

***A Plain English Reference to
The First Book of Nephi
Nephi writes of his father Lehi
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 1***

600 B.C. - I'm Nephi. I was born to wealthy parents who could afford to have me educated with Jewish learning, just as my father had been educated. I also learned the Egyptian language.

I've been highly favored by the Lord and have also see many afflictions in my life. I will now engrave my story on metal plates I made. It's a true story.

Just before our people in Jerusalem had a new king named Zedekiah, prophets kept coming into our city. They stood in the streets, telling people if they didn't repent, they'd be destroyed.

As my father kept hearing these prophets warn people, he began to take the warnings very seriously. He began to worry about what might happen to his people.

To get answers, my father went out and prayed with all his heart to the Lord, asking Him what he could do to help save his people. While praying, a pillar of fire came down onto a large rock, after which my father saw and heard many things. He saw so many incredible, fearful things he started to shake!



After his vision, my father was so affected by the Spirit, he came home and collapsed on his bed, but his vision continued.

My father saw heaven open. He saw God sitting on His throne, surrounded by countless angels singing and praising Him.

He saw a man come down from heaven, and his whole body was very bright, even brighter than the sun!

He saw twelve other men come down, also shining, but not as brightly as the first man. After all the men came down to earth, the first man gave my father a book and asked him to read it.

My father was filled with the Spirit of the Lord as he read this,

"Jerusalem is cursed, for I see its wicked people! Unless they change their ways, many of them will either be killed by the Babylonians or become their slaves!"

This is just what all the prophets had been saying.



After reading this, my father had a huge vision of all kinds of great, amazing things! Then he shouted,

"Oh Lord God Almighty! Your throne is high in the heavens, and your power, your goodness and your mercy is over all people on earth! And because of your great mercy, you will save all who come to you!"

My father's heart became full of joy because of how merciful the Lord had been to him by showing him all these things.

Now I, Nephi, am writing just a little of what my father saw in all his visions, dreams and prophecies. He did write them all down in his own record, and he told them all to me and my older brothers.

Here are some things my father wrote...

"After my vision of Jerusalem being destroyed, I went out in the streets and told the people what I'd seen and heard. When the people heard my vision about



their destruction, they laughed and thought I was crazy! They didn't want to hear someone telling them they were wicked.

I also told them about the Messiah, the Son of God, who will come to save people who repent (who stop doing wicked things).

When they heard me say all this they got very angry with me. They said they'd kill me, just like their fathers had killed prophets."

Now I'm going to show you exactly how the Lord's great mercy **protects people He has chosen** because of their **faith**.

I know from much personal experience how **faith** truly gives people the **power to be saved from destruction!**

*Lehi's family leaves Jerusalem
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 2*

The Lord said to my father in a dream, *"I bless you because you faithfully told the people the things I commanded you to*

*tell them. Because of this, they are **planning to kill you**. To escape them, depart with your family into the wilderness."*

Lehi obeyed the Lord and left his home, his lands, gold, silver and treasures behind. He took only his family, tents and supplies into the wilderness.

Note: During the 1,000 year history of Lehi and his descendants, there are **six** accounts of a Lehi-type **exodus**. These accounts illustrate how the Lord tells His servants to take their people and "**depart into the wilderness.**"

In each exodus, righteous people **leave** their prideful, power-seeking brethren who have **sinned against light and knowledge** and have brought themselves under condemnation.

These examples are a type for a **latter-day exodus** as prophesied by Isaiah (**2 Nephi 8:10-11, 16:12, 20:20-21, 21:15-16**).

Five more exodus accounts are found in **2 Nephi 5:5, Omni 1:13, Mosiah 18:34, 22:11** and **Alma 27:11-4**.

A seventh exodus took place in 2,200 BC - **Ether 1:39-42**

Our family consisted of my father Lehi, my mother Sariah, my older brothers Laman, Lemuel, Sam and myself. We traveled south into the wilderness, down the shoreline of The Red Sea.

After traveling three days, we pitched our tents in a valley near a river.

Here my father built an altar of stones, made an offering and gave thanks to the Lord.

The valley where we camped was at the mouth of the river that flowed into The Red Sea.

My father named the river after Laman and said to him, "I pray you will be like this river, always flowing into the fountain of all righteousness!"

Then my father told Lemuel, "I pray you will be like this valley, firm, steadfast and immovable in keeping the Lord's commandments!"

My father said these things because Laman and Lemuel were both very stubborn. They kept complaining, saying my father was a foolish, visionary man, that he'd taken them away from all their comforts and wealth to die in the wilderness.

They complained because they knew nothing about how God deals with His children, and also because they were the oldest sons, feeling they had the right to complain. Like the Jews, they thought the great city of Jerusalem could never be destroyed.

However, Lehi, being filled with the Spirit, spoke to them with the Lord's power. This caused them to **shake for fear** of His judgments, and for a little while they stopped complaining.

Our family camped in the valley my father named Lemuel.

Although very young, I had a great desire to know God's will, so I **prayed with faith** and the Lord gave me understanding. That's why I didn't rebel against my father.

I told my older brother Sam what the Lord had told me by His Holy Spirit, and Sam believed me. But Laman and Lemuel didn't believe me, and in my sorrow over their stubbornness, I prayed for them.

The Lord answered my prayer, saying,

*"You are blessed Nephi because of your **faith** and **humility** before me. I've prepared the best land on Earth for you, and if you obey my commands, I will lead you there.*

And if your older brothers keep rebelling against you, they will be cut off from my presence, and I will not be with them. If you obey my commands, then you will become their ruler and teacher.

If Laman and Lemuel rebel against me, then I will curse them and their descendants, and they will not have power over your descendants. But if your descendants also rebel against me, they will not have my protection, and your brothers' descendants will be a trial for

yours, reminding them to look to me in righteousness for protection."

Nephi told to get brass plates ***See 1 Nephi, Chapter 3***

After the Lord told me these things, I returned to my father's tent, where he told me, "In a dream, the Lord commanded me to tell you and your brothers to go back to Jerusalem, where Laban, keeper of the holy records, has the writings of Moses and other prophets, and the genealogy of my forefathers engraved on brass plates.

The Lord commanded me to tell you to



go to Laban's house where he keeps the brass plates, to ask Laban for them, and to bring them to me in this valley.

When I told your brothers to do this they complained, saying what I was asking of them was too hard. I told them it wasn't my commandment, but the Lord's. You must go, Nephi. Lead your brothers, and

the Lord will favor you because you have not complained.”

I answered my father, "I will go and do what the Lord commands, for I know He doesn't give us commands without preparing a way for us to obey them."

When my father heard this he was very glad, knowing I had been blessed by the Lord.

Then my three older brothers and I took our tents and traveled back to Jerusalem.

Upon arriving at Jerusalem, we talked about how to get the brass plates from Laban. We cast lots to know who should go into Laban's house and talk with him. The lot fell upon Laman, so he went in and talked with Laban as he sat in his house.



Laman asked Laban for the brass plates, which contained my father's genealogy. Laban became angry and threw Laman out of his house, shouting, "You're a

robber, and I'll kill you!" But Laman escaped. He ran back and told us what happened.

We became very discouraged and my brothers were about to return to my father in the wilderness, but I told them, "As the Lord lives, and as we live, we will not go back to our father until we have accomplished the Lord's command.

Let's be faithful like our father. He gave up all his wealth to obey the Lord. Our father knows this city will be destroyed because the people here are so very wicked. They have rejected the words of the prophets.

If our father had also rejected the word of the Lord, which told him to leave, then our entire family would still be here and would die. This is why we had to leave.

In His wisdom, the Lord told us to come back for the records so we could preserve the language of our forefathers and the words of the holy prophets, who have spoken by the Spirit and power of God since the world began until now."

By saying these things I persuaded my brothers to be more faithful so we could accomplish our task.

Then we went back to our home in Jerusalem to gather our gold, silver and treasures to take to Laban's house.

This time we all went into Laban's house and told him we would like to buy the brass plates with our gold, silver and treasures.

When Laban saw our great wealth, he was determined to have it. Being very cunning and greedy, Laban drove us out of his house and called his servants to kill us.

In order to escape the servants, we had to drop our property, run into the wilderness and hide in a cave. After resting in the cave, Laman and Lemuel became very angry with me, and also very angry with our father for telling us to get the plates in the first place. They started beating Sam and me with a stick.



Then an angel of the Lord came and stood before them and asked,

"Why are you beating your younger brother? Don't you know the Lord has chosen him to be your ruler because of your sins? Now get back to Jerusalem and the Lord will deliver Laban into your hands."

After saying this, the angel left, after which Laman and Lemuel asked,

"How can the Lord deliver Laban into our hands? Laban commands fifty servants who could kill fifty men, and there's only four of us!"

***Nephi told to kill Laban
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 4***

I replied to my brothers, "Let's go back to Jerusalem and be faithful in obeying the Lord's commands. Since He is mightier than all the earth, surely He is mightier than Laban's fifty, or even his fifty thousand!

So let's go and be strong like Moses, for when he spoke The Red Sea parted, and our forefathers walked out of captivity onto dry ground. Then Pharaoh's armies followed and were drowned in The Red Sea.

You know this is true, and you know an angel just spoke to you, so how can you doubt? Let's go, for the Lord will deliver us, just as He delivered our forefathers.

He'll destroy Laban just as He destroyed Pharaoh's armies."

Hearing this, Laman and Lemuel were still angry and afraid, but even so, they

followed me back to the walls of Jerusalem.

By now it was dark. I told my brothers to wait for me and hide outside the walls. Then I crept into the city and carefully made my way back to Laban's house.

I was being led by the Spirit, not knowing what I was going to do, but I went ahead anyway.

As I came near Laban's house, I saw a drunken man stagger and fall.

I crept closer and saw it was Laban! I drew his sword from its sheath. The handle was made of pure gold, the workmanship very fine, and the blade made from the finest steel.

All at once the Spirit told me,
“Kill Laban!”

I replied in my heart, "I have never killed anyone, and I do not want to kill this man."

But the Spirit replied,
“The Lord has delivered him into your hands as He said He would.”

I knew Laban had not listened to the Lord's commandments. Me and my brothers had asked him for the records and he had refused to give them up. Rather than yield to the Lord, Laban had become proud and greedy, and he had stolen our wealth after commanding his servants to kill us.

Again the Spirit spoke,

“Kill him, for the Lord has delivered him into your hands. The Lord destroys the wicked to bring about His righteous purposes. It's better for **one** man to die than for a **whole nation** to falter and pass away in unbelief.”

