

Lesson 8

Suggested Song
Nephi's Courage
#120 Children's
Songbook

I Will Go and Do



1 Nephi 3-4



*Behold, to obey is better
than sacrifice, and to hearken than
the fat of rams.
1 Samuel 15:22*

Another Dream

What do the Brass Plates of Laban Contain?

The Five Books of Moses (the Jewish Torah)

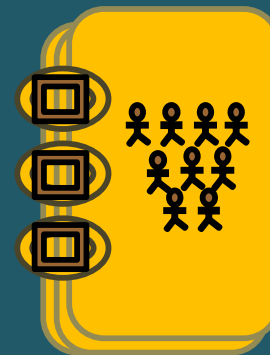
A history of the Jewish people, down to the reign of [then current] King Zedekiah

The prophecies of the Israelite prophets down to Jeremiah, seen in the Book of Mormon as a contemporary of Lehi

A genealogy of Lehi's own ancestors, revealing him to be a descendant of Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob

After reading the contents of the brass plates, Lehi prophesied that they would "never be dimmed any more by time," and that they would ultimately "go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed

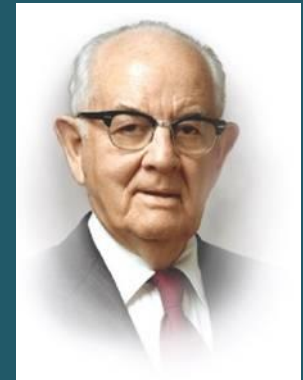
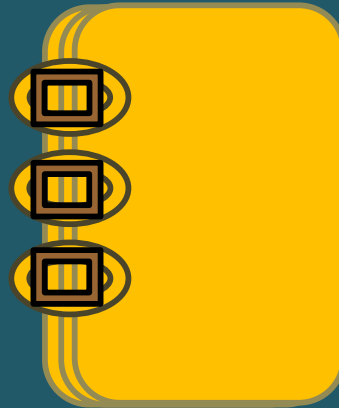
--Wikipedia



Record Keepers

Nephi declared that the people needed the records in order to keep the commandments of God; without them, they would “dwindle and perish in unbelief.”

1 Nephi 4:13



“...those who keep a book of remembrance are more likely to keep the Lord in remembrance in their daily lives.”

--Spencer W. Kimball



The Lord Provides a Way

When you strive to fulfill a command or a difficult task from the Lord, He will: (Choose one of the following)

- a. Change the command so it will be simple and easy for you to accomplish.
- b. Bless your efforts by providing a way for you to fulfill the command, even though it may still be difficult.
- c. Intervene and do all the work for you.
- d. Require you to do it entirely on your own without any help.



Doctrinal Mastery

1 Nephi 3:7



“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall *prepare* a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

Gospel Principles



Attempt #1



Question: "What was the practice of casting lots?"

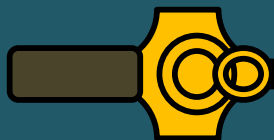
Answer: The practice of casting lots is mentioned 70 times in the Old Testament and seven times in the New Testament. (Only 1 time in the Book of Mormon) In spite of the many references to casting lots in the Old Testament, nothing is known about the actual lots themselves. They could have been sticks of various lengths, flat stones like coins, or some kind of dice; but their exact nature is unknown. The closest modern practice to casting lots is likely flipping a coin.

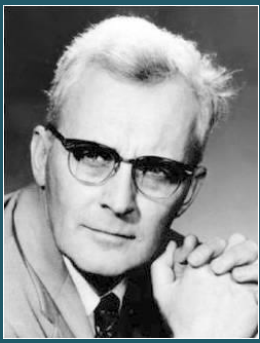
[Got questions.com](http://gotquestions.com)

Lot is cast to Laman



1 Nephi 3:11





Laban

He commanded a garrison of fifty, that he met in full ceremonial armor with the 'the elders of the Jews' for secret consultations by night.

He had control of a treasury.

He was of the old aristocracy, being a distant relative to Lehi himself, that he probably held his job because of his ancestors.

His house was the storing place of very old records.

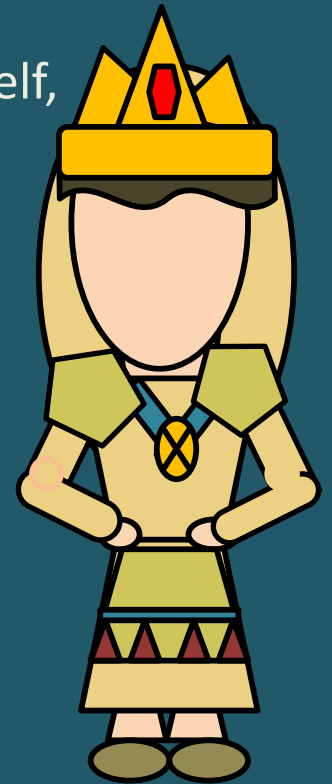
He was a large man.

He was short-tempered.

He was crafty, dangerous, and to the bargain cruel, greedy, unscrupulous, and weak.

He was "given to drink."

