

# RGP- Covenants

## Henry Stanley

- Departed for Africa 1871 with 200 men to find Dr. David Livingston (national hero in England).
- Found Dr. Livingston 8 months later
- 2/3 of his men died
- Suffered drought, famine, floods, dysentery, and starvation
- A covenant saved his life





# Ancient Covenants

- Sumerians~ 3500 BC
- Egyptians~ 3100 BC
- Akkadians~ 2334 BC
- Canaanites~ 2000 BC
- Babylonians~ 1894 BC
- **Abram~ 2000-1800 BC**
- Hittites~ 1600 BC



# Elements to Ancient Covenants

## 1. The Pre-Ceremony Actions

- Discuss terms, count the cost, decide if it was worth it
- **We must decide to make the covenant, repent of our sins, prepare ourselves**

## 2. The Selection of the Covenant Representatives and the Cutting of the Covenant Sacrifice

- A covenant representative is chosen to represent both sides~ a mediator
- **Jesus is the representative of God and Us (both sides)**

## 3. The Exchange of Robes, Belts, and Weapons

- Both parties would exchange a token of the covenant to remember
- **Jesus took upon him our robe of filth and gave us a robe of righteousness**

## 4. The Walk unto Death

- Both parties would walk through the cut pieces of the sacrifice and look to heaven and say something like “what happened to this animal will happen to me if I break this covenant.”
- **This happened when God passed through the sacrifice of Abraham~ Jesus walked to the cross through the crowd and died. He was the sacrifice AND the mediator of the new covenant.**



# Elements to Ancient Covenants

## 5. The Pronouncement of Blessings and Curses

- While standing amidst the sacrifice they would proclaim aloud the terms of the covenant.
- Jesus proclaimed these things while on the cross

## 6. The Seal of the Covenant Mark

- Two parties would shed their blood as a token of the covenant (pagans drank wine with each other's blood mixed in as a token)
- God had Abraham circumcise everyone as a token of the covenant~ Jesus' blood on the cross was his token and ours is a repentant heart and contrite spirit. Our hearts must be circumcised. We partake of the bread and wine to remember this pact.

## 7. The Exchange of Names

- In ancient times intermingling each other's names was a symbol of a new person under covenant.
- God gave many names to multiple individuals in the OT. The New Covenant requires us to take upon us the name of Christ or Christian as a token of our covenant with God.

## 8. The Covenant Meal

- The final step was a celebratory meal for the covenant. The covenant was now complete and both parties celebrated their new identity. They were now seen as one instead of two parties.
- The Lord's Supper was the covenant meal with mankind. The final meal will be the marriage supper when he returns for his bride. We take the communion to remember him and prepare for this final celebration and admission into his presence.

# Abrahamic Covenant: What is it?

8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.....

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates. Genesis 15:8-18





# Abrahamic Covenant: What is it?

3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and **thou shalt be a father of many nations.**

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

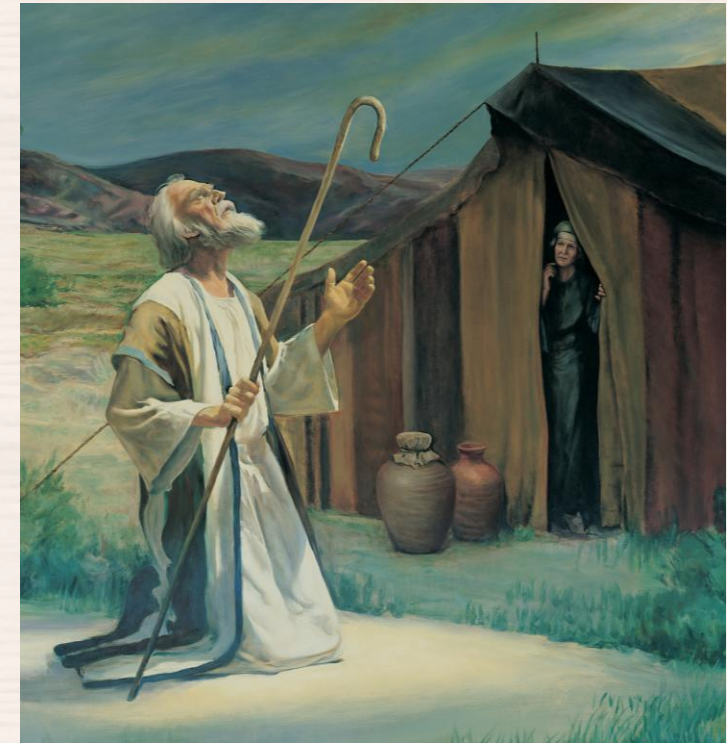
8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

