

Data on Wars Involving the Nephites

War	Dates	Location	Causes	References	Results
1. Early tribal wars	6th–2nd century B.C.	Land of Nephi	A popular and fraternal hatred; resentment; desire to destroy the Nephites	Jacob 1:10, 14; Enos–Omni	Nephites did not thrive and later left land of Nephi
2. Wars of King Laman's sons	160–150 B.C.	City of Nephi, land of Zarahemla	Lamanite fear of growing Nephite strength; Lamanite belief that Nephi had wronged his elder brothers	Mosiah 9–10; Omni 1:24; W of M 1:13–14	Established land of Zarahemla as Nephite territory and land of Nephi as Lamanite territory
3. War of Amlici	87 B.C./ 5th year of reign of judges (R.J.)	Zarahemla, hill Amnihu, river Sidon	Political unrest caused by changing the government from a kingship to a judgeship	Alma 2–3	Uneasy peace in Zarahemla with Alma as chief judge
4. Destruction of Ammonihah	81 B.C./ 11 R.J.	Ammonihah	Lamanites seeking revenge on the Nehorites for causing a civil war	Alma 16:1–11; 24:1–25:14	Virtual elimination of Nehorites as a political force
5. War of the Ammonite secession	77 B.C./ 15 R.J.	Zarahemla, land of Jershon	Lamanites attack in retaliation for the Ammonite secession	Alma 28	Ammonites established in land of Jershon
6. Zoramite war	74 B.C./ 18 R.J.	Between Antionum and Jershon	Lamanites attack in retaliation for the Zoramite secession	Alma 43–44	Important use of innovative armor; a Zoramite oath never to attack again

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7. First Amalickiah-ite war	72 B.C./ 20 R.J.	Ammonihah, Noah, east seacoast near the narrow neck of land	Political unrest caused by Amalickiah, who dissented from Nephites with political ambitions	Alma 46:1–50:11	Amalickiah defeated, but he swore to return and to kill Captain Moroni
8. Second Amalickiah-ite war (seven years' war)	67–61 B.C./ 25–31 R.J.	Throughout land of Zarahemla	Return of Amalickiah, coinciding with the armed revolt of the king-men and his brother Ammoron's assumption of the Lamanite kingship	Alma 51–62	A very costly Nephite victory
9. Rebellion of Paanchi	52 B.C./ 40 R.J.	City of Zarahemla	Dispute over Pahoran, son of Pahoran, becoming chief judge	Hel. 1:1–13	Paanchi executed; Pahoran assassinated
10. War of Tubaloth	51 B.C./ 41 R.J.	Cities of Zarahemla and Bountiful	After the turmoil of Paanchi's rebellion, Coriantumr tried to capture the throne of Zarahemla	Hel. 1:14–34	The rise of Gadianton robbers
11. War of Moronihah	38, 35–30 B.C./54, 57–62 R.J.	Land of Zarahemla	Continuing dissension in the church	Hel. 4	Half of Nephite lands occupied by dissenters; Nephi resigns judgment seat

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12. War of Gadianton and Kishkumen	26–19 B.C./ 66–73 R.J.	Entire land, but centered in the land of Zarahemla	Assassinations of chief judges Cezoram and his son; Gadi- anton robbers attain power	Hel. 6:15– 11:20	The famine declared by Nephi ended the war as Gadianton's band dissolved
13. War of Giddianhi and Zemnarihah	A.D. 13–22	From Zarahemla to Bountiful	Gadianton robbers come out of the hills to obtain food and to regain control of the government	3 Ne. 2:11– 4:28	Unification of the victorious Lamanites and Nephites against the threat of the robbers
14. Rebellion of Jacob	A.D. 30	Land of Zarahemla	Lachoneus tried to expose corrupt judges, who in retaliation tried to make Jacob king	3 Ne. 6:14– 7:14	Collapse of reign of judges; degeneration into tribal society
15. Final Nephite wars, phase I	A.D. 322, 327–28	Land of Zarahemla and northward	Overpopulation; infestation of robbers	Morm. 1:6– 2:9	Nephites driven back to the narrow neck of land
Final Nephite wars, phase II	A.D. 346– 350	Lands of Zarahemla, Jashon, and Shem	Continual Lamanite aggressions	Morm. 2:16– 3:1	Nephites enter ten-year peace with Lamanites
Final Nephite wars, phase III	A.D. 361– 385	Narrow neck of land and all the land northward	Lamanite greed; gross wickedness on both sides	Morm. 3:4– 6:15	Eventual annihilation of Nephite people

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Key Scripture Alma 43–62

Explanation This three-page chart is a more detailed representation of the fifteen Nephite wars listed in chart 136. It tracks each major war's approximate dates and locations, as well as its causes and results. Though the wars are very different from each other, they share some interesting patterns. For example, several of the wars were caused when one group of people tried to separate from the main group. Apparently, the Nephites were restricted in their travel, and defection from the land was considered an act of treason and a cause for armed intervention. Another pattern is that opponents to the government chose to strike right after a new leader had taken office or when the government or the church was weakened by dissension. Amalickiah's wars, for instance, were initiated when dissenters banded together and desired a king, shortly after Alma left and Helaman was newly in office (see Alma 45:23–46:7). Studying the amazingly consistent complexity and sensible realism of these war accounts brings to light the real-life issues and dynamics behind the Nephite history told in the Book of Mormon.

Source John W. Welch, "Why Study Wars in the Book of Mormon?" in *Warfare in the Book of Mormon*, ed. Stephen D. Ricks and William J. Hamblin (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and FARMS, 1990), 6–15.