

THE BOOK OF MORMON



STRUCTURED EDITION

Sample: 1 Nephi

Edited by Nathan Richardson

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION IX

ABOUT THE STRUCTURED EDITION X

THE FIRST BOOK OF NEPHI 3

PART 1: JOURNEYS BETWEEN CITY AND TENT 5

DEPARTING JERUSALEM

Dwelling in a tent

THE PLATES OF BRASS

First attempt: Asking__

Second attempt: Trading__

Third attempt: Taking__

RETURN__ 14

Searching the plates of brass

THE FAMILY OF ISHMAEL

PART 2: VISIONS OF THE TREE OF LIFE 19

PROPHECIES OF LEHI

LEHI’S DREAM OF THE TREE

Wilderness

Tree and water

Rod and mist

Building

Closing

GRAFTING BRANCHES OF ISRAEL

Captivity and return

The Messiah

Scattering and gathering Israel

PROPHECIES OF NEPHI

NEPHI’S VISION OF THE TREE

THE JEWS 26

Tree: Birth

Rod: Ministry

<i>Building: Crucifixion and persecution</i>	
THE SEED OF LEHI	29
<i>Mist: Darkness before Christ's coming</i>	
<i>Filthy water: Dwindling in unbelief</i>	
THE GENTILES	31
<i>A great and abominable church</i>	
<i>Gentiles smite the seed of Lehi</i>	
<i>The book of the Lamb: Blindness and stumbling</i>	
<i>The hidden book</i>	
<i>The effects of the hidden book</i>	
___A WORK OF LIFE OR CAPTIVITY___	35
<i>Two churches</i>	
<i>Fighting against the Lamb of God</i>	
CLOSING	37
THE MEANING OF LEHI'S WORDS___	
GRAFTING BRANCHES OF ISRAEL	38
THINGS IN LEHI'S DREAM	40
BEARING THE TRUTH	41

PART 3: JOURNEYINGS IN THE WILDERNESS

42

SHAZER

THE BROKEN BOW

NAHOM

EASTWARD

BOUNTIFUL

___COMMAND TO BUILD A SHIP___	46
NEPHI'S BRETHREN REBEL	47
NEPHI CONFOUNDS HIS BRETHREN	48
<i>The children of the land: Wicked unto ripeness</i>	
<i>Israel: Wicked nearly unto ripeness</i>	
<i>Nephi's brethren: Past feeling</i>	
Outcomes	
FINISHING THE SHIP	51

ON THE SEA

PART 4: MINISTRY IN THE PROMISED LAND

54

THE LARGE PLATES OF NEPHI	54
PROPHECIES OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL	55
NEPHI TEACHES HIS BRETHREN	
THE WORDS OF ISAIAH	57
<i>Obstinate Israel</i>	

<i>The Lord's call to Israel</i>	
<i>The servant of the Lord</i>	
<i>Gathering Israel</i>	
THE MEANING OF ISAIAH	64
<i>Isaiah</i>	
<i>Other prophets</i>	
<i>Conclusion</i>	

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Mormon is a book of scripture containing the writings of prophets of God. Just as the Bible is a record of God's interactions with ancient peoples in the Old World, the Book of Mormon is a record of God's interactions with ancient peoples in the New World. It contains many vital doctrines and revealed principles that are important for God's children in today's world.

[more explanations]

As with other books of scripture, people who read the Book of Mormon sincerely and prayerfully will come to know of its truth and applicability to their lives. It is an important testimony of the divine mission of Jesus Christ, his gracious plan to grant us eternal life, and the saving role of his Church and his prophets in the latter days.

ABOUT THE STRUCTURED EDITION

ABOUT THIS VOLUME

Each volume in the Structured Edition of the standard works has a few unique ways that the features are used because of the distinct nature of each work. Following are a few examples from this volume, including insights picked up along the way.

[Paste explanation and key from Pearl of Great Price]

The books of Omni through Alma and Mormon through Moroni have several narrative threads that tie them together. For a guide to navigating those threads, see the Chronological Reading Map in Appendix ____.

THE BOOK OF MORMON

An account written by the hand of Mormon^a upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi^b

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites—Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile—Written by way of commandment,^c and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation—Written and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed—To come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof^d—

Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile^e—The interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

An abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also, which is a record of the people of Jared, who were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower to get to heaven^f—

- *Which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers;*
- *and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—*
- *And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting himself unto all nations—*

And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment-seat of Christ.

a See Morm. ___ for an account of Mormon writing the book.
b See 1 Ne. 19:___ for an account of the plates of Nephi being created.
c Commanded at ____.
d Promised at ____.
e Promised at ____.
f Account at Gen. ____ The abridgment mentioned is the book of Ether herein.

THE FIRST BOOK OF NEPHI

HIS REIGN AND MINISTRY

An account of Lehi and his wife Sariah and his four sons, being called, (beginning at the eldest) Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi.

The Lord warns Lehi to depart out of the land of Jerusalem,^a because he prophesieth unto the people concerning their iniquity and they seek to destroy his life.^b He taketh three days' journey into the wilderness with his family.^c Nephi taketh his brethren and returneth to the land of Jerusalem after the record of the Jews.^d The account of their sufferings. They take the daughters of Ishmael to wife.^e They take their families and depart into the wilderness. Their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness.^f The course of their travels. They come to the large waters.^g Nephi's brethren rebel against him.^h He

*a*0 Account at 1 Ne. 2:2.

*b*0 Account at 1 Ne. 1:19–20.

*c*0 Account at 1 Ne. 2:4–6.

*d*0 Account at 1 Ne. 3:9.

*e*0 Account at 1 Ne. 16:7.

*f*0 Account at 1 Ne. 16:12–17:4.

*g*0 Account at 1 Ne. 17:5.

*h*0 Account at 1 Ne. 17:17–22.

confoundeth them,^a and buildeth a ship.^b They call the name of the place Bountiful.^c They cross the large waters into the promised land,^d and so forth.

This is according to the account of Nephi; or in other words, I, Nephi, wrote this record.

*a*0 Account at 1 Ne. 17:23–52.

*b*0 Account at 1 Ne. 18:4.

*c*0 Account at 1 Ne. 17:5–6.

*d*0 Account at 1 Ne. 18:8–23.

PART 1:

JOURNEYS BETWEEN CITY AND TENT

¹I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days. ²Yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians. ³And I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with mine own hand; and I make it according to my knowledge.

DEPARTING JERUSALEM

⁴For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah,^a king of Judah, (my father, Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed. ⁵Wherefore it came to pass that my father, Lehi,

^{a4} Account of Zedekiah's reign at 2 Kgs. ___ | 2 Chron. ___.

as he went forth prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart, in behalf of his people. ⁶And it came to pass as he prayed unto the Lord, there came a pillar of fire and dwelt upon a rock before him; and he saw and heard much; and because of the things which he saw and heard he did quake and tremble exceedingly.

⁷And it came to pass that he returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed, being overcome with the Spirit and the things which he had seen. ⁸And being thus overcome with the Spirit, he was carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God. ⁹And it came to pass that he saw One descending out of the midst of heaven, and he beheld that his luster was above that of the sun at noon-day. ¹⁰And he also saw twelve others following him, and their brightness did exceed that of the stars in the firmament. ¹¹And they came down and went forth upon the face of the earth; and the first came and stood before my father, and gave unto him a book, and bade him that he should read.

¹²And it came to pass that as he read, he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord. ¹³And he read, saying: **Wo, wo, unto Jerusalem, for I have seen thine abominations!** Yea, and many things did my father read concerning Jerusalem—that it should be destroyed, and the inhabitants thereof; many should perish by the sword, and many should be carried away captive into Babylon.

¹⁴And it came to pass that when my father had read and seen many great and marvelous things, he did exclaim many things unto the Lord; such as: **Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty! Thy throne is high in the heavens, and thy power, and goodness, and mercy are over all the inhabitants of the earth; and, because thou art merciful, thou wilt not suffer those who come unto thee that they shall perish!** ¹⁵And after this manner was the language of my father in the praising of his God; for his soul did rejoice, and his whole heart was filled, because of the things which he had seen, yea, which the Lord had shown unto him.

¹⁶And now I, Nephi, do not make a full account of the things which my father hath written, for he hath written many things which he saw in visions and in dreams; and he also hath written many things which he prophesied and spake unto his children, of which I shall not make a full account. ¹⁷But I shall make an account of my proceedings in my days. Behold, I make an

abridgment of the record of my father,^a upon plates which I have made with mine own hands; wherefore, after I have abridged the record of my father then will I make an account of mine own life.^b

Dwelling in a tent

¹⁸Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shown so many marvelous things unto my father, Lehi, yea, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, behold he went forth among the people, and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard. ¹⁹And it came to pass that the Jews did mock him because of the things which he testified of them; for he truly testified of their wickedness and their abominations; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah,^c and also the redemption of the world. ²⁰And when the Jews heard these things they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; and they also sought his life, that they might take it away.

But behold, I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance. ¹For behold, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him: Blessed art thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; and because thou hast been faithful and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold, they seek to take away thy life. ²And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness. ³And it came to pass that he was obedient unto the word of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him.

⁴And it came to pass that he *departed into the wilderness. And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and took nothing with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and departed into the wilderness. ⁵And he came down by the borders near the shore of the Red Sea; and he traveled in the wilderness in the borders which are nearer the Red Sea; and he did travel in

a I.e., 1 Ne. 1–9 ____ OR ____.

b I.e., 1 Ne. 1–22 and 2 Nephi. ____

c Hebrew “the anointed one”; in Greek, *Christ*.

the wilderness with his family, which consisted of my mother, Sariah, and my elder brothers, who were Laman, Lemuel, and Sam.

⁶And it came to pass that when he had traveled three days in the wilderness, he pitched his tent in a valley by the side of a river of water. ⁷And it came to pass that he built an altar of stones, and made an offering unto the Lord, and gave thanks unto the Lord our God.^a ⁸And it came to pass that he called the name of the river, Laman, and it emptied into the Red Sea; and the valley was in the borders near the mouth thereof.

⁹And when my father saw that the waters of the river emptied into the fountain of the Red Sea, he spake unto Laman, saying: O that thou mightest be like unto this river, continually running into the fountain of all righteousness! ¹⁰And he also spake unto Lemuel: O that thou mightest be like unto this valley, firm and steadfast, and immovable in keeping the commandments of the Lord!

¹¹Now this he spake because of the stiffneckedness of Laman and Lemuel; for behold they did murmur in many things against their father, because he was a visionary man, and had led them out of the land of Jerusalem, to leave the land of their inheritance, and their gold, and their silver, and their precious things, to perish in the wilderness. And this they said he had done because of the foolish imaginations of his heart. ¹²And thus Laman and Lemuel, being the eldest, did murmur against their father. And they did murmur because they knew not the dealings of that God who had created them. ¹³Neither did they believe that Jerusalem, that great city, could be destroyed according to the words of the prophets. And they were like unto the Jews who were at Jerusalem, who sought to take away the life of my father.

¹⁴And it came to pass that my father did speak unto them in the valley of Lemuel, with power, being filled with the Spirit, until their frames did shake before him. And he did confound them, that they durst not utter against him; wherefore, they did as he commanded them. ¹⁵And my father dwelt in a tent.