When I heard this, I remembered the Lord telling me in the wilderness,

“If your descendants keep my commandments, they will be protected and allowed to prosper in the choice land I have prepared for them.”

I knew my descendants could **not** keep the Lord's commandments according to the law of Moses unless they had a record of the law, which was engraved on the brass plates.



And finally, I knew the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for one reason only — to help me obey His commandment to obtain the records and bring them to my father in the wilderness.

Knowing all these things, I obeyed the Spirit's voice. I took Laban by the hair and swiftly cut off his head with his own sword. Then I put on Laban's clothes and armor, disguising myself as him.



I went to Laban's treasury, where I met his servant who had the treasury keys. Imitating Laban's voice, I told the servant to follow me into the treasury. Because I was wearing Laban's clothes, and because it was dark, the servant thought I was Laban and followed me.

The servant asked about the elders — the Jewish leaders, knowing Laban had been out meeting with them earlier that evening. I answered him in a way I thought Laban would have. I told the servant I'd be taking the brass plates to my "elder brethren," who were just

outside the city walls, and to follow me there.

The servant thought I was talking about the elder brethren of the church, and he spoke of the Jewish elders many times as he followed me out of the city.

When my brothers saw me coming they were very frightened and ran, thinking I was Laban — that he had killed me and was now coming to kill them. When I called to them in my own voice they knew it was me and stopped running.

Then hearing my voice, Laban's servant became afraid and was about to run back to the city. Being large for my age, and with strength given me by the Lord, I held onto the servant to keep him from escaping. I said to him, "If you will listen to what the Lord told me, as He lives, you will live."

I made an **oath** with him so he would not be afraid. The oath was this . . . he would no longer be a servant if he would go with us into the wilderness.

I said, "The Lord has commanded us to get the plates, and we should be diligent in obeying His command. If you come with us into the wilderness, you'll be an equal among us."

This servant named Zoram took courage at my words and **made an oath** to stay with us from that time forward. We wanted him to come with us so the Jews

wouldn't learn of us, for they would have come after us and killed us.

After Zoram made this oath we had no worries about his loyalty to us.



Then we all returned to my father's tent in the wilderness with the brass plates.

Lehi reads the brass plates
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 5

My father Lehi was very joyful to see us return. My mother Sariah was especially happy, for during our journey she had been mourning. She had thought we had all died in the wilderness somewhere. She had been complaining against my father, telling him he was a visionary man, saying, "You've led us out of the land of our inheritance. Now my sons are dead, and we'll all die here in the wilderness."

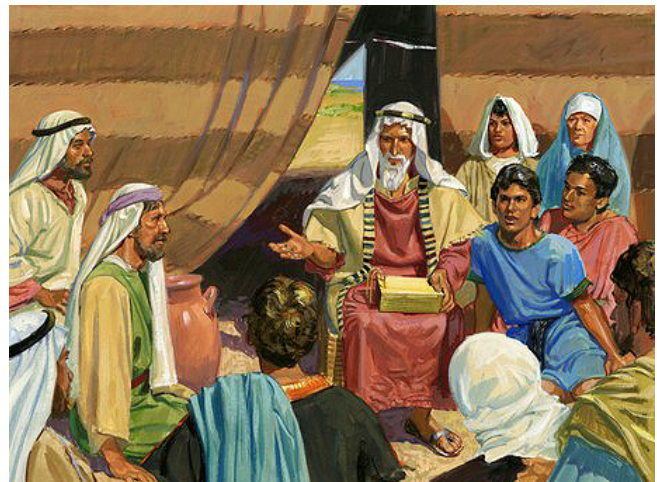
My father had comforted my mother by saying, "I know I'm a visionary man, for if God had not shown me so many things in vision we would not have left Jerusalem, but would have stayed there and all died at the hands of the Babylonians.

But instead, we've been given a land of promise, over which I rejoice. I know the Lord will protect our sons so they *will* return to us with the plates."

When we finally returned, my father and mother were full of joy and my mother was comforted. She said, "Now I know without a doubt the Lord commanded Lehi to take us into this wilderness. I know the Lord protected my sons so they could accomplish their task."

My father and mother were so happy upon our return they offered sacrifice and burnt offerings to the Lord, giving thanks to the God of Israel.

After this, Lehi began to read the brass plates from the beginning. The record contained **the five books of Moses**,



which told of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve, our first parents. The plates also contained a **record of the Jews**, and of the **prophets**, from the beginning down to the reign of Zedekiah. They also included **many prophecies of Jeremiah**.

Lehi found his genealogy written on the plates. He discovered he was a descendant of Jacob's son, Joseph, who was sold into Egypt.

Joseph had been preserved by God to save his father Jacob (Israel) and the rest of his family from starvation. Joseph's descendants were led out of their captivity in Egypt by the same God who had preserved Joseph and his family.

Then Lehi discovered that Laban was **also** a descendant of Joseph. Laban and his forefathers had been keeping the holy records for many centuries.

After reading these things, Lehi was filled with the Spirit and began to prophesy about his descendants:

“These **brass plates will go forth to all nations** and people who are of my descent (of the house of Israel). The brass plates will **never be destroyed** nor lose their greatness over time.”

Lehi prophesied much about his descendants, not written here. Up to this time, my father and I had obeyed **all** the Lord's commands.



As we continued to read the plates, they became of **great value** to us, for they enabled us to **teach** the Lord's commands to our children. We clearly saw the Lord's wisdom in commanding us to obtain these records and take them with us on our journey to the promised land.

***Purpose of making plates
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 6***

I, Nephi, am not including the genealogy of my forefathers in my record, for it's already engraved on the brass plates, kept by my father.

It is enough to say we are descendants of Joseph. I don't have room on **these small plates** to write everything my father did. I want to save room to write about the **things of God**.

I desire to persuade people to surrender their hearts to Christ — the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and thereby be saved.

The things I write are **not** pleasing to those who are **of the world**, but they **are** pleasing to God and to those who are **not of the world**.

I will tell my children, who will continue to engrave this record, only to include things of value — things that will **persuade** their children to **come to Christ**.

Laman and Lemuel rebel again
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 7

After my father finished prophesying about his descendants who would live in the promised land, the Lord said to him,

"Your family must not go to the promised land before your sons obtain wives so they may raise up a righteous people therein."

The Lord commanded my father to tell me and my brothers to go back to Jerusalem again and bring **Ishmael and his family back** with us to join

our journey. So my brothers and I went back to Jerusalem a second time.

Upon arriving we went to Ishmael's house, and he listened as we told him the words of the Lord. **All** of Ishmael's family agreed to travel with us to my father's camp in the wilderness.

But as we were all traveling, Laman and Lemuel rebelled again. They persuaded two of Ishmael's daughters and both of his sons, along with their wives and children, to rebel also. They rebelled against Sam and me, and against Ishmael, and against Ishmael's wife and three of his daughters.

Those who rebelled wanted to go back to Jerusalem.

I asked Laman and Lemuel, "How can you be so hard in your hearts, so blind in your minds? Why must I, your younger brother, always have to speak to you and set an example for you? After all you've seen, how can you now rebel against the Lord's word?"

Have you forgotten you've seen an angel? Have you forgotten how the Lord delivered us from Laban, and how we obtained the brass plates from his treasury? Can't you see by now the Lord can do **anything** for His children who have **faith** in Him?

Now let's be faithful to Him. If we are faithful, we will obtain the land of promise and escape the destruction of

Jerusalem, for we know the Lord's word *will* be fulfilled.

The Spirit of the Lord will soon completely leave the people of Jerusalem because they rejected the prophets. They threw Jeremiah in prison and tried to kill our father, who had to leave the city with us. The Spirit of the Lord compels me to say,

*Go back to Jerusalem, if you will.
But remember, if you do go,
you will soon die there."*

When I finished speaking, my brothers became very angry. They grabbed me and tied my hands and feet, intending to leave me in the wilderness to be eaten by wild animals.

Lying on the ground, tied up, I prayed, "Oh Lord, according to my faith in you, deliver me from the hands of my brothers. Give me the **strength** to **break** these ropes!"

As I prayed, the ropes **loosened** and **fell off** my hands and feet. Then I stood up to speak to my brothers again.

Note: Nephi prayed for strength to break the ropes, but the ropes loosened themselves and fell off. This was a lesson to Nephi, that the **Lord** will deliver us, **not ourselves** in our own strength.

They were still angry with me and wanted to take hold of me again, but one of Ishmael's sons who had rebelled,

Ishmael's wife and one of his daughters begged them to stop.

As **the Spirit touched them** they realized their wrong-doing and stopped. **Clearly seeing** their own wickedness because of the **Spirit**, they were afraid and sorry. **Such a change** came over them they bowed before me and **begged** my forgiveness.

I forgave them completely and told them to pray and ask **the Lord's** forgiveness, and they did.

After this incident, we continued traveling toward our father's camp. Upon arriving in the valley of Lemuel, my father and Ishmael gave thanks to the Lord their God and offered burnt sacrifices to Him.

Lehi's Dream *See 1 Nephi, Chapter 8*

Before our family had left Jerusalem we gathered **seeds** so that we could raise every type of fruit and grain. While we camped in the wilderness, my father had a dream--a vision. He told us,

Because of what I've seen, I rejoice in the Lord over Nephi and Sam. I believe they and many of their descendants will be saved. But I'm afraid for Laman and Lemuel, for in my dream, I saw them in a dark, dreary wilderness.

In my dream, a man dressed in a white robe came and stood before me. He told

me to follow him. I followed but soon found myself in a dark, dreary wasteland.

After walking in this darkness for what seemed to be many hours, I began to pray to the Lord to have mercy on me according to His great, tender mercy.

After praying I came out of the darkness



into a large, wide field. In this field, I saw a tree.

The Spirit told me the tree bore a fruit that could make one very happy, so I walked to the tree and ate of its fruit. It was sweeter than anything I had ever tasted, and whiter than anything I had ever before seen.



As I ate, my soul was filled with great joy, and I wanted my family to come and taste it also, for I knew it was the best fruit of all.

Looking around for my family, I saw a river running near the tree. I looked upstream to see from where it flowed, and I saw a fountain as its source. Near the fountain were your mother Sariah, Sam and Nephi, wondering which way to go. I cried to them, 'Come here and taste this wonderful fruit,' and they came, ate the fruit and were also filled with joy!

Again, I looked to the source of the river, hoping to see Laman and Lemuel. I saw them near the fountain and called to them, but they would **not come** to eat the fruit.

Then I saw an **iron rod** running alongside the riverbank, which led to the tree. I also saw a **straight, narrow path** running alongside the iron rod, which also led to the tree.

