

Legal Charges Brought against Abinadi

Key Scriptures Mosiah 12–17; Alma 13:20; Exodus 20:16; 22:28; Leviticus 24:16; Deuteronomy 18:18–22

Explanation Though the charges proved unfounded, Abinadi was accused by Noah's priests of violating Mosaic law. This chart lists (1) the four charges brought against Abinadi, (2) the Mosaic laws on which each accusation rested, and (3) the false evidence that Noah's priests used to accuse him. The priests of Noah knew the law of Moses thoroughly enough to twist it and use it against Abinadi when he prophesied against Noah and of Jesus Christ. Although the first three charges all failed, they were at least nominally grounded in the law. Abinadi was finally put to death for having "reviled the king" (Mosiah 17:12), which is prohibited in Exodus 22:28. Ultimately, however, these tactics worked to the priests' own undoing. As Alma later counseled the city of Ammonihah: "Behold, the scriptures are laid before you; if ye will wrest [twist] them it shall be to your own destruction" (Alma 13:20).

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Charge	Evidence	Mosaic Law in Question
1. Lying (Mosiah 12:14)	Abinadi said the people had hardened their hearts and had committed evil abominations (Mosiah 12:1)	“Thou shalt not bear false witness” (Exodus 20:16)
2. False prophecy (Mosiah 12:14)	“He pretendeth the Lord hath spoken it” (Mosiah 12:12)	“The prophet [who] shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded . . . , shall die” (Deuteronomy 18:20)
3. Blasphemy (Mosiah 17:7–8)	Abinadi said God himself would come down (Mosiah 7:26–28; 15:1–8)	“He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death” (Leviticus 24:16)
4. Reviling against the king (Mosiah 17:12)	Abinadi said Noah’s life would be as a garment in a hot furnace (Mosiah 12:3, 10–12)	“Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people” (Exodus 22:28)