THE PLATES OF BRASS

¹⁶And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being exceedingly young, nevertheless being large in stature, and also having great desires to know of the mysteries of God, wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did

a Commanded at, e.g., Lev. 3:___; 7:11–15___; 19:5–6; ___.

visit me, and did soften my heart that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; wherefore, I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers. ¹⁷And I spake unto Sam, making known unto him the things which the Lord had manifested unto me by his Holy Spirit. And it came to pass that he believed in my words. ¹⁸But, behold, Laman and Lemuel would not hearken unto my words; and being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts I cried unto the Lord for them.

¹⁹And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying: Blessed art thou, Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart. ²⁰And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands. ²¹And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord. ²²And inasmuch as thou shalt keep my commandments, thou shalt be made a ruler and a teacher over thy brethren. ²³For behold, in that day that they shall rebel against me, I will curse them even with a sore curse, and they shall have no power over thy seed except they shall rebel against me also. ²⁴And if it so be that they rebel against me, they shall be a scourge unto thy seed, to stir them up in the ways of remembrance.

¹And it came to pass that I, Nephi, returned from speaking with the Lord, to the tent of my father. ²And it came to pass that he spake unto me, saying: Behold I have dreamed a dream, in the which the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brethren shall return to Jerusalem. ³For behold, Laban hath the record of the Jews and also a genealogy of my forefathers, and they are engraven upon plates of brass. ⁴Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brothers should go unto the house of Laban, and seek the records, and bring them down hither into the wilderness. ⁵And now, behold thy brothers murmur, saying it is a hard thing which I have required of them; but behold I have not required it of them, but it is a commandment of the Lord. ⁶Therefore go, my son, and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast not murmured.

⁷And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them. ⁸And it came to pass that when my father had heard these words he was exceedingly glad, for he knew that I had been blessed of the Lord.

First attempt: Asking__

⁹And I, Nephi, and my brethren took our journey in the wilderness, with our tents, to go up to the land of Jerusalem. ¹⁰And it came to pass that when we had gone up to the land of Jerusalem, I and my brethren did consult one with another.

¹¹And we cast lots—who of us should go in unto the house of Laban. And it came to pass that the lot fell upon Laman; and Laman went in unto the house of Laban, and he talked with him as he sat in his house. ¹²And he desired of Laban the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, which contained the genealogy of my father.

¹³And behold, it came to pass that Laban was angry, and thrust him out from his presence; and he would not that he should have the records. Wherefore, he said unto him: **Behold thou art a robber, and I will slay thee.**

¹⁴But Laman fled out of his presence, and told the things which Laban had done, unto us.

Second attempt: Trading__

And we began to be exceedingly sorrowful, and my brethren were about to return unto my father in the wilderness. ¹⁵But behold I said unto them that: **As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us.** ¹⁶Wherefore, let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord; therefore let us go down to the land of our father's inheritance, for behold he left gold and silver, and all manner of riches.

And all this he hath done because of the commandments of the Lord. ¹⁷For he knew that Jerusalem must be destroyed, because of the wickedness of the people. ¹⁸For behold, they have rejected the words of the prophets. Wherefore, if my father should dwell in the land after he hath been commanded to flee out of the land, behold, he would also perish. Wherefore, it must needs be that he flee out of the land.

¹⁹And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; ²⁰And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which have been delivered unto them by the Spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time. ²¹And it came to pass that after this manner of lan-

guage did I persuade my brethren, that they might be faithful in keeping the commandments of God.

²²And it came to pass that we went down to the land of our inheritance, and we did gather together our gold, and our silver, and our precious things.

²³And after we had gathered these things together, we went up again unto the house of Laban. ²⁴And it came to pass that we went in unto Laban, and desired him that he would give unto us the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, for which we would give unto him our gold, and our silver, and all our precious things. ²⁵And it came to pass that when Laban saw our property, and that it was exceedingly great, he did lust after it, insomuch that he thrust us out, and sent his servants to slay us, that he might obtain our property. ²⁶And it came to pass that we did flee before the servants of Laban, and we were obliged to leave behind our property, and it fell into the hands of Laban.

²⁷And it came to pass that we fled into the wilderness, and the servants of Laban did not overtake us, and we hid ourselves in the cavity of a rock.

²⁸And it came to pass that Laman was angry with me, and also with my father; and also was Lemuel, for he hearkened unto the words of Laman. Wherefore Laman and Lemuel did speak many hard words unto us, their younger brothers, and they did smite us even with a rod.

²⁹And it came to pass as they smote us with a rod, behold, an angel of the Lord came and stood before them, and he spake unto them, saying: **Why do ye smite your younger brother with a rod? Know ye not that the Lord hath chosen him to be a ruler over you, and this because of your iniquities? Behold ye shall go up to Jerusalem again, and the Lord will deliver Laban into your hands.** ³⁰And after the angel had spoken unto us, he departed.

³¹And after the angel had departed, Laman and Lemuel again began to murmur, saying: **How is it possible that the Lord will deliver Laban into our hands? Behold, he is a mighty man, and he can command fifty, yea, even he can slay fifty; then why not us?**

¹And it came to pass that I spake unto my brethren, saying: **Let us go up again unto Jerusalem, and let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord; for behold he is mightier than all the earth, then why not mightier than Laban and his fifty, yea, or even than his tens of thousands? ²Therefore let us go up; let us be strong like unto Moses; for he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea and they divided hither and thither, and our fathers came through, out of captivity, on dry ground, and the**

armies of Pharaoh did follow and were drowned in the waters of the Red Sea.^a ³Now behold ye know that this is true; and ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you; wherefore can ye doubt? Let us go up; the Lord is able to deliver us, even as our fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians.

Third attempt: Taking__

⁴Now when I had spoken these words, they were yet wroth, and did still continue to murmur; nevertheless they did follow me up until we came without the walls of Jerusalem. ⁵And it was by night; and I caused that they should hide themselves without the walls.

And after they had hid themselves, I, Nephi, crept into the city and went forth towards the house of Laban. ⁶And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. ⁷Nevertheless I went forth, and as I came near unto the house of Laban I beheld a man, and he had fallen to the earth before me, for he was drunken with wine. ⁸And when I came to him I found that it was Laban. ⁹And I beheld his sword, and I drew it forth from the sheath thereof; and the hilt thereof was of pure gold, and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine, and I saw that the blade thereof was of the most precious steel.

¹⁰And it came to pass that I was constrained by the Spirit that I should kill Laban; but I said in my heart: *Never at any time have I shed the blood of man. And I shrunk and would that I might not slay him.*

¹¹And the Spirit said unto me again: *Behold the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands.* Yea, and I also knew that he had sought to take away mine own life; yea, and he would not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord; and he also had taken away our property.

¹²And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me again: *Slay him, for the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands;* ¹³*Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief.*

¹⁴And now, when I, Nephi, had heard these words, I remembered the words of the Lord which he spake^b unto me in the wilderness, saying that: *Inasmuch as thy seed shall keep my commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise.* ¹⁵Yea, and I also thought that they could not keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses, save they

a Account at Ex. 12:___.

b Spoken at 1 Ne. 2:20.

should have the law. ¹⁶And I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of brass. ¹⁷And again, I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for this cause—that I might obtain the records according to his commandments.

¹⁸Therefore I did obey the voice of the Spirit, and took Laban by the hair of the head, and I smote off his head with his own sword. ¹⁹And after I had smitten off his head with his own sword, I took the garments of Laban and put them upon mine own body; yea, even every whit; and I did gird on his armor about my loins. ²⁰And after I had done this, I went forth unto the treasury of Laban.

And as I went forth towards the treasury of Laban, behold, I saw the servant of Laban who had the keys of the treasury. And I commanded him in the voice of Laban, that he should go with me into the treasury. ²¹And he supposed me to be his master, Laban, for he beheld the garments and also the sword girded about my loins. ²²And he spake unto me concerning the elders of the Jews, he knowing that his master, Laban, had been out by night among them. ²³And I spake unto him as if it had been Laban. ²⁴And I also spake unto him that I should carry the engravings, which were upon the plates of brass, to my elder brethren, who were without the walls. ²⁵And I also bade him that he should follow me.

²⁶And he, supposing that I spake of the brethren of the church, and that I was truly that Laban whom I had slain, wherefore he did follow me. ²⁷And he spake unto me many times concerning the elders of the Jews, as I went forth unto my brethren, who were without the walls.

²⁸And it came to pass that when Laman saw me he was exceedingly frightened, and also Lemuel and Sam. And they fled from before my presence; for they supposed it was Laban, and that he had slain me and had sought to take away their lives also. ²⁹And it came to pass that I called after them, and they did hear me; wherefore they did cease to flee from my presence.

³⁰And it came to pass that when the servant of Laban beheld my brethren he began to tremble, and was about to flee from before me and return to the city of Jerusalem. ³¹And now I, Nephi, being a man large in stature, and also having received much strength of the Lord, therefore I did seize upon the servant of Laban, and held him, that he should not flee.

³²And it came to pass that I spake with him, that if he would hearken unto my words, as the Lord liveth, and as I live, even so that if he would hearken unto our words, we would spare his life. ³³And I spake unto him, even with an oath, that he need not fear; that he should be a free man like

unto us if he would go down in the wilderness with us. ³⁴And I also spake unto him, saying: Surely the Lord hath commanded us to do this thing;^a and shall we not be diligent in keeping the commandments of the Lord? Therefore, if thou wilt go down into the wilderness to my father thou shalt have place with us.

³⁵And it came to pass that Zoram did take courage at the words which I spake. Now Zoram was the name of the servant; and he promised that he would go down into the wilderness unto our father. Yea, and he also made an oath unto us that he would tarry with us from that time forth. ³⁶Now we were desirous that he should tarry with us for this cause, that the Jews might not know concerning our flight into the wilderness, lest they should pursue us and destroy us. ³⁷And it came to pass that when Zoram had made an oath unto us, our fears did cease concerning him.

RETURN

5 ³⁸And it came to pass that we took the plates of brass and the servant of Laban, and departed into the wilderness, and journeyed unto the tent of our father. ¹And it came to pass that after we had come down into the wilderness unto our father, behold, he was filled with joy,

and also my mother, Sariah, was exceedingly glad, for she truly had mourned because of us. ²For she had supposed that we had perished in the wilderness; and she also had complained against my father, telling him that he was a visionary man; saying: Behold thou hast led us forth from the land of our inheritance, and my sons are no more, and we perish in the wilderness. ³And after this manner of language had my mother complained against my father.

⁴And it had come to pass that my father spake unto her, saying: I know that I am a visionary man; for if I had not seen the things of God in a vision I should not have known the goodness of God, but had tarried at Jerusalem, and had perished with my brethren. ⁵But behold, I have obtained a land of promise, in the which things I do rejoice; yea, and I know that the Lord will deliver my sons out of the hands of Laban, and bring them down again unto us in the wilderness. ⁶And after this manner of language did my father, Lehi, comfort my mother, Sariah, concerning us, while we journeyed in the wilderness up to the land of Jerusalem, to obtain the record of the Jews.

a Commanded to depart into the wilderness at 1 Ne. 2:2; to bring back the plates of brass at 1 Ne. 3:4.

⁷And when we had returned to the tent of my father, behold their joy was full, and my mother was comforted. ⁸And she spake, saying: Now I know of a surety that the Lord hath commanded my husband to flee into the wilderness; yea, and I also know of a surety that the Lord hath protected my sons, and delivered them out of the hands of Laban, and given them power whereby they could accomplish the thing which the Lord hath commanded them. And after this manner of language did she speak. ⁹And it came to pass that they did rejoice exceedingly, and did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto the Lord; and they gave thanks unto the God of Israel.