From the fountain, the straight, narrow path led into a **field**, which seemed **as wide as the whole world**.

In this field, I saw countless people from **different levels**, coming down into the field. Many were **moving forward in their efforts to find the path** to the tree. Many **found** it and began walking toward the tree.



Then a **great, dark mist** came over the path. Those who had been walking on it could no longer see, and they wandered off the path and became lost.

Then **other people** came forward and **took hold** of the iron rod. They came through the dark mist, holding tightly to the rod until reaching the tree, and ate of its fruit.

After they had eaten, they looked around and were **ashamed**, for across the river was a large, spacious building standing in the air high above the earth. The building was filled with all types of people — young and old, men and women — **all** dressed in **very fine** clothes, **laughing** and **pointing fingers** at those eating the fruit.

After tasting the sweet fruit of the tree, many were ashamed because of those making fun of them, so they left the tree and **became lost** on **forbidden** paths.”

My father Lehi told us **many other details** of his dream I'm **not** including in this record.

My father saw **other multitudes** of people take hold of the iron rod. Holding it tightly, and **they continued** until coming to the tree, **knelt down** in **humility** and tasted its fruit. He saw yet **other multitudes** feeling their way to the large, spacious building.

He saw many **drowned** in the fountain of filthy water and many lost on strange paths.

He saw a great multitude go into the large, spacious building and join in mocking me and those with me eating the fruit, but we ignored them.

All those who **wanted the approval** of the great multitude in the building left the tree and **fell away**.

Lehi saw that Laman and Lemuel never did come to the tree and taste its fruit. He was afraid they would be cast off from the Lord's presence, and he spoke to them with **all the feelings of a tender parent**, pleading with them to listen to him and keep the Lord's commandments. He preached to them, hoping the Lord would be merciful and not cast them off.

Then my father **prophesied** many things to my brothers and again told them to obey the Lord's commandments.

Lehi prophesies of Messiah
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 9

While living in a tent in the valley of Lemuel, my father saw, heard and spoke all these and **many more** things which cannot be written on **these** plates.

These smaller plates, which the Lord told me to make many years after arriving in the promised land, will **not** contain our history.

The Lord told me to make these plates for the special purpose of making an account of my people's **sacred preaching** and **prophecy**.

The first plates (larger ones) contain the history of my people . . . the reign of their kings, wars and contentions.

I don't know why the Lord told me to make **another set** (small plates), upon which I now write, to contain only the ministry of my people, but I know it's **for a wise purpose**.

The Lord knows **all things** and has all power to fulfill His words. He **prepares a way** for all His works to be **accomplished** among His children.

Lehi prophesies of Israel's tribes
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 10

Now I will continue this record of my ministry among my people and also finish the record of my father's ministry.

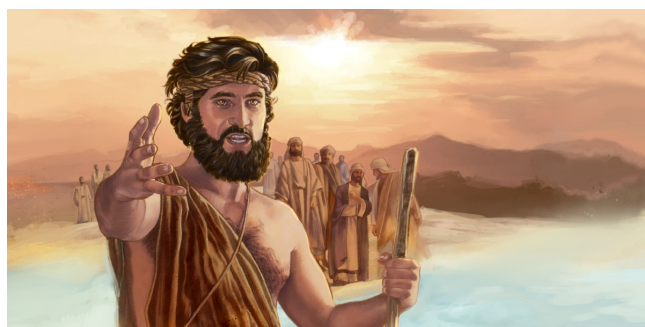
After my father finished telling us all about his dream, and after warning Laman and Lemuel, he spoke about the Jews:

“After the great city of Jerusalem is destroyed, and many Jews are taken as slaves into Babylon, in the Lord's due time they will return again to their land of inheritance.

And **600 years** from the time we left Jerusalem the Lord God will raise up a prophet among the Jews — **a Messiah** — even the **Savior of the world**.

All of the many prophets have testified of this Messiah, or Redeemer.

All people are in a lost, fallen state, and



will always be, unless they **rely** on this Redeemer.

A prophet will come before the Messiah (John) to prepare the way of the Lord. This prophet will tell the people,

'Prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight, for the Lord stands among you and you don't know Him. He is mightier than I, for I'm not worthy enough to even remove His sandals.'

This prophet will baptize the Messiah in Behabara, beyond Jordan, then he will bear record he baptized the Lamb of God, who will **take away the sins of the world!**"

My father prophesied to **Laman** and **Lemuel**, "The Messiah will preach His gospel to the Jews, who will **not** believe Him.

Then they will **kill** the Messiah, but He will rise from the dead. And the **Gentiles** will come to know Him through the **Holy Ghost**.

Note: The **Gentiles** never hear the Lord's voice directly. (3 Ne 15:23)

The house of Israel is like an olive tree, whose branches are broken off and scattered over the earth. Our journey to the promised land is the fulfilling of the Lord's word, spoken by Isaiah, that the house of Israel will be scattered.

Note: To know the complete past and future of the **House of Israel**, as compared to an **olive tree**, read **Jacob chapter 5**.

In the **last days**, after the Gentiles receive the fullness of the Gospel, the house of Israel, or natural branches, will be **grafted back into** their mother tree. In other words, the house of Israel will



come to the **knowledge** of their **true Messiah**, their Lord and Redeemer."

This is how my father prophesied to my brothers. I wrote **much more** of what he said — things **important to me**, upon my large plates. But I am writing this shorter version on these smaller plates.

All these things were done as my father lived in a tent in the valley of Lemuel.

After my father had told me **everything** he had **seen in visions** by the power of the Holy Ghost — given to him because of his **faith in the Son of God**, I wanted the **same experience** myself. I know God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The way of salvation has been prepared

from the beginning, and it's available to **all** who **repent** and **come** to Christ.

All who diligently seek the Lord will find Him, and His mysteries will be **unfolded** to them by the **power** of the **Holy Ghost**. This is *how* God deals with His children, and His ways *never* change. Remember this, for you will be **judged** by **all** you do.

If you're wicked in your **mortal life**, then you'll be found **unclean** before the judgment-seat of Christ. And since no unclean thing can live with God, you'll be cast off **forever**, to a place where God does *not* live.

I cannot deny these things, for the Holy Ghost has **told me** to write them."

*Nephi's vision of Savior's life
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 11*

Desiring to know what my father had seen, and **having faith** the Lord could show it to me, I sat and **meditated** in my heart.

Then I was **caught away** in the Spirit of the Lord to a **very high mountain** I had never before seen.

There the Spirit asked me, "**What do you want?**" I answered, "To **see** what my father saw."

The Spirit asked, "**Do you believe your father really saw the tree?**"

"**You know** I believe all the words of my father," I replied.

Then the Spirit cried out,
"Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God, for He is God over all the earth, even above all! You are blessed Nephi, **because you believe in the Son of the Most High God. Because you believe, you will see what you want to see.**

Note: Seeing is not believing.
Believing is seeing.

First, you will see the tree that bore the fruit your father tasted. Then you will see a **man** come down from heaven. By seeing Him, you will be able to **testify** you have seen **the Son of God**, and that He **lives!**"

Then the Spirit said, "**Look!**"

I looked and saw the tree. It was more beautiful than anything I had ever seen and whiter than driven snow. I said to the Spirit, "I see the tree bearing fruit more precious than anything."

"What do you want now?" asked the Spirit.

I replied, "To know the meaning *meaning* of the tree."

I talked with the Spirit as I would talk to *any* man. Although **He** was in the **form of a man**, I knew **He** was the Spirit of the Lord.

The Spirit again said,

"Look!"

But when I turned to look, He was gone. I looked down from the mountain and saw the great city of Jerusalem and other

cities as well. I saw the city of Nazareth, and in that city I saw a virgin who was very pure and beautiful.

Then I saw the heavens open. An angel came down, stood before me and said, “Nephi, what do you see?”

I answered, “A virgin, more beautiful and fair than any other.” The angel then asked, “Do you know what the condescension of God means?”

I answered, “I know God loves His children but not the meaning of His condescension.”

Then he said, “The virgin you see is the earthly mother of the Son of God.” I saw her carried away in the Spirit. After



she had been carried away in the Spirit for some time, the angel said “**Look!**”

I looked and saw the virgin holding a child in her arms.

Then the angel said, “See the Lamb of God, even the **Son** of the Eternal **Father!** Now do you know the meaning of the tree?”

“Yes,” I answered. “The tree represents **God's love** which may **fill** the **hearts** of **all** His children, and it's **worth more than anything!**”

“Yes,” said the angel, “And **God's love** is **most joyous** to the **soul!**”

Then the angel again said,

“**Look!**”

I looked and saw the Son of God (the **word**), walking among His people. I saw many fall down at His feet and worship Him.



Then I understood the meaning of the **iron rod** my father had seen. It represented **God's word**. The iron rod led to a fountain of living waters and the tree of life. Both the **pure fountain and tree of life** represented **God's love**.

Then the angel said, “**Look and witness the condescension of God!**”

I looked and saw the Redeemer of the world and prophet who would prepare the way before Him.

The Lamb of God, or Redeemer, was baptized by the prophet. After He was baptized, I saw the heavens open and the Holy Ghost come down upon Him in the form of a dove.

Then the Redeemer went among the people, ministering to them in **power** and **great glory!** Multitudes gathered to hear Him . . . but many **rejected** Him **and** His words.

I saw twelve others follow Him, but after they were carried away in the Spirit, I could no longer see them.

“**Look!**” said the Angel.

I looked, and saw the heavens open once again. **Angels came down to the people** and spoke to them. I saw the Lamb of God going among **them**, healing their sick and casting out evil spirits.

And then I looked and saw the Lamb of God — the Son of the everlasting God, taken by the people and judged by the



world. I saw him lifted upon a cross and die for the sins of the world.

Then multitudes of the earth gathered in that large, spacious building my father had seen. The angel said,

“**Look at the world and its wisdom. Even the house of Israel has gathered together to fight** against the gospel of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

And then I understood the large, spacious building represented the **pride** of the world. The building fell with a **great crash**, and then the angel said,

“**This is how all nations, kindreds, tongues and people that fight against the gospel of the twelve apostles of the Lamb of God will be destroyed!**”

Nephi's vision of his descendants
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 12

Then the angel said, “**Look and see your descendants, and also your brothers' descendants.**”

I looked and saw multitudes upon the promised land, as numerous as the sand



upon the seashore. I saw these multitudes gather to battle one another.

I saw many wars, and many of my people were killed by the sword. I saw many generations of people come and go, all involved in these wars.

I saw so many cities I could not count them all.