9 And God said unto Abraham, **Thou shalt keep my covenant** therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10 **This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.**

11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

12 And he that is **eight days old** shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. **Genesis 17:3-12**



# Abrahamic Covenant: What is it?

## Abraham's part:

1. Walk before him and be perfect.
2. Circumcise all males.

## God's part:

1. Abram's seed will be a great nation.
2. He would receive ALL the land of Canaan.

***kārat berît***- translated as “make a covenant”  
correctly translated “cut a covenant”

# Covenant Key Words

- **Testament**- another word for covenant
- **Testimony**- evidence or the words of a witness to a covenant
- **Oath**- another word for covenant
- **Law**- rules and instructions relating to a covenant relationship
- **Transgression**- living in violation of a covenant law
- **Atonement**- price paid to reconcile a covenant
- **Restoration**- the process of restoring a covenant through atonement
- **Sacrifice**- each party's loss in keeping the covenant or restoring a covenant
- **Blessing, promises, inheritance**- favor or protection afforded by a covenant
- **Curse**- punishment or consequences for not keeping a covenant
- **Mediator**- an intermediary that facilitates the covenant
- **Ordinance**- ritual designed to help one remember a covenant
- **Signs or tokens**- visible representations of the covenant
- **Seal**- a mark or symbol that authenticates a covenant
- **Remnant**- small group faithful to a covenant
- **Remember**- keeping your part of the covenant
- **Friend**- a party to a covenant- a binding trust relationship
- **Ashamed or shame**- a party that has broken a covenant



# Abraham, God's friend

8 But, thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, **Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.**

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, **I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**

11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

Isaiah 41:8-11



# Covenants~ “Remember” equals “still in effect”

132 Behold, He loved our fathers, And He covenanted with them, yea, even Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, And He **remembered the covenants which He had made**; 1 Nephi 5:132

253 "Nevertheless, when that day cometh, " saith the prophet, "that they no more turn aside their hearts against the Holy One of Israel, Then will He **remember the covenants which He made** to their fathers;

254 Yea, then will He remember the isles of the sea; 1 Nephi 5:253-254

56 And ye need not imagine in your hearts that the words which have been spoken are vain; For behold, the Lord **will remember His covenant which He hath made** unto His people of the house of Israel. 3 Nephi 13:56

61 Yea, and ye need not any longer hiss, nor spurn, nor make game of the Jews, nor of any of the remnant of the house of Israel; For behold, the Lord **remembereth His covenant unto them**, And He will do unto them according to that which He hath sworn; 3 Nephi 13:61

111 "Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart and blindness of mind, Then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you ~

112 Yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in My name with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, Then shall ye know that the Father hath **remembered the covenant which He made** unto your fathers, O house of Israel

Ether 1:111-112



# Covenants- Remembrance is action

4 And also had appointed priests to teach the people, that thereby they might hear and know the commandments of God and to **stir them up in remembrance of the oath** which they had made, He dismissed the multitude; And they returned, everyone according to their families, to their own houses. Mosiah 4:4

