

Legal Cases and Procedures in the Book of Mormon

Key Scripture Mosiah 29:25–29

Explanation The main purpose of the Book of Mormon is, of course, religious; but its pages also report more than a dozen important lawsuits or legal procedures. This chart helps a person to appreciate the number and variety of legal procedures reported in the Book of Mormon. These accounts provide significant information about aspects of the Nephite legal system, such as accusations, arrests, imprisonments, executions, judges, witnesses, and rules of law. Most of these legal cases arose during the reign of the judges, when the role of the judicial system had been greatly expanded. That period in Nephite history saw great internal turmoil. Those problems teach how important it is for a free and open society to honor, obey, and sustain the law in order to survive, let alone thrive.

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The Case of Sherem against Jacob	Jacob 7
The Arrest of Ammon	Mosiah 7:6–16
The Trial of Abinadi	Mosiah 12–17
The Trial of Nehor	Alma 1:1–15
The Trial of Alma and Amulek	Alma 14
The Imprisonment of Aaron and Brethren	Alma 21:12–14
The Trial of Korihor	Alma 30
The Political Imprisonment of King-Men	Alma 51:19
The Trial of Pachus's Men and the King-Men	Alma 62:9–10
The Case of Paanchi	Helaman 1:1–10
The Imprisonment of Nephi and Lehi	Helaman 5:21–22
Gadianton Trials of Their Defectors	Helaman 6:24
The Trial of Seantum	Helaman 9
The Execution of Zemnarihah	3 Nephi 4:28–33
The Trial of Captured Robbers	3 Nephi 5:4–5
Corrupt Execution of Inspired Prophets	3 Nephi 6:20–24
Complaint against the Corrupt Judges	3 Nephi 6:25–30