

For the Blessings of Liberty

This artwork comes from a time of conflict between two groups of people, the Lamanites and the Nephites. The Lamanites had desires to stir up anger and hatred amongst their people towards the Nephites that they might gain power over them by bringing them into bondage and slavery.

The Nephites wanted to preserve their rights, privileges, and liberties. They fought to protect their families, their lands, and the right to worship God according to their beliefs. They appointed Chief Captain Moroni to lead and govern their armies. His title, similar to a 5 Star General of today, would have the responsibility of running the Secretary of Defense job.

Chief Captain Moroni prepared his people to defend themselves against their enemies and sought guidance from God through prayer. He used strategy and spies in defense of his people and asked that his people be faithful to their God.

As a leader, Moroni motivated and inspired his men to join the army and to fight in battle. He was a humble and loyal servant to the people he was appointed to protect and to serve. He always acknowledged the Lord's hand in all things and demonstrated great faith. He was an honest man and showed compassion and mercy towards his enemies. He was willing to give his life for his people, country, and God and he inspired others to do the same. He was respected and loved.

This painting is titled, "For the Blessings of Liberty". It captures the moment when Moroni was upset to hear about dissensions among his people. He wrote the following on a torn piece of his coat and attached it to a pole, "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children". He called this his title of liberty. He took this self-made banner and waved it amongst the citizens asking all those that believed in these words to covenant with him to fight to preserve these things. In reaction to his words, the people put on their armor and ran to him. They ripped off a piece of their garments as a symbolic pledge to not abandon their God and to always fight for their liberties. Those words became their rallying cry.