4 And it came to pass that in this year, Nephi did cry unto the Lord, saying: "O Lord, do not suffer that this people shall be destroyed by the sword; But O Lord, rather let there be a famine in the land to **stir them up in remembrance of the Lord their God, And perhaps they will repent and turn unto Thee.**" Helaman 4:4

33 And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have done, even as I have broken bread and blessed it and gave it unto you;

34 And this shall ye **do in remembrance of My body** which I have shown unto you;

35 And it shall be a testimony unto the Father that ye **do always remember Me;**

36 And if ye do always **remember Me, ye shall have My Spirit to be with you.**" 3 Nephi 8:33-36

4 And after that they had been received unto baptism and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were **numbered among the people of the church of Christ;**

5 And their names were taken that they **might be remembered** and nourished by the good word of God to keep them in the right way - To keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ who was the author and the finisher of their faith.

6 And the church did meet together oft to fast and to pray and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls; And they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine **in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;** Moroni 6:4-6

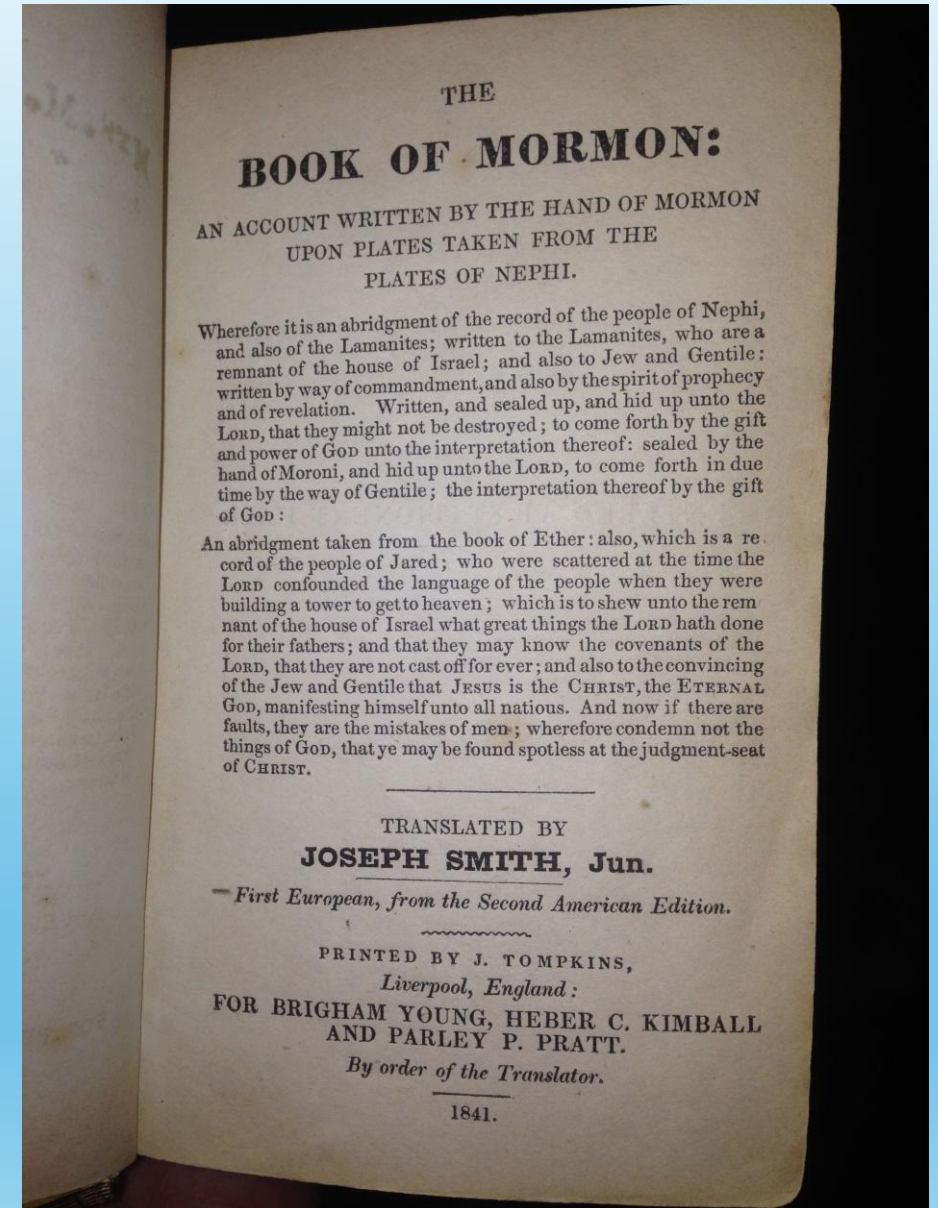
# Covenants in the BOM

## Purpose of BOM-

6 Which is to show unto the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers, And **that they may know the covenants of the Lord**, that they are not cast off forever.

