

THIS GREAT AND LASTING WAR

Studies in Alma 45–63

PROVO AND SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—The latest volume from Brigham Young University’s Book of Mormon Academy highlights Alma chapters 45–63, sometimes referred to as the “war chapters.” However, these chapters are much more complex than often assumed, focusing on the nature of covenant, the love of God, and the way human beings establish their identities. The record alerts readers to challenges uniquely faced by women, the difficulty of handling complicated relationships, and the need to make good choices. The text enlightens its adherents about the meaning of scripture in different contexts, how prophets intervene on behalf of the downtrodden and look to God’s future interventions in the world, and what it means to see God in the concrete details of life.

With the aim of providing a variety of fresh perspectives on what are usually called the war chapters, BYU’s Book of Mormon Academy presents *This Great and Lasting War: Studies in Alma 45–63*.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

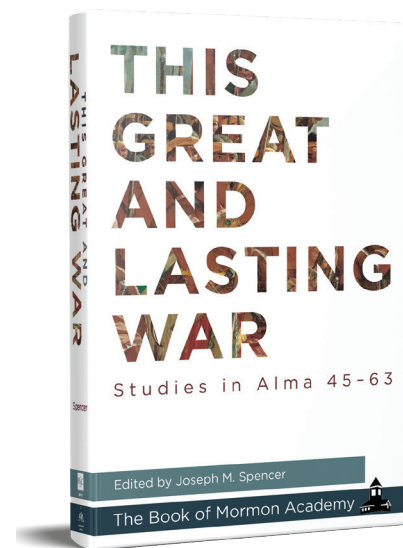
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This volume, divided into three parts, draws on the expertise and insights of ten scholars of ancient scripture. The first part addresses the literary dimensions of Alma 45–63 by putting the Amalickiahite wars into the context of Nephite history and related books of scripture. It examines the interaction of the spiritual and the mundane throughout the wars, the significance of Alma’s final prophecy, the similarities between Captain Moroni and Old Testament prophets, and the use of Pauline words “stand[ing] fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free” in the Book of Mormon (Galatians 5:1).

The second part focuses on specific stories or scenes within Alma 45–63 by using tools of literary criticism to analyze what principles can be gleaned from these chapters. It shows the careful manner that Mormon tells the story of “the great wickedness one very wicked man can cause to take place among the children of men” (Alma 46:9), offers ways of interpreting Captain Moroni’s pointed letter to the chief judge Pahoran, and examines the often-overlooked story of the maidervant of Morianton.

The third part of the volume focuses on moral issues arising from the book of Alma by examining specific themes across these chapters. It analyzes the

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insight the Book of Mormon provides to motivationally complex questions of justice through a study of the word cause, Mormon’s testimony of God’s unswerving love for his children that permeates the violence, and the role covenants play in the lives of those engaged in conflict.

This Great and Lasting War: Studies in Alma 45–63 is copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/great-lasting-war for more information.

DETAILS

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