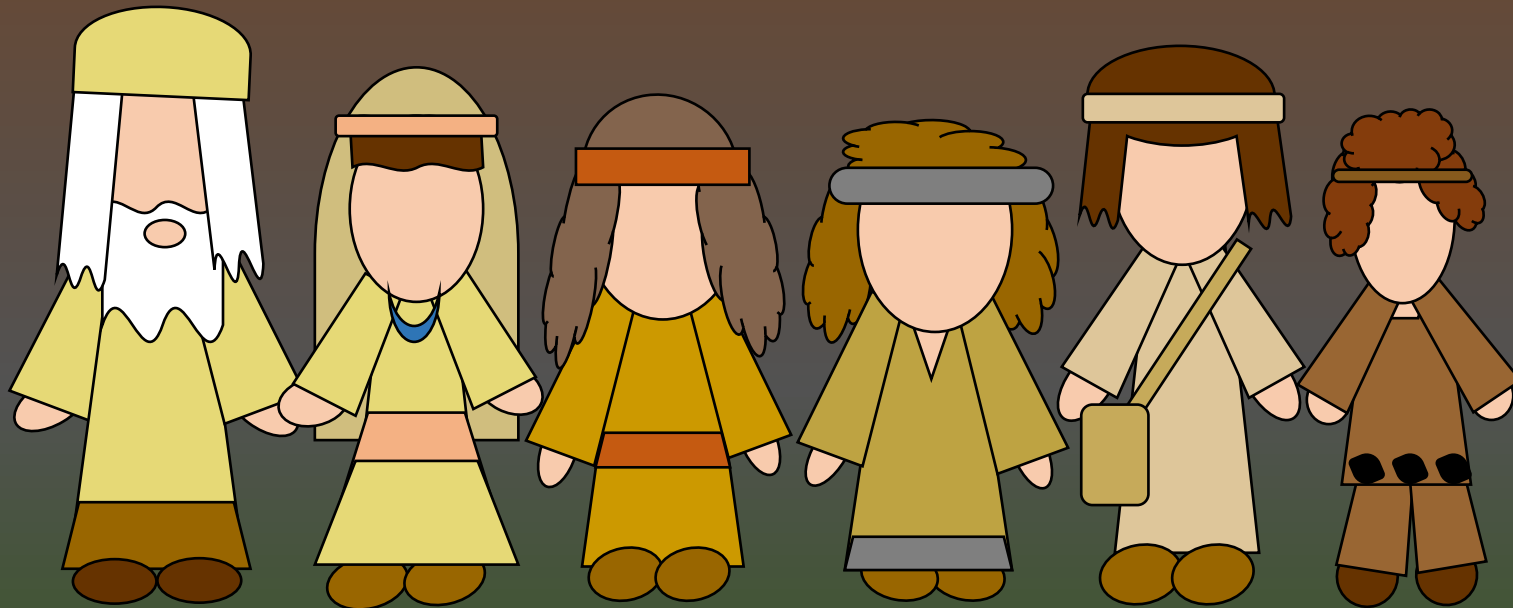
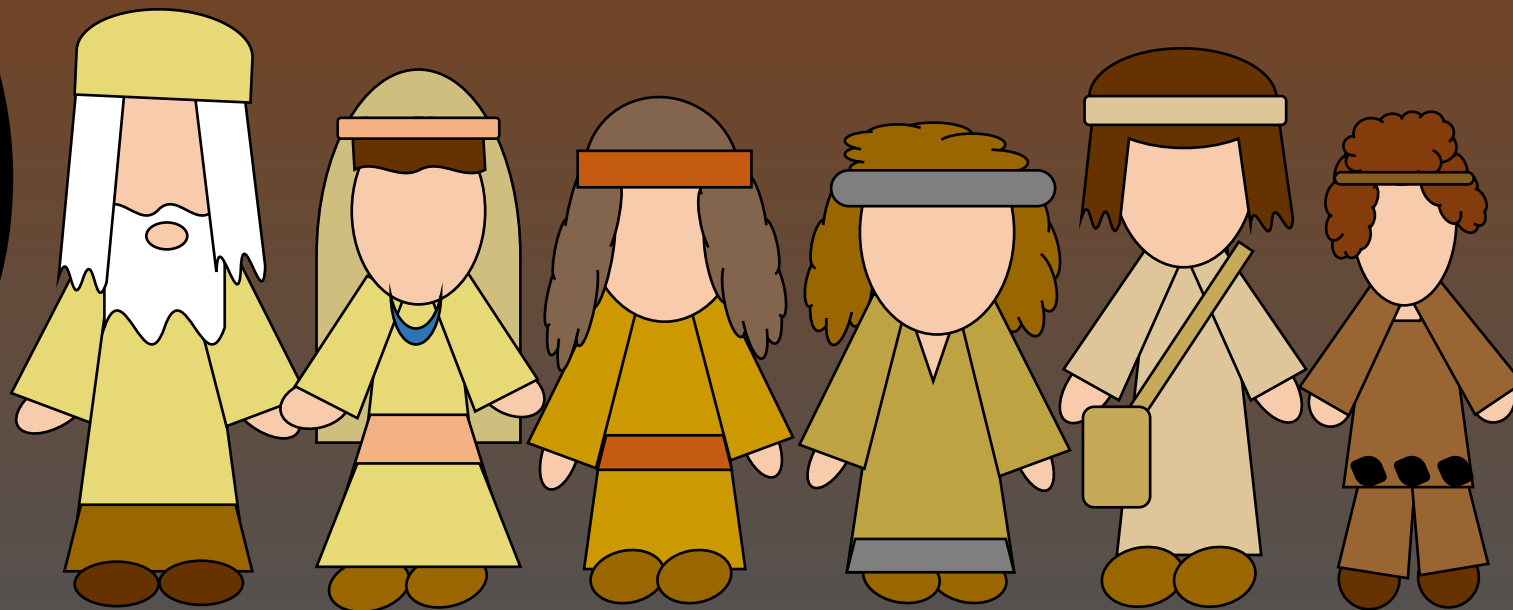


Into the Wilderness

1 Nephi 1-5



Another
Record
●
1 Nephi 1



THE DAILY NEWS

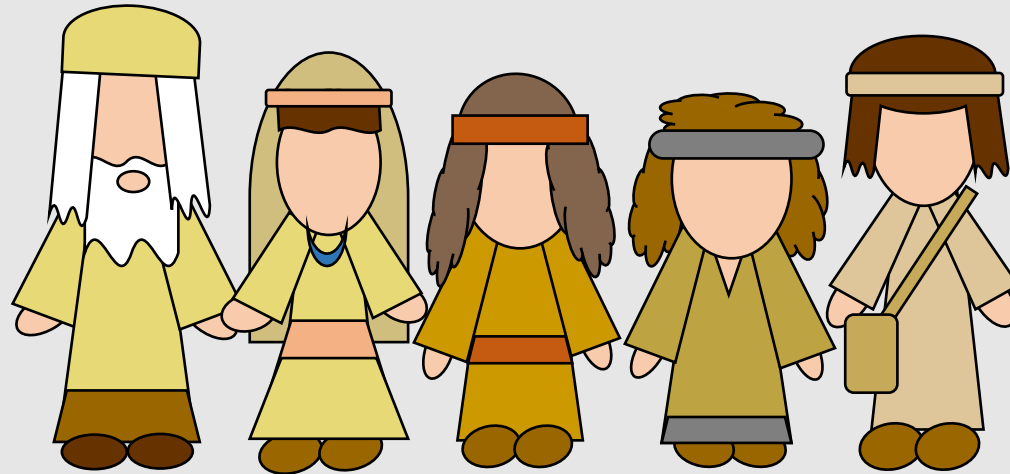
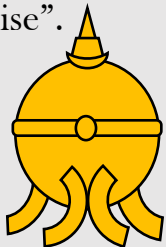
Page 1

570 BC

Lehi and Family Flee into the Wilderness

A Visionary Man

Seeking guidance from God, Lehi receives dreams and visions. Lehi, his wife Sariah and their children, Laban, Lemuel, Nephi, and Sam flee the land of Jerusalem into the wilderness. With the guidance of a peculiar round object call “the Liahona” and the Holy Ghost, they are directed to their destination called “The Land of Promise”.