Searching the plates of brass

¹⁰And after they had given thanks unto the God of Israel, my father, Lehi, took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning. ¹¹And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses, which gave an account of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve, who were our first parents; ¹²And also a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah; ¹³And also the prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah; and also many prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah.

¹⁴And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine. ¹⁵And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt, by that same God who had preserved them. ¹⁶And thus my father, Lehi, did discover the genealogy of his fathers. And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph, wherefore he and his fathers had kept the records.

¹⁷And now when my father saw all these things, he was filled with the Spirit, and began to prophesy concerning his seed— ¹⁸That these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed. ¹⁹Wherefore, he said that these plates of brass should never perish; neither should they be dimmed any more by time. And he prophesied many things concerning his seed.

²⁰And it came to pass that thus far I and my father had kept the commandments wherewith the Lord had commanded us. ²¹And we had obtained the records which the Lord had commanded us, and searched

them and found that they were desirable; yea, even of great worth unto us, insomuch that we could preserve the commandments of the Lord unto our children. ²²Wherefore, it was wisdom in the Lord that we should carry them with us, as we journeyed in the wilderness towards the land of promise.

II, 6

¹And now I, Nephi, do not give the genealogy of my fathers in this part of my record; neither at any time shall I give it after upon these plates which I am writing; for it is given in the record which has been kept by my father; wherefore, I do not write it in this work. ²For it sufficeth me to say that we are descendants of Joseph. ³And it mattereth not to me that I am particular to give a full account of all the things of my father, for they cannot be written upon these plates,

for I desire the room that I may write of the things of God. ⁴For the fulness of mine intent is that I may persuade men to come unto the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and be saved. ⁵Wherefore, the things which are pleasing unto the world I do not write, but the things which are pleasing unto God and unto those who are not of the world. ⁶Wherefore, I shall give commandment unto my seed, that they shall not occupy these plates with things which are not of worth unto the children of men.

7

THE FAMILY OF ISHMAEL

¹And now I would that ye might know, that after my father, Lehi, had made an end of prophesying concerning his seed, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto him again, saying that it was not meet for him, Lehi, that he should take his family into the wilderness alone; but that his sons should take daughters to wife, that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise. ²And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that I, Nephi, and my brethren, should again return unto the land of Jerusalem, and bring down Ishmael and his family into the wilderness.

³And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did again, with my brethren, go forth into the wilderness to go up to Jerusalem. ⁴And it came to pass that we went up unto the house of Ishmael, and we did gain favor in the sight of Ishmael, insomuch that we did speak unto him the words of the Lord. ⁵And it came to pass that the Lord did soften the heart of Ishmael, and also his household, insomuch that they took their journey with us down into the wilderness to the tent of our father.

⁶And it came to pass that as we journeyed in the wilderness, behold Laman and Lemuel, and two of the daughters of Ishmael, and the two sons of Ishmael and their families, did rebel against us; yea, against me, Nephi, and Sam, and their father, Ishmael, and his wife, and his three other daughters. ⁷And it came to pass in the which rebellion, they were desirous to return unto the land of Jerusalem.

⁸And now I, Nephi, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, therefore I spake unto them, saying, yea, even unto Laman and unto Lemuel: Behold ye are mine elder brethren, and how is it that ye are so hard in your hearts, and so blind in your minds, that ye have need that I, your younger brother, should speak unto you, yea, and set an example for you? ⁹How is it that ye have not hearkened unto the word of the Lord?

¹⁰How is it that ye have forgotten that ye have seen an angel of the Lord? ¹¹Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten what great things the Lord hath done for us, in delivering us out of the hands of Laban, and also that we should obtain the record?^a ¹²Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten that the Lord is able to do all things according to his will, for the children of men, if it so be that they exercise faith in him?

Wherefore, let us be faithful to him. ¹³And if it so be that we are faithful to him, we shall obtain the land of promise; and ye shall know at some future period that the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled concerning the destruction of Jerusalem;^b for all things which the Lord hath spoken concerning the destruction of Jerusalem must be fulfilled. ¹⁴For behold, the Spirit of the Lord ceaseth soon to strive with them; for behold, they have rejected the prophets, and Jeremiah have they cast into prison. And they have sought to take away the life of my father, insomuch that they have driven him out of the land.

¹⁵Now behold, I say unto you that if ye will return unto Jerusalem ye shall also perish with them. And now, if ye have choice, go up to the land, and remember the words which I speak unto you, that if ye go ye will also perish; for thus the Spirit of the Lord constraineth me that I should speak.

¹⁶And it came to pass that when I, Nephi, had spoken these words unto my brethren, they were angry with me. And it came to pass that they did lay their hands upon me, for behold, they were exceedingly wroth, and they did bind me with cords, for they sought to take away my life, that they might leave me in the wilderness to be devoured by wild beasts.

a¹¹ Saw angel at 1 Ne. 3:29; delivered at 3:26–27; obtained record at 4:24, 38.

b¹³ Fulfilled by Lehi at 2 Ne. 1:4; by Nephi at ____.

¹⁷But it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord, saying: O Lord, according to my faith which is in thee, wilt thou deliver me from the hands of my brethren; yea, even give me strength that I may burst these bands with which I am bound. ¹⁸And it came to pass that when I had said these words, behold, the bands were loosed from off my hands and feet, and I stood before my brethren, and I spake unto them again.

¹⁹And it came to pass that they were angry with me again, and sought to lay hands upon me; but behold, one of the daughters of Ishmael, yea, and also her mother, and one of the sons of Ishmael, did plead with my brethren, insomuch that they did soften their hearts; and they did cease striving to take away my life.

²⁰And it came to pass that they were sorrowful, because of their wickedness, insomuch that they did bow down before me, and did plead with me that I would forgive them of the thing that they had done against me.

²¹And it came to pass that I did frankly forgive them all that they had done, and I did exhort them that they would pray unto the Lord their God for forgiveness. And it came to pass that they did so. And after they had done praying unto the Lord we did again travel on our journey towards the tent of our father.

²²And it came to pass that we did come down unto the tent of our father. And after I and my brethren and all the house of Ishmael had come down unto the tent of my father, they did give thanks unto the Lord their God; and they did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto him. ¹And it came to pass that we had gathered together all manner of seeds of every kind, both of grain of every kind, and also of the seeds of fruit of every kind.

PART 2: VISIONS OF THE TREE OF LIFE

PROPHECIES OF LEHI

LEHI'S DREAM OF THE TREE

²And it came to pass that while my father tarried in the wilderness he spake unto us, saying: Behold, I have dreamed a dream; or, in other words, I have seen a vision. ³And behold, because of the thing which I have seen, I have reason to rejoice in the Lord because of Nephi and also of Sam; for I have reason to suppose that they, and also many of their seed, will be saved. ⁴But behold, Laman and Lemuel, I fear exceedingly because of you;

Wilderness

for behold, methought I saw in my dream, a dark and dreary wilderness. ⁵And it came to pass that I saw a man, and he was dressed in a white robe; and he came and stood before me. ⁶And it came to pass that he spake unto me, and bade me follow him.

⁷And it came to pass that as I followed him I beheld myself that I was in a dark and dreary waste. ⁸And after I had traveled for the space of many hours in darkness, I began to pray unto the Lord that he would have mercy on me, according to the multitude of his tender mercies.

Tree and water

⁹And it came to pass after I had prayed unto the Lord I beheld a large and spacious field. ¹⁰And it came to pass that I beheld a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy. ¹¹And it came to pass that I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof; and I beheld that it was most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted. Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen. ¹²And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly great joy;

wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit. ¹³And as I cast my eyes round about, that perhaps I might discover my family also, I beheld a river of water; and it ran along, and it was near the tree of which I was partaking the fruit. ¹⁴And I looked to behold from whence it came; and I saw the head thereof a little way off;

and at the head thereof I beheld your mother Sariah, and Sam, and Nephi; and they stood as if they knew not whither they should go. ¹⁵And it came to pass that I beckoned unto them; and I also did say unto them with a loud voice that they should come unto me, and partake of the fruit, which was desirable above all other fruit. ¹⁶And it came to pass that they did come unto me and partake of the fruit also.

¹⁷And it came to pass that I was desirous that Laman and Lemuel should come and partake of the fruit also; wherefore, I cast mine eyes towards the head of the river, that perhaps I might see them. ¹⁸And it came to pass that I saw them, but they would not come unto me and partake of the fruit.

Rod and mist

¹⁹And I beheld a rod of iron, and it extended along the bank of the river, and led to the tree by which I stood. ²⁰And I also beheld a strait and narrow path, which came along by the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood; and it also led by the head of the fountain, unto a large and spacious field, as if it had been a world.

²¹And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood. ²²And it came to pass that they did come forth, and commence in the path which led to the tree. ²³And it came to pass that there arose a mist of darkness; yea, even an exceedingly great mist of darkness,

insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

²⁴And it came to pass that I beheld others pressing forward, and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press forward through the mist of darkness, clinging to the rod of iron, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

Building

²⁵And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed. ²⁶And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a great and spacious building; and it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth. ²⁷And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceedingly fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit.

²⁸And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

²⁹And now I, Nephi, do not speak all the words of my father. ³⁰But, to be short in writing, behold, he saw other multitudes pressing forward; and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.

³¹And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards that great and spacious building. ³²And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain; and many were lost from his view, wandering in strange roads. ³³And great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building. And after they did enter into that building they did point the finger of scorn at me and those that were partaking of the fruit also; but we heeded them not.

³⁴These are the words of my father: For as many as heeded them, had fallen away. ³⁵And Laman and Lemuel partook not of the fruit, said my father.

Closing

³⁶And it came to pass after my father had spoken all the words of his dream or vision, which were many, he said unto us, because of these things which he saw in a vision, he exceedingly feared for Laman and Lemuel; yea,

he feared lest they should be cast off from the presence of the Lord. ³⁷And he did exhort them then with all the feeling of a tender parent, that they would hearken to his words, that perhaps the Lord would be merciful to them, and not cast them off; yea, my father did preach unto them. ³⁸And after he had preached unto them, and also prophesied unto them of many things, he bade them to keep the commandments of the Lord; and he did cease speaking unto them.

9 ¹And all these things did my father see, and hear, and speak, as he dwelt in a tent, in the valley of Lemuel, and also a great many more things, which cannot be written upon these plates.

²And now, as I have spoken concerning these plates, behold they are not the plates upon which I make a full account of the history of my people; for the plates upon which I make a full account of my people I have given the name of Nephi; wherefore, they are called the plates of Nephi, after mine own name;

and these plates also are called the plates of Nephi. ³Nevertheless, I have received a commandment of the Lord that I should make these plates, for the special purpose that there should be an account engraven of the ministry of my people. ⁴Upon the other plates should be engraven an account of the reign of the kings, and the wars and contentions of my people; wherefore these plates are for the more part of the ministry; and the other plates are for the more part of the reign of the kings and the wars and contentions of my people.

⁵Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to make these plates for a wise purpose in him, which purpose I know not. ⁶But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning; wherefore, he prepareth a way to accomplish all his works among the children of men; for behold, he hath all power unto the fulfilling of all his words. And thus it is. Amen.

GRAFTING BRANCHES OF ISRAEL

¹And now I, Nephi, proceed to give an account upon these plates of my proceedings, and my reign and ministry; wherefore, to proceed with mine account, I must speak somewhat of the things of my father, and also of my brethren.