7 And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations.

## Title Page of the BOM





# Covenants with God

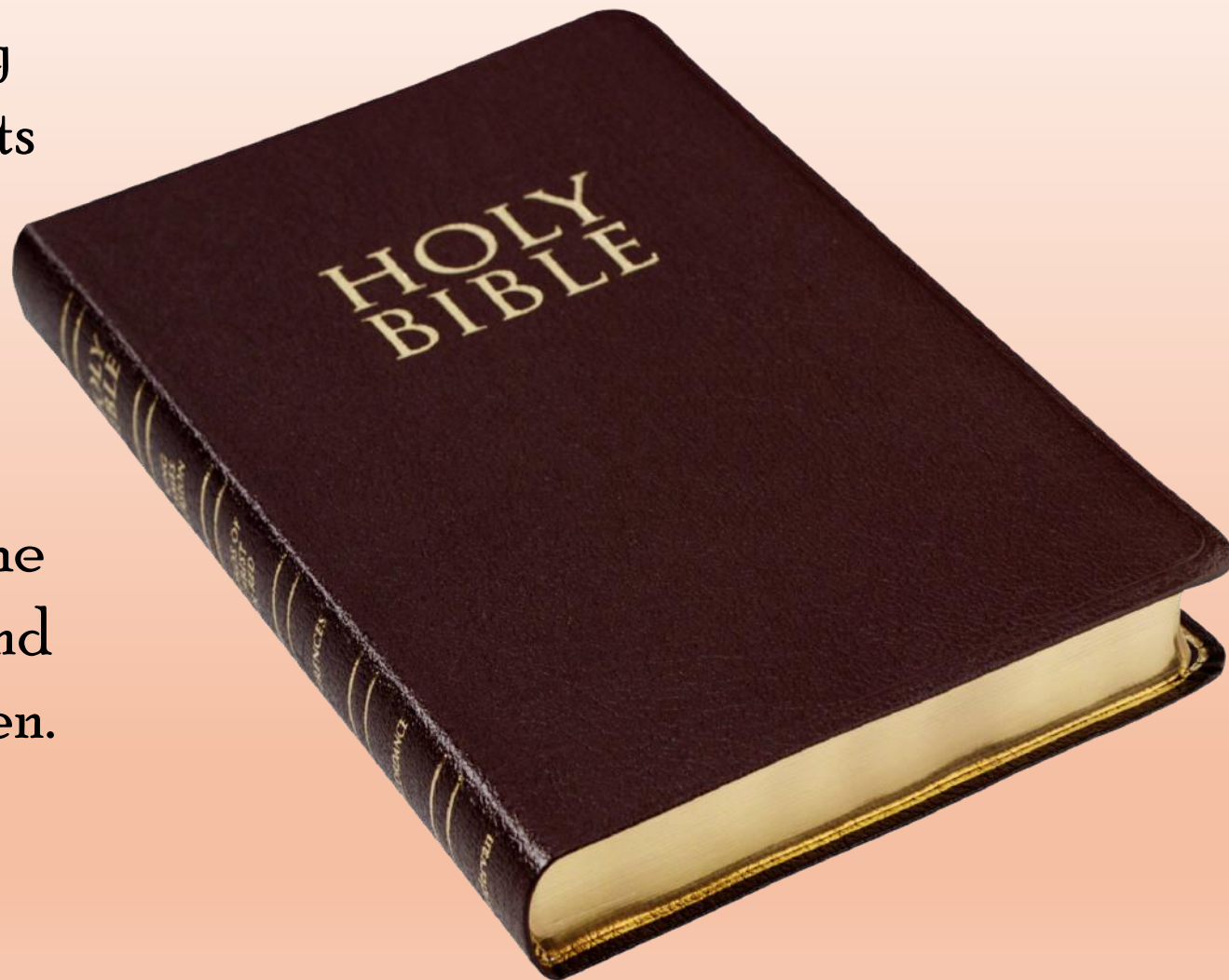
## Bible is missing covenants

168 "For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious,

169 And **also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away;**

170 And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.

1 Nephi 3:168-169



# Covenants with God

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77 For behold I say unto you, **As many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord**; And as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off;

78 For the Lord covenanteth with none, Save it be with them that **repent and believe in His Son**, which is the Holy One of Israel.

2 Nephi 12:77-78





# Examples in the Book of Mormon

## Covenants~ King Benjamin~ name exchange

5 And it is the faith which we have had on the things which our king hath spoken unto us and hath **brought us to this great knowledge whereby we do rejoice with such exceeding great joy;**

6 And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do His will and to be obedient to His commandments in all things that He shall command us all the remainder of our days, That we may not bring upon ourselves a never ~ ending torment as has been spoken by the angel, That we may not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God."

7 And now, these are the words which King Benjamin desired of them and therefore he said unto them: "Ye have spoken the words that I desired, **And the covenant which ye have made is a righteous covenant.**

8 "And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called the children of Christ, His sons and His daughters;

9 For behold, this day He hath **spiritually begotten you**, for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on His name; **Therefore, ye are born of Him and have become His sons and His daughters.**

10 "And under this head ye are made free, And there is no other head whereby ye can be made free;

11 There is **no other name given whereby salvation cometh**; Therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ ~ all you that have entered into the covenant with God ~ that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives.