Ancient Records are Found

Nephi, a son of Lehi of Jerusalem, records the history of his people in the Americas on what is called the “Brass Plates”. This history includes the Nephites (called after Nephi) and the Lamanites (call after Laman), which divided their people because of religious differences. This history of this people is now found in “The Book Of Mormon”. The plates were hidden for many thousand of years by a man named Moroni, and a young man named Joseph Smith obtained the plates on September 22, 1827.

Nephi, a Fugitive?

Nephi, son of Lehi of Jerusalem, secretly obtains the “Brass Plates” from Laban, a man of great wealth and possessions. The Brass Plates contained the genealogy of his father, Lehi. Under the command of God, Nephi obeys his father and while in a drunken state, Laban dies by his own sword. With the plates Nephi returns to his father.

It is sited that Nephi returns to Jerusalem and leaves with Ishmael and his daughters.

Nephi Chosen To Be Leader

After Lehi's family reached the land of promise, Lehi chooses Nephi to be the leader of the people. Lehi dies about 588 to 570 B.C.



Other People Found in the Land of Promise

According to the Book of Mormon two other groups are found:

The Mulekites

--Omni 1:14-17

And the Jaredites

--Ether 6:4-12

Nephi to Record Accounts

Nephi writes while he is in the Land of Nephi. About 570 B.C. 1 Nephi contains several accounts of heavenly manifestations in dreams, visions, and direct revelation. These manifestation show that *God instructs*, guides, and protects those who seek after Him:

Examples:

Lehi prays a pillar of fire Sees and Hears

1 Nephi 1:6-7

Lehi receives a vision the destruction of Jerusalem

1 Nephi 1:8-14

The Lord commands Lehi to depart

1 Nephi 2:1-2

The Lord directs Lehi to send his sons back to Jerusalem

1 Nephi 3:2-4

An angel intervenes

1 Nephi 3:29

The Lord commands them to return to Jerusalem

1 Nephi 7:1-2

Lehi and Nephi vision tree of life

1 Nephi 8:11-14

Nephi builds a ship

1 Nephi 18:1

Items Also Found With The Gold Plates

Along with the Book found, two significant items are discovered: The sword of Laban that was handed down through the generations until the end of the Nephite civilization. And the “Liahona” which was the compass that the guided them through the wilderness.

Nephi quotes:

“And it came to pass that the Lord God said unto me: Make other plates; and thou shalt engraven many things upon them which are good in my sight, for the profit of they people.”

--2 Nephi 5:30

“But I, Nephi, have written what I have written, and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry.”

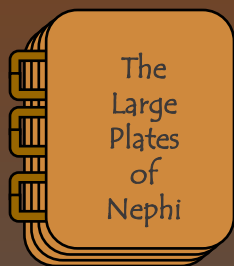
--1 Nephi 33:3

The
Small
Plates
of
Nephi



Nephi wrote the record
that we know as the First
Book of Nephi on the small
plates of Nephi about 30
years after leaving
Jerusalem

30 Years Later



It had been thirty years since Nephi left Jerusalem with his family. He was now in the land of promise. He had kept an accurate record of the experiences of his family on what came to be known as the large plates of Nephi.

But now a new commandment came from the Lord instructing him to make another record.

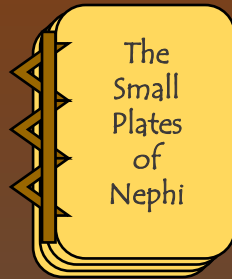


This record would be things of spiritual value to those who would read them.

1 Nephi 9:1-5

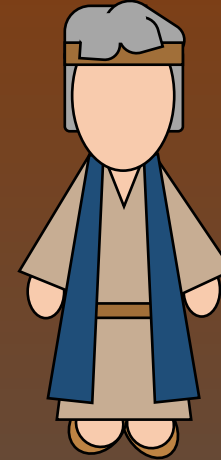


The Language Written

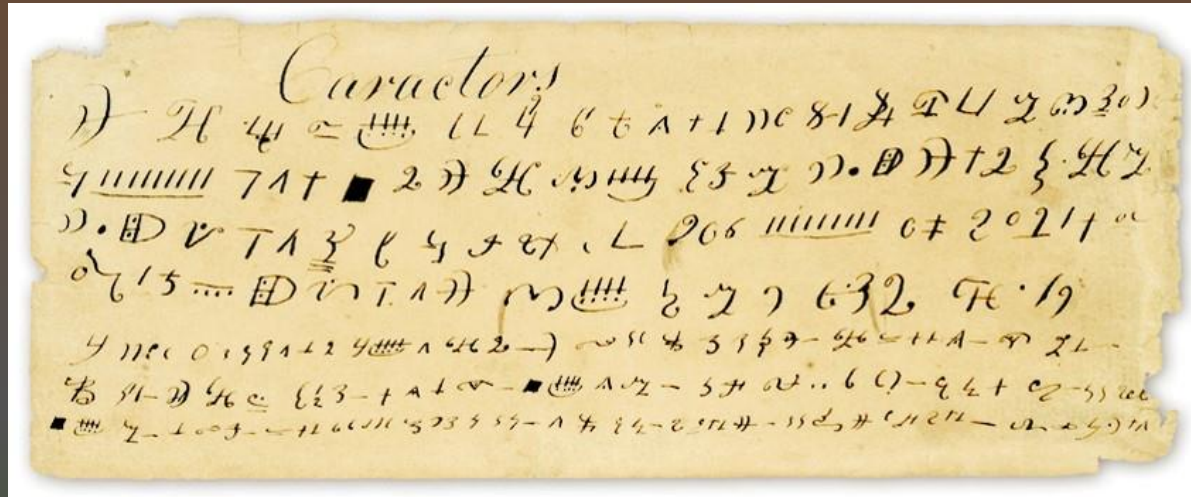


Moroni indicates the plates were written in reformed Egyptian that had been altered by the Nephites after their manner of speech.

Mormon 9:32-33



A type of shorthand



Moroni stated that if the plates had been larger, they would have been written in Hebrew—therefore the record would have been without imperfections.

The Language

1 Nephi 1:2

Nephi made
his record in
the language
of the
Egyptians



Mosiah 1:2,4

About 470 years later, king
Benjamin taught his sons
in all the language of his
father, which was likely the
same language of the
Egyptians that Lehi taught
to his children



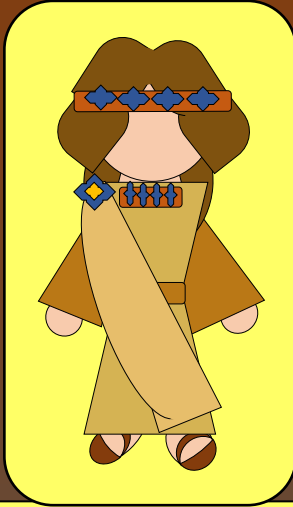
Mormon 9:32

Moroni indicated that by his day,
approximately 1,000 years from the time of
Lehi and Nephi, he and other record
keepers had written “in the characters
which are called among us the reformed
Egyptian, being handed down and altered
by us, according to our manner of speech”



A Warning

Many Prophets came to warn the people



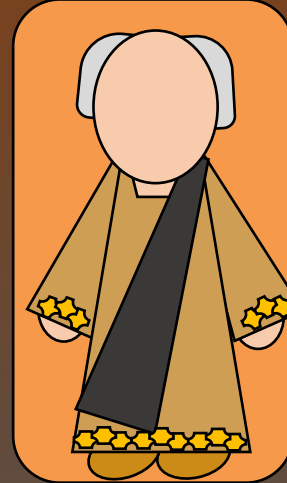
Jeremiah 35:15



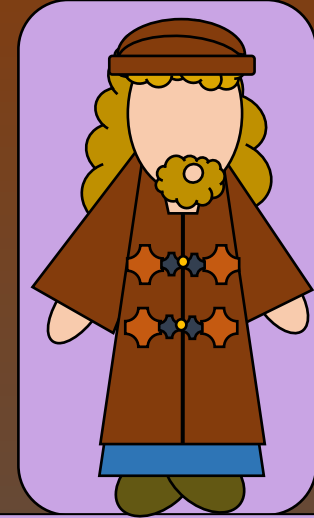
Ezekiel
3:17-19



Nahum
2:13



Habakkuk
2:8



Zephaniah
1:2

Prophets do not always share messages that are popular with the world, but their teachings and warnings demonstrate the Lord's love for His people.

