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Alma chapter 58

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And it came to a time that we waited for us to receive attitudes and forces from the land of Zarahemla. 5 But behold, it was for profit for us, but little; the Lamanites also received great strength every day, as well as many provisions; and so were our circumstances during this period. 6 And the Lamanites from time to time sallying before us, solving the stratagem to destroy us; nevertheless, we could not come to battle with them because of their retreats and their fortresses. 7 And it came to pass that we waited in these difficult circumstances for many months, even until we were about to take over because of the desire for food. 8 But it came to a time that we received food which was guarded to us by an army of two thousand men, to help us; and this is all the help we have received to defend ourselves and our country from falling into the hands of our enemies, yes, to fight the enemy who was innumerable. 9 And now the reason for these of our embarrassment, or the reason why they did not send more strength to us, we did not know, no; therefore we were grieved and also full of fear that by any means God's decisions would come to our land, to our overthrow, and to complete destruction. 10 Wherefore, in prayer, we have poured out our souls unto God, that he may strengthen us and draw conclusions from the hands of our enemies, yes, and also give us strength, that we may sustain our cities, our lands, and our wealth for the support of our people. 11 yes, and it came to come to a time that the Lord our God had never visited us, believing that he would deliver us; Yes, it is implausible that he spoke peace to our souls, and did give us great faith, and made us that we must hope for our liberation into it. 12 And we shall take courage with our little strength which we have received, and have been established with determination to conquer our enemies, and to keep our lands, and our possessions, and our wives, and our children, and our freedoms. 13 And in this way we did come out of all our powers against the Lamanites who were in the city of Manti; and we made a pitch to our tents near the desert side, which was near the city. 14 And it came to pass that upon sorrow, that when the Lamanites saw that we were at the border to the desert, which was near the city, that they sent their spies a round of us, that they might discover the number and strength of our army. 15 And it came to come to mind that when they saw that we were not strong, according to our numbers, and fearing that we should cut them off from their support, except that they should go out into battle against us and kill us, let alone that they could easily destroy us with many masters, so they began to prepare to go out against us in battle. 16 And when we saw that they were going to go forth against us, behold, I caused that the Guide, who had a small number of men, should scatter in the wilderness, and also that Teomner and a small number of men should scatter and in the desert. 17 Now Gid and his men were on the right, and the others on the left; and when they are so divorced, behold, I continue, with the rest of my army, in the same place where we were first scattered our tents before the time when the Lamanites should go out into battle. 18 And it came to pass that the Lamanites went forth with their abundant army before us. And when they came and immediately fell upon us with a sword, I caused that my men, those who were with me, should retreat into the desert. 19 And it came to pass that the Lamanites did follow us very quickly, for they were exceedingly eager to overtake us, that they would deceive us; therefore they have passed us into the wild, and we passed in the midst of the guide and Theomner, without playing, that the Lamanites had not discovered them. 20 And it came to pass that when the Lamanites passed through another, or when the army passed through it, The Guide and Teomner did rise from their secret places, and cut off the spies of the Lamanites, that they should not return to the city. 21 And it came to pass that when they cut them off, they ran into the city, and fell upon the guards, who were left to protect the city, for they destroyed them, and did take control of the city. 22 Now it has been done, for the Lamanites shall suffer their entire army, except only a few guards, to be cast out in the desert. 23 And it came to pass that Guide and Teomner acquired by these means the possession of their strongholds. And it came to a time that we took our course, after we traveled a lot in the desert towards the land of Zarahemla. 24 And when the Lamanites saw that they were marching toward the land of Zarahemla, they were exceedingly afraid that there was no plan to lead them to therefore they began to retreat again into the wild, yes, even back in the same way as which they came. 25 And behold, it was the night, and they shall become their tents, for the master masters of the Lamanites had to do the growth, that the Nephites were tired of their march; and let's say that they cast out their entire army, so they did not think of the city of Manti. 26 Now it came to pass that when it was at night, I aroused that my men should not sleep, but that they should march forward in another way toward the land of Manti. 27 And therefore our march at night, behold, upon sorrow we were beyond the Lamanites, for we came before them to the city of Manti. 28 And thus it came true that this stratagem we had taken over the city of Manti without bloodshed. 29 And it came to pass that when the armies of the Lamanites had indeed come near the city, and saw that we were ready to meet them, they were exceedingly surprised and shocked with great fear, insomnia, that they had fled into the wild. 30 yes, and it came to pass that the armies