12 "And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this shall be found at the **right hand of God**, **For he shall know the name by which he is called, For he shall be called by the name of Christ.**

13 "And now it shall come to pass that whosoever shall not take upon them the name of Christ must be called by some other name; Therefore, he findeth himself on the **left hand of God.** Mosiah 3:5-13



## Covenants- Baptisms at the Waters of Mormon

39 "And now as ye are desirous to come into the **fold of God and to be called His people**, And are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light,

40 Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn, Yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, And to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things and in all places that ye may be in, **even until death**, That ye may be redeemed of God and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life -

41 Now, I say unto you, if this be the desires of your hearts, **What have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord as a witness before Him that ye have entered into a covenant with Him that ye will serve Him and keep His commandments, that He may pour out His Spirit more abundantly upon you?**"

42 And now when the people had heard these words, they clapped their hands for joy and exclaimed: "This is the desires of our hearts!"

43 And now it came to pass that Alma took Helam, he being one of the first, and went and stood forth in the water and cried, saying: "O Lord, pour out Thy Spirit upon Thy servant, that he may do this work with holiness of heart!"

44 And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him and he said: "Helam, I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God, as a testimony that **ye have entered into a covenant to serve Him until you are dead, as to the mortal body; And may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you**, And may He grant unto you eternal life through the **redemption of Christ** which He hath prepared from the foundation of the world."