Captivity and return

²For behold, it came to pass after my father had made an end of speaking the words of his dream, and also of exhorting them to all diligence, he spake unto them concerning the Jews— ³That after they should be destroyed, even that great city Jerusalem, and many be carried away captive into Babylon, according to the own due time of the Lord, they should return again, yea, even be brought back out of captivity; and after they should be brought back out of captivity they should possess again the land of their inheritance.

The Messiah

⁴Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews—even a Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior of the world. ⁵And he also spake concerning the prophets, how great a number had testified of these things, concerning this Messiah, of whom he had spoken, or this Redeemer of the world. ⁶Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be save they should rely on this Redeemer.

⁷And he spake also concerning a prophet who should come before the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord— ⁸Yea, even he should go forth and cry in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight; for there standeth one among you whom ye know not; and he is mightier than I, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. And much spake my father concerning this thing. ⁹And my father said he should baptize in Bethabara, beyond Jordan; and he also said he should baptize with water; even that he should baptize the Messiah with water. ¹⁰And after he had baptized the Messiah with water, he should behold and bear record that he had baptized the Lamb of God, who should take away the sins of the world.^a

¹¹And it came to pass after my father had spoken these words he spake unto my brethren concerning the gospel which should be preached among the Jews, and also concerning the dwindling of the Jews in unbelief. And after they had slain the Messiah, who should come, and after he had been slain he should rise from the dead, and should make himself manifest, by the Holy Ghost, unto the Gentiles.^b

^{a10} Fulfilled by John the Baptist at John 3:23, 26–29, 34.

^{b11} Fulfilled at Acts 10:44–45; 11:15–17.

Scattering and gathering Israel

¹²Yea, even my father spake much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the house of Israel, that they should be compared like unto an olive-tree, whose branches should be broken off and should be scattered upon all the face of the earth. ¹³Wherefore, he said it must needs be that we should be led with one accord into the land of promise, unto the fulfilling of the word of the Lord,^a that we should be scattered upon all the face of the earth. ¹⁴And after the house of Israel should be scattered they should be gathered together again; or, in fine, after the Gentiles had received the fullness of the Gospel, the natural branches of the olive-tree, or the remnants of the house of Israel, should be grafted in, or come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, their Lord and their Redeemer.

¹⁵And after this manner of language did my father prophesy and speak unto my brethren, and also many more things which I do not write in this book; for I have written as many of them as were expedient for me in mine other book.^b ¹⁶And all these things, of which I have spoken, were done as my father dwelt in a tent, in the valley of Lemuel.

*a*¹³ Prophesied at ___ 1 Ne. ___? Some prophecy: Israel scattered on all face of earth.

*b*¹⁵ I.e., ___

PROPHECIES OF NEPHI

¹⁷And it came to pass after I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision, and also the things which he spake by the power of the Holy Ghost, which power he received by faith on the Son of God—and the Son of God was the Messiah who should come—I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men.

¹⁸For he is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever; and the way is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him. ¹⁹For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round.

²⁰Therefore remember, O man, for all thy doings thou shalt be brought into judgment. ²¹Wherefore, if ye have sought to do wickedly in the days of your probation, then ye are found unclean before the judgment-seat of

God; and no unclean thing can dwell with God; wherefore, ye must be cast off forever. ²²And the Holy Ghost giveth authority that I should speak these things, and deny them not.

11

NEPHI'S VISION OF THE TREE

¹For it came to pass after I had desired to know the things that my father had seen, and believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me, as I sat pondering in mine heart I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, yea, into an exceedingly high mountain, which I never had before seen, and upon which I never had before set my foot.

²And the Spirit said unto me: Behold, what desirest thou? ³And I said: I desire to behold the things which my father saw.

⁴And the Spirit said unto me: Believest thou that thy father saw the tree of which he hath spoken? ⁵And I said: Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father.

⁶And when I had spoken these words, the Spirit cried with a loud voice, saying: Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God; for he is God over all the earth, yea, even above all. And blessed art thou, Nephi, because thou believest in the Son of the most high God; wherefore, thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired. ⁷And behold this thing shall be given unto thee for a sign, that after thou hast beheld the tree which bore the fruit which thy father tasted, thou shalt also behold a man descending out of heaven, and him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him ye shall bear record that it is the Son of God.

THE JEWS

⁸And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me: Look!

And I looked and beheld a tree; and it was like unto the tree which my father had seen; and the beauty thereof was far beyond, yea, exceeding of all beauty; and the whiteness thereof did exceed the whiteness of the driven snow. ⁹And it came to pass after I had seen the tree, I said unto the Spirit: I behold thou hast shown unto me the tree which is precious above all.

¹⁰And he said unto me: What desirest thou? ¹¹And I said unto him: To know the interpretation thereof—for I spake unto him as a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord; and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another.

¹²And it came to pass that he said unto me: **Look!** And I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not; for he had gone from before my presence.

Tree: Birth

¹³And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin,^a and she was exceedingly fair and white.

¹⁴And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me: **Nephi, what beholdest thou?** ¹⁵And I said unto him: **A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.**

¹⁶And he said unto me: **Knowest thou the condescension of God?** ¹⁷And I said unto him: **I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.**

¹⁸And he said unto me: **Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.** ¹⁹And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit;^b

and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time the angel spake unto me, saying: **Look!** ²⁰And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.^c ²¹And the angel said unto me: **Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?** ²²And I answered him, saying: **Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things.**

²³And he spake unto me, saying: **Yea, and the most joyous to the soul.**

Rod: Ministry

²⁴And after he had said these words, he said unto me: **Look!** And I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him. ²⁵And it came to pass that I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen,^d was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God; and I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God.

^{a13} Fulfilled at Luke 1:26–27.

^{b19} Fulfilled at Luke 1:35.

^{c20} Fulfilled at Luke 2:7.

^{d25} Seen at 1 Ne. 8:___.

²⁶And the angel said unto me again: **Look and behold the condensation of God!** ²⁷And I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world, of whom my father had spoken; and I also beheld the prophet who should prepare the way before him. And the Lamb of God went forth and was baptized of him; and after he was baptized, I beheld the heavens open, and the Holy Ghost come down out of heaven and abide upon him in the form of a dove. ²⁸And I beheld that he went forth ministering unto the people, in power and great glory; and the multitudes were gathered together to hear him; and I beheld that they cast him out from among them. ²⁹And I also beheld twelve others following him. And it came to pass that they were carried away in the Spirit from before my face, and I saw them not.

³⁰And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying: **Look!** And I looked, and I beheld the heavens open again, and I saw angels descending upon the children of men; and they did minister unto them.

³¹And he spake unto me again, saying: **Look!** And I looked, and I beheld the Lamb of God going forth among the children of men. And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted with all manner of diseases, and with devils and unclean spirits; and the angel spake and showed all these things unto me. And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God; and the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out.

Building: Crucifixion and persecution

³²And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying: **Look!** And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Son of the everlasting God was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record. ³³And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world. ³⁴And after he was slain I saw the multitudes of the earth, that they were gathered together to fight against the apostles of the Lamb; for thus were the twelve called by the angel of the Lord. ³⁵And the multitude of the earth was gathered together; and I beheld that they were in a large and spacious building, like unto the building which my father saw.

And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: **Behold the world and the wisdom thereof; yea, behold the house of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.** ³⁶And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world; and it fell, and the fall thereof was exceedingly great.

And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

THE SEED OF LEHI

12

¹And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Look, and behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren. And I looked and beheld the land of promise; and I beheld multitudes of people, yea, even as it were in number as many as the sand of the sea. ²And it came to pass that I beheld multitudes gathered together to battle, one against the other; and I beheld wars, and rumors of wars, and great slaughters with the sword among my people. ³And it came to pass that I beheld many generations pass away, after the manner of wars and contentions in the land; and I beheld many cities, yea, even that I did not number them.

Mist: Darkness before Christ's coming

⁴And it came to pass that I saw a mist of darkness on the face of the land of promise; and I saw lightnings, and I heard thunderings, and earth-quakes, and all manner of tumultuous noises; and I saw the earth and the rocks, that they rent; and I saw mountains tumbling into pieces; and I saw the plains of the earth, that they were broken up; and I saw many cities that they were sunk; and I saw many that they were burned with fire; and I saw many that did tumble to the earth, because of the quaking thereof.

⁵And it came to pass after I saw these things, I saw the vapor of darkness, that it passed from off the face of the earth; and behold, I saw multitudes who had not fallen because of the great and terrible judgments of the Lord. ⁶And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven; and he came down and showed himself unto them. ⁷And I also saw and bear record that the Holy Ghost fell upon twelve others; and they were ordained of God, and chosen.

⁸And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the Twelve Disciples of the Lamb, who are chosen to minister unto thy seed. ⁹And he said unto me: Thou rememberest the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb? Behold they are they who shall judge the twelve tribes of Israel; wherefore, the twelve ministers of thy seed shall be judged of them; for ye are of the house of Israel. ¹⁰And these twelve ministers whom thou beholdest shall judge thy seed. And, behold, they are righteous forever; for because of their faith in the Lamb of God their garments are made white in his blood.

¹¹And the angel said unto me: **Look!** And I looked, and beheld three generations pass away in righteousness; and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God. And the angel said unto me: **These are made white in the blood of the Lamb, because of their faith in him.** ¹²And I, Nephi, also saw many of the fourth generation who passed away in righteousness.

Filthy water: Dwindling in unbelief

¹³And it came to pass that I saw the multitudes of the earth gathered together.

¹⁴And the angel said unto me: **Behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren.** ¹⁵And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes against the seed of my brethren; and they were gathered together to battle.

¹⁶And the angel spake unto me, saying: **Behold the fountain of filthy water which thy father saw; yea, even the river of which he spake; and the depths thereof are the depths of hell.** ¹⁷And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they perish and are lost. ¹⁸And the large and spacious building, which thy father saw, is vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men. And a great and a terrible gulf divideth them; yea, even the word of the justice of the Eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God, of whom the Holy Ghost beareth record, from the beginning of the world until this time, and from this time henceforth and forever.

¹⁹And while the angel spake these words, I beheld and saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed, according to the word of the angel; and because of the pride of my seed, and the temptations of the devil, I beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed. ²⁰And it came to pass that I beheld, and saw the people of the seed of my brethren that they had overcome my seed; and they went forth in multitudes upon the face of the land. ²¹And I saw them gathered together in multitudes; and I saw wars and rumors of wars among them; and in wars and rumors of wars I saw many generations pass away.

²²And the angel said unto me: **Behold these shall dwindle in unbelief.** ²³And it came to pass that I beheld, after they had dwindled in unbelief they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.

THE GENTILES

¹And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: **Look!** And I looked and beheld many nations and kingdoms.

²And the angel said unto me: **What beholdest thou?** And I said: **I behold many nations and kingdoms.**

³And he said unto me: **These are the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles.**

A great and abominable church

⁴And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the formation of a great church.

⁵And the angel said unto me: **Behold the formation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity.** ⁶And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable church; and I saw the devil that he was the founder of it.

⁷And I also saw gold, and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine-twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots.

⁸And the angel spake unto me, saying: **Behold the gold, and the silver, and the silks, and the scarlets, and the fine-twined linen, and the precious clothing, and the harlots, are the desires of this great and abominable church.**

⁹And also for the praise of the world do they destroy the saints of God, and bring them down into captivity.

