

THE BOOK
OF MORMON



STRUCTURED EDITION

Sample:
2 Nephi 26–27

Edited by Nathan Richardson

online at NathanRichardson.com

³⁰And, inasmuch as it shall be expedient, ye must keep the performances and ordinances of God until the law shall be fulfilled which was given unto Moses. ¹And after Christ shall have risen from the dead he shall show himself unto you, my children, and my beloved brethren; and the words which he shall speak unto you shall be the law which ye shall do.

THE SEED OF LEHI

²For behold, I say unto you that I have beheld that many generations shall pass away, and there shall be great wars and contentions among my people. ³And after the Messiah shall come there shall be signs given unto my people of his birth, and also of his death and resurrection; and great and terrible shall that day be unto the wicked, for they shall perish; and they perish because they cast out the prophets, and the saints, and stone them, and slay them; wherefore the cry of the blood of the saints shall ascend up to God from the ground against them.

⁴Wherefore, all those who are proud, and that do wickedly, the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, for they shall be as stubble. ⁵And they that kill the prophets, and the saints, the depths of the earth shall swallow them up, saith the Lord of Hosts; and mountains shall cover them, and whirlwinds shall carry them away, and buildings shall fall upon them and crush them to pieces and grind them to powder. ⁶And they shall be visited with thunderings, and lightnings, and earthquakes, and all manner of destructions, for the fire of the anger of the Lord shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall consume them, saith the Lord of Hosts.

⁷O the pain, and the anguish of my soul for the loss of the slain of my people! For I, Nephi, have seen it, and it well nigh consumeth me before the presence of the Lord; but I must cry unto my God: Thy ways are just.

⁸But behold, the righteous that hearken unto the words of the prophets, and destroy them not, but look forward unto Christ with steadfastness for the signs which are given, notwithstanding all persecution—behold, they are they which shall not perish. ⁹But the Son of righteousness shall appear unto them; and he shall heal them, and they shall have peace with him, until three generations shall have passed away, and many of the fourth generation shall have passed away in righteousness.

¹⁰And when these things have passed away a speedy destruction cometh unto my people; for, notwithstanding the pains of my soul, I

have seen it; wherefore, I know that it shall come to pass; and they sell themselves for naught; for, for the reward of their pride and their foolishness they shall reap destruction; for because they yield unto the devil and choose works of darkness rather than light, therefore they must go down to hell. ¹¹For the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with man. And when the Spirit ceaseth to strive with man then cometh speedy destruction, and this grieveth my soul.

THE GENTILES

¹²And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus is the very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God; ¹³And that he manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost; yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty miracles, signs, and wonders, among the children of men according to their faith.

GENTILES SMITE THE SEED OF LEHI

¹⁴But behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things forth unto the children of men. ¹⁵After my seed and the seed of my brethren shall have dwindled in unbelief, and shall have been smitten by the Gentiles; yea, after the Lord God shall have

camped against them round about,
and shall have laid siege against them with a mount,
and raised forts against them;
and after they shall have been brought down low in the dust,

Isaiah 29:3-24
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even that they are not, yet the words of the righteous shall be written, and the prayers of the faithful shall be heard, and all those who have dwindled in unbelief shall not be forgotten. ¹⁶For those who shall be destroyed

shall speak unto them out of the ground,
and their speech shall be low out of the dust,
and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit;

for the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were

out of the ground;
and their speech shall whisper out of the dust.

¹⁷For thus saith the Lord God: They shall write the things which shall be done among them, and they shall be written and sealed up in a book, and those who have dwindled in unbelief shall not have them, for they seek to destroy the things of God. ¹⁸Wherefore, as those who have been destroyed have been destroyed speedily;

and the multitude of their terrible ones
shall be as chaff that passeth away—
yea, thus saith the Lord God:
It shall be at an instant, suddenly—

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¹⁹And it shall come to pass, that those who have dwindled in unbelief shall be smitten by the hand of the Gentiles.

CHURCHES AND PRIESTCRAFT

²⁰And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block,^a that they have built up many churches; nevertheless, they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning, that they may get gain and grind upon the face of the poor.^b ²¹And there are many churches built up which cause envyings, and strifes, and malice.

²²And there are also secret combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the founder of all these things; yea, the founder of murder, and works of darkness; yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords forever.

²³For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. ²⁴He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life that he may draw all men unto him. Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation.

- ²⁵Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying: Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith: Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price.^c
- ²⁶Behold, hath he commanded any that they should depart out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship? Behold, I say unto you, Nay.

^{a20} Allusion to the Lord's words at Isa. 8:14–15 (just quoted by Nephi at 2 Ne. 18:14–15).

^{b20} Allusion to the Lord's words at Isa. 3:15 (just quoted by Nephi at 2 Ne. 13:15).

^{c25} Reference to the Lord's words at Isa. 55:1 (quoted by Jacob at 2 Ne. 9:50).

- ²⁷Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but he hath given it free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to repentance.
- ²⁸Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.

²⁹He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion. ³⁰Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love. And except they should have charity they were nothing. Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish. ³¹But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish.

³²And again, the Lord God hath commanded

- that men should not murder;
- that they should not lie;
- that they should not steal;
- that they should not take the name of the Lord their God in vain;
- that they should not envy;
- that they should not have malice;
- that they should not contend one with another;
- that they should not commit whoredoms;

and that they should do none of these things; for whoso doeth them shall perish. ³³For none of these iniquities come of the Lord; for he doeth that which is good among the children of men; and he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; and he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.

