



Type: Magazine Article

Nine Generations of Spiritual Leaders 7-9

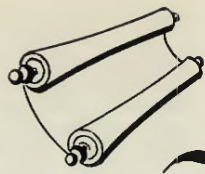
Author(s): Archibald F. Bennett

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 48, No. 6 (June 1945)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s): 352

Abstract: This series identifies a number of well-known Book of Mormon spiritual leaders, many of whom consisted of fathers and their sons (i.e., Alma/Alma the Younger, Mormon/Moroni). The fourth part covers Nephi the son of Nephi, Amos the son of Nephi, and Amos and Ammaron the sons of Amos the Elder.



Genealogy

NINE GENERATIONS OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS

By Archibald F. Bennett

General Secretary, Genealogical Society

(Conclusion)

7. NEPHI, SON OF NEPHI THE DISCIPLE

THIS son of one apostle and brother of another probably was a witness to the Savior's ministry to the Nephites. He is the writer of the book known as IV Nephi, which he began keeping in the thirty and fourth year A.D. Soon the people were all converted unto the Lord, both Nephites and Lamanites. The latter became white and all distinction between the two groups was lost.

... and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another. And they had all things in common among them; therefore they were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift. (IV Nephi 1:2-3.)

Lost cities were rebuilt, and in annals of happiness the years sped by, eventful only in the story of unbroken righteousness. Mighty miracles were wrought by the disciples of Jesus. There were no tumults nor contentions "because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people." Nephi had the blessed privilege of writing as his final testimony:

... surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God . . . but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God. (IV Nephi 1:16-17.)

8. AMOS, SON OF NEPHI

The above named Nephi died A.D. 110, having kept the record seventy-six years. His son, Amos, kept it in his stead, for the long period of eighty-four years. It is evident that through righteousness the lives of these men were greatly prolonged. There was still peace in the land, save that in later years a small number of people revolted from the church, and resumed the name of Lamanites. Amos died A.D. 194.

9. AMOS AND AMMARON, SONS OF AMOS THE ELDER

Amos the younger succeeded his father as keeper of the sacred records. By this time the people had so multiplied that they had spread upon all the face of the land, and because of their prosperity in Christ were exceedingly rich. This left room for pride and worldliness, and no more were their goods held in

common. Class sectionalism developed rapidly, other churches were organized, and the glorious harmony of their idyllic life was broken. Soon Satan had hold of their hearts, and it became fashionable to deny Christ, and to persecute and imprison and put to death his faithful followers. This dangerous trend continued until the death of Amos the younger A.D. 305, he having recorded events for the period of one hundred eleven years.

Ammaron, his brother, now kept the record. He saw Gadianton robbers prevalent, wickedness everywhere, and all the evidences that the race was entering the violent rapids leading to their final destruction. There must have been very few righteous men to be found. In the year A.D. 321 "Ammaron, being constrained by the Holy Ghost, did hide up the records which were sacred; yea, even all the sacred records which had been handed down from generation to generation. . . . And thus is the end of the record of Ammaron."

Before he died there was yet one sacred obligation he must perform. From among the people he selected a lad of ten years of age, whose name was Mormon, the son of Mormon, and said unto him:

... I perceive that thou art a sober child, and art quick to observe; Therefore, when ye are about twenty and four years old I would that ye should remember the things that ye

have observed concerning this people; and when ye are of that age go to the land Antum, unto a hill which shall be called Shim; and there have I deposited unto the Lord all the sacred engravings concerning this people . . . and ye shall engrave on the plates of Nephi all the things that ye have observed concerning this people. (Mormon 1:2-4.)

Mormon, like the previous record keepers, was a descendant of Nephi, and may well have been a descendant of Alma and some of the later leaders of this family. If so, that would extend the record of this remarkable lineage two more generations to Moroni, the last guardian of these priceless messages.

THEIR WORTHY CONTRIBUTION

From Alma to Ammaron! Nine generations of this notable family gave the world no less than fifteen faithful and mighty men of affairs, each under the Lord playing a decisive role in the great events of his day, shaping the destiny of his nation and influencing for righteousness the men and women of his time.

What would the Book of Mormon be without the faith-nourishing message of their lives and labors? What permanent loss the whole world would sustain—our own and every future generation—were there to be forever deleted from our sacred scriptures all mention of their marvelous ministry, their soul-inspiring teachings and even the very records written and preserved by the posterity of Alma!

THE POSTERITY OF ALMA