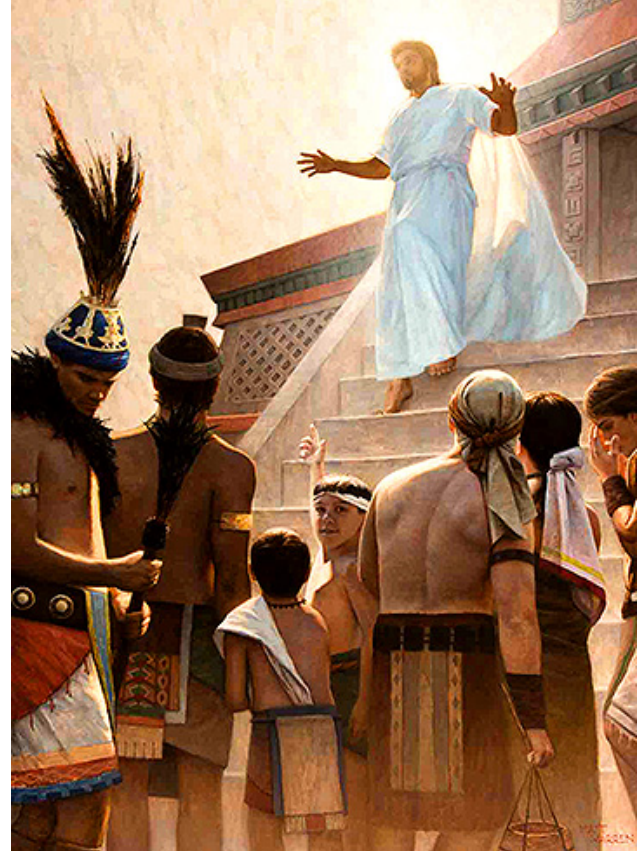
Then I saw a **great mist of darkness** over the face of the promised land.

After awhile the land became violent, with lightning, thunder, earthquakes and all manner of noise.

I saw **large mountains fall into valleys**, and plains were broken up. I saw many cities **sink into the ocean**. I saw many cities **burn**, and many collapse from **earthquakes**. Then for three days there was complete silence and darkness over the earth.

Note: Nephi was seeing the great destructions and three days of darkness in the **New World**, which took place at the time of the Savior's crucifixion.

After the darkness left, I saw multitudes of people who had been spared from the Lord's great and terrible judgments. I saw the heavens open. Then I saw the Lamb



of God come down from heaven and show Himself to the multitudes.

I bear record the Holy Ghost came upon



twelve others whom the **Lamb of God** had chosen from among the multitude and had ordained.

Then the angel said, “See the twelve disciples of the Lamb, chosen to serve your descendants. Remember the twelve apostles of the Lamb?”

They will judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Those original apostles will **also judge the** other twelve disciples (called by Jesus in the New World), who are descendants of the house of Israel.

By their **faith** in the Lamb of God, **these** other twelve disciples are purified by His blood. They are righteous forever, and **they** will *judge your descendants.*”

Note: These twelve New World disciples, including *three who still walk the earth today*, will **judge Nephi's descendants.**

The New World disciples were:

Nephi and his brother **Timothy, Jonas, Mathoni** and his brother **Mathonihah, Kumen, Kumenonhi, Jeremiah, Shemnon, Jonas, Zedekiah** and **Isaiah.**

I looked and saw three generations come and go, all purified like the disciples, and their robes were white like the robes of the Lamb of God. I saw many in the fourth generation also pass away in righteousness.

Then I saw multitudes gathered again to war. The angel then said, “See your descendants and your brothers' descendants,” and I saw my descendants gathered to war against my brothers'.

The angel then said, “See the fountain of filthy water and the filthy river that

your father saw in his dream? The depths of the fountain represent the depths of hell.

The mist of darkness that covers the straight path, and the whole earth, represents the devil's temptations. This mist keeps the people from seeing the true gospel. It also hardens their hearts against the Spirit of the Lord, and many people are lost because of it.

The large, spacious building represents the world's pride and vanity. A great and terrible gulf divides it from the tree of life. This gulf represents the justice of God and His Son.”

While the angel was saying these things, I watched as my brothers' descendants overpowered mine, for my descendants had become proud and vain.

I saw my descendants **completely destroyed**, for only my brothers' descendants remained upon the promised land.

Then I saw many generations of my brothers' descendants pass away, fighting battles among themselves.

And the angel said, “**These remaining people will falter in unbelief.**” I saw they had become a dark, loathsome and filthy people, full of idleness and all kinds of sinful traditions.

***Nephi's vision of
Europeans in America
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 13***

Again the angel said,
“Look!”



I looked and saw many nations and kingdoms.

He then asked me, *“What do you see?”* I told him what I saw and he told me these were the Gentile nations and kingdoms.

Then I saw a great church formed by the Gentile nations.

The angel said, *“See the most abominable church of all the churches, which captures, tortures and kills God's saints.”* I saw that the devil was the founder of this great, abominable church. I saw gold, silver, fine silk, fine linen and all types of expensive clothing and many harlots.

The angel said, *“All these things you see are what the great, abominable church desires. Its members capture and destroy God's saints for the **praise** of the world.”*

Then I saw a great ocean (Atlantic), which divided the Gentiles from my brothers' descendants. The angel said,



“You will see that God's anger is upon your brothers' people.”

I saw a man among the Gentiles (Christopher Columbus). He was separated from my brothers' descendants in the promised land by the great ocean.



I saw the Spirit of God come upon him and inspire him to sail across the great ocean.

Other Gentiles, who had been in bondage (Puritans, Pilgrims, etc.), also sailed across the ocean to the promised land inhabited by my brothers' people.

Then I saw multitudes of Gentiles upon the promised land. God's anger was upon my brothers' descendants. They were scattered before the Gentiles and many were killed, for the Spirit of the Lord was upon the Gentiles.

The Gentiles prospered and obtained the land for their inheritance. They were white, very fair and beautiful, like *my* people before they were all killed.

Now these Gentiles who had gone out of their captivity and had crossed the ocean were **humble** before the Lord. Because of their humility, the Lord's power was with them.

Then their native (European) kings became angry, and gathered their armies and navies to battle against the Gentiles in the promised land.

But God's anger was upon all those who fought against the Gentiles, for I saw the Gentiles **delivered** out of the hands of other nations by God's power. And I Nephi saw the **freed Gentiles** prosper in the land.



I also saw a book that they carried among themselves.

Then the angel asked, “Do you know the meaning of this book?”

“No,” I answered.

The angel said, “This book is a record of the Jews. Because this book **will contain the covenants** the Lord made



to the house of Israel, it will be of great value to the Gentiles. It will also contain **many** prophecies of the holy prophets, like those engraved on the brass plates, **but not as many**.

Now when this book **first** went from the Jews to the Gentiles, it contained **the fullness** of the gospel, of which the twelve apostles testified in all truth.

So according to the truth of the Lamb of God, this book went from the Jews to the Gentiles **in purity**.

After this **true, pure** book went from the twelve apostles, or Jews, to the Gentiles, you saw the formation of that **great, abominable church**, which is the **most** abominable of **all** the churches.

This church **took out** of this book, and out of the gospel, many **plain and precious parts**. They **also** took out many parts containing the Lord's **covenants** with His people.

They did this in order to **distort** the right ways of the Lord, which made it easier for them to **blind** the people's **eyes** and **harden** their **hearts** against the true, pure gospel of the Lamb."

The angel then said, "Because of that great, abominable church, the Gentiles' Holy Bible will **no longer** contain many of the plain and precious things that the *Book of The Lamb of God* will have once contained.

Their Holy Bible will first go to the nations of the Old World in Europe. Then it will be taken across the ocean to the promised land, to your brothers' descendants, the Lamanites. Now you see because so many plain and precious things will have been taken out of the gospel of the Lamb, multitudes of people, both Gentile and Lamanite, will

stumble in darkness, and Satan will have **great power** over them.

The Gentiles, who were brought out of captivity and made powerful by God, will not be allowed to completely destroy your people, who will mix with your brothers' people. This is because the **Lord God made a covenant** with your father Lehi, that **his** descendants would have this choice land for their inheritance **forever**.

Also because of this covenant, the Lord will not allow the Gentiles to remain in their awful state of blindness to the true gospel, which you see they are in because of their incomplete Bible, distorted by that abominable church."

The angel continued, "The Lord will be merciful to the Gentiles by bringing His judgments upon the Lamanites, who will not be mighty before them.

The Lamb of God says, 'I will be merciful to the Gentiles by bringing **much** of my gospel to them, and I will restore **many** plain and precious parts of the gospel to them.'

The resurrected Christ will appear to your descendants in this promised land.

They will write many plain and precious things that He will teach them.

At a later time, when your people are destroyed, these writings will be buried.

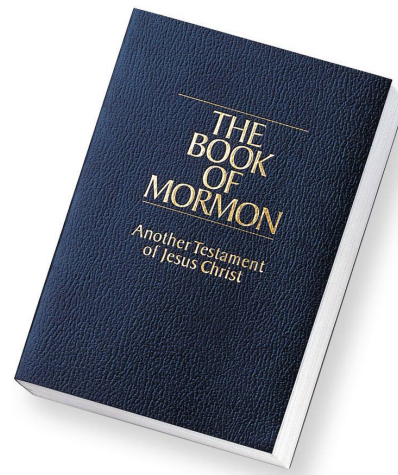


And in the last days, when your brothers' people are faltering in unbelief, these writings will come forth **to the Gentiles** (Latter-day Saints) through God's gift and power.

These ancient writings (*The Book of Mormon*), says the Lamb, will contain my gospel — my rock and my salvation.

Those who **seek to bring forth Zion** at that day will be blessed, for they will have the **gift** and the **power of the Holy Ghost**. If they continue in righteousness throughout their lives, they will be lifted up at the last day and saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb.

And those who **publish peace** at that day, even tidings of great joy, will be beautiful upon the mountains of Zion.”



After the angel said this, I saw the Gentiles take *The Holy Bible* to the Lamanites. I also saw **other books** being taken to

the Lamanites.

These other books came forth by the **gift and power** of the Lamb to the Gentiles (the Latter-Day Saints). I saw these other books convince other **Gentiles, Lamanites, and Jews** who were scattered over the earth, that the records of the prophets and twelve apostles were **true!**

Then the angel said, “These last records you see among the Gentiles will establish the truth of *The Holy Bible*, as written by the twelve apostles to the Jews. They will make the **plain and precious things**, once removed from the twelve apostles' writings, **known again**. They will declare to **all the people of the earth** that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, the Savior of the world, and that **all people** must come to Him to be saved.