Gentiles smite the seed of Lehi

¹⁰And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

¹¹And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: **Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.** ¹²And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land. ¹³And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. ¹⁴And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land

of promise; and I beheld the wrath of God, that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles and were smitten.

¹⁵And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain. ¹⁶And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them.

¹⁷And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them. ¹⁸And I beheld that the power of God was with them, and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle. ¹⁹And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. ²⁰And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land;

The book of the Lamb: Blindness and stumbling

and I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.

²¹And the angel said unto me: Knowest thou the meaning of the book?

²²And I said unto him: I know not.

²³And he said: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. And I, Nephi, beheld it;

and he said unto me: The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; and it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

²⁴And the angel of the Lord said unto me: Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the fulness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God. ²⁵Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God.

²⁶And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other

churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away. ²⁷And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men. ²⁸Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.

²⁹And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God—because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

³⁰Nevertheless, thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations, upon the face of the land which is choice above all other lands, which is the land that the Lord God hath covenanted with thy father that his seed should have for the land of their inheritance; wherefore, thou seest that the Lord God will not suffer that the Gentiles will utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed, which are among thy brethren. ³¹Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall destroy the seed of thy brethren. ³²Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, whose formation thou hast seen.

³³Wherefore saith the Lamb of God: I will be merciful unto the Gentiles, unto the visiting of the remnant of the house of Israel in great judgment.

The hidden book

³⁴And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying: Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel—and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father—wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles, and after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly,

because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, **saith the Lamb**—I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, **saith the Lamb**.

³⁵For, behold, **saith the Lamb**: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb. ³⁶And in them shall be written my gospel, **saith the Lamb**, and my rock and my salvation. ³⁷And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

The effects of the hidden book

³⁸And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.

³⁹And after it had come forth unto them I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.

⁴⁰And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved. ⁴¹And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both

shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.

⁴²And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; and after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the last shall be first, and the first shall be last. ¹And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks—²And harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; yea, they shall be numbered among the house of Israel; and they shall be a blessed people upon the promised land forever; they shall be no more brought down into captivity; and the house of Israel shall no more be confounded.

14

³And that great pit, which hath been digged for them by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell—yea, that great pit which hath been digged for the destruction of men shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God; not the destruction of the soul, save it be the casting of it into that hell which hath no end. ⁴For behold, this is according to the captivity of the devil, and also according to the justice of God, upon all those who will work wickedness and abomination before him.

A WORK OF LIFE OR CAPTIVITY

⁵And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, Nephi, saying: Thou hast beheld that if the Gentiles repent it shall be well with them; and thou also knowest concerning the covenants of the Lord unto the house of Israel; and thou also hast heard that whoso repenteth not must perish. ⁶Therefore, wo be unto the Gentiles if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God. ⁷For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into

destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.^a

Two churches

⁸And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me: Rememberest thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel? I said unto him, Yea.

⁹And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look, and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil. ¹⁰And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.

¹¹And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. ¹²And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

Fighting against the Lamb of God

¹³And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God. ¹⁴And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

¹⁵And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon that great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth. ¹⁶And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which

^{a7} Spoken at 1 Ne. 14:4.

belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold, thou seest all these things—¹⁷ And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose founder is the devil, then, at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants, which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel.

CLOSING

¹⁸And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!

¹⁹And I looked and beheld a man, and he was dressed in a white robe.

²⁰And the angel said unto me: Behold one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ²¹Behold, he shall see and write the remainder of these things; yea, and also many things which have been. ²²And he shall also write concerning the end of the world. ²³Wherefore, the things which he shall write are just and true; and behold they are written in the book which thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; and at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure, and most precious and easy to the understanding of all men.

²⁴And behold, the things which this apostle of the Lamb shall write are many things which thou hast seen; and behold, the remainder shalt thou see. ²⁵But the things which thou shalt see hereafter thou shalt not write; for the Lord God hath ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should write them. ²⁶And also others who have been, to them hath he shown all things, and they have written them; and they are sealed up to come forth in their purity, according to the truth which is in the Lamb, in the own due time of the Lord, unto the house of Israel.

²⁷And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was John, according to the word of the angel.

²⁸And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard; wherefore the things which I have written sufficeth me; and I have written but a small part of the things which I saw. ²⁹And I bear record that I saw the things which my father saw,^a and the angel of the Lord did make them known unto me. ³⁰And now I make

^{a29} Seen by Lehi at 1 Ne. 8:2–34.

an end of speaking concerning the things which I saw while I was carried away in the spirit; and if all the things which I saw are not written, the things which I have written are true. And thus it is. Amen.

IV, 15

THE MEANING OF LEHI'S WORDS__

¹And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father. ²And it came to pass that I beheld my brethren, and they were disputing one with another concerning the things which my father had spoken unto them. ³For he truly spake many great things unto them, which were hard to be understood, save a man should inquire of the Lord; and they being hard in their hearts, therefore they did not look unto the Lord as they ought.

⁴And now I, Nephi, was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, and also, because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men. ⁵And it came to pass that I was overcome because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine afflictions were great above all, because of the destruction of my people, for I had beheld their fall. ⁶And it came to pass that after I had received strength I spake unto my brethren, desiring to know of them the cause of their disputations.

GRAFTING BRANCHES OF ISRAEL

⁷And they said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive-tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

⁸And I said unto them: Have ye inquired of the Lord?

⁹And they said unto me: We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.

¹⁰Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish, because of the hardness of your hearts? ¹¹Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said?—If ye will not harden your hearts, and ask me in faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you.

¹²Behold, I say unto you, that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive-tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father; and behold

are we not broken off from the house of Israel, and are we not a branch of the house of Israel?

¹³And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fulness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed—¹⁴And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; and then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved.

¹⁵And then at that day will they not rejoice and give praise unto their everlasting God, their rock and their salvation? Yea, at that day, will they not receive the strength and nourishment from the true vine? Yea, will they not come unto the true fold of God? ¹⁶Behold, I say unto you, Yea; they shall be remembered again among the house of Israel; they shall be grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive-tree, into the true olive-tree.

¹⁷And this is what our father meaneth; and he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after they are scattered by the Gentiles; and he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may show his power unto the Gentiles, for the very cause that he shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel. ¹⁸Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

¹⁹And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake much unto them concerning these things; yea, I spake unto them concerning the restoration of the Jews in the latter days. ²⁰And I did rehearse unto them the words of Isaiah, who spake concerning the restoration of the Jews, or of the house of Israel; and after they were restored they should no more be confounded, neither should they be scattered again. And it came to pass that I did speak many words unto my brethren, that they were pacified and did humble themselves before the Lord.

THINGS IN LEHI'S DREAM

²¹And it came to pass that they did speak unto me again, saying: **What meaneth this thing which our father saw in a dream? What meaneth the tree which he saw?**

²²And I said unto them: It was a representation of the tree of life.

²³And they said unto me: **What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?**

²⁴And I said unto them that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction. ²⁵Wherefore, I, Nephi, did exhort them to give heed unto the word of the Lord; yea, I did exhort them with all the energies of my soul, and with all the faculty which I possessed, that they would give heed to the word of God and remember to keep his commandments always in all things.

²⁶And they said unto me: **What meaneth the river of water which our father saw?**

²⁷And I said unto them that the water which my father saw was filthiness; and so much was his mind swallowed up in other things that he beheld not the filthiness of the water. ²⁸And I said unto them that it was an awful gulf, which separated the wicked from the tree of life, and also from the saints of God. ²⁹And I said unto them that it was a representation of that awful hell, which the angel said unto me was prepared for the wicked. ³⁰And I said unto them that our father also saw that the justice of God did also divide the wicked from the righteous; and the brightness thereof was like unto the brightness of a flaming fire, which ascendeth up unto God forever and ever, and hath no end.

³¹And they said unto me: **Doth this thing mean the torment of the body in the days of probation, or doth it mean the final state of the soul after the death of the temporal body, or doth it speak of the things which are temporal?**

³²And it came to pass that I said unto them that it was a representation of things both temporal and spiritual; for the day should come that they must be judged of their works, yea, even the works which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation. ³³Wherefore, if they should die in their wickedness they must be cast off also, as to the things which are spiritual, which are pertaining to righteousness; wherefore, they must be brought to stand before God, to be judged of their works; and if their works

have been filthiness they must needs be filthy; and if they be filthy it must needs be that they cannot dwell in the kingdom of God; if so, the kingdom of God must be filthy also.

³⁴But behold, I say unto you, the kingdom of God is not filthy, and there cannot any unclean thing enter into the kingdom of God; wherefore there must needs be a place of filthiness prepared for that which is filthy.

³⁵And there is a place prepared, yea, even that awful hell of which I have spoken, and the devil is the preparator of it; wherefore the final state of the souls of men is to dwell in the kingdom of God, or to be cast out because of that justice of which I have spoken. ³⁶Wherefore, the wicked are rejected from the righteous, and also from that tree of life, whose fruit is most precious and most desirable above all other fruits; yea, and it is the greatest of all the gifts of God.

And thus I spake unto my brethren. Amen.

BEARING THE TRUTH

V, 16

¹And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had made an end of speaking to my brethren, behold they said unto me: **Thou hast declared unto us hard things, more than we are able to bear.** ²And it came to pass that I said unto them that I knew that I had spoken hard things against the wicked, according to the truth; and the righteous have I justified, and testified that they should be lifted up at the last day; wherefore, the guilty taketh the truth to be hard, for it cutteth them to the very center. ³And now my brethren, if ye were righteous and were willing to hearken to the truth, and give heed unto it, that ye might walk uprightly before God, then ye would not murmur because of the truth, and say: **Thou speakest hard things against us.**

⁴And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did exhort my brethren, with all diligence, to keep the commandments of the Lord. ⁵And it came to pass that they did humble themselves before the Lord; insomuch that I had joy and great hopes of them, that they would walk in the paths of righteousness. ⁶Now, all these things were said and done as my father dwelt in a tent in the valley which he called Lemuel.

PART 3:

JOURNEYINGS IN THE WILDERNESS

⁷And it came to pass that I, Nephi, took one of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also, my brethren took of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also Zoram took the eldest daughter of Ishmael to wife. ⁸And thus my father had fulfilled all the commandments of the Lord which had been given unto him.^a And also, I, Nephi, had been blessed of the Lord exceedingly.

⁹And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord spake unto my father by night, and commanded him that on the morrow he should take his journey into the wilderness. ¹⁰And it came to pass that as my father arose in the morning, and went forth to the tent door, to his great astonishment he beheld upon the ground a round ball of curious workmanship; and it was of fine brass. And within the ball were two spindles; and the one pointed the way whither we should go into the wilderness.

¹¹And it came to pass that we did gather together whatsoever things we should carry into the wilderness, and all the remainder of our provisions which the Lord had given unto us; and we did take seed of every kind that we might carry into the wilderness. ¹²And it came to pass that we did take our tents and depart into the wilderness, across the river Laman.

^{a8} Given at ____.

SHAZER

¹³And it came to pass that we traveled for the space of four days, nearly a south-southeast direction, and we did pitch our tents again; and we did call the name of the place Shazer. ¹⁴And it came to pass that we did take our bows and our arrows, and go forth into the wilderness to slay food for our families; and after we had slain food for our families we did return again to our families in the wilderness, to the place of Shazer.

THE BROKEN BOW

And we did go forth again in the wilderness, following the same direction, keeping in the most fertile parts of the wilderness, which were in the borders near the Red Sea. ¹⁵And it came to pass that we did travel for the space of many days, slaying food by the way, with our bows and our arrows and our stones and our slings. ¹⁶And we did follow the directions of the ball, which led us in the more fertile parts of the wilderness.