45 And after Alma had said these words, both Alma and Helam were buried in the water; And they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, being filled with the Spirit. Mosiah 9:39-45

# Covenants- Alma preaches on the Covenant

24 Now I say unto you, that ye must repent and be born again, For the Spirit saith: "If ye are not born again, ye cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven."

25 Therefore, **come and be baptized unto repentance**, that ye may be **washed from your sins**, That ye may **have faith on the Lamb of God** which taketh away the sins of the world, which is mighty to save and to **cleanse from all unrighteousness**.

26 Yea, I say unto you, come and fear not, And lay aside every sin which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction.

27 Yea, come and **go forth and show unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins and enter into a covenant with Him to keep His commandments, And witness it unto Him this day by going into the waters of baptism;**

Alma 5:24-27





42 And now it came to pass that when the king had made an end of these sayings and all the people were assembled together, They took their swords and all the weapons which were used for the shedding of man's blood and they did bury them up deep in the earth;

43 And this they did, **it being in their view a testimony to God**, and also to men, that they never would use weapons again for the shedding of man's blood;

44 And this they did, vouching and **covenanting with God that rather than to shed the blood of their brethren, they would give up their own lives,**

45 And rather than to take away from a brother, they would give unto him, And rather than to spend their days in idleness, they would labor abundantly with their hands.

46 And thus we see that when these Lamanites were brought to believe and to know the truth, that **they were firm and would suffer even unto death rather than to commit sin;**

Alma 14:42-46

## Covenants- Ammonites





## Covenants- Moroni and the scalp

84 And it came to pass that the soldier which stood by, which smote off the scalp of Zerahemnah, took up the scalp from off the ground by the hair and laid it upon the point of his sword and stretched it forth unto them, saying unto them with a loud voice - saying:

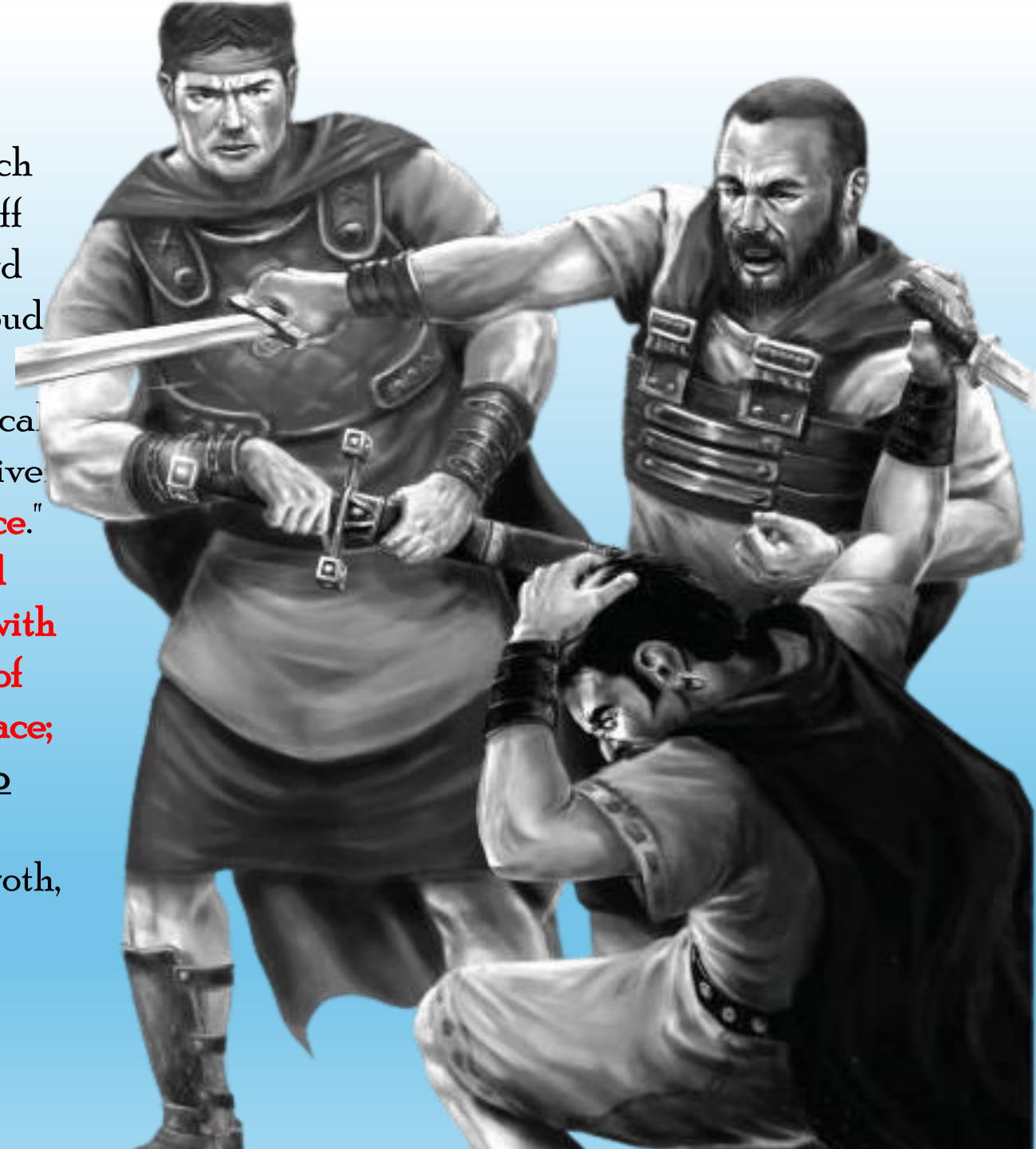
85 "Even as this scalp hath fallen to the earth, which is the scalp of your chief, So shall ye fall to the earth, except ye will deliver up your weapons of war and **depart with a covenant of peace.**"