Lehi was called by God to preach repentance to the people of Jerusalem. Despite his pleas and warnings, they rejected his words and sought to kill him.

Lehi also sees a vision and warns the people of Jerusalem that their great city will be destroyed unless they repent.
1 Nephi 1:4

608-605 B.C.

Zedekiah—King of Judah

Necho—Pharaoh of Egypt—sends army against Assyria through Palestine

Josiah—King of Judah—resist army—battle (Hebrews beaten)—King Josiah slain

Jews choose **Jehoahaz** (Josiah's son) to be King—only 3 months—Egypt replaces him

Jehoiakim (another Josiah's son)—3 years Pharaoh has control of Judah

Babylonians come against Pharaoh's cohorts—takes Jewish nation (**2 Kings 23-25**)

Jewish people still not free—Babylonians rule—Southern Palestine—vassal state

Revolt against Jehoiakim (Egyptian appointee)—**King Nebuchadnezzar** army—Jehoiakim dies.

Jehoiachin (Jehoiakim's son) surrenders to Babylonians—Uncle—**Zedekiah**—appointed to throne by Nebuchadnezzar—21 years old—seeks alliance with Egypt—**Prophet Jeremiah**—warnings of Jerusalem destruction. (Book of Mormon Student Manual)



Lehi's and Joseph's Spiritual Experience

Lehi prays for the people

Pillar of fire (v.6)

Lehi sees and hears much that he trembles

Lehi is overcome by the spirit

Lehi sees a vision of Heaven including God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Twelve Apostles and angels.

Lehi is shown the future

Lehi praises God and rejoices

Lehi is mocked



Joseph prays for truth

Pillar of Light overhead(v. 16)

Joseph was ready to sink into despair.

The light rested upon him

Joseph sees two Personages Moroni and Apostles also appears to Joseph

Joseph received revelation

Joseph gives thanks (v. 75)

Joseph is persecuted



Prophet's Warnings

Lehi teaches the people of Jerusalem concerning the things which he had both seen and heard



The people responded by mocking him, then they were angry, and sought to take his life.

God calls prophets to denounce sin, warn of its consequences, and testify of Jesus Christ

Why do some people reject the Prophet's messages?



A Prophet warns against sin and teaches salvation through Jesus Christ

“Those prophets I have known are the most loving of men. It is because of their love and integrity that they cannot modify the Lord’s message merely to make people feel comfortable. They are too kind to be so cruel” (3)



Tender Mercies of the Lord

But behold, I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance.



**Because God is
merciful, He
will not allow
those who
come unto Him
to perish**

“The Lord’s tender mercies are the very personal and individualized blessings, strength, protection, assurances, guidance, loving-kindnesses, consolation, support, and spiritual gifts which we receive from and because of and through the Lord Jesus Christ. ...

“... The Lord’s tender mercies do not occur randomly or merely by coincidence. Faithfulness and obedience enable us to receive these important gifts and, frequently, the Lord’s timing helps us to recognize them.

“We should not underestimate or overlook the power of the Lord’s tender mercies” (2)

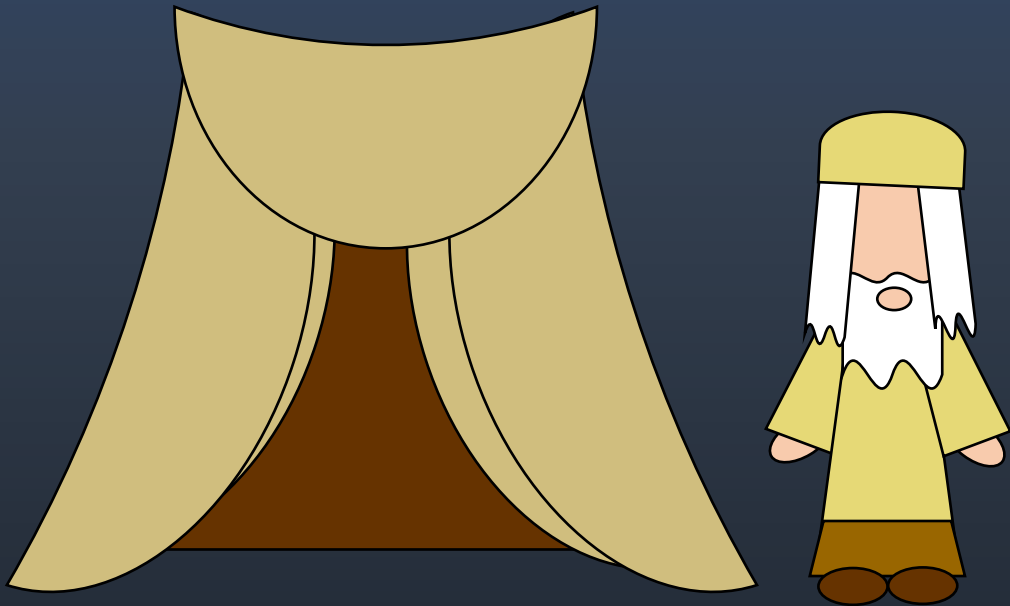
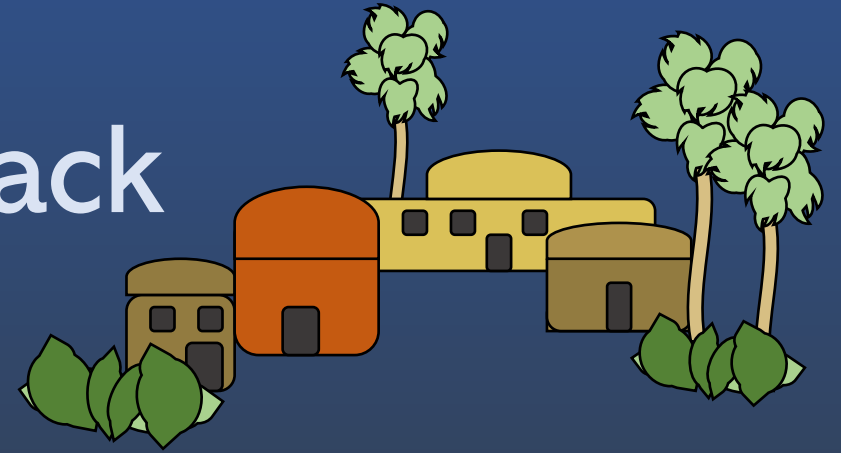


Sources:

1. The Book of Mormon Student Manual Religion 121-122 page 15
2. Elder David A. Bednar “The Tender Mercies of the Lord,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2005
3. Spencer W. Kimball, “Listen to the Prophets,” *Ensign*, May 1978, 77).