For **all must come** to the Lamb according to His words, which will be found in your descendants' record (The

complete *Book of Mormon*), and in the twelve apostles' record (*The Holy Bible*).

These books will be as one, for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.

The time will come when He will first make Himself known to all nations — to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles. In the last days, He will first make Himself known to the **Gentiles**, and then to the Jews.”

Nephi's vision of last days
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 14

The angel continued, “And in those last days, **if the Gentiles listen** to the Lamb of God when He shows Himself to them in **word, power and deed**, and not turn their hearts from Him, **then** He will **include** them with the house of Israel and they will be a blessed people upon the promised land forever.

Then they, the *Gentiles*, will **no longer be brought down as captives**, and the house of Israel will no longer **suffer in ignorance**.

Note: The angel told Nephi the Gentiles (which includes LDS Gentiles) will be brought **out** of captivity after they **listen** to the Savior showing Himself in word, power and deed.

This is a time when Gentiles will have been captured, and when the Lord and his powerful servant(s) are bringing to pass the “**wonder**” part of “a great and marvelous work and a wonder.”

For the Lamb of God said, 'That great pit, dug by the great, abominable church, founded by the devil and his children, and dug with the intent to destroy all people, will be **filled by those who dug it** as they are completely destroyed in the flesh.

Their spirits will not be destroyed, but will be thrown into an endless hell. For the **devil's captivity** is also God's justice upon all who **hear** His word, yet **choose wickedness**.”

The angel then said, “Nephi, you know about the Lord's **covenants** He made with the house of Israel — that those who do not repent will perish. And you realize **if the Gentiles repent** it will be well with them.

But **great judgments** will come upon the **Gentiles if they reject the gospel** and harden their hearts against the Lamb of God, saying,

*The time will come when I will work a **great, marvelous and everlasting** work among the children of men — a work that will either **convince people** to seek for peace and eternal life, or a work that, because of their **pride**, will allow the devil to **justly capture them**, to destroy them temporally and spiritually.*

The angel then asked, "Do you **remember** the **covenants** the Lord made with the house of Israel?"

“Yes,” I replied.

“Then look and see the great, abominable church -- the mother of wickedness. There are only *two* churches:

- 1) The church of the **Lamb of God**
- 2) The church of the **devil**

All who *do not* belong to the church of the Lamb of God *belong* to the church of the devil — that great church, the mother of all abominations, even the whore of **all** the earth.”

I, Nephi, saw the devil's church. It **dominated all nations**, kindreds, tongues and people of the world.

I also saw **God's saints**, who made up the **church of the Lamb of God**, spread **over all the world**. Their numbers were **few** because of the wickedness of the devil's church.

Then I saw the devil's church gather **multitudes** in all the **Gentile nations** to **fight against** the Lamb of God.

I saw the **power** of the Lamb **come down** upon the saints of His church, and **also upon** the Lord's **covenant people** (Lamanites, Jews and other tribes) who had been scattered all over the world **but who were now gathering**. They were **all armed with righteousness** and with **God's power in great glory!**

Then God's anger was poured out upon that great, abominable church, and there were **wars in every nation** on earth!



Note: Saints and covenant people are gathered first, *then* wars break out in every nation.

When the wars first broke out among the Gentile nations, the angel said, “God's anger is upon the mother of harlots — the great, abominable church.

In the last days, when this vision comes to pass, when wars begin among *all* Gentile nations, *then* the Father's work will **begin**, preparing the way to **fulfill the covenants** He made with the house of Israel.”

Then the angel said,

“Look!”

I looked and saw a man dressed in a white robe.

"See John the Revelator, one of the Lamb's twelve apostles. John will see and write *the rest of the events of the*

last days, and also many things which have happened **from the beginning** of the world.

He will also write about **the end of the world**. What he writes will be just and true. When he gives his writings to the Jews, they will be **plain, pure, most precious and easy to understand**.

John will describe what you have seen, Nephi, and he will also describe what you will **yet see**. But **do not write** about what you will **yet see**, for the Lord God has **ordained John** to do that.

There are **others** who have been **ordained by the Lord to see** all things concerning the earth, from the beginning to the end. These **others** will **also write their records**, which will be **sealed up** to come forth **in purity** to the house of Israel in the Lord's **due time**.”

Note: One of these “**others**” ordained to see and write all things was **Jared's brother**. His record, written in the sealed part of Mormon's record, **will** come forth when the Gentiles, particularly LDS Gentiles, **sanctify and humble themselves**, as Jared's brother once did. (see **Ether 4:4-7**)

It was truly John the Revelator who wrote about the end of the world.

I, Nephi am **forbidden** to write what I later saw and heard. What I have written is enough, although it's only a **small part** of what I saw.

I bear record the angel showed me **everything** my father saw. This is only

a **partial record** of what I saw and heard while I was carried away in the Spirit to that **very high mountain**. I give you my witness, that **everything** I have written is true.

Nephi explains Lehi's prophecies
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 15

After returning from being carried away in the Spirit, I went back to my father's tent. There I found my brothers arguing over what my father had told them.

My father had said many things that could be understood only by asking the Lord their meaning. But they, being **proud**, did **not** ask the Lord.

I became very sorry because of their stubborn ways, and because of the vision



I had just seen, in which I **knew** my brothers and their descendants would falter because of their unbelief and

wickedness. I was overcome with grief, feeling it was greater than anyone's, for I had **seen the destruction** of my fair people!

After praying to the Lord I received



strength, and I asked my brothers what they were arguing about.

They said, "We don't agree on what father meant when he spoke of the *natural branches of the olive tree*, and of the Gentiles."

I asked them, "Have you asked the Lord to tell you their meaning?"

"No," they replied.

"The Lord tells us no such things."

Then I said, "Why don't you obey the Lord's commands? Why do you allow yourselves to die spiritually because of your hard hearts? Remember the Lord said, *'If you **humble** yourselves before me and not harden your hearts, and ask of me in faith, **believing** you will receive, and diligently obey my commands, **then** these things will surely be **made known to you.**'*

By the same Spirit of the Lord which was in our forefathers, I tell you the **house of Israel** was **compared to an olive tree**. Our family is of the house of Israel, for our father discovered that we are descendants of Joseph.

We are like a **natural branch**, broken off an olive tree, to be planted in the promised land.

The joining again of the natural branch to the olive tree is compared to **our people** who will receive the fullness of the gospel in the last days. They will receive it **from the Gentiles** (Latter-day Saints) many generations after the Messiah will have shown Himself to their forefathers, and many generations after they have faltered in unbelief.

In the last days, the rest of our descendants will **know** they are members of the house of Israel -- the Lord's covenant people. They will **learn** of their forefathers, and of their Redeemer's **gospel**, which He gave to their forefathers.

They will also know **how to come** to their Redeemer and be saved.

In the last days, they will rejoice and give praise to their everlasting God -- their rock and salvation. They will receive strength and nourishment **from the natural tree again** -- the true vine, and come into God's true fold.

The Lord will remember them **again** as members of the house of Israel, and graft them **back** into their mother tree as natural branches.

Our father means after the natural branches are **scattered** by the Gentiles, they will be **grafted back in**, or in other words, receive the gospel, **also** by the Gentiles.

The Lord will show His power and **give His gospel to the Gentiles** because the Jews, or the house of Israel, will have rejected the Lord.

Our father not only spoke of our descendants, but also of the descendants of **all** the house of Israel, bringing to our attention the **covenant that will be fulfilled in the last days**, which the Lord made to father Abraham saying,

'Through your descendants, all families throughout the earth will be blessed.'

Note: Speaking to Nephites in 34 AD, the Savior supported Nephi's then 600 year old writings about Isaiah, saying,

*When **Isaiah's** words are **fulfilled**, then the **covenant** the Father made with the House of Israel **will be fulfilled**.*

*You are the children of the prophets. You are of the **house of Israel**, part of the covenant the Father made with your fathers, saying to Abraham: Through your descendants, Abraham, all people of the Earth will be blessed. **3 Nephi 20:11-12,25***



I explained many things to my brothers about the Jews being restored to lands of their inheritance in the last days.

Then I repeated words of Isaiah, who wrote of the **restoration of the Jews**, and of **all the house of Israel**. I told them the house of Israel would no longer be scattered and confused.

After I explained these things, my brothers were pacified for awhile and humbled themselves before the Lord.

Later they asked what the **tree** meant our father saw in his dream. I told them it represented the **tree of life**.

Then they asked what the **iron rod** meant. I said it represented **God's word**, and those who held onto it never perished, nor could the devil's temptations overpower and blind them, leading them **away** from the straight path to the destruction of their souls.

I pled with them to listen to this warning from God. I encouraged them with all the **energy of my soul**, and with all the **words of my mind**, to **obey** God's word in **all** things. Then they asked what the river meant.

I told them it came from a **fountain of filthy water**, which represents the **devil's temptations**. The **depths** of the fountain represent the **depths of hell**.



The **river** was an **awful gulf** separating the wicked from the tree of life, and from God's saints who were eating its fruit.

I told them the **gulf** represents the **awful hell** prepared by the devil for the wicked.

I told them our father saw **God's justice**, which **also divided** the wicked from the righteous. This **justice** was as **bright** as a **flaming fire**, **ascending** to God forever.

Then they asked if that fire represented the **torment of the body** -- God's justice

in **this life**, or the **final state** of the soul after death.

I told them the **fire** represents **both temporal and spiritual torment** -- that the day will come when all will be judged according to the works they did while in their bodies — and that if they were to die while still wicked, they would be **cast off from spiritual things** having to do with **righteousness**.

I told them they **will** stand before God, who will judge their works, and if their works **in the body were filthy** in the days of their probation, **then they are still filthy out of the body** and therefore cannot live with God. For if they were to live with Him, they would make His kingdom filthy.

God's kingdom will **not** be made filthy, and no unclean thing can enter it, so there's **another kingdom prepared** for those who **are** filthy.

That other kingdom, an **awful hell**, is prepared by the devil.

According to the justice of God's word, the **final state** of **all souls** is to **live with Him or be cast out** of His presence.

told my brothers this is how the wicked are **divided** from the righteous, and from the tree of life with fruit most precious and desirable above all. This fruit is God's love -- His **greatest** gift.

*The Liahona, made by God, appears
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 16*

My brothers said, “Nephi, your words are so harsh we can’t bear them.”

I replied, "I know my words are harsh against the wicked. I have justified the righteous and have testified they will be lifted up at the last day.