86 Now there **were many when they heard these words and saw the scalp which was upon the sword, they were struck with fear, And many came forth and threw down their weapons of war at the feet of Moroni and entered into a covenant of peace;**

87 And **as many as entered into a covenant, they suffered to depart** into the wilderness.

88 Now it came to pass that Zerahemnah was exceeding wroth, And he did stir up **the remainder** of his soldiers to anger, to contend more powerfully against the Nephites.

Alma 20:84-88





# Covenants~ Moroni and the Title of Liberty

48 And when Moroni had said these words, he went forth among the people, waving the rent of his garment in the air that all might see the writing which he had written upon the rent, And crying with a loud voice, saying:

49 "Behold, whosoever will maintain this title upon the land, Let them come forth in the strength of the Lord and **enter into a covenant** that they will maintain their rights and their religion, that the Lord God may bless them."

50 And it came to pass that when Moroni had proclaimed these words, Behold, the people came running together with their armors girded about their loins, **rending their garments in token, or as a covenant, that they would not forsake the Lord their God~**

51 Or, in other words, if they should transgress the commandments of God, Or fall into **transgression** and be **ashamed to take upon them the name of Christ, The Lord should rend them even as they had rent their garments.**

52 Now **this was the covenant which they made**, And they cast their garments at the feet of Moroni, saying: "**We covenant with our God that we shall be destroyed, even as our brethren in the Land Northward, if we shall fall into transgression;**

**53 Yea, He may cast us at the feet of our enemies, even as we have cast our garments at thy feet, to be trodden underfoot, if we should fall into transgression.**"

Alma 21:48-53



# Covenants- Pahoran and the Freemen



5 And it came to pass that those who were desirous that Pahoron should be dethroned from the judgment seat were called Kingmen, For they were desirous that the law should be altered in a manner to overthrow the free government and to establish a king over the land;

6 And those who were desirous that Pahoron should remain chief judge over the land took upon them the name of Freemen; And thus was the division among them, For the Freemen had sworn or covenanted to maintain their rights and the privileges of their religion by a free government.

