

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MORMONISM



Edited by
Daniel H. Ludlow

*The History, Scripture, Doctrine, and Procedure
of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Macmillan Publishing Company
New York

Maxwell Macmillan Canada
Toronto

Maxwell Macmillan International
New York Oxford Singapore Sydney



Copyright Brigham Young University, 1992.

Archived at Book of Mormon Central by Permission.

Z



ZENOCK

Zenock was a preexilic Israelite prophet whose words were found on the PLATES of brass, a record carried from Jerusalem to the new promised land in the Western Hemisphere by the Book of Mormon prophet LEHI c. 600 B.C. Zenock is not known from the Hebrew Bible or other sources and is noted in only five passages in the Book of Mormon. It is possible that he was of the lineage of JOSEPH OF EGYPT and an ancestor of the NEPHITES (3 Ne. 10:16).

Each reference to Zenock refers to his teaching of either the coming or redemptive mission of Jesus Christ. NEPHI₁, son of Lehi, in teaching from the words of previous prophets, stated that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Jesus Christ) would be “lifted up, according to the words of Zenock” (1 Ne. 19:10), referring to his crucifixion. Alma 33:16 contains the only direct quotation of Zenock’s words, citing him as one of many Israelite prophets who foretold the mission of the Son of God (Alma 33:14–17; cf. 34:7) and quoting him on the mercies that God grants because of his Son. ALMA₂ noted, however, that because the people “would not understand” Zenock’s words, they “stoned him to death” (Alma 33:17). NEPHI₂ cited Zenock and others who testified of the coming of the Son of God (Hel. 8:20). In the last reference to his work, MORMON wrote that ZENOS and Zenock

foretold the destruction that preceded the coming of Christ to the remnant of their posterity (3 Ne. 10:16).

KENT P. JACKSON

ZENOS

Zenos is one of four Israelite prophets of Old Testament times cited in the BOOK OF MORMON whose writings appeared on the PLATES of brass but who are not mentioned in the Old Testament (*see also* ZENOCK; NEUM; and EZIAS). Zenos is quoted or mentioned by NEPHI₁ (1 Ne. 19:10–17), JACOB (Jacob 5:1–77; 6:1), ALMA₂ (Alma 33:3–11, 13, 15), Amulek (Alma 34:7), NEPHI₂ (Hel. 8:19–20), and MORMON (3 Ne. 10:14–17).

Although specific dates and details of Zenos’ life and ministry are not known, the Book of Mormon provides considerable information about him from his teachings and related facts. Evidently he lived sometime between 1600 and 600 B.C. because he was apparently a descendant of JOSEPH OF EGYPT and his writings were on the plates of brass taken from JERUSALEM to the Americas by Nephi₁ about 600 B.C. He may also have been a progenitor of the Book of Mormon prophet LEHI (cf. 3 Ne. 10:16). Zenos spent time “in the wilderness” (Alma 33:4), but also preached “in the midst”