of the Lamanites did go from all this block of earth. But behold, they carried with them many women and children from the earth. 31 And the cities which the Lamanites had occupied are all in our possession; and our fathers, our women, and our children return to their homes, all except those who have been taken prisoner and taken away by the Lamanites. 32 But behold, our armies are small to keep so many cities and so many things. 33 But behold, we trust in our God, who gave us victory over those lands, for we have received those cities and those lands which were our own. 34 Now we do not know the reason why the government will not give us more strength; nor do those men who came unto us know why we did not receive greater force. 35 Behold, we do not know, but what is unsuccessful unto you, and ye have drawn forces into that quarter of the earth; if so, we don't want to murmur. 36 And if this is not the case, behold, we fear that there is a certain faction in the government, that they shall not send more men to our aid; for we know that there are more of them than they sent. 37 But behold, it does not matter that we trust that God shall deliver us, despite the weakness of our armies, yes, and deliver us out of the hands of our enemies. 38 Behold, it is twenty and ninth years, in the latter case, and we are in the possession of our lands; and the Lamanites fled to the land of Nephi. 39 And those sons of the people of Ammon, of whom I have spoken so well, are with me in the city of Manti; and the Lord supported them, yes, and protected them from falling sword, not withstanding that even one soul was not 40 But behold, they received many wounds; nevertheless, they quickly stand in the freedom in which God freed them; and they are strict to remember the Lord his God every day; yes, they do keep his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments constantly; and their faith is strong in prophecies concerning that which shall come. 41 And now my beloved brother, Moroni, let the Lord our God, who has redeemed us, and made us free, keep you in his presence; Yes, and let him agree with this people, even the fact that you may succeed in receiving all that the Lamanites took from us, which was our support. And now, behold, I close my epistle. I'm Helaman, Alma's son. We can use the nephite war stories strategies to help us endure to the end and overcome temptation. Helaman wrote: And there were many more of them than our army was, that we would not go out and attack them in our strongholds (Alma 58:2). From this we learn that we must avoid the strongholds of Satan and strive consistently to stand in holy places. Corianton would have avoided his encounter with harlot Isabel if he had stayed away from Siron Land (Alma 39:3-4). Almost every city has the land of Siron, where circumstances, environment and the design of individuals can affect us with sin. (Doctrines of the Book of Mormon: 1991 Sperry Symposium in the Book of Mormon, p. 64) Alma 58:3 made it appropriate that we should wait for Hugh Nibley So now they settle down for a long wait. They say the war should be over now. what's wrong? Now this long and painful wait begins, and this is the largest trial of all. They waited for provisions from Zarahemla, but they were just a little tricked. They don't say anything at all. The Lamanites are very strong every day. It's starting to look bad. How do you end this war? The Lamanites began sallying forward against them, taking courage and giving them a bad time. They waited and waited for many months. They have just been stuck in this particular place for many months. Remember what Clausewitz said? The longer the war lasts, the greater the losses and the greater the uncertainty about what will happen. It's a horrible thing, and wars have that habit of dragging, whether you like them or not. (Teachings of the Book of Mormon, p. 178.) Alma 58:10-12 we have poured out our souls in prayer to God so that he strengthens us and conclusions for us Gene R. Cook I know that the Lord is willing to answer our prayers and meet our righteous requests. Alma's book is a great example of this... Early in the morning, when our family read the account of alma wars, one of my children said, Dad, I'm not leaving these chapters about wars. I would like us to read some again other things. I said, Well, these things are here for good reason, Son. I have no doubt that there are hidden treasures here that we just haven't found. On the same morning, we found a wonderful description of how the Lord responds to our prayers. Alma 58 read how the Lamanites and the Nephites were in the battle..."Therefore the Nephites said, We poured out our souls in prayer to God to strengthen us and draw conclusions. (Alma 58:10.) What a nice description of what we often ask to step up or be delivered from the problem. Then we get another hint of prayer. The Nephites not only prayed, but also prayed fervently: 'In prayer we have poured out our souls.' Now note this next line as the silent answers came. The Lord did respond to them, but they could have missed the answer if they were not spiritually attentive. yes, and it came to be the way that the Lord our God had truly visited us, claiming that he would deliver us; Yes, even if he did speak peacefully to our souls, and indeed gave us great faith, and indeed made us that we must hope for our liberation into it. (Alma 58:11; added in another font.) It's possible that the Nephites were hoping for a miracle. Perhaps they wanted the angels to come to their deliveries, as happened in the Old Testament. But what did they get? The Lord gave them reassurance, peace, faith, and hope. He did not directly destroy their enemies, but he gave them the gifts they needed so that they could present themselves. The next verse shows the impact of the Lord's response on people: We have truly bravely accepted our little strength, which we have received [and you may feel that your strength or power to fulfill your desires is terribly small] and was determined with a determination to conquer. (Alma 58:12.) In other words, the Lord put inside these people the power and