¹⁷And after we had traveled for the space of many days, we did pitch our tents for the space of a time, that we might again rest ourselves and obtain food for our families. ¹⁸And it came to pass that as I, Nephi, went forth to slay food, behold, I did break my bow, which was made of fine steel;

and after I did break my bow, behold, my brethren were angry with me because of the loss of my bow, for we did obtain no food. ¹⁹And it came to pass that we did return without food to our families, and being much fatigued, because of their journeying, they did suffer much for the want of food. ²⁰And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael did begin to murmur exceedingly, because of their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness; and also my father began to murmur against the Lord his God; yea, and they were all exceedingly sorrowful, even that they did murmur against the Lord. ²¹Now it came to pass that I, Nephi, having been afflicted with my brethren because of the loss of my bow, and their bows having lost their springs, it began to be exceedingly difficult, yea, insomuch that we could obtain no food.

²²And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did speak much unto my brethren, because they had hardened their hearts again, even unto complaining against the Lord their God. ²³And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make out of wood a bow, and out of a straight stick, an arrow; wherefore, I did

arm myself with a bow and an arrow, with a sling and with stones. And I said unto my father: **Whither shall I go to obtain food?**

²⁴And it came to pass that he did inquire of the Lord, for they had humbled themselves because of my words; for I did say many things unto them in the energy of my soul. ²⁵And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father; and he was truly chastened because of his murmuring against the Lord, insomuch that he was brought down into the depths of sorrow.

²⁶And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord said unto him: **Look upon the ball, and behold the things which are written.** ²⁷And it came to pass that when my father beheld the things which were written upon the ball, he did fear and tremble exceedingly, and also my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and our wives.

²⁸And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the pointers which were in the ball, that they did work according to the faith and diligence and heed which we did give unto them. ²⁹And there was also written upon them a new writing, which was plain to be read, which did give us understanding concerning the ways of the Lord; and it was written and changed from time to time, according to the faith and diligence which we gave unto it. And thus we see that by small means the Lord can bring about great things.

³⁰And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did go forth up into the top of the mountain, according to the directions which were given upon the ball. ³¹And it came to pass that I did slay wild beasts, insomuch that I did obtain food for our families. ³²And it came to pass that I did return to our tents, bearing the beasts which I had slain; and now when they beheld that I had obtained food, how great was their joy! And it came to pass that they did humble themselves before the Lord, and did give thanks unto him.

NAHOM

³³And it came to pass that we did again take our journey, traveling nearly the same course as in the beginning; and after we had traveled for the space of many days we did pitch our tents again, that we might tarry for the space of a time. ³⁴And it came to pass that Ishmael died, and was buried in the place which was called Nahom.

³⁵And it came to pass that the daughters of Ishmael did mourn exceedingly, because of the loss of their father, and because of their afflictions in the wilderness; and they did murmur against my father, because he had

brought them out of the land of Jerusalem, saying: Our father is dead; yea, and we have wandered much in the wilderness, and we have suffered much affliction, hunger, thirst, and fatigue; and after all these sufferings we must perish in the wilderness with hunger. ³⁶And thus they did murmur against my father, and also against me; and they were desirous to return again to Jerusalem.

³⁷And Laman said unto Lemuel and also unto the sons of Ishmael: Behold, let us slay our father, and also our brother Nephi, who has taken it upon him to be our ruler and our teacher, who are his elder brethren. ³⁸Now, he says that the Lord has talked with him, and also that angels have ministered unto him. But behold, we know that he lies unto us; and he tells us these things, and he worketh many things by his cunning arts, that he may deceive our eyes, thinking, perhaps, that he may lead us away into some strange wilderness; and after he has led us away, he has thought to make himself a king and a ruler over us, that he may do with us according to his will and pleasure. And after this manner did my brother Laman stir up their hearts to anger.

³⁹And it came to pass that the Lord was with us, yea, even the voice of the Lord came and did speak many words unto them, and did chasten them exceedingly; and after they were chastened by the voice of the Lord they did turn away their anger, and did repent of their sins, insomuch that the Lord did bless us again with food, that we did not perish.

EASTWARD

17

¹And it came to pass that we did again take our journey in the wilderness; and we did travel nearly eastward from that time forth. And we did travel and wade through much affliction in the wilderness; and our women did bear children in the wilderness. ²And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children, and were strong, yea, even like unto the men; and they began to bear their journeyings without murmurings.

³And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; wherefore, he did provide means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness. ⁴And

we did sojourn for the space of many years, yea, even eight years in the wilderness.

BOUNTIFUL

⁵And we did come to the land which we called Bountiful, because of its much fruit and also wild honey; and all these things were prepared of the Lord that we might not perish. And we beheld the sea, which we called Irreantum, which, being interpreted, is many waters. ⁶And it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the seashore; and notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions and much difficulty, yea, even so much that we cannot write them all, we were exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the seashore; and we called the place Bountiful, because of its much fruit.

__ COMMAND TO BUILD A SHIP __

⁷And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been in the land of Bountiful for the space of many days, the voice of the Lord came unto me, saying: Arise, and get thee into the mountain. And it came to pass that I arose and went up into the mountain, and cried unto the Lord. ⁸And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying: Thou shalt construct a ship, after the manner which I shall show thee, that I may carry thy people across these waters.

⁹And I said: Lord, whither shall I go that I may find ore to molten, that I may make tools to construct the ship after the manner which thou hast shown unto me? ¹⁰And it came to pass that the Lord told me whither I should go to find ore, that I might make tools. ¹¹And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make a bellows wherewith to blow the fire, of the skins of beasts; and after I had made a bellows, that I might have wherewith to blow the fire, I did smite two stones together that I might make fire.

¹²For the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should make much fire, as we journeyed in the wilderness; for he said: I will make thy food become sweet, that ye cook it not; ¹³And I will also be your light in the wilderness; and I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments; wherefore, inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be led towards the promised land; and ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led.

¹⁴Yea, and the Lord said also that: After ye have arrived in the promised land, ye shall know that I, the Lord, am God; and that I, the Lord, did deliver you from destruction; yea, that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem. ¹⁵Wherefore, I, Nephi, did strive to keep the commandments of the Lord, and I did exhort my brethren to faithfulness and diligence.

¹⁶And it came to pass that I did make tools of the ore which I did molten out of the rock.

NEPHI'S BRETHREN REBEL

¹⁷And when my brethren saw that I was about to build a ship, they began to murmur against me, saying: **Our brother is a fool, for he thinketh that he can build a ship; yea, and he also thinketh that he can cross these great waters.** ¹⁸And thus my brethren did complain against me, and were desirous that they might not labor, for they did not believe that I could build a ship; neither would they believe that I was instructed of the Lord.

¹⁹And now it came to pass that I, Nephi, was exceedingly sorrowful because of the hardness of their hearts; and now when they saw that I began to be sorrowful they were glad in their hearts, insomuch that they did rejoice over me, saying: **We knew that ye could not construct a ship, for we knew that ye were lacking in judgment; wherefore, thou canst not accomplish so great a work.** ²⁰And thou art like unto our father, led away by the foolish imaginations of his heart; yea, he hath led us out of the land of Jerusalem, and we have wandered in the wilderness for these many years; and our women have toiled, being big with child; and they have borne children in the wilderness and suffered all things, save it were death; and it would have been better that they had died before they came out of Jerusalem than to have suffered these afflictions. ²¹Behold, these many years we have suffered in the wilderness, which time we might have enjoyed our possessions and the land of our inheritance; yea, and we might have been happy. ²²And we know that the people who were in the land of Jerusalem were a righteous people; for they kept the statutes and judgments of the Lord, and all his commandments, according to the law of Moses; wherefore, we know that they are a righteous people; and our father hath judged them, and hath led us away because we would hearken unto his words; yea, and our brother is like unto him. And after this manner of language did my brethren murmur and complain against us.

NEPHI CONFOUNDS HIS BRETHREN

²³And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake unto them, saying: Do ye believe that our fathers, who were the children of Israel, would have been led away out of the hands of the Egyptians if they had not hearkened unto the words of the Lord? ²⁴Yea, do ye suppose that they would have been led out of bondage, if the Lord had not commanded Moses that he should lead them out of bondage?

- ²⁵Now ye know that the children of Israel were in bondage;
- and ye know that they were laden with tasks, which were grievous to be borne;
- wherefore, ye know that it must needs be a good thing for them, that they should be brought out of bondage.
- ²⁶Now ye know that Moses was commanded of the Lord to do that great work;
- and ye know that by his word the waters of the Red Sea were divided hither and thither, and they passed through on dry ground.
- ²⁷But ye know that the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea, who were the armies of Pharaoh.
- ²⁸And ye also know that they were fed with manna in the wilderness.
- ²⁹Yea, and ye also know that Moses, by his word according to the power of God which was in him, smote the rock, and there came forth water, that the children of Israel might quench their thirst.

³⁰And notwithstanding they being led, the Lord their God, their Redeemer, going before them, leading them by day and giving light unto them by night, and doing all things for them which were expedient for man to receive, they hardened their hearts and blinded their minds, and reviled against Moses and against the true and living God. ³¹And it came to pass that according to his word he did destroy them; and according to his word he did lead them; and according to his word he did do all things for them; and there was not any thing done save it were by his word. ³²And after they had crossed the river Jordan he did make them mighty unto the driving out of the children of the land, yea, unto the scattering them to destruction.

The children of the land: Wicked unto ripeness

³³And now, do ye suppose that the children of this land, who were in the land of promise, who were driven out by our fathers, do ye suppose that they were righteous? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. ³⁴Do ye suppose that our

fathers would have been more choice than they if they had been righteous? I say unto you, Nay.

³⁵Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one; he that is righteous is favored of God. But behold, this people had rejected every word of God, and they were ripe in iniquity; and the fulness of the wrath of God was upon them;

and the Lord did curse the land against them,

and bless it unto our fathers;

yea, he did curse it against them unto their destruction,

and he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it.

³⁶Behold, the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited;

and he hath created his children that they should possess it.

³⁷And he raiseth up a righteous nation,

and destroyeth the nations of the wicked.

³⁸And he leadeth away the righteous into precious lands,

and the wicked he destroyeth,

and curseth the land unto them for their sakes.

³⁹He ruleth high in the heavens, for it is his throne, and this earth is his footstool. ⁴⁰And he loveth those who will have him to be their God.

Israel: Wicked nearly unto ripeness

Behold, he loved our fathers, and he covenanted with them, yea, even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and he remembered the covenants which he had made; wherefore, he did bring them out of the land of Egypt. ⁴¹And he did straiten them in the wilderness with his rod; for they hardened their hearts, even as ye have; and the Lord straitened them because of their iniquity. He sent fiery flying serpents among them; and after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed; and the labor which they had to perform was to look; and because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished. ⁴²And they did harden their hearts from time to time, and they did revile against Moses, and also against God; nevertheless, ye know that they were led forth by his matchless power into the land of promise.