Guilty people take the truth to be hard on them, for it cuts them to the very center of their souls. If you were **righteous** -- willing to **listen** to the truth and **obey** God's commands, you wouldn't feel I was speaking harshly to you.”

After I diligently urged my brothers to obey the commandments they humbled themselves before the Lord, and I was joyful. I had great hope they would walk a righteous path.

All these things were said and done as my father lived in his tent in the valley he named Lemuel.

Of Ishmael's five daughters, I married one, each of my three older brothers married one, and Zoram married the eldest.

Up to this time, my father had obeyed all the commands the Lord had given to him, and I, too had been very blessed by the Lord.

One night the Lord's voice came to my father telling him to continue his journey in the wilderness.



The next morning, when my father went to his tent door, to his great astonishment he saw a ball of strange workmanship, made of fine brass, sitting on the ground. Within the ball were **two** spindles. One pointed the way that we should go into the wilderness.

We gathered our provisions that the Lord had given us, and the rest of the things we needed for our journey, including all types of seeds. Then we packed our tents and crossed the river my father had named Laman.

After traveling in a south-southeastern direction for four days, we set up camp in a place we called Shazer.

Then me and my brothers went into the wilderness with our bows and arrows to hunt for food. After finding food, we returned to our families. Then we continued our journey, traveling south-southeast, staying in the most fertile areas along the borders of The Red Sea. We traveled for many days, hunting food along the way with our bows and arrows, stones and slings.

We followed the direction of the spindle on the brass ball, which led us to the most fertile parts of the wilderness.

After many days we set up camp again to rest for awhile and to hunt for more food. While hunting, I broke my steel bow, and my brothers became angry with me because I could no longer obtain food.

We returned to camp and found our families very tired because of their journeying and suffering from hunger.

Soon all the men except myself began to complain

greatly against the Lord because of their afflictions in the wilderness.

Because of our weakness due to hunger, and because of my broken bow and my brothers' bows which had lost their spring, our situation became desperate. And because my brothers had once again become stubborn, complaining against the Lord, I spoke to them for a **long time**.

Then I made a bow out of wood and an arrow out of a straight stick. I took a sling and some stones and went to my father and asked him, "Where should I go to find food?"

My father asked the Lord where I should go, for the family had **humbled** themselves **after** I had spoken many things to them **in the energy of my soul**.

The Lord's voice came to my father and chastised him for complaining, and my father became very sorry for having complained against God.

Then the Lord's voice said to him,



“Look at the writing on the ball.”

After my father read the writing on the ball, he started to **tremble**.

When my brothers, Ishmael's sons and our wives read the writing, they also began to tremble.

I then realized the pointers on the ball worked **according to our faith** in and **obedience** to the directions they gave us.

Also on the pointers we discovered some **new words, plainly written**, giving us **understanding** of the Lord's ways.

The writing **changed** from time to time according to the faith and diligence we



gave to its instructions. From this we learn that by **small means** the Lord can bring about **great things**.

I went atop a mountain as instructed by the directions written on the ball. On the mountain I found wild animals and obtained food for our families.

When I returned to camp with food everyone was overjoyed! They humbled themselves before the Lord and gave thanks to Him. We regained our strength and continued our journey again in the same direction.

After traveling for many days, we set up camp to rest again. And in this place, Ishmael died, after which he was buried in a place called Nahom.

Ishmael's daughters were very sad for having lost their father and because of their afflictions in the

wilderness. They complained about my father, saying, "Lehi brought us from our home in Jerusalem to wander in this wilderness. Now our father is dead, and we've suffered from fatigue, hunger and thirst. And after all our suffering we're going to die of starvation in this wilderness!"

They carried on with their complaining about my father and me, asking their husbands to take them back to Jerusalem.

Then, to make them angry against me, Laman said to Lemuel and Ishmael's sons, "Let's kill our father, and also Nephi, who thinks he's a ruler and teacher over us, his older brothers. Nephi says the Lord has talked with him, that angels have ministered to him, but we know he lies! He says these things to trick us, to lead us away to some strange wilderness, where he plans to make



himself king over us and do with us as he pleases."

But in spite of my brothers, the Lord was with us all. His voice came **like thunder** and we **all** heard it. He told my brothers many things and **chastised them severely**.

After this they changed their anger to humility, and the Lord blessed us with food again.

***Nephi told to build a ship**
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 17*

Then we took up our travels, heading east. We continued to suffer with affliction in the wilderness as our wives bore children, but the Lord poured **great blessings** upon us. While eating raw meat (for we were commanded not to make many fires) our wives were healthy and nursed their babies.

The women became **as strong as the men**, and they began to bear the harshness of the journey without complaint.

The miracle of our survival in the harsh wilderness is **proof** that God's promises

will be fulfilled. If His children obey His commands, He will **feed and strengthen them** so they may accomplish His commands, for **the Lord** fed us while we traveled in the wilderness. We camped and traveled in the wilderness for eight years.

Finally, we came to a land we called Bountiful because it had so much fruit and wild honey **prepared for us** by the Lord.

Bountiful was by the sea, which we called Irreantum, meaning "many waters." We were very happy to pitch our tents by the seashore and rest, for we had suffered much in the wilderness — so much I cannot write it all.

After we had been in Bountiful many days, the Lord's voice came to me, saying, "*Go up onto the mountain.*"

I went up and prayed, and the Lord said to me, "*Nephi, you will build a ship according to my design I will show you. You will do this so I may carry your people to the promised land across this great ocean.*"

I asked the Lord, "Where do I find ore to smelt, to make tools needed to build this ship?" And the Lord told me where to find the ore. I made bellows from animal skins to blow a fire. Then I struck two stones together and made a fire. Before this, I had not made many fires because of the Lord's command, for He had said,



“I will make your raw meat taste good so you will not have to cook it. If you keep my commandments, I will be your light in the wilderness and prepare the way before you. I will lead you to the promised land, and you will know that it is I who leads you. After you arrive in the promised land, you will know that I the Lord am God, and that I delivered you from destruction by bringing you out of Jerusalem.”

After speaking with the Lord, I did my best to obey His commands, and I encouraged my brothers to be faithful and diligent as well. Then I made tools from metal ore I smelted out of the rock.

When my brothers realized what I was doing, they said I was a fool to think I could build a ship good enough to cross the great ocean. They would **not help** me because they **did not believe** I could build a ship, or that the Lord had told me to build it.

I became very sorrowful because of their hard hearts and stubbornness. When they saw this, they became glad and said,

“We knew you couldn't build a ship. We knew you over estimated your abilities. You can't do such a great work. You're just like our father, who is led away by the foolish imaginations of his heart. He has led us to wander for these many years in the wilderness.

Our wives have suffered by bearing children in the wilderness. They have suffered everything but death and would have been better off dying in Jerusalem rather than suffering so much out here.

For these many years we have suffered in the wilderness when we could have been happily enjoying our possessions in the land of our inheritance.

We know the people of Jerusalem are righteous, for they **keep all the Lord's statutes, judgments and commandments** according to the law of Moses. But our father has judged them and has led us away because he knew we would follow him. And you, Nephi, are just like him!”

I replied, "Do you believe our forefathers would have been led out of the hands of the Egyptians **if they had not listened** to the words of the Lord? Do you believe they would have been led out of their bondage **if the Lord had not commanded Moses** to lead them out?"

You **know** the children of Israel were in bondage and were given many hard tasks as slaves, and so you **know** it was good for them to be led out of bondage. You **know** Moses was commanded by the Lord to do this great work, and that



by his word The Red Sea divided and the children of Israel walked through on dry ground.

You **know** the armies who followed them were drowned in The Red Sea.



You **know** the children of Israel were fed with **manna in the wilderness**, and that Moses, by his word according to God's power in him, struck a rock, and water flowed out for the people to drink. After being led by the Lord their God, their Redeemer, who went before them by day, who gave them light by night,



and **who did all things for them** that they needed, they **still hardened their hearts** and rebelled against Moses and against God.

And by the **Lord's word** He destroyed the children of Israel in their rebellion, or by **His word** He led and nourished them in the wilderness.

After they crossed The Jordan River, the Lord gave them strength to drive out those who were in the land, to scatter and destroy them.

And do you think the people driven out were **righteous**? No, they were not.

And do you think our forefathers would have been **chosen to inherit** the land of promise if the people **already there** were righteous? No, they would not have been.

The Lord esteems all people equally, yet **He favors the righteous**. Those driven off the land were ripe in wickedness, and the fullness of His anger was upon them.

The Lord cursed the land against them to their destruction, and He blessed the land for our forefathers so they could

obtain power over it, for the Lord created the earth to be inhabited, and **He created His children to possess the earth in righteousness.**

He raises up a righteous nation and destroys the wicked ones. He leads the righteous into precious lands and He destroys the wicked, cursing the land for their sakes.

He rules high in the heavens, for it is **His** throne, and the earth His footstool.

He **loves to bless** those who accept Him as their God. He blessed our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, by **making covenants** with them, and He remembered those covenants by bringing their descendants out of Egypt.

The Lord **purified** the children of Jacob (Israel) because they were **stubborn** and hard in their hearts, as you are.

He sent fiery flying snakes among them. After they had been bitten, He prepared a



way for them to be healed by simply looking at the brass snake held up by Moses.

Because the way to be healed was **so simple**, many would not look up, and they died.

They also hardened their hearts from time to time, and they reviled against Moses, and also against God. But in spite of all this, you **know** they were led by His matchless power into the promised land.

After all this, the children of Israel now in Jerusalem have become wicked and are ripening for destruction.

I know the day must surely come when they will be destroyed, except for a few who will be taken captive. This is why the Lord commanded my father to depart into the wilderness. The Jews planned to kill him, **as you do now**, so you are murderers in your hearts like the Jews!

You are **quick** to do wrong but **slow** to remember the Lord your God.

You've **seen** an angel who spoke to you, and you've **heard** the Lord's voice from time to time. He spoke to you with a **soft, gentle voice**, but you had become **too hardened to feel** His words. This is why the Lord then spoke to you with a voice of **thunder**, causing the **earth to quake** as if it would split open.

You **know** by the power of His almighty word He can cause the earth to pass away. He can cause mountains to become valleys and valleys to become mountains.

Knowing this, why are you still so hard in your hearts?

My soul is full of anguish because of you, and my heart is pained, for I am afraid you will be cast from God's presence forever.

Look at me. I'm so full of the Spirit of God it consumes my strength!"

After I said all this, Laman and Lemuel were angry with me, and seeing my weakness, they were about to take me and throw me into the sea. As they were about to do this I said,

"In the name of the Almighty God, do not touch me, for I am filled with the power of God,

even unto the consuming of my flesh. Whoever touches me will wither as a dried reed in the sun and be **nothing** before God, who will smite him!"

