

Did Abinadi Prophecy against King Noah on Pentecost?

Israelite Pentecost

Abinadi

celebrating first grain harvest	cursed grain (Mosiah 12:6)
rejoicing in bounty	sent hail, winds, insects (Mosiah 12:6)
fifty days after Passover	specific day unknown
remembering deliverance from bondage in Egypt	prophesied that the people would be brought into bondage (Mosiah 11:21)
celebrating the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses (Exodus 20)	recited the Ten Commandments given to Moses (Mosiah 13:12–24)
Moses' face shone (Exodus 34)	Abinadi's face shone (Mosiah 13:5)
Sinai became a furnace (Exodus 19)	prophesied that Noah's life would be like a garment in a furnace (Mosiah 12:3)
three-day festival (Exodus 19:11)	cast into prison three days (Mosiah 17:6)
stern admonitions	stern admonitions
use of Psalm 50	use of ideas in Psalm 50
"Our God shall come" (Psalm 50:3)	"God . . . shall come down" (Mosiah 15:1)
"What hast thou to do to declare my statutes?" (Psalm 50:16)	"What teach ye this people?" (Mosiah 12:27)
"[Thou] hast been partaker with adulterers" (Psalm 50:18)	"Why do ye commit whoredoms?" (Mosiah 12:29)

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Key Scripture Mosiah 11–17

Explanation Abinadi may very well have prophesied to King Noah and his priests on or near the day of Pentecost, as textual clues in Mosiah 11–17 suggest. Pentecost in ancient Israel was a three-day festival in May celebrating the new wheat and bounty of spring. It was also a time for carefully listening to and celebrating the law of Moses, since God gave the law to Moses on Sinai at approximately this time in the year. Abinadi's cursing of grain and sending destruction upon crops are a reversal of the themes celebrated at Pentecost. Ironically, at the same time when the priests should have been venerating the law, Abinadi rehearsed to them the Ten Commandments and chastised them for not keeping it. These and other clues listed in this chart are further evidence attesting to the Book of Mormon's roots in ancient Israel.

Source John W. Welch, Gordon C. Thomasson, and Robert F. Smith, "Abinadi and Pentecost," in *Reexploring the Book of Mormon*, ed. John W. Welch (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and FARMS, 1992), 135–38.