power to do what they wanted to start with a strong determination and then see it through. After their prayer was answered, the Nephites continued to secure their freedom. When the Lord gives hope and faith and peace and assurance to people, they can bring great things. This, then, is often what we should look for when we ask for help—not a miracle to solve our problem for us, but a miracle inside to help us come to judgment ourselves, with the lord's help and the power of the Lord. (Receiving answers to our prayers, p. 155 –157.) Gene R. Cook verse 11 probably provides one of the best descriptions of how the Lord reacts to us, again through thoughts or feelings. He seems to be doing these four things: He visits us with guarantees that he will give us. He speaks peace to our souls. It gives us great faith. It causes us that we have to count on our determination to it. What a great way the Lord must bless us! It not only solves our but he gives us assurance, peace, faith, and hope that we may move forward to solve our problems under the guidance of the Lord. So it makes us strong. It helps us grow, and if we pursue the process over the years, we will eventually become like God. The effect of the influence of the Spirit is well described in verse 12. After we have been filled with reassurance, peace, faith and hope, we then want to take courage and have a fixed determination to conquer our enemies, our problems, our sins. Where is that courage and determination? From the Spirit of the Lord. The Lord does provide additional power and strength because we humbled ourselves and sought God. Every time I read these verses or teach them to others, I think about where I learned them during reading the family scriptures. Two or three years after that experience, one of my sons found it difficult to understand the answer to prayer and asked me about it. I opened Alma 58, read those verses to him, and explained them. It was like a light on his head. He was so excited about these verses because they perfectly described his feelings and told him more clearly how the Lord answered prayers. (Family uplift for the Lord, 127–8.) Alma 58:35 We don't want to murmur Helaman... almost as an apology for writing a negative, we do not want to murmur (Alma 58:35). Elder Neal A. Maxwell has said: If our lips are closed for murmuring, our eyes will be open. Notice how Helaman shared the unpleasant truth in a way that will still allow communication lines to remain open. His sensitivity to his leaders as well as his subordinates is commendable. President Harold B. Lee counseled: Your men will never be loyal to you if they see that you are unbiased to those who preside over you. Helaman's letter confirms this principle. His was not an expression of a weak knee foot soldier trying to be responsible for the bad news he was born. He once again exemplifies his full loyalty to his leaders; recognizing with great recognition that he cannot expect God to stand by him if he does not stand by his leaders. (K. Douglas Bassett, Alma, Word Testimony, edited by Monte S. Nyman and Charles D. Tate, Jr., p. 301) Dallin H. Oaks The main reason we are ordered to avoid criticism is to preserve our spiritual well-being and not to protect the person we will criticize... Does this advice apply only to false claims in order to avoid guilt and personal criticism? Does this also not apply to claims that are true? The fact that something is true is not always the justification for reporting it... For example, it is wrong to make statements of fact from a bad motive, even if the claims are true. He who focuses on failures thought they were right, tears down Or Sister... He who focuses on vices, though true, encourages disagreement and division among fellow Church members in the body of Christ. (Ensign, February 1987, p. 68-9, taken from a commentary on the Book of Mormon by K. Douglas Bassett in recent days, p. 524) Alma 58:40 they stand fast ... and they are strict to remember Lord Howard W. Hunter Today yet another battle of much more serious consequence is warring. It is a battle that fights for the souls of the people. Its result also depends on the stability of the soldier. Chieftain clarion call is heard above the fierce archenemy artillery stand firm! Be fair! I am grateful that most Latter-day Saints stand firm today and remain true to the kingdom of God. Like Helaman's stripling warriors, they stand fast for that freedom, with God made them free; and they are strict to remember the Lord his God every day; yes, they do keep his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments constantly; and their faith is strong in prophecies concerning that which shall come. (Alma 58:40.) I refer to those Members of the Church who live in a quiet routine of their daily lives in their Christian beliefs. (1831-11-01)1 November 1831 At a church conference in Hiram, Ohio, the Lord revealed in the introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants that this is the only true and living church in the presence of the whole earth, with whom I, the Lord, am well satisfied in speaking to the Church collectively rather than individually. (&D; C 1:30.) This should raise the question in our minds of eternal significance: Do we know that this is a true and living church institutionally, but am I a true and living member of the individual? This question may seem like a play of the Lord's words when he said it was a true and living church. When I ask: Am I a real and alive member? My question is: Am I deeply and fully committed to keeping covenants with the Lord? Am I fully committed to living the gospel and being a word doer, not just an audible one? Do I live my religion? Will I stay true? Will I strongly resist The Temptations of Satan? He wants us to lose our way through a storm of ridicule and a wave of sofia. But we can have a victory by answering that inner voice calling for a stand firm! (That we can have joy, p. 149) 149)

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