Don't Look Back

1 Nephi 2



Lehi

Lehi lived somewhere in the country,
not directly in the city of Jerusalem

1 Nephi 3:16, 1 Nephi 3:23



Lehi was a rich Jew. 1 Nephi 2:4
He had an Egyptian education.
He wrote and spoke Egyptian.
Mosiah 1:4, Mormon 9:32-33
And he insisted his sons learn
the language 1 Nephi 1:2

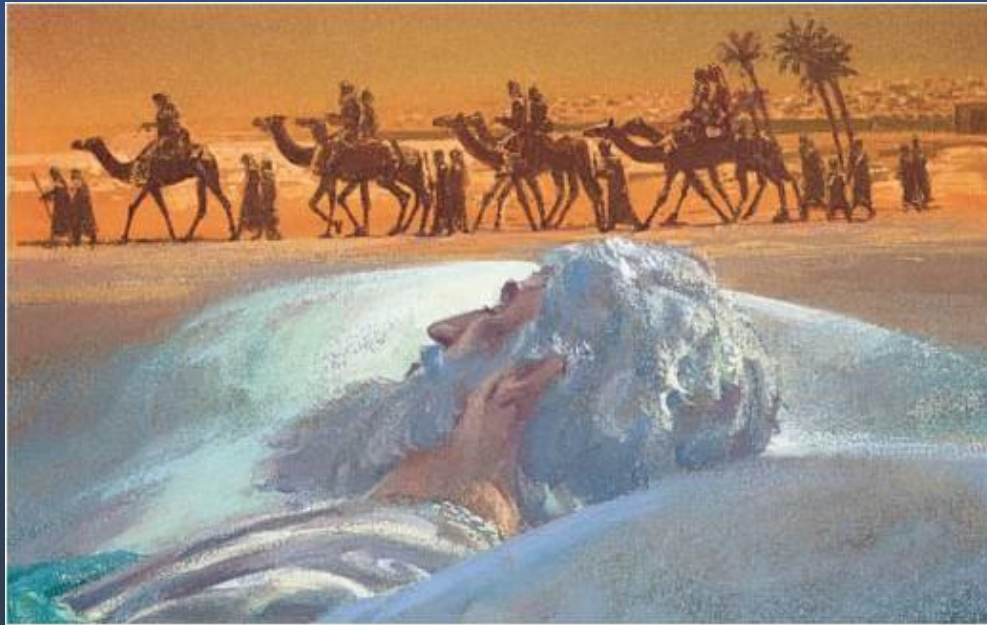
Living outside of the walls of Jerusalem he
probably was an expert in the vineyard,
cultivating olives, figs, and honey.



Hugh Nibley

Lehi's Dream

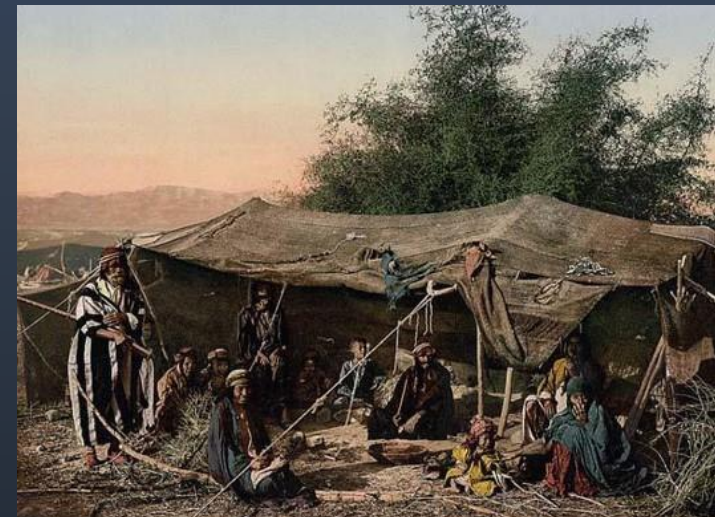
Commanded of the Lord to leave



Wilderness travel—Bedouin—land of the desert people



Why do you think Lehi was so prompt and ready to leave?



Hugh Nibley

Take Only What you Need To Survive

Transportation



Belongings



Food and shelter

Offering Thanks

“...pitched his tent in a valley by the side of a river of water.”

Building an altar—3 Days Journey



Altar---Raised structure or place used for sacrifice, worship, or prayer. Altars probably originated with the belief that objects or places (e.g., a tree or spring) were inhabited by spirits or deities worthy of prayers or gifts.

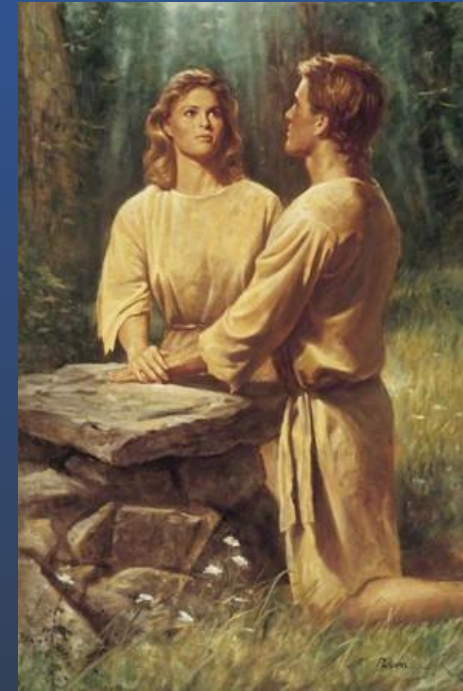
--Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Altar of Stones

We know that Adam had an altar. (Moses 5:5)



“And there shalt thou build an altar unto the LORD thy God, an altar of stones: thou shalt not lift up any iron tool upon them.”

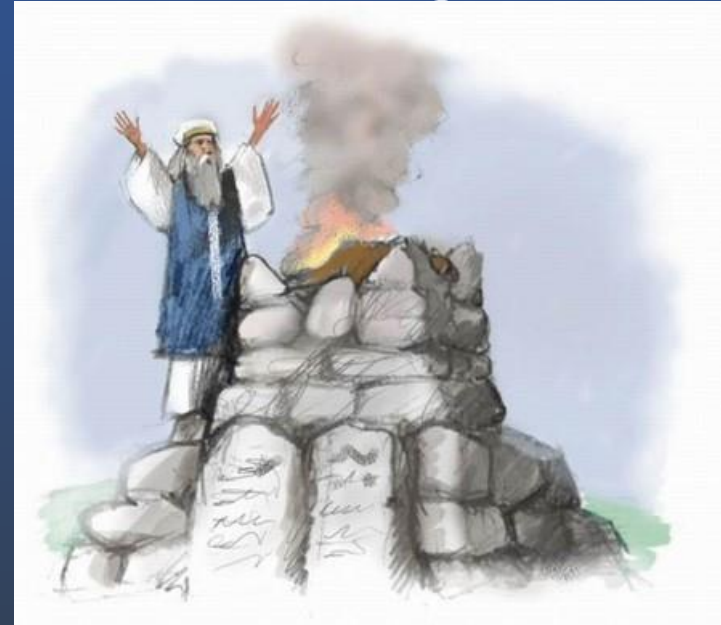


“Thou shalt build the altar of the LORD thy God of whole stones; and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD thy God:”

Deuteronomy 27: 5-6

Altar of Testimony

“...Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice:...



...but that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do a service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings...”

Altar of Prayers

“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.”



Altar and Repentance

All burnt offerings were performed on the altar of sacrifice (**Exodus 27:1-8**). Sacrifice was the first thing an individual did when entering the tabernacle if he desired to progress any further.



“The real act of Personal sacrifice is not now nor ever has been placing an animal on the altar. Instead, it is a willingness to put the animal that is in us upon the altar—then willingly watching it be consumed: Such is the ‘sacrifice unto (the Lord of) a broken heart and a contrite spirit’”

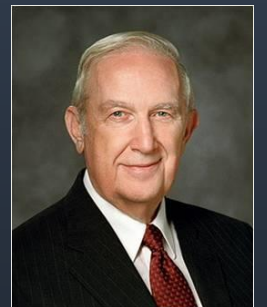
--Neal A Maxwell

Temple Altars



“I know the exquisite joy that comes from an eternal marriage sealed at a temple altar through the holy sealing power. When there is righteousness, a commitment to give of self, obedience to the commandments of God, and the resolve to seek His will in all things together, that joy is unspeakable.”

--Richard G. Scott



Today's Altars



“How is it we show the Lord that we have symbolically put ourselves upon today’s sacrificial altar? ... When we overcome our own selfish desires and put God first in our lives and covenant to serve Him regardless of the cost, we are then living the law of sacrifice.”
--Elder M. Russell Ballard

My Father Dwelt in a Tent



Bedouin tent

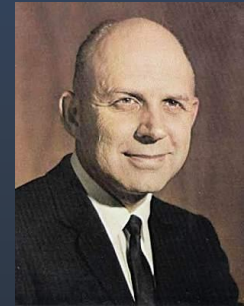
Altar, tent, and well: his worship, his home, his work. These basic things of life signified his relationship to God, his family, and his fellowmen. Every person on earth is touched by these three.