--Hugh Nibley



1 Nephi 3:7

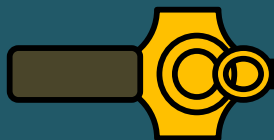
Attempt #2

Keeping an Oath

“Nephi and his brethren were seeking to obtain the brass plates from Laban. Their lives were in peril. Yet Nephi swore this oath: “As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us.”

Thus Nephi made God his partner. If he failed to get the plates, it meant God had failed. And because God does not fail, it was incumbent upon Nephi to get the plates or lay down his life in the attempt.”

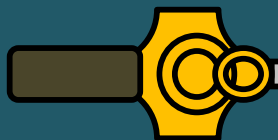
--Bruce R. McConkie



1 Nephi 3:15

Trading Possessions

Gold, silver and precious things in trade for the Brass Plates

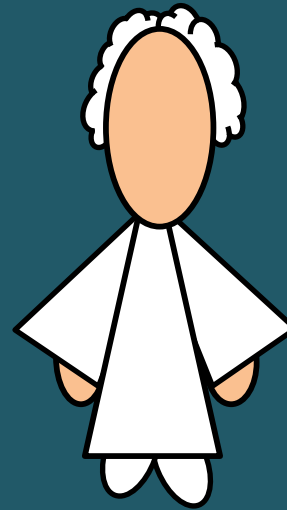


1 Nephi 22-26

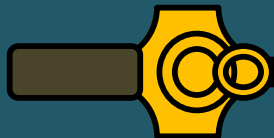
Divine Intervention

Why were Laman and Lemuel angry with Nephi?

Who intervened Nephi's persecution?



Why did they continue to murmur? See:
Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-30)



1 Nephi 27

Faithfully Persist

“And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.”

1 Nephi 4:6



“You must learn to walk to the edge of the light, and perhaps a few steps into the darkness [the unknown], and you will find that the light will appear and move ahead of you”
--Harold B. Lee

The Lord may inspire us to do something without immediately revealing how, when, or why we should do it.

Nephi learned how, when, and why the Lord would help him only after he allowed the Holy Ghost to direct him and after he decided to go forward in faith.



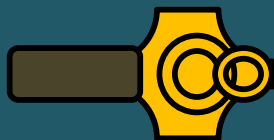
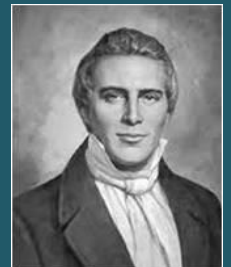
Exercising Faith

When we exercise faith in God and seek to do what He asks, even when we cannot see the outcome, He will lead us by the influence of the Holy Ghost.



What justification is there for a righteous man like Nephi to take the life of another person?

“God said, ‘Thou shalt not kill;’ at another time He said ‘Thou shalt utterly destroy.’ This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted—by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire.” –Joseph Smith



1 Nephi 4:7-19

Laban's Fate

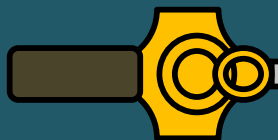
To better understand the Lord's command to slay Laban, it may help to remember the following:

1. The Lord gave Laban at least two chances to part with the brass plates before requiring his life. Laban was a liar and a robber, and he had at least twice sought to murder.

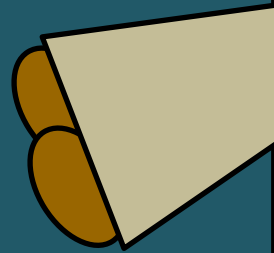
Under the law of Moses, stealing and attempted murder could both be punishable by death.

[Exodus 21:14; 22:2](#) and [Deuteronomy 24:7](#)

2. The Lord wanted Lehi and his descendants to have the scriptural record contained in the brass plates, even if "one man should perish" for it to happen. The brass plates not only blessed the Nephite and Mulekite nations, they also provided some of the content of the gold plates (such as the quotations from Isaiah and from Zenos's allegory of the tame and wild olive trees). The Book of Mormon has blessed millions of people and will bless millions more. Ultimately, all of this was at stake when Nephi stood over Laban and followed the Spirit's direction.



[1 Nephi 4:14](#)



Spiritual Impressions

“1. What do the standard works have to say about it? ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them,’ said Isaiah. [Isaiah 8:20](#) ...

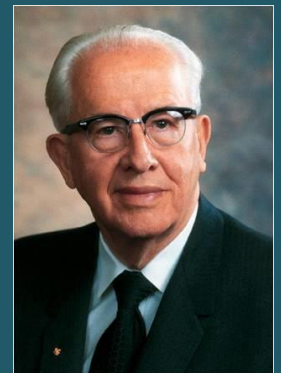
“We must diligently study the scriptures. Of special importance to us are the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants ...

“2. The second guide is: what do the latter-day Presidents of the Church have to say on the subject—particularly the living President? ...

“There is only one man on the earth today who speaks for the Church. [\(See D&C 132:7; 21:4\)](#). That man is [the] President [of the Church]. Because he gives the word of the Lord for us today, his words have an even more immediate importance than those of the dead prophets. When speaking under the influence of the Holy Ghost his words are scripture. [\(See D&C 68:4\)](#) ...