⁴³And now, after all these things, the time has come that they have become wicked, yea, nearly unto ripeness; and I know not but they are at this day about to be destroyed; for I know that the day must surely come that they must be destroyed, save a few only, who shall be led away into

captivity. ⁴⁴Wherefore, the Lord commanded my father that he should depart into the wilderness; and the Jews also sought to take away his life;

Nephi's brethren: Past feeling

yea, and ye also have sought to take away his life; wherefore, ye are murderers in your hearts and ye are like unto them. ⁴⁵Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words; wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder. ⁴⁶And ye also know that by the power of his almighty word he can cause the earth that it shall pass away; yea, and ye know that by his word he can cause the rough places to be made smooth, and smooth places shall be broken up.

O, then, why is it, that ye can be so hard in your hearts? ⁴⁷Behold, my soul is rent with anguish because of you, and my heart is pained; I fear lest ye shall be cast off forever. Behold, I am full of the Spirit of God, insomuch that my frame has no strength.

Outcomes

⁴⁸And now it came to pass that when I had spoken these words they were angry with me, and were desirous to throw me into the depths of the sea; and as they came forth to lay their hands upon me I spake unto them, saying: In the name of the Almighty God, I command you that ye touch me not, for I am filled with the power of God, even unto the consuming of my flesh; and whoso shall lay his hands upon me shall wither even as a dried reed; and he shall be as naught before the power of God, for God shall smite him.

⁴⁹And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto them that they should murmur no more against their father; neither should they withhold their labor from me, for God had commanded me that I should build a ship. ⁵⁰And I said unto them: If God had commanded me to do all things I could do them. If he should command me that I should say unto this water, be thou earth, it should be earth; and if I should say it, it would be done. ⁵¹And now, if the Lord has such great power, and has wrought so many miracles among the children of men, how is it that he cannot instruct me, that I should build a ship?

⁵²And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said many things unto my brethren, insomuch that they were confounded and could not contend against me; neither durst they lay their hands upon me nor touch me with their fingers, even for the space of many days. Now they durst not do this lest they should wither before me, so powerful was the Spirit of God; and thus it had wrought upon them.

⁵³And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: Stretch forth thine hand again unto thy brethren, and they shall not wither before thee, but I will shock them, saith the Lord, and this will I do, that they may know that I am the Lord their God. ⁵⁴And it came to pass that I stretched forth my hand unto my brethren, and they did not wither before me; but the Lord did shake them, even according to the word which he had spoken.

⁵⁵And now, they said: We know of a surety that the Lord is with thee, for we know that it is the power of the Lord that has shaken us. And they fell down before me, and were about to worship me, but I would not suffer them, saying: I am thy brother, yea, even thy younger brother; wherefore, worship the Lord thy God, and honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God shall give thee.

FINISHING THE SHIP

18

¹And it came to pass that they did worship the Lord, and did go forth with me; and we did work timbers of curious workmanship. And the Lord did show me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship. ²Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men, neither did I build the ship after the manner of men; but I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me; wherefore, it was not after the manner of men.

³And I, Nephi, did go into the mount oft, and I did pray oft unto the Lord; wherefore the Lord showed unto me great things. ⁴And it came to pass that after I had finished the ship, according to the word of the Lord, my brethren beheld that it was good, and that the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine; wherefore, they did humble themselves again before the Lord.

⁵And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father, that we should arise and go down into the ship. ⁶And it came to pass that on the morrow, after we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all

our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, every one according to his age; wherefore, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children. ⁷And now, my father had begat two sons in the wilderness; the elder was called Jacob and the younger Joseph.

ON THE SEA

⁸And it came to pass after we had all gone down into the ship, and had taken with us our provisions and things which had been commanded us, we did put forth into the sea and were driven forth before the wind towards the promised land. ⁹And after we had been driven forth before the wind for the space of many days, behold, my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to make themselves merry, insomuch that they began to dance, and to sing, and to speak with much rudeness, yea, even that they did forget by what power they had been brought thither; yea, they were lifted up unto exceeding rudeness.

¹⁰And I, Nephi, began to fear exceedingly lest the Lord should be angry with us, and smite us because of our iniquity, that we should be swallowed up in the depths of the sea; wherefore, I, Nephi, began to speak to them with much soberness;

but behold they were angry with me, saying: **We will not that our younger brother shall be a ruler over us.** ¹¹And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel did take me and bind me with cords, and they did treat me with much harshness; nevertheless, the Lord did suffer it that he might show forth his power, unto the fulfilling of his word which he had spoken concerning the wicked.

¹²And it came to pass that after they had bound me insomuch that I could not move, the compass, which had been prepared of the Lord, did cease to work. ¹³Wherefore, they knew not whither they should steer the ship, insomuch that there arose a great storm, yea, a great and terrible tempest, and we were driven back upon the waters for the space of three days; and they began to be frightened exceedingly lest they should be drowned in the sea; nevertheless they did not loose me. ¹⁴And on the fourth day, which we had been driven back, the tempest began to be exceedingly sore. ¹⁵And it came to pass that we were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea.

And after we had been driven back upon the waters for the space of four days, my brethren began to see that the judgments of God were upon

them, and that they must perish save that they should repent of their iniquities; wherefore, they came unto me, and loosed the bands which were upon my wrists, and behold they had swollen exceedingly; and also mine ankles were much swollen, and great was the soreness thereof. ¹⁶Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions.

¹⁷Now my father, Lehi, had said many things unto them, and also unto the sons of Ishmael; but, behold, they did breathe out much threatenings against anyone that should speak for me; and my parents being stricken in years, and having suffered much grief because of their children, they were brought down, yea, even upon their sick-beds. ¹⁸Because of their grief and much sorrow, and the iniquity of my brethren, they were brought near even to be carried out of this time to meet their God; yea, their grey hairs were about to be brought down to lie low in the dust; yea, even they were near to be cast with sorrow into a watery grave.

¹⁹And Jacob and Joseph also, being young, having need of much nourishment, were grieved because of the afflictions of their mother; and also my wife with her tears and prayers, and also my children, did not soften the hearts of my brethren that they would loose me.

²⁰And there was nothing save it were the power of God, which threatened them with destruction, could soften their hearts; wherefore, when they saw that they were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea they repented of the thing which they had done, insomuch that they loosed me.

²¹And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm. ²²And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship, that we sailed again towards the promised land. ²³And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days we did arrive at the promised land; and we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land.

PART 4:

MINISTRY IN THE PROMISED LAND

²⁴And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seeds; yea, we did put all our seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore, we were blessed in abundance. ²⁵And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forests of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, and the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. And we did find all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper.

19

THE LARGE PLATES OF NEPHI

¹And it came to pass that the Lord commanded me, wherefore I did make plates of ore that I might engraven upon them the record of my people. And upon the plates which I made I did engraven the record of my father,^a and also our journeyings in the wilderness,^b and the prophecies

*a*¹ I.e., 1 Ne. 1–9.

*b*¹ I.e., 1 Ne. 16:9–18:23.

of my father;^a and also many of mine own prophecies^b have I engraven upon them. ²And I knew not at the time when I made them that I should be commanded of the Lord to make these plates; wherefore, the record of my father, and the genealogy of his fathers, and the more part of all our proceedings in the wilderness are engraven upon those first plates of which I have spoken; wherefore, the things which transpired before I made these plates are, of a truth, more particularly made mention upon the first plates.

³And after I had made these plates by way of commandment, I, Nephi, received a commandment that the ministry and the prophecies, the more plain and precious parts of them, should be written upon these plates; and that the things which were written should be kept for the instruction of my people, who should possess the land, and also for other wise purposes, which purposes are known unto the Lord.

⁴Wherefore, I, Nephi, did make a record upon the other plates, which gives an account, or which gives a greater account of the wars and contentions and destructions of my people. And this have I done, and commanded my people what they should do after I was gone; and that these plates should be handed down from one generation to another, or from one prophet to another, until further commandments of the Lord. ⁵And an account of my making these plates shall be given hereafter; and then, behold, I proceed according to that which I have spoken; and this I do that the more sacred things may be kept for the knowledge of my people.

PROPHECIES OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL

⁶Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that I think it be sacred. And now, if I do err, even did they err of old; not that I would excuse myself because of other men, but because of the weakness which is in me, according to the flesh, I would excuse myself. ⁷For the things which some men esteem to be of great worth, both to the body and soul, others set at naught and trample under their feet. Yea, even the very God of Israel do men trample under their feet; I say, trample under their feet but I would speak in other words—they set him at naught, and hearken not to the voice of his counsels.

⁸And behold he cometh, according to the words of the angel, in six hundred years from the time my father left Jerusalem. ⁹And the world,

*a*¹ I.e., 1 Ne. 10:1–16.

*b*¹ I.e., 1 Ne. 10:17–16:6.

because of their iniquity, shall judge him to be a thing of naught; wherefore they scourge him, and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men. ¹⁰And the God of our fathers, who were led out of Egypt, out of bondage, and also were preserved in the wilderness by him, yea, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,

- yieldeth himself, according to the words of the angel, as a man, into the hands of wicked men,
- to be lifted up, according to the words of Zenock,
- and to be crucified, according to the words of Neum,
- and to be buried in a sepulchre, according to the words of Zenos, which he spake concerning the three days of darkness, which should be a sign given of his death unto those who should inhabit the isles of the sea, more especially given unto those who are of the house of Israel.^a

¹¹For thus spake the prophet:

The Lord God surely shall visit all the house of Israel at that day, some with his voice, because of their righteousness, unto their great joy and salvation, and others with the thunderings and the lightnings of his power, by tempest, by fire, and by smoke, and vapor of darkness, and by the opening of the earth, and by mountains which shall be carried up. ¹²And all these things must surely come, saith the prophet Zenos. And the rocks of the earth must rend; and because of the groanings of the earth, many of the kings of the isles of the sea shall be wrought upon by the Spirit of God, to exclaim: **The God of nature suffers.**

¹³And as for those who are at Jerusalem, saith the prophet, they shall be scourged by all people, because they crucify the God of Israel, and turn their hearts aside, rejecting signs and wonders, and the power and glory of the God of Israel. ¹⁴And because they turn their hearts aside, saith the prophet, and have despised the Holy One of Israel, they shall wander in the flesh, and perish, and become a hiss and a byword, and be hated among all nations.

¹⁵Nevertheless, when that day cometh, saith the prophet, that they no more turn aside their hearts against the Holy One

^{a10} The quotes in verse 10 have uncertain beginning and ending points.

of Israel, then will he remember the covenants which he made to their fathers. ¹⁶Yea, then will he remember the isles of the sea; yea, and all the people who are of the house of Israel, will I gather in, saith the Lord, according to the words of the prophet Zenos, from the four quarters of the earth. ¹⁷Yea, and all the earth shall see the salvation of the Lord, saith the prophet; every nation, kindred, tongue and people shall be blessed.

¹⁸And I, Nephi, have written these things unto my people, that perhaps I might persuade them that they would remember the Lord their Redeemer. ¹⁹Wherefore, I speak unto all the house of Israel, if it so be that they should obtain these things. ²⁰For behold, I have workings in the spirit, which doth weary me even that all my joints are weak, for those who are at Jerusalem; for had not the Lord been merciful, to show unto me concerning them, even as he had prophets of old, I should have perished also. ²¹And he surely did show unto the prophets of old all things concerning them; and also he did show unto many concerning us; wherefore, it must needs be that we know concerning them for they are written upon the plates of brass.

NEPHI TEACHES HIS BRETHREN

²²Now it came to pass that I, Nephi, did teach my brethren these things; and it came to pass that I did read many things to them, which were engraven upon the plates of brass, that they might know concerning the doings of the Lord in other lands, among people of old. ²³And I did read many things unto them which were written in the books of Moses; but that I might more fully persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer I did read unto them that which was written by the prophet Isaiah; for I did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning.

