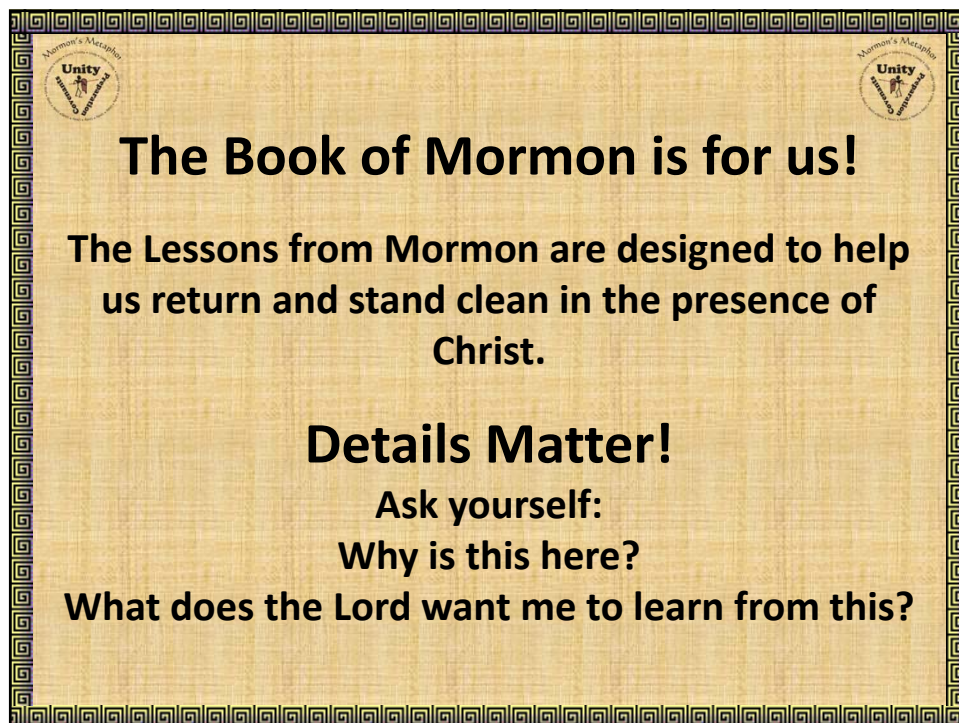


## Conclusion

- “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)



53



## 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?

54

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An Eight Part Series of Lectures

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56