I told them to stop complaining and plotting against my father and me, and to no longer refuse to help me build the ship.

I said, "If God commanded me to do anything, I could do it. If He commanded me to say to this water, '**Be thou earth,**' it would become earth!

And if the Lord has such great power and has brought about so many miracles among His people, **why can't He tell me how to build a ship?"**

I said many more things to confound Laman and Lemuel. The Spirit of God was so powerful upon them they dared not touch me for many days, afraid of withering before me.

After many days, the Lord told me to hold out my arm and touch my brothers, and He would shock them so they would know it was by His power.

I did this, and after He shook them they said, "Nephi, we know for sure the Lord is with you and His power has shaken us."

Then they fell down before me, about to worship me, but I told them, "I'm your younger brother. Worship the Lord your God, and honor your father and mother so your days may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you."

*Laman and Lemuel humbled,
Yet they rebel again
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 18*

Then my brothers worshipped the Lord and helped me build the ship. We worked the timber in a strange manner, for the Lord showed me from time to time how to fashion the timbers of the ship. It was not made like the ships of man's design, for we built it according to the Lord's design, which He showed me.



I **often** went up to the mountain to pray to the Lord, and He showed me **great things**.

When we finished the ship, my brothers saw it was good, the workmanship very fine, and again they humbled themselves before the Lord.

Then one night, the Lord's voice came to **my father** Lehi, telling him we should board the ship.

In the morning we gathered the large supplies of meat, fruit, honey, seeds and provisions that the Lord told us to gather, and we boarded the ship.

In her old age, my mother had borne two sons in the wilderness. The first was named Jacob, the second Joseph.

After we boarded the ship we set out to sea, and the wind drove us toward the promised land.

After many days of sailing, my brothers and Ishmael's two sons and their wives began to make themselves

merry. They danced, sang and spoke very rudely, forgetting that God was carrying them safely across the sea.

I was afraid that their rudeness would provoke the Lord to smite us, and that we would be swallowed up in the depths of the sea, so I

spoke to them very seriously, but they became angry with me, and said, "**We will not put up with you trying to rule over us.**"

Then Laman and Lemuel tied me with ropes and treated me harshly. The Lord allowed them to do this in order to show His power and thereby fulfill His words about the wicked.

I could not move being tied, and the pointers on the compass the Lord had made did not move.

Then a great storm arose. It was such a terrible tempest my brothers didn't know which way to steer the ship, and we were driven back for three days.

They became very frightened, thinking they would be drowned in the sea, but they **still would not untie me**.

On the fourth day the terrible storm grew stronger still. By the end of that day, our ship was **about to be swallowed up** in the depths of the raging sea, and my

brothers **began** to realize that God's judgments were upon them — and that unless they repented they would die, so they untied me.



My wrists and ankles had become very sore and swollen, but I did not complain. I looked to God and praised Him all that day.

While I had been tied, my father had said many things to my brothers and to Ishmael's sons, for which they had threatened him. They had also threatened anyone else who had tried to speak on my behalf.

My parents had become very sick, being old, and having suffered much grief because of their sons. Their sorrow over the iniquity of my brothers and their years of affliction had brought them near death.

My young brothers, Jacob and Joseph, needed much nourishment, but they suffered because of their mother's afflictions.

Even the tears and prayers of my wife and children did not soften my brothers' hearts.

Nothing but **God's power, threatening them with destruction**, could soften their hearts. Only after they realized they were about to die at sea did they repent and untie me.

Finally freed, I held the compass and it began to work again. And as the storm raged on, I prayed to the Lord, and at last the tempest stopped and the waves became calm. Then I steered the ship as we sailed toward the promised land.

After sailing many days we joyfully arrived at the promised land and gave great thanks to God.



We went upon the land and pitched our tents. We plowed the land and planted

the seeds we had brought from Jerusalem. The seeds grew very well, and we were blessed with abundant crops.

As we explored this promised land, we discovered many types of animals in the forests. We found cows, oxen, donkeys, horses, goats and all kinds of wild animals useful to us.

We also found many types of ore, including gold, silver and copper.

Nephi makes more plates, and he quotes from the brass plates

See 1 Nephi, Chapter 19

Soon after arriving in the promised land, the Lord commanded me to make large plates. Upon those plates, I transcribed my father's record of our journey in the wilderness, of his prophecies and many of my prophecies.

While making my first set of plates, I did not know several years later the Lord would tell me to make a second set of plates (these smaller ones, upon which I engrave now).

My first set contains my father's record, his genealogy and a detailed account of our wilderness journey.

On this second set, the Lord told me to write a **plain and precious record** of the **ministry** and **prophecies** to my people. This record was to be for their **instruction**, and for **other** wise **purposes** known to Him.



I made a detailed record of my people's warfare on my first set of plates (the larger ones).

I've told my people that after I am gone they should hand down **all my plates**, from one generation to another, from one prophet to another, until the Lord commands otherwise.

For now I write this sacred history, and **later** I'll tell you *how* the Lord commanded me to make this second set of plates, upon which I now write our more sacred history.

My first set of plates, containing our detailed history, is also sacred.

If I make mistakes, like those who have written before me, I forgive myself. Not because others have made mistakes, but because like them, I'm also weak in the flesh.

Some consider what I write to be of great worth, both temporally and spiritually. Others don't value it at all.

Some don't even value the very God of Israel and His counsel.

Yet according to what the angel told me, the God of Israel will be born 600 years from the time my family left Jerusalem. And because of their iniquity, worldly people will judge Him to be of no value. They will whip, strike, and even spit on Him. He will allow this because of His loving kindness and long-suffering toward all people.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt and preserved them in the wilderness, will yield Himself as a mortal man into the hands of wicked men, to be...

...**“lifted up,”** according to the words of **Zenock**.

...**“crucified,”** according to the words of **Neum**.

...**“buried in a selpulcher,”** according to the words of **Zenos**, who also spoke of three days of darkness that would be a sign of His death, given

to the house of Israel throughout the world.

Zenos the prophet said,

“The Lord God will surely visit all the house of Israel at the time of His death and resurrection. He will visit some with His voice because of their righteousness, to their great joy and salvation.

And He will visit others with His power — with thunder, lightning, storms, fire, thick darkness, by opening the earth, and by raising mountains. The rocks of the earth will break up, and because of the groaning of the earth, the Spirit of God will come upon many kings on



other continents, who will exclaim,

'The God of nature suffers.'

The people of Jerusalem will be scourged by all nations for crucifying the

God of Israel, and for rejecting His signs, wonders, power and glory. They will be defamed and **hated among all nations**.

They will **wander** and **perish** for

despising the Holy One of Israel, for turning their hearts from Him.”

***“His blood be upon us
and upon our children”***

***A Partial History of
Persecution Against Jews . . .***

70 A.D. - Jerusalem sacked,
1,100,000 killed. 97,000 captured by
Romans.

1095 to 1189 - attacked in Holy
Land, and rioted against in England

1182 - expelled from France

1420 - expelled from Vienna

1481 - 30,000 burned at the stake
during Spanish Inquisition

1490 - expelled from
Geneva, Switzerland

1492 - 150,000 expelled from Spain

1493 - expelled from Sicily

1497 - expelled from Austria

1498 - expelled from Lithuania

16th, 17th, 18th centuries, expelled
from England and France

1939 to 1945 - 6 million killed by
Nazi regime

Zenos continues,

“However, **when the day comes** when the Jews no longer turn their hearts away from the Holy One of Israel, then He will **remember the covenants** He made to their forefathers. He will remember **all** people of the house of Israel and gather them together from **all over** the earth.

Then **all** people on earth in **every nation will see** the salvation of the Lord and be blessed.”

And I Nephi write these things to persuade my people to always remember their Lord and Redeemer. I write these things to **all** the house of Israel, that my record might come to them as well.

Now I grieve in the spirit to the point of growing weak for those who are in Jerusalem. But the Lord has shown mercy on me. He has saved me from perishing in Jerusalem and has shown me its destruction, just as He showed the prophets of old.

Surely the Lord showed the prophets of old everything about Jerusalem and about us and our descendants. It’s very important for us to have their prophecies written on the brass plates.

I taught my brothers these things, and I read them many things from the brass plates so they would understand how the Lord has dealt with His people in other lands, and in times past.

I read many things to them written by Moses, and **especially by Isaiah**, to persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer.

I applied all the scriptures to our lives so we would profit and learn from them.

Before reading some of **Isaiah's** words I said, "Listen, you who are a branch of the house of Israel, which has been broken off and carried across the sea. Listen to **Isaiah's** words, written for **all** of Israel's descendants.

Apply **Isaiah's** words to your lives so you may have **hope in your Redeemer** along with the rest of the house of Israel. The reason **Isaiah** wrote was to give us **hope!**"

***Nephi writes Isaiah's words
from the brass plates
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 20***

The Lord's words, first spoken to Isaiah:

Listen, oh house of Jacob (Israel), who are baptized, and who make oaths in the name of the Lord and speak of God, yet do it not in truth nor righteousness. You call yourselves holy, but you do not put the God of Israel first in your lives, whose name is The Lord of Hosts.

From the beginning, I have told you, and through prophets things that have happened. I have spoken and revealed them suddenly. I did this because I knew how obstinate and stubborn you are as a people. I prophesied to you of things I would do before they happened, knowing unless I did this, you would say,

"Our idols and graven images have caused them to happen."

Having seen and heard their fulfillment, will you *now* declare them to others? Will you also declare I have shown you new, previously hidden things? Things revealed now, but not before. Otherwise, you would say, **"We already knew about them (without a prophet)."**

You did not hear or know of these things before they were revealed to you, for I knew you would be a treacherous people, born into a sinful state.

But in spite of your sinfulness, for my name's sake I will put my anger aside, and for my praise I will not completely destroy you, oh house of Israel. **Yet**

I will refine and choose you in the furnace of affliction. I will do this for my own sake, for I will not allow my name to be dishonored nor give my glory to another.

Listen to me, oh house of Jacob, which I have called out of the world, for I am He who was at the first, and He who will be at the last. My hand laid the foundation of the earth. My right hand reaches throughout the heavens. I call to them and they obey me at once.

Assemble, **all** house of Israel, and listen. Who among you has declared these things to you? It is **he**, whom I the Lord have loved. I will fulfill **his** prophecies of

the house of Israel, and **through him** bring my justice upon the worldly. I have called and raised **him** up to prophesy, and **he** will fulfill **his** calling well.