THE WORDS OF ISAIAH

²⁴Wherefore I spake unto them, saying: Hear ye the words of the prophet, ye who are a remnant of the house of Israel, a branch who have been broken off; hear ye the words of the prophet, which were written unto all the house of Israel, and liken them unto yourselves, that ye may have hope as well as your brethren from whom ye have been broken off; for after this manner has the prophet written.

Obstinate Israel

- ¹Hearken and hear this, O house of Jacob,
 who are called by the name of Israel,
 and are come forth out of the waters of Judah,
 or out of the waters of baptism,
 who swear by the name of the Lord,
 and make mention of the God of Israel,
 yet they swear not in truth nor in righteousness.
- ²Nevertheless, they call themselves of the holy city,
 but they do not stay themselves upon the God of Israel,
 who is the Lord of Hosts; yea, the Lord of Hosts is his name.
- ³Behold, I have declared the former things from the beginning;
 and they went forth out of my mouth,
 and I showed them.
 I did show them suddenly.
- ⁴And I did it because I knew that thou art obstinate,
 and thy neck is an iron sinew,
 and thy brow brass;
- ⁵And I have even from the beginning declared to thee;
 before it came to pass I showed them thee;
 and I showed them for fear lest thou shouldst say—
 Mine idol hath done them,
 and my graven image, and my molten image hath
 commanded them.
- ⁶Thou hast seen and heard all this;
 and will ye not declare them?
 And that I have showed thee new things from this time,
 even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.
- ⁷They are created now, and not from the beginning,
 even before the day when thou heardest them not
 they were declared unto thee,
 lest thou shouldst say—Behold I knew them.
- ⁸Yea, and thou heardest not;
 yea, thou knewest not;
 yea, from that time thine ear was not opened;
 for I knew that thou wouldst deal very treacherously,
 and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

⁹Nevertheless, for my name's sake will I defer mine anger,
and for my praise will I refrain from thee,
that I cut thee not off.

¹⁰For, behold, I have refined thee,

I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

¹¹For mine own sake, **yea**, for mine own sake will I do **this**,
for **I will not suffer** my name **to** be polluted,
and I will not give my glory unto another.

The Lord's call to Israel

¹²Hearken unto me, O Jacob,
and Israel my called,

for I am he;

I am the first, **and** I am also the last.

¹³Mine hand hath also laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand hath spanned the heavens.

I call unto them **and** they stand up together.

¹⁴All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear;

who among them hath declared these things **unto them**?

The Lord hath loved him;

yea, and he will fulfil his word

which he hath declared by them;

and he will do his pleasure on Babylon,

and his arm shall **come** upon the Chaldeans.

¹⁵**Also**, saith the Lord;

I the Lord, **yea**, I have spoken;

yea, I have called him to declare,

I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.

¹⁶**Come** ye near unto me;

I have not spoken in secret; from the beginning,

from the time that it was **declared have I spoken**;

and the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

¹⁷**And** thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of
Israel;

I have sent him, the Lord thy God

who teacheth thee to profit,

who leadeth thee by the way thou shouldst go, hath done it.

¹⁸O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments—
then had thy peace been as a river,
and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.

¹⁹Thy seed also had been as the sand;
the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof;
his name should not have been cut off
nor destroyed from before me.

²⁰Go ye forth of Babylon,
flee ye from the Chaldeans,
with a voice of singing declare ye,
tell this, utter to the end of the earth;
say ye: **The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.**

²¹And they thirsted not; he led them through the deserts;
he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them;
he clave the rock also and the waters gushed out.

²²**And notwithstanding he hath done all this, and greater also,**
there is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.

21 *The servant of the Lord*

¹And again: Harken, O ye house of Israel, all ye that are broken off and are driven out because of the wickedness of the pastors of my people; yea, all ye that are broken off, that are scattered abroad, who are of my people, O house of Israel.

Listen, O isles, unto me,
and hearken ye people from far;
the Lord hath called me from the womb;
from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of
my name.

²And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me,
and made me a polished shaft;
in his quiver hath he hid me;

³And said unto me: **Thou art my servant, O Israel,**
in whom I will be glorified.

⁴Then I said, **I have labored in vain,**
I have spent my strength for naught and in vain;
surely my judgment is with the Lord,
and my work with my God.

⁵And now, saith the Lord—
that formed me from the womb **that I should** be his servant,
to bring Jacob again to him—
 though Israel be not gathered,
yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord,
 and my God shall be my strength.
⁶And he said:
It is a light thing that thou shouldst be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
 and to restore the preserved of Israel.
I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles,
 that thou mayest be my salvation unto the ends of the earth.
⁷Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, his Holy One,
 to him whom man despiseth,
 to him whom the nations abhorreth,
 to servant of rulers:
Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship,
because of the Lord that is faithful.

Gathering Israel

⁸Thus saith the Lord:
In an acceptable time have I heard thee, **O isles of the sea,**
 and in a day of salvation have I helped thee;
and I will preserve thee,
 and give thee **my servant** for a covenant of the people,
to establish the earth,
 to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;
⁹That thou mayest say to the prisoners: Go forth;
 to them that sit in darkness: Show yourselves.
They shall feed in the ways,
 and their pastures shall be in all high places.
¹⁰They shall not hunger nor thirst,
 neither shall the heat nor **the** sun smite them;
for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them,
 even by the springs of water shall he guide them.
¹¹And I will make all my mountains a way,
 and my highways shall be exalted.

¹²And then, O house of Israel, behold, these shall come
from far;
and lo, these from the north and from the west;
and these from the land of Sinim.

¹³Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth;
for the feet of those who are in the east shall be established;
and break forth into singing, O mountains;
for they shall be smitten no more;
for the Lord hath comforted his people,
and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

¹⁴But, behold, Zion hath said:
The Lord hath forsaken me,
and my Lord hath forgotten me—

but he will show that he hath not.

¹⁵For can a woman forget
her sucking child,
that she should not have compassion on
the son of her womb?

Yea, they may forget,
yet will I not forget thee, O house of Israel.

¹⁶Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands;
thy walls are continually before me.

¹⁷Thy children shall make haste against thy destroyers;
and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

¹⁸Lift up thine eyes round about and behold;
all these gather themselves together, and they shall come
to thee.

And as I live, saith the Lord,
thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an
ornament,
and bind them on even as a bride.

¹⁹For thy waste and thy desolate places,
and the land of thy destruction,
shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants;
and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

²⁰The children whom thou shalt have,

21

2 Ne 6:6-7, 16-18

22

7 23

16 24

17 25

18 26

after thou hast lost the first,
shall again in thine ears say:
The place is too strait for me;
give place to me that I may dwell.

²¹Then shalt thou say in thine heart:
Who hath begotten me these,
seeing I have lost my children,
and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro?
And who hath brought up these?
Behold, I was left alone;
these, where have they been?

²²Thus saith the Lord God:
Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles,
and set up my standard to the people;
and they shall bring thy sons in their arms,
and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.

²³And kings shall be thy nursing fathers,
and their queens thy nursing mothers;
they shall bow down to thee with their face towards the earth,
and lick up the dust of thy feet;
and thou shalt know that I am the Lord;
for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

²⁴For shall the prey be taken from the mighty,
or the lawful captives delivered?

²⁵But thus saith the Lord,
even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away,
and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered;
for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee,
and I will save thy children.

²⁶And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh;
they shall be drunken with their own blood
as with sweet wine;
and all flesh shall know that I, the Lord, am thy Savior
and thy Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

THE MEANING OF ISAIAH

¹And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had read these things which were engraven upon the plates of brass, my brethren came unto me and said unto me: **What meaneth these things which ye have read? Behold, are they to be understood according to things which are spiritual, which shall come to pass according to the spirit and not the flesh?**

²And I, Nephi, said unto them: Behold they were manifest unto the prophet by the voice of the Spirit; for by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets, which shall come upon the children of men according to the flesh. ³Wherefore, the things of which I have read are things pertaining to things both temporal and spiritual;

Isaiah

for it appears that the house of Israel, sooner or later, will be scattered upon all the face of the earth, and also among all nations. ⁴And behold, there are many who are already lost from the knowledge of those who are at Jerusalem. Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away; and they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea; and whither they are none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away. ⁵And since they have been led away, these things have been prophesied concerning them, and also concerning all those who shall hereafter be scattered and be confounded, because of the Holy One of Israel; for against him will they harden their hearts; wherefore, they shall be scattered among all nations and shall be hated of all men.

⁶Nevertheless, after they shall be nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles and set them up for a standard, and their children have been carried in their arms, and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders,

behold these things of which are spoken are temporal; for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers; and it meaneth us in the days to come, and also all our brethren who are of the house of Israel. ⁷And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered. ⁸And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great

worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders.

⁹And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles; and not only unto the Gentiles but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

¹⁰And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations. ¹¹Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel. ¹²Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

¹³And the blood of that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, shall turn upon their own heads; for they shall war among themselves, and the sword of their own hands shall fall upon their own heads, and they shall be drunken with their own blood. ¹⁴And every nation which shall war against thee, O house of Israel, shall be turned one against another, and they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. And all that fight against Zion shall be destroyed, and that great whore, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord, yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust and great shall be the fall of it.

Other prophets

¹⁵For behold, saith the prophet,^a
 the time cometh speedily
 that Satan shall have no more power
 over the hearts of the children of men;
for the day soon cometh
that all the proud and they who do wickedly
shall be as stubble;
and the day cometh
that they must be burned.

^{a15} Source uncertain. The phrasing is similar to Malachi's words at Mal. 4:1.

¹⁶For the time soon cometh that the fulness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. ¹⁷Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.^a

¹⁸Behold, my brethren, I say unto you, that these things must shortly come; yea, even blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke must come; and it must needs be upon the face of this earth; and it cometh unto men according to the flesh if it so be that they will harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁹For behold, the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.

²⁰And the Lord will surely prepare a way for his people, unto the fulfilling of the words of Moses, which he spake, saying:

A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that all those who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.^b

²¹And now I, Nephi, declare unto you, that this prophet of whom Moses spake was the Holy One of Israel; wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness.

²²And the righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded. But it is the kingdom of the devil, which shall be built up among the children of men, which kingdom is established among them which are in the flesh— ²³For the time speedily shall come that all churches which are built up to get gain, and all those who are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they are those who must be brought low in the dust; they are those who must be consumed as stubble; and this is according to the words of the prophet.

^{a17} Source uncertain. The phrasing is similar to Paul's words at 1 Cor. 3:15.

^{b20} Spoken by Moses at Deut. 18:15, 19; Nephi's wording follows Peter's quotation of Moses at Acts 3:22–23.

²⁴And the time cometh speedily that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory. ²⁵And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture. ²⁶And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth.

²⁷And now behold, I, Nephi, say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh.^a ²⁸But, behold, all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people shall dwell safely in the Holy One of Israel if it so be that they will repent.

Conclusion

²⁹And now I, Nephi, make an end; for I durst not speak further as yet concerning these things. ³⁰Wherefore, my brethren, I would that ye should consider that the things which have been written upon the plates of brass are true; and they testify that a man must be obedient to the commandments of God. ³¹Wherefore, ye need not suppose that I and my father are the only ones that have testified, and also taught them. Wherefore, if ye shall be obedient to the commandments, and endure to the end, ye shall be saved at the last day.

And thus it is. Amen.

^{a27} See the question asked by Nephi's brethren at verse 1.