7 And it came to pass that this matter of their contention was settled by the voice of the people.

Alma 23:5-7



## Covenants~ Sons of Helaman

67 But it came to pass that when they saw the danger and the many afflictions and tribulations which the Nephites bore for them, They were moved with compassion and were desirous **to take up arms in the defense of their country;**

68 But behold, as they were about to take their weapons of war, They were overpowered by the persuasions of Helaman and his brethren, for **they were about to break the oath which they had made;**

69 And Helaman feared lest by so doing, they should **lose their souls;** Therefore, all those which had entered into this covenant were compelled to behold their brethren wade through their afflictions in their dangerous circumstances at this time.

70 But behold, it came to pass they had many sons which had **not entered into a covenant that they would not take their weapons of war to defend themselves against their enemies;**

71 Therefore, they did assemble themselves together at this time as many as were able to take up arms, And they **called themselves Nephites;**

72 And they **entered into a covenant to fight for the liberty of the Nephites, yea, to protect the land unto the laying down of their lives;**

**73 Yea, even they covenanted that they never would give up their liberty, but they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites and themselves from bondage.**

74 Now behold, there were two thousand of those young men which entered into this covenant and took their weapons of war to defend their country.

Alma 24:67-74





## Covenants- The Lamanites of Nephiah

17 And it came to pass that as they were marching toward the land, They took a large body of men of the Lamanites and slew many of them, And took their provisions and their weapons of war.

18 And it came to pass after they had taken them, They **caused them to enter into a covenant that they would no more take up their weapons of war against the Nephites;**

19 And when they had entered into this covenant, they **sent them to dwell with the people of Ammon**; And they were in number about four thousand which had not been slain.

Alma 29:17-19





## Covenants- Repentant Gaddianton Robbers

86 And now it came to pass that when they had taken all the robbers prisoners, insomuch that none did escape which were not slain, They did cast their prisoners into prison and did cause the word of God to be preached unto them;

87 And as many as would repent of their sins and enter into a covenant that they would murder no more were set at liberty;

88 But as many as there were who did not enter into a covenant and who did still continue to have those secret murders in their hearts - Yea, as many as were found breathing out threatenings against their brethren were condemned and punished according to the law; 3 Nephi 2:86-88



## Covenants~ Law is fulfilled, covenants are not yet

4 And He saith unto them: "Marvel not that I said unto you that old things had passed away and that all things had become new ~

5 "Behold, I say unto you that the **law is fulfilled that was given unto Moses;**

6 Behold, **I Am He that gave the law,** And **I Am He which covenanted** with My people Israel; Therefore, the law in Me is fulfilled, For I have come to fulfill the law, Therefore, it hath an end.

7 "Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, For as many as have not been fulfilled in Me, verily I say unto you, shall all be fulfilled;

8 And because I said unto you that old things hath passed away, I do not destroy that which hath been spoken concerning things which are to come;

9 For behold, **the covenants which I have made with My people is not all fulfilled, But the law which was given unto Moses hath an end in Me.**

10 "Behold, I Am the law and the light; Look unto Me and endure to the end and ye shall live, For unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.

11 "Behold, I have given unto you the commandments, Therefore, keep My commandments ~

12 **And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testify of Me."**

3 Nephi 7:4-12



# Covenants- Gentiles must repent

35 And if they shall do all these things, And shall reject the fullness of My gospel, Behold, ' saith the Father, 'I will bring the fullness of My gospel from among them;

36 And then will I **remember My covenant which I have made unto My people, O house of Israel, And I will bring My gospel unto them;**

37 And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you, But **I will remember My covenant unto you, O house of Israel, And ye shall come unto the knowledge** of the fullness of My gospel.

38 'But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto Me, ' saith the Father, **Behold, they shall be numbered among My people, O house of Israel;**

3 Nephi 7:35-38