BLINDNESS AND STAGGERING

¹But, behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles—yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea,

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even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be drunken with iniquity^a and all manner of abominations— ²And when that day shall come

they shall be visited of the Lord of Hosts,
 with thunder and with earthquake,
 and with a great noise, and with storm,
 and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire.

³And all the nations
 that fight against Zion, and that distress her,
 shall be as a dream of a night vision;
 yea, it shall be unto them,
 even as unto a hungry man which dreameth,
 and behold he eateth
 but he awaketh and his soul is empty;
 or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth,
 and behold he drinketh
 but he awaketh and behold he is faint,
 and his soul hath appetite;
 yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be
 that fight against Mount Zion.

⁴For behold, all ye that doeth iniquity,
 stay yourselves and wonder,
 for ye shall cry out, and cry;
 yea, ye shall be drunken but not with wine,
 ye shall stagger but not with strong drink.

⁵For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you
 the spirit of deep sleep.
 For behold, ye have closed your eyes,
 and ye have rejected the prophets; and your rulers,
 and the seers hath he covered

because of your iniquity.

THE SEALED BOOK

⁶And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth
 unto you the words of a book, and they shall be the words of them
 which have slumbered. ⁷And behold the book shall be sealed; and in

^{a1} Allusion to Isaiah's words at Isa. 29:9 (quoted by Nephi at verse 4) and at 51:21 (quoted by Jacob at 2 Ne. 8:21).

the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof. ⁸Wherefore, because of the things which are sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

⁹But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust, and he shall deliver these words unto another;

¹⁰But the words which are sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof. ¹¹And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.

¹²Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein. ¹³And there is none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said^a that the words of the faithful **should speak as if it were from the dead.** ¹⁴Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that rejecteth the word of God!

¹⁵But behold, it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall say unto him to whom he shall deliver the book: **Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another, that he may show them unto the learned, saying: Read this, I pray thee.**

And the learned shall say: Bring hither the book, and I will read them.

¹⁶And now, because of the glory of the world and to get gain will they say this, and not for the glory of God.

^{a13} I.e., reference to Isaiah's words at Isa. 29:4 (just quoted by Nephi at 2 Ne. 26:16).

¹⁷And the man shall say: **I cannot bring the book, for it is sealed.**

¹⁸Then shall the learned say: **I cannot read it.**

¹⁹Wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will deliver again the book and the words thereof to him that is not learned; and the man that is not learned shall say: **I am not learned.**

²⁰Then shall the Lord God say unto him: **The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am able to do mine own work; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee.**

²¹Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work. ²²Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men. ²³For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.

The effects of the book

²⁴And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

²⁵Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth,
and with their lips do honor me,
but have removed their hearts far from me,
and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men—

²⁶Therefore, I will proceed to do
a marvelous work among this people,
yea, a marvelous work and a wonder,
for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish,
and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.

²⁷And wo unto them that seek deep
to hide their counsel from the Lord!
And their works are in the dark;
and they say: **Who seeth us, and who knoweth us?**
And they also say: **Surely, your turning of things upside down
shall be esteemed as the potter's clay.**

But behold, I will show unto them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that I know all their works.

For shall the work say of him that made it,

he made me not?

Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it,

he had no understanding?

²⁸But behold, saith the Lord of Hosts: I will show unto the children of men that

it is yet a very little while and Lebanon

shall be turned into a fruitful field;

and the fruitful field

shall be esteemed as a forest.

²⁹And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book,

and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity

and out of darkness.

³⁰And the meek also shall increase,

and their joy shall be in the Lord,

and the poor among men

shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

³¹For assuredly as the Lord liveth they shall see that

the terrible one is brought to naught,

and the scorner is consumed,

and all that watch for iniquity are cut off;

³²And they that make a man an offender for a word,

and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate,

and turn aside the just for a thing of naught.

³³Therefore, thus saith the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

Jacob shall not now be ashamed,

neither shall his face now wax pale.

³⁴But when he seeth his children, the work of my hands,

in the midst of him,

they shall sanctify my name,

and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,

and shall fear the God of Israel.

³⁵They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding,

and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

¹And now, behold, my brethren, I have spoken unto you, according as the Spirit hath constrained me; wherefore, I know that they must surely come to pass.

A GREAT DIVISION

²And the things which shall be written out of the book shall be of great worth unto the children of men, and especially unto our seed, which is a remnant of the house of Israel.

CORRUPTED CHURCHES

³For it shall come to pass in that day that the churches which are built up, and not unto the Lord, when the one shall say unto the other: **Behold, I, I am the Lord's**; and the others shall say: **I, I am the Lord's**;^a and thus shall every one say that hath built up churches, and not unto the Lord—⁴And they shall contend one with another; and their priests shall contend one with another,

and they shall teach with their learning, and deny the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance. ⁵And they deny the power of God, the Holy One of Israel; and they say unto the people: **Hearken unto us, and hear ye our precept; for behold there is no God today, for the Lord and the Redeemer hath done his work, and he hath given his power unto men;** ⁶**Behold, hearken ye unto my precept; if they shall say there is a miracle wrought by the hand of the Lord, believe it not; for this day he is not a God of miracles; he hath done his work.**

⁷Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: **Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die;**^b and it shall be well with us.

⁸And there shall also be many which shall say: **Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.**

⁹Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts,

a3 Allusion to the Lord's words at Isaiah 44:5.

b7 Allusion to Isaiah's words at Isaiah 22:13.