

Mosiah 25 — The Great Gathering in Zarahemla — Three Records Read, the Mulekite Majority Numbered, Limhi's People Baptized by Alma, and Seven Churches Organized in the Land

Mosiah 25: Mosiah-II gathers all the people of Zarahemla into one body; the records of Zeniff and Alma are read aloud; the people of Zarahemla (Mulekites) are recognized as more numerous than the descendants of Nephi; all are called Nephites; Limhi's people enter the covenant and are baptized by Alma; Alma is authorized to ordain priests and teachers; seven churches are organized throughout the land; the Church of God grows and prospers; c. 121 BC.

Mosiah 25 is the BoM's-master-chapter-of-the-great-gathering-and-the-three-records-read-and-the-seven-churches-organized. The chapter is the moment-the-three-groups-become-one — the descendants-of-Mulek (the people-of-Zarahemla), the descendants-of-Nephi (Mosiah-II's-Nephites), the descendants-of-Zeniff-Noah-Limhi (the Mosiah-7-22-colony), and-the-Alma-Church-of-Mosiah-18-and-23-24. The chapter has Mosiah-II reading-the-records-aloud-to-the-gathered-people; the demographic-fact-of-the-Mulekite-majority-being-quietly-acknowledged; all-the-people-becoming-known-by-the-Nephite-name; Limhi's-people-being-baptized-by-Alma's-priesthood-authority; and Alma being-formally-authorized-by-Mosiah-to-organize-the-Church-throughout-the-land-into-seven-churches. The chapter is therefore the BoM's-clearest-ecclesial-founding-moment-of-the-Mosiah-cycle.

Load-Bearing Texts

1. v. 2. *now there were not so many of the children of Nephi, or so many of those who were descendants of Nephi, as there were of the people of Zarahemla, who was a descendant of Mulek, and those who came with him into the wilderness* — the chapter's-master Mulekite-majority statement
2. v. 13. *and now all the people of Zarahemla were numbered with the Nephites, and this because the kingdom had been conferred upon none but those who were descendants of Nephi* — the chapter's-master all-numbered-with-the-Nephites statement
3. v. 18. *therefore Alma did go forth into the water and did baptize them; yea, he did baptize them after the manner he did his brethren in the waters of Mormon; yea, and as many as he did baptize did belong to the church of God; and this because of their belief on the words of Alma* — the chapter's-master baptism-by-Alma statement
4. v. 19. *and it came to pass that king Mosiah granted unto Alma that he might establish churches throughout all the land of Zarahemla; and gave him power to ordain priests and teachers over every church* — the chapter's-master authorization-to-establish-churches statement
5. v. 22. *and thus, notwithstanding there being many churches they were all one church, yea, even the church of God; for there was nothing preached in all the churches except it were repentance and faith in God* — the chapter's-master one-Church-many-congregations statement

Hebrew Word Studies

malki-yahu / qahal / amam (מַלְכִּי־יָהוּ / קָהָל / אָמָם) — **Mulek (proposed full form: Malchijah, 'Yah is my king') / assembly, congregation / people, kinsfolk vv. 1–4.** The chapter's gathering-and-people vocabulary. *Malki-yahu* — Mulek's-likely-full-name; the name Malchiah son of Hammelech (the king) appears in Jer. 38:6 as one of those who threw Jeremiah into the dungeon; the name means 'Yah is my king,' a fitting royal-Yahwist name for-a-son-of-Zedekiah. *Qahal* — assembly, congregation — the noun behind every Hebrew-Bible-corporate-assembly, the same noun the LXX translates as *ekklesia*, 'church'; *amam* — people, kinsfolk — the noun-family behind every Hebrew-Bible 'the people' designation. The doctrine: the chapter has a *qahal* of-am — an assembly-of-people — that-combines three-distinct-stock-groups-into-one *ekklesia*; the chapter is therefore one of the BoM's-clearest-texts on-the-corporate-church-as-a-union-of-distinct-peoples. Same *qahal*-of-am-becomes-ekklesia grammar as Deut. 23:1-3 (the entrance-rules-to-the-congregation/qahal-of-the-Lord); Acts 2:5-13 (the multi-national-pentecostal-congregation); Eph. 2:14-16 (one new man — Jew-and-Gentile reconciled in-one-body). The chapter is one of the BoM's clearest articulations of the *qahal-of-many-peoples-becomes-the-ekklesia-of-Christ* providence.

From the Chapter's Architecture

The chapter is also the BoM's quiet-statement of-the-Mulekite-majority-but-Nephite-throne demographic fact. The repeated note that-the-people-of-Zarahemla (descendants-of-Mulek) were-more-numerous than-the-Nephites is the chapter's-set-up for-the-political-fragility that-will-explode in-Alma-2 (Amlici), Alma-46 (Amalickiah), and-Hel. 1 (Kishkumen) — every-Nephite-civil-war has-the-Mulekite-majority-question as-an-undercurrent. The chapter is the BoM's-quiet-foreshadowing of-the-Nephite-political-fragility throughout-the-rest-of-the-BoM.