These are the words of **this servant** of the Lord:

“Come near me, for I have spoken openly from the beginning — from my first declaration. The Lord God and His Spirit have sent me. The Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, says, ‘I, the Lord your God, who teaches you for your profit, and who leads you, have **sent you my servant**.

If only you had obeyed my commandments. Then your peace would have distilled upon you as the dews from heaven, and your righteousness would have forever flowed to you as the waves of the sea.

Your descendants would have been as many as the sands upon the seashore, and their names would not have been cut off from before me.’

Now I, Isaiah, say, give up your worldliness and flee your conspiring enemies. With a voice of singing, declare to the ends of the earth that the Lord has redeemed **all the house of Israel!**

For the Lord led the children of Israel out of bondage through the desert and caused water to flow out of the rock. Even

though the Lord has done all this, and even greater things to save His children, the Lord says,

‘There is no peace for the wicked.’”

***Nephi writes Isaiah’s words
from the brass plates
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 21***

“Listen to me, oh house of Israel, all of you who are broken off and driven out because of **my people’s wicked pastors**. Listen, all of you who are scattered abroad, of the house of Israel upon all continents, for the **Lord called me** before I was born, mentioning my name before my birth. The Lord has made my words strong. But as I was growing up, He **refined me in obscurity**. He said to me,

‘You are my servant of Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’

Then I replied, ‘But I have worked for nothing, laboring in vain, for only the Lord judges me, and only my God knows my works.’

But the Lord, who ordained me before I was born to be **His servant to restore Jacob**, said even though Israel is not yet gathered, that I will **yet be glorious** in His eyes, and my God will be my strength.

Note: This is the same latter-day servant **yet to come**, described in **D&C 113:5-6** and **2 Ne 3:24**

The Lord said to me,

'It is not enough that you will be my servant to raise up the tribes of Israel -- Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh), Judah (the Jews), and the other tribes.

You will also be **a light to the Gentiles** (including LDS Gentiles), and thereby **be my salvation** to the ends of the earth.'

Note: In many prophecies about Latter-day Saints, they are referred to as **Gentiles**. See **1 Ne 13:35, 3 Ne 16:6-7, 21:11**

The Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, said to me, a servant to those in authority, whom men despise and nations abhor,

'Kings will take notice and arise, and princes will also worship me, the Lord, seeing my faithfulness to my people.

In my own due time, I will hear the cries of the house of Israel, and through my salvation I will help them. I will **preserve them, giving them you, my servant, as their covenant**.

You will establish the earth and cause them to inherit the desolate places. You, my servant, will say to the prisoners, "You are free," and to those in spiritual darkness, "Come into the light."

Then all will be fed as they **make their journey**, finding rest in all high places. They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the heat or the sun burn them, for He who has mercy on them will lead them to the springs of water.

I will make a way to all my nations, **raising my highways**. Then see, oh house of Israel, all those who come to you from afar — from all over the world.'

Sing, oh heavens, be joyful, oh earth, for the people of the east will be established. Break forth into singing, oh nations, for you will no longer be broken up, for the Lord will comfort His people and have mercy on His afflicted!

Those of Zion will say, "**The Lord has forgotten us!**" but He will **show** them He has not. Just as a woman cannot forget her nursing child, neither can the Lord forget the house of Israel -- even though **they** may forget Him.

He will say to them, "Look at these prints in my hands, continually before me, just as you are. Therefore, I will cause your sons to quickly drive out your destroyers. Look

around, oh house of Israel, and see all your tribes gathering around you.

And as I the Lord, live, you will surely be bound together in love. Your **gathering tribes** will yet make the desolate places too full, even after all your oppressors are removed far away.

Then your children, who will be given to compensate for your lost ones, will again say, "This place is too crowded. Give me another place to live."

Those of the house of Israel will ask,

“Who has given me these children after my first ones were lost — after I was made desolate and moved from place to place? Where have these children been while I was left alone?”

Note: Children [Jeremiah 31:15-17](#)

The Lord God will reply, “I **raised up my servant to the Gentiles**, setting up my **standard** to the people (including Latter-day Saints).

Note: “**Servant**” is a metaphor for the words “**hand, arm, ensign and rod.**”

(compare metaphors for “**root of Jesse**” in [2 Nephi 21:10-12](#))

They took the gospel to the house of Israel, bringing your sons and daughters to you, supporting them. Many wealthy Gentiles, including kings and queens, will take notice of your plight and will greatly humble themselves before you.

Then all the house of Israel **will know** I am the Lord, for those who wait for me will not be disappointed.”

Is it likely for those who have been the prey of the mighty warriors--those justly captured--to be delivered? To many it is not, yet the Lord said,

“Even the captives of the terrible and the prey of the mighty warriors **will be delivered**, for I will contend with him that contends with the children of Israel, and I will save them.

I will cause those who fight against the house of

Israel to fight among themselves, and **they will destroy one another**. Then all will know that I, the Lord, am their Savior and Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

***Nephi explains Isaiah’s prophecies**
See 1 Nephi, Chapter 22*

After I Nephi read some of **Isaiah’s** words from the brass plates to my brothers, they asked, “What does all this mean? Are these things spiritual or temporal?”

I answered, “These words were given to **Isaiah** by the voice of the Spirit, for **by the Spirit** all things that will happen to God’s children are made known to the prophets.

These words of **Isaiah** are both **temporal and spiritual**, for sooner or later, the house of Israel will be scattered among all nations.

Even now there are many tribes not known to the people in Jerusalem, for most of them have been led away.

Most of the tribes are scattered over the continents. We do not know where they are, but only that they have been led away.

Isaiah prophesied about those who have **been led away**, and about those who **would be scattered** and

hated (the Jews) among all nations for hardening their hearts against the Holy One of Israel.

The prophecy of the Lord's **hand** being lifted up to the Gentiles, and of the Gentiles taking care of the children of those who are scattered, is a **temporal prophecy**, for **the Lord's covenants with our forefathers are temporal**. These covenants will insure blessings upon our descendants and upon the descendants of all the tribes of Israel.

Isaiah's words mean this: After all of the tribes of Israel have been scattered and confounded, the Lord God will **raise up a mighty nation** upon this land. This mighty nation will scatter our descendants and make them desolate.

Then the Lord God will **begin** (restoration of the gospel) to do His **marvelous** work among the Gentiles — a work that will be of great worth to our descendants.

Note: Restoration of gospel was the "**marvelous**" work. The "great and marvelous work *and a wonder*" is **yet to come**. See [2 Ne 27:26](#) and [Ether 4:15](#)

Some Gentiles will nourish our descendants, carrying them in their arms and upon their shoulders. This **marvelous** work will also benefit **other Gentiles** and **all** the house of Israel (the Jews and other tribes). Then all will **know of the covenants** the Father made with Abraham, saying,

“Through your descendants, all nations will be blessed.”

I want you to know my brothers, that all the nations of the earth cannot be blessed *until the Lord makes His arm bare in the eyes of all nations*. This means He will *fulfil His covenants with power* as He brings His gospel to *all the tribes* of Israel.

Note: How **power** is described in [D&C 1:14](#), [103:15-18](#) and [2 Nephi 6:14](#)

The Lord will **again bring all the tribes of Israel out of captivity** and gather them to the their lands of inheritance. They will be brought out of spiritual darkness and **come to know** the Lord is their Savior and Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

After the tribes have been gathered, the devil's great, abominable church **will war among itself**.

All nations that make war with the house of Israel **will make war with one another**. They will **fall** into the **very pit** dug to trap the Lord's people, for **all** who fight Zion will be destroyed.

That great, abominable church, which will distort the right ways of the Lord, **will tumble** to the dust with a great fall! For Isaiah said,

*“The time comes quickly when Satan will no longer have power over the people's hearts (the millennium), for soon all the proud and the wicked **will be burned** like a harvested field of wheat. Soon the fullness of God's anger will be poured out upon all*

people, for **the Lord will not allow the wicked to destroy the righteous.**

The Lord will preserve the righteous by **His power**, even if He must come in the fullness of His anger to **destroy the wicked with fire**. This is why the righteous need not fear.”

Know my brothers, these destructions must soon come — even blood, fire and vapor of smoke, upon those who harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel.

But the righteous **will not perish** (spiritually or temporally), for the time will come when those who fight against Zion will be destroyed.

The Lord will surely prepare a way for His people — fulfilling the words of Moses, who said,

'The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me, and you must listen to all He says, for those who will not listen to Him will be destroyed.'

And I, Nephi, tell you the prophet Moses spoke of is the Holy One of Israel, even the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and He will judge with righteousness.

The righteous need not fear, for they will not be confused. But the devil's kingdom built up among the people will have great reason to fear. For according to Isaiah, the time will come **in the last days** when all churches that belong to the

devil's kingdom will fear and tremble as they see their destruction coming.

Those churches created to get gain and power over people, to become popular, seeking physical gratification and material possessions, will be brought down and burned.

The time soon comes when **the righteous must be protected** and nourished as helpless calves, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, might, power and great glory.

He will **gather** His children from all over the earth, numbering **each** of them, and they will **know Him**.

Then there will be one fold and one Shepherd, and the Lord will feed and protect His children.

Because of the Lord's righteous people, Satan will have no power over them. He will not be loosed for 1,000 years, even the millennium, and the Holy One of Israel will reign among His people.

I know all these things will happen to people in the flesh, for all nations, tribes and people of all languages will live safely, protected by the Holy One of Israel, **if they repent of their wickedness**.

This is all I will say about Isaiah's words for now. Laman and Lemuel, I hope you will consider the things written on the brass plates to be true — things which testify we must obey God's commands.

Don't think our father Lehi and I are the only ones who testified of these things. If you obey the commands and remain righteous throughout your lives, then you will be saved on the day of judgment.”

NOTE: ISAIAH IS KEY TO THE VERY STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON! ISAIAH IS ALSO KEY TO LATTER-DAY EVENTS:

Among hundreds of books available to Mormon, the few he included in his compilation contains history which **strictly follows the pattern** set forth by Isaiah's writings.

Isaiah's prophecies illustrate the Lord's people in all ages repeating cycles of blessings, apostasy, exile of the righteous, invasion by enemies, captivity, and ultimate deliverance through repentance.

This is why Isaiah's writings (written on Laban's brass plates) were used and explained by Nephi, Jacob, Abinadi, the resurrected Savior, and Moroni. Isaiah writes about **patterns that will repeat themselves in the last days**. This is why *The Book of Mormon*, a book written to warn latter-day Israel, is **patterned after** Isaiah's writings.

