On Which Side of the River Was the Battle Fought?

Are there some things in the Book of Mormon that are far more important than others?

*Building Faith with the Book of Mormon*,
Glenn L. Pearson and Reid E. Bankhead,

“The Book of Mormon is like such a scribe’s treasure [Matthew 13:51-52]. It is full of ‘things new and old.’ All of its treasure is useful. Nothing which is said hereafter is intended to disparage or render ineffective any of the efforts of teachers or scholars who believe the Book of Mormon and teach or write about it. Every book has a main message and purpose, plus many ‘by-products’ which may or may not have been suspected by the author. To some, Chaucer or Shakespeare may be more important as history than as literature, or more important for linguistic research than for short-story plots. But, in their times, these authors had a purpose or a message that was more important to them than other considerations.…

“We can look in the pages of the Book of Mormon for many things; but the best thing to look for is that which was intended for *us*. The authors of the book, first and foremost, desired to bring souls to Christ that the might be saved. It is not that we should ignore or refuse to take note of other things, but the book was written to *us* and for *us* as well as for the modern Lamanite and Jew. Should we fail to hear the somber warning of those who ‘whisper’ to us ‘out of the dust’ (2Ne 26:19), it will help us little to know on which side of the river Sidon the battle was fought when their life’s blood was spilled.”