

THE MURDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Chapter 38



Wicked men had become judges over the Nephites. They punished the righteous people but not the wicked people. *Helaman 7:4-5*



Nephi was sad to see so much wickedness among the people. *Helaman 7:6-7*



One day he was praying on a tower in his garden. His garden was by the highway that led to a marketplace in Zarahemla. *Helaman 7:10*



People passing by on the highway heard Nephi praying. A large group gathered, wondering why he was so sad. *Helaman 7:11*



When Nephi saw the people, he told them he was sad because of their wickedness. He told them to repent. *Helaman 7:12-14, 17*



He warned them that if they did not repent, their enemies would take their homes and cities and the Lord would not help them fight their enemies. *Helaman 7:22*



Nephi said the Nephites were more wicked than the Lamanites because the Nephites had been taught the commandments but were not obeying them. *Helaman 7:24*



He said that if the Nephites did not repent, they would be destroyed. *Helaman 7:28*



Some of the wicked judges were there. They wanted the people to punish Nephi for speaking against them and their law. *Helaman 8:1-4*



Some of the people agreed with the wicked judges. Others believed Nephi; they knew he was a prophet and spoke the truth. *Helaman 8:7-9*



Nephi told the people that they had rebelled against God and would soon be punished if they did not repent. *Helaman 8:25-26*



Nephi told the people to go find their chief judge. He would be lying in his own blood, murdered by a brother who wanted his position. *Helaman 8:27*



Five men from the crowd ran to see the chief judge. They did not believe that Nephi was a prophet of God. *Helaman 9:1-2*



When they saw Seezoram, the chief judge, lying in his blood, they fell to the ground in fear. Now they knew that Nephi was a prophet. *Helaman 9:3-5*



Seezoram's servants had already found the chief judge and had run to tell the people. They returned and found the five men lying there. *Helaman 9:6-7*



The people thought the five men had murdered Seezoram. *Helaman 9:8*



They threw the five men into prison and then sent word throughout the city that the chief judge had been killed and that the murderers were in prison. *Helaman 9:9*



The next day the people went to where the chief judge would be buried. The judges who had been at Nephi's garden asked where the five men were. *Helaman 9:10-12*



The judges asked to see the accused murderers. *Helaman 9:13*



The accused murderers were the five men who had run from Nephi's garden to the chief judge. *Helaman 9:13*



The five men said they had found the chief judge lying in blood, just as Nephi had said. Then the judges accused Nephi of sending someone to murder Seezoram. *Helaman 9:15-16*



Knowing that Nephi was a prophet, the five men argued with the judges, but they would not listen. They had Nephi tied up. *Helaman 9:18-19*



The judges offered Nephi money and his life if he would say he had plotted to kill the chief judge. *Helaman 9:20-21*



Nephi told the judges to repent of their wickedness. Then he told them to go to Seantum, Seezoram's brother.

Helaman 9:22, 26



Nephi told them to ask Seantum if he and Nephi had plotted to murder Seezoram. Nephi said Seantum would say "no."

Helaman 9:27-28



Then the judges were to ask Seantum if he had killed his brother. Seantum would again say "no," but the judges would find blood on his cloak.

Helaman 9:29-31



Nephi said Seantum would then shake and turn pale and finally confess to killing his brother.

Helaman 9:33-35



The judges went to Seantum's house, and everything happened as Nephi said it would. Nephi and the five men were set free.

Helaman 9:37-38



As the people walked away from Nephi, some said he was a prophet; others said he was a god. Nephi went home, still sad about their wickedness.

Helaman 9:40-41; 10:2-3