To know the word and works of God, Isaac knelt in his day at his altar. His tent, a home for himself and family, was sacred to him, as our homes are to us.

To Latter-day Saints, the home is a holy place, patterned after the celestial home whence we came. The priesthood-led home is the loftiest spiritual unit we know.

Genesis 26:25

A. Theodore Tuttle



Isaiah talks about the tent which represents the gospel of Christ.

He states that in the last days the cords of the tent would be stretched across the earth and stakes would be planted in every land.

Isaiah 54:1-2 –Merrill J. Bateman



Where do
you dwell?

Laman and Lemuel Murmur

River---Laman

“...O that thou mightest be like unto this river, continually running into the fountain of all righteousness!”



Valley---Lemuel

“... O that thou mightest be like unto this valley, firm and steadfast, and immovable in keeping the commandments of the Lord!”

Murmur—

complain

frustrated

irritated

find excuses

slothful

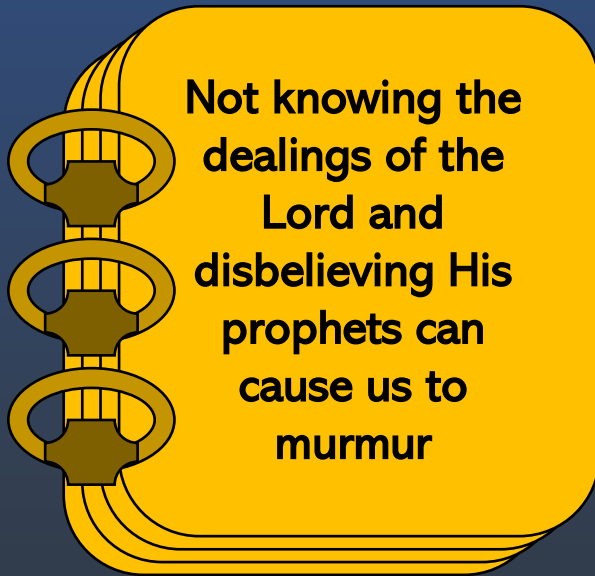
uncommitted

question whether commandments
are applicable to you

deception of the adversary



“Murmuring consists of three steps, each leading to the next in a descending path to disobedience.”



First, people begin to question. They question “first in their own minds,” and then they plant questions “in the minds of others.”

Second, those who murmur begin to “rationalize and excuse themselves from doing what they [have] been instructed to do. ... Thus, they [make] an excuse for disobedience.” Their excuses lead to the third step: “Slothfulness in following the commandment of the Master. ...

--Elder H. Ross Workman

Thou Hast Sought Me Diligently

Prayer—to know mysteries of God
Nephi comes to know by revelation that what
his father had been teaching was true.



Sam (his brother) was
touched by the power of
Nephi's testimony

“To some it is given by the Holy Ghost to
know that Jesus Christ is the son of
God...To others it is given to believe on
their words...”

D&C 46:13-14

Softening Our Hearts



Softened Hearts:

Nephi sought the Lord early
Nephi could view things from an elevated perspective.



Hardened Hearts:

Laman and Lemuel did not seek earnestly
Laman and Lemuel continued to refuse the vantage point of the higher ground.

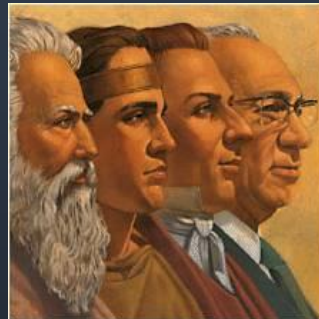
1 Nephi 2:16, 18

When we diligently seek to understand the Lord's commandments, He can soften our hearts to help us to believe and obey.

Chosen People and Chosen Lands

“As there are chosen people,
so there are chosen lands.
Promised lands are given to
covenant people, people of
the promise.”

--Joseph Fielding McConkie, and Robert L.
Millet



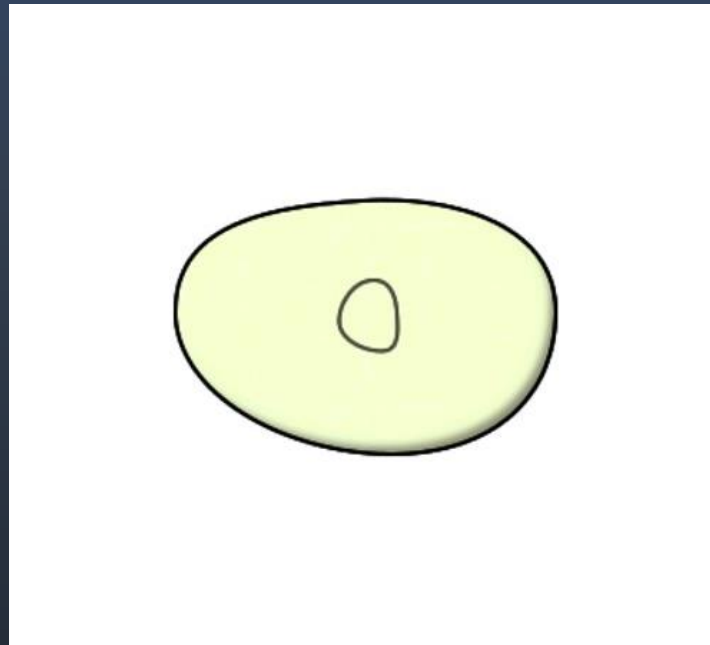
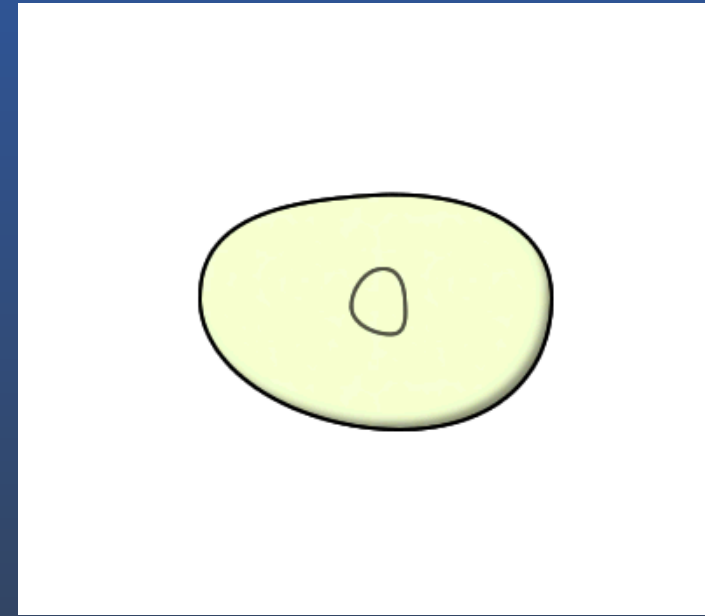
Rulers and Teachers—
God blesses those who are
obedient and faithful.

Spiritual Rebellion

“The Lamanites demonstrated clearly the depths to which a nation could sink through spiritual rebellion”



A scourge unto thy seed—A curse
The removal of the Lord's spirit

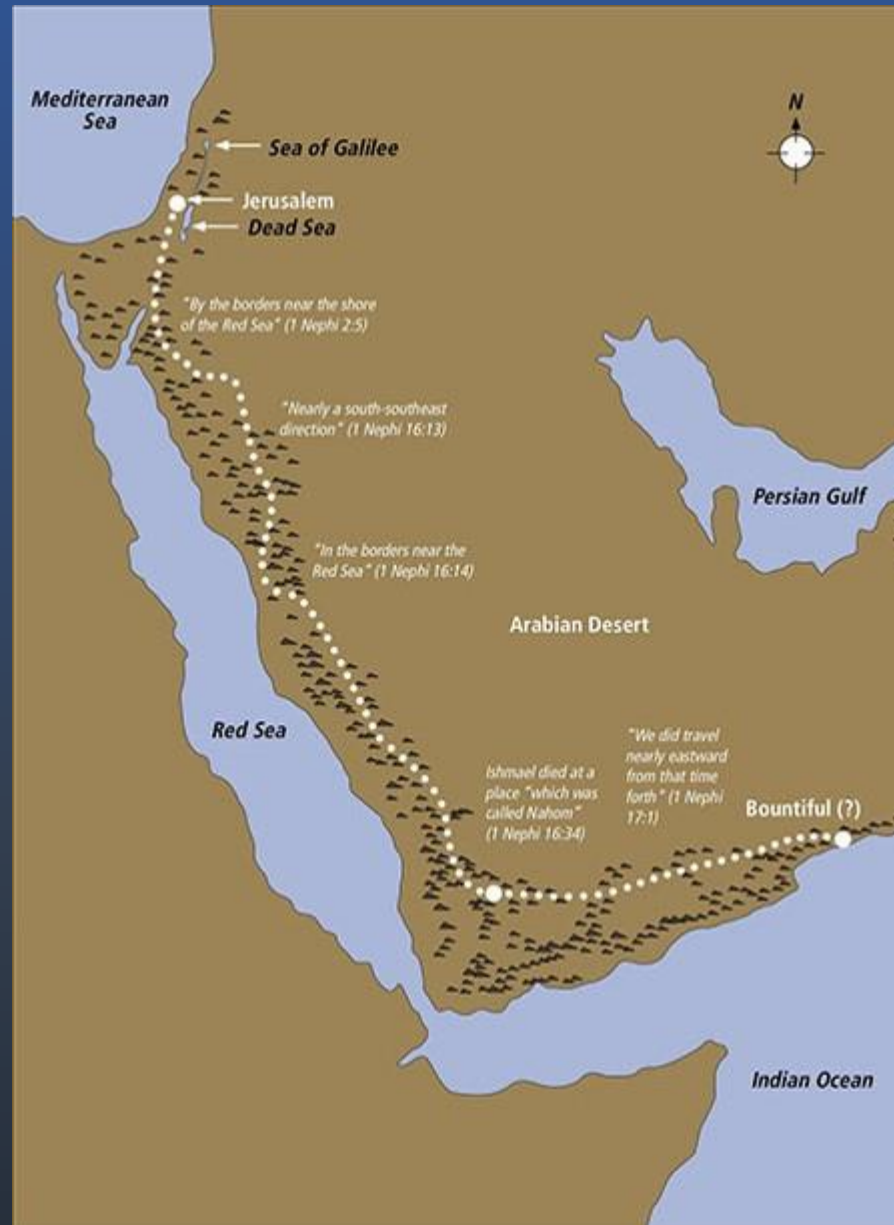


“Obedience is the first law of heaven. All progression, all perfection, all salvation, all godliness, all that is right and just and true, all good things come to those who live the laws of Him who is Eternal. There is nothing in all eternity more important than to keep the commandments of God”

---Bruce R. McConkie



Possible route taken by Lehi's family



Chiasmus 1 Nephi 1-9

1. Nephi discusses his **record** (1 Nephi 1: 1-3)
2. Lehi's early **visions** are reported, followed by his preaching and prophesying to the Jews (1 Nephi 1: 6-15, 18-20)
3. Lehi takes his **family into the wilderness** (1 Nephi 2:15)
4. The Lord speaks prophecies to Nephi about Lehi's **seed** (1 Nephi 2:19-24)
5. Lehi's sons obtain the brass plates, and Nephi records the most striking example of murmuring of his faithless brothers (1 Nephi 3:2-5, 16)
4. Lehi, filled with the spirit, prophesies about his **seed** (1 Nephi 5:17-19, 7:1)
3. Ishmael takes his **family into the wilderness** (1 Nephi 7:2-22)
2. Lehi's tree of life **vision** is reported, followed by his prophecies and preaching to Laman and Lemuel (1 Nephi 8:2-35)
1. Nephi again discusses his **record**, and he records his testimony. (1 Nephi 9:1-6)

Sources:

Hugh Nibley “Lehi in the Wilderness”

Neal A. Maxwell “Meek and Lowly” pg. 94

Richard G. Scott “Receive the Temple Blessings” 1999 April General Conference

Elder H. Ross Workman of the Seventy “Beware of Murmuring” Ensign Nov. 2001

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Law of Sacrifice,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1998, 10.

Joseph Fielding McConkie, Robert L. Millet “Doctrinal commentary on the Book of Mormon” vol. 1 pg. 34-36

Bruce R. McConkie (The Promised Messiah: The First Coming of Christ [1978], 126).

A. Theodore Tuttle “Altar, Tent, Well” Oct. Conference 1972

Merrill J. Bateman “Stretching the Cords of a Tent” April Conference 1994

You may want to highlight the repeating words on the next page for a handout

Chiasmus 1 Nephi 1-9

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1 Nephi 2:16 Do you agree or disagree with the prophets?

Don't be surprised if at times your personal views are not initially in harmony with the teachings of the Lord's prophet. These are moments of learning, of humility, when we go to our knees in prayer. We walk forward in faith, trusting in God, knowing that with time we will receive more spiritual clarity from our Heavenly Father. One prophet described the incomparable gift of the Savior as "the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father" [Mosiah 15:7]. The surrender of our will to God's will is, in fact, not surrender at all but the beginning of a glorious victory. (Neil L. Andersen, "The Prophet of God," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 26)

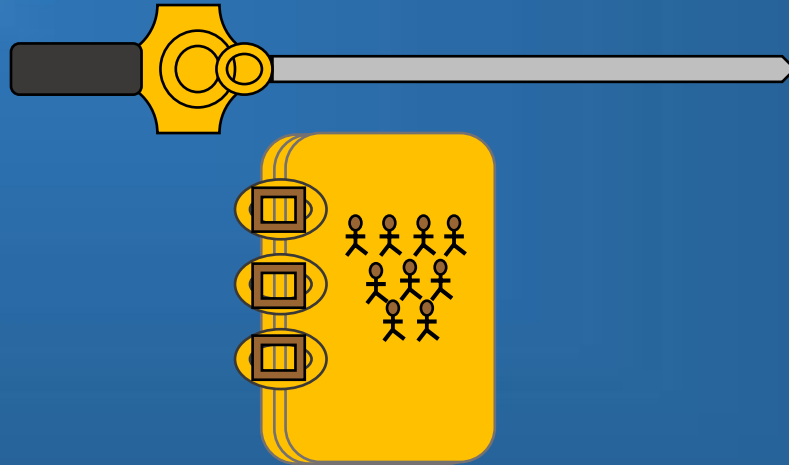
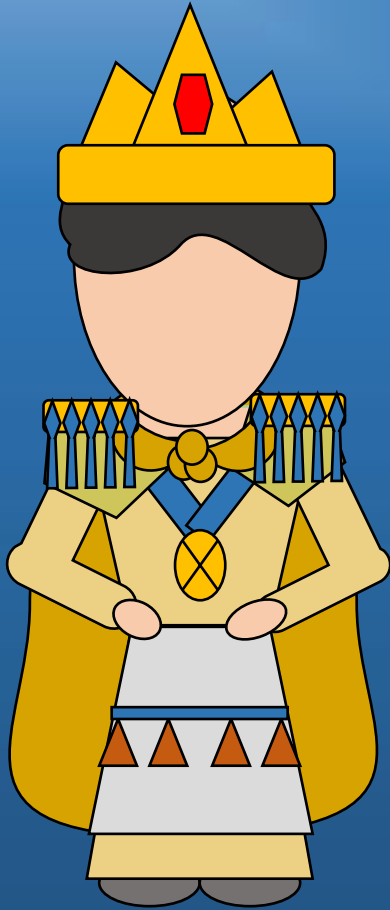
Gratitude:

Could I suggest that we see gratitude as a disposition, a way of life that stands independent of our current situation? In other words, I'm suggesting that instead of being thankful for things, we focus on being thankful in our circumstances—whatever they may be. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Grateful in Any Circumstances," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 75)

Long-term impact of decisions from lesson manual		
Laman and Lemuel	Nephi	
Lehi's sons are commanded to retrieve the brass plates	1 Nephi 3:5	1 Nephi 3:6–7
An angel assures Lehi's sons that the Lord will deliver Laban into their hands	1 Nephi 3:31	1 Nephi 4:1–3
Lehi shares his vision of the tree of life	1 Nephi 15:2–3, 8–9	1 Nephi 10:17; 11:1
Nephi breaks his bow	1 Nephi 16:18–20	1 Nephi 16:23, 30–32
Nephi is commanded to build a ship	1 Nephi 17:17–18	1 Nephi 17:8–9, 50-51
Lehi's sons respond to new leadership following Lehi's death	2 Nephi 5:1–3, 20	2 Nephi 5:5–11

God Prepares A Way

1 Nephi 3-4



Another Dream

What do the Brass Plates of Laban Contain?

The Five Books of Moses (the Jewish Torah)

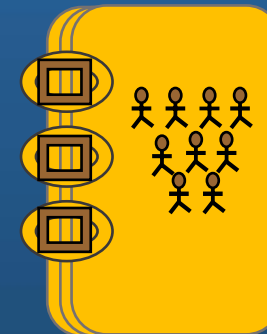
A history of the Jewish people, down to the reign of [then current] King Zedekiah

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

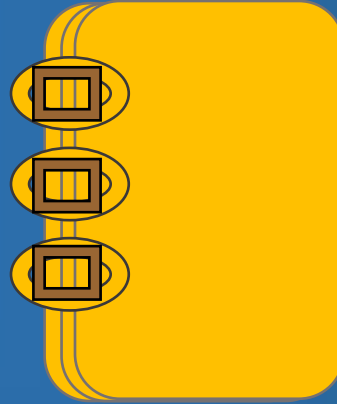
After reading the contents of the brass plates, Lehi prophesied that they would "never be dimmed any more by time," and that they would ultimately "go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed

--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.”

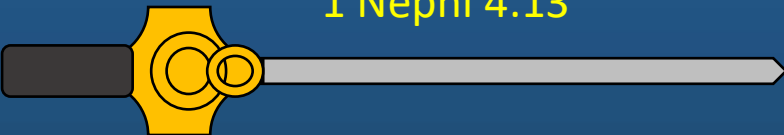


“...those who keep a book of remembrance are more likely to keep the Lord in remembrance in their daily lives.”

--Spencer W. Kimball



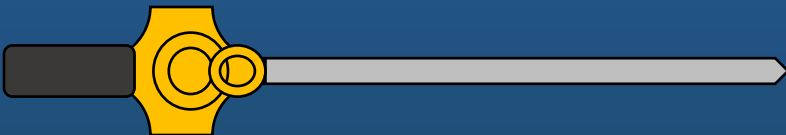
1 Nephi 4:13



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.



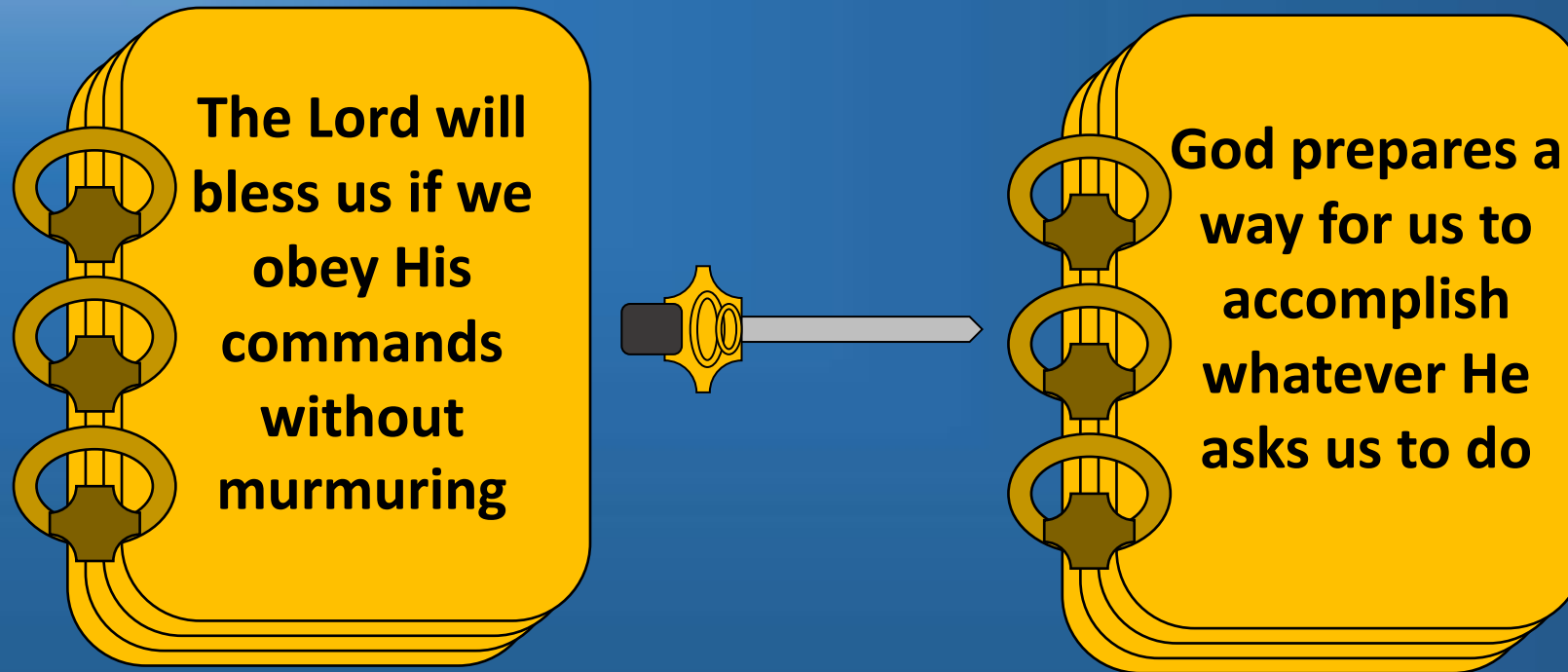
Doctrinal Mastery

1 Nephi 3:7



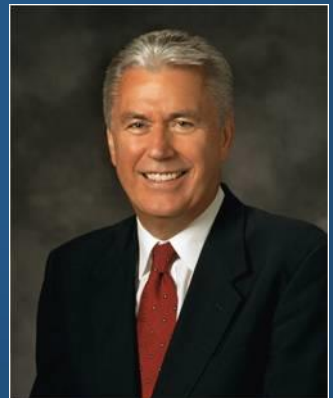
“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall *prepare* a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

Gospel Principles



Following the Savior will not remove all of your trials. However, it will remove the barriers between you and the help your Heavenly Father wants to give you. God will be with you.

Dieter F. Uchtdorf





Attempt #1



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

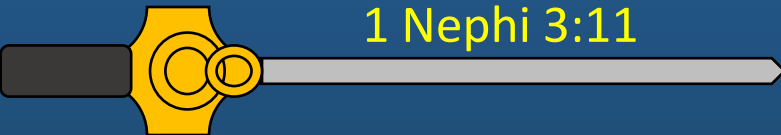
Answer: The practice of casting lots is mentioned 70 times in the Old Testament and seven times in the New Testament. (Only 1 time in the Book of Mormon) In spite of the many references to casting lots in the Old Testament, nothing is known about the actual lots themselves. They could have been sticks 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.

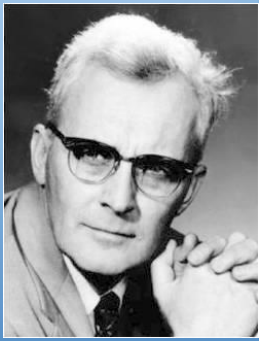
[Got questions.com](http://Gotquestions.com)

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.

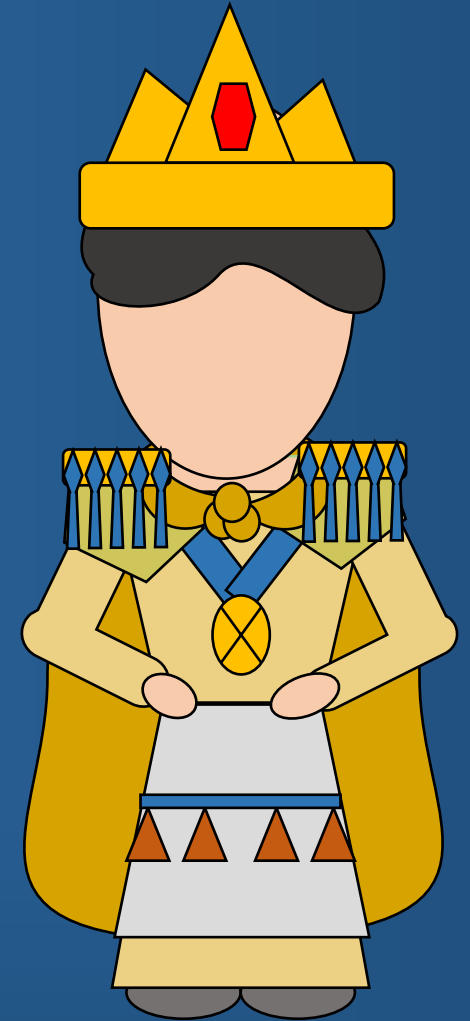
He was a large man.

He was short-tempered.

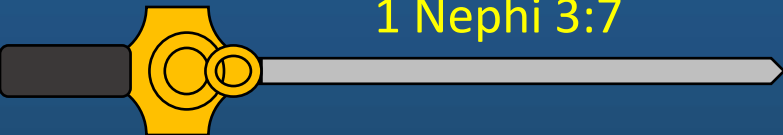
He was crafty, dangerous, and to the bargain cruel, greedy, unscrupulous, and weak.

He was "given to drink."

--Hugh Nibley



1 Nephi 3:7



Attempt #2

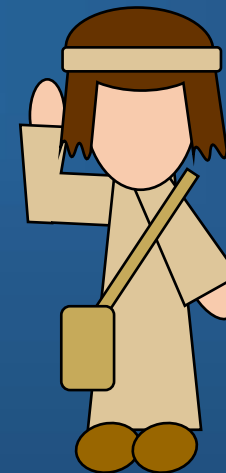


Keeping an Oath

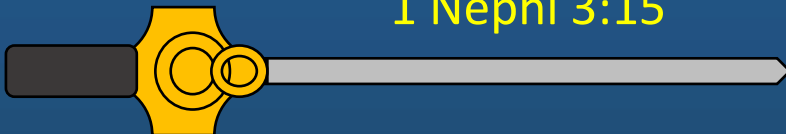
“Nephi and his brethren were seeking to obtain the brass plates from Laban. Their lives were in peril. Yet Nephi swore this oath: “As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us.”

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

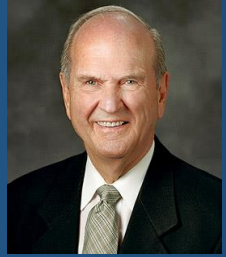


1 Nephi 3:15



We can pray to our Heavenly Father and receive guidance and direction, be warned about dangers and distractions, and be enabled to accomplish things we simply could not do on our own. If we will truly receive the Holy Ghost and learn to discern and understand His promptings, we will be guided in matters large and small.

Russell M. Nelson



Choose the word that best fits your feelings

1. I actively seek Heavenly Father's guidance and direction to help me with my challenges, questions, and decisions.

1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely

2. I trust in Heavenly Father's ability and desire to guide my life by the Spirit.

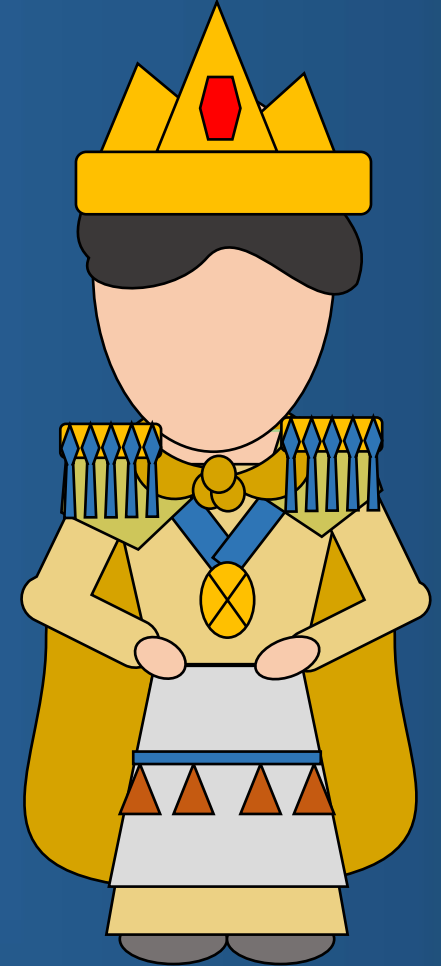
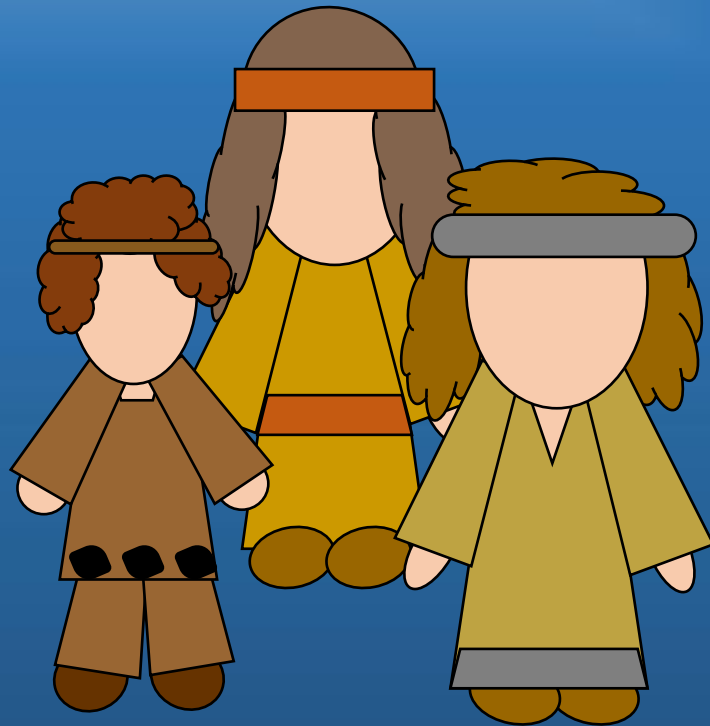
1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely

3. I go forth with faith and act upon the promptings of the Holy Ghost, even when my path is unclear.

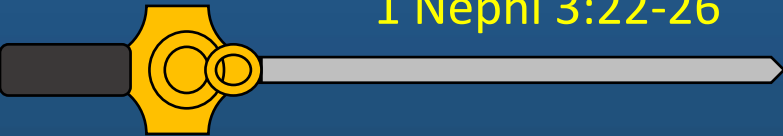
1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely

Trading Possessions

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



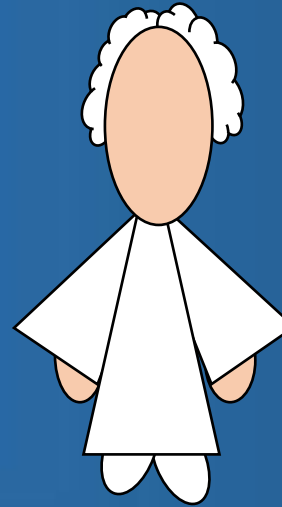