“3. The third and final test is the Holy Ghost—the test of the Spirit. By that Spirit we ‘... may know the truth of all things.’ [\(Moroni 10:5\)](#) This test can only be fully effective if one’s channels of communication with God are clean and virtuous and uncluttered with sin.”

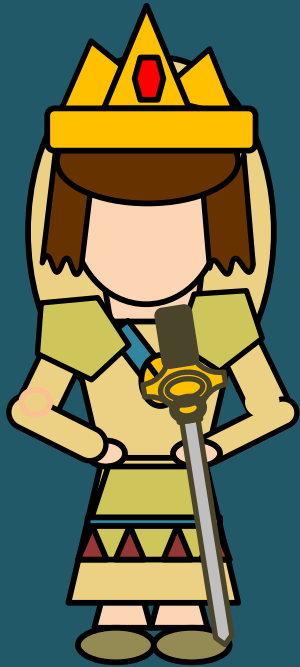
--Ezra Taft Benson



Zoram the Servant

How to get away with the Brass Plates

Dressed like Laban

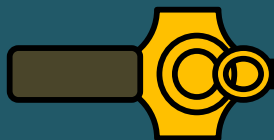


Disguised voice like Laban's

Pretended to be Laban

Swore an oath to Zoram

An oath is the one thing that is most sacred and inviolable among the desert people and their descendants. "As the Lord liveth, and as I live." **1 Nephi 4:32**

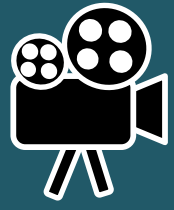


1 Nephi 19-37

Sources:

Video:

Scriptures are of Great Worth
I Will Go and Do
Will We Be Willing?



Spencer W. Kimball Ensign May 1978

Brass plates [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laban_\(Book_of_Mormon\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laban_(Book_of_Mormon))

Casting lots <http://www.gotquestions.org/casting-lots.html#ixzz2VvE3sc3q>

Hugh Nibley “Lehi in the Desert and the World of the Jaredites” page 111

Bruce R. McConkie Conference Report April 1982

Harold B. Lee (in Lucile C. Tate, Boyd K. Packer: A Watchman on the Tower [1995], 137–38).

Ezra Taft Benson Conference Report, Oct. 1963, 16–17).

Joseph Smith History of the Church, 5:135



Insight to Lehi's Time by Hugh Nibley

“J. W. Jack noted in 1938 that „excavations have shown a closer connection with the land of the Pharaohs that was suspected“Recently found ivories, seals, inscriptions, and the preliminary study of mounds throughout the land all tell the same story: over-whelming and unexpected preponderance of Egyptian influence, to the equally surpris-ing exclusion of influences from Babylonia and Assyria...Elephantine papyri tell us an-other thing that scholars never dreamed of and which they were at first most reluctant to believe, namely, that the colonies of Jewish soldiers and merchants were entirely at home in upper Egypt, where they enjoyed free practice of their religion. The ties between Palestine and Egypt were, moreover, of a very long standing, centuries of „a common Hebrew-Egyptian environment“ being necessary to produce the permeation of Egyptian modes of thought and expression into Hebrew. . . [A] near contemporary of Lehi can boast, „behold, are not the Ethiopian, the Syrian, and all foreign-ers alike instructed in the language of Egypt?“ For centuries it was the custom of the princes of Syria to send their sons to Egypt to be educated.” (Hugh Nibley, *Lehi in the Desert*, 9-11)

“The discovery of the Elephantine documents in 1925 showed that colonies of Jews actually did flee into the desert in the manner of Lehi, during his lifetime, and for the same reasons; arriving in their new home far up the Nile, they proceeded to build a replica of Solomon’s Temple, exactly as Lehi did upon landing in the New World. Both of these oddities, especially the latter, were once con-sidered damning refutations of the Book of Mormon.” (Hugh Nibley, *The Prophetic Book of Mormon*, 388)

“The first three verses of 1 Nephi, sharply set off from the rest of the text, are a typical colophon, a literary device that is highly characteristic of Egyptian compositions. Typical is the famous Bremer-Rhind Papyrus, which opens with a colophon containing (1) the date, (2) the titles of Nasim, the au-thor, (3) the names of his parents and a word in praise of their virtues, with special mention of his fa-ther’s prophetic calling, (4) a curse against anyone who might “take the book away,”Compare this with Nephi’s colophon: (1) his name, (2) the merits of his parents, . . . (3) a solemn avowal (corresponding to Nasim’s curse) that the record is true, and the assertion, „I make it with mine own hand“—an indispensable condition of every true colophon, since the purpose of a colophon is to es-tablish the identity of the actual writer-down...of the text. Egyptian literary writings regularly close with the formula iw-f-pw „thus it is,“ „and so it is.“ Nephi ends the main sections of his book with the phrase, „And thus it is, Amen“”. (Hugh Nibley, *Lehi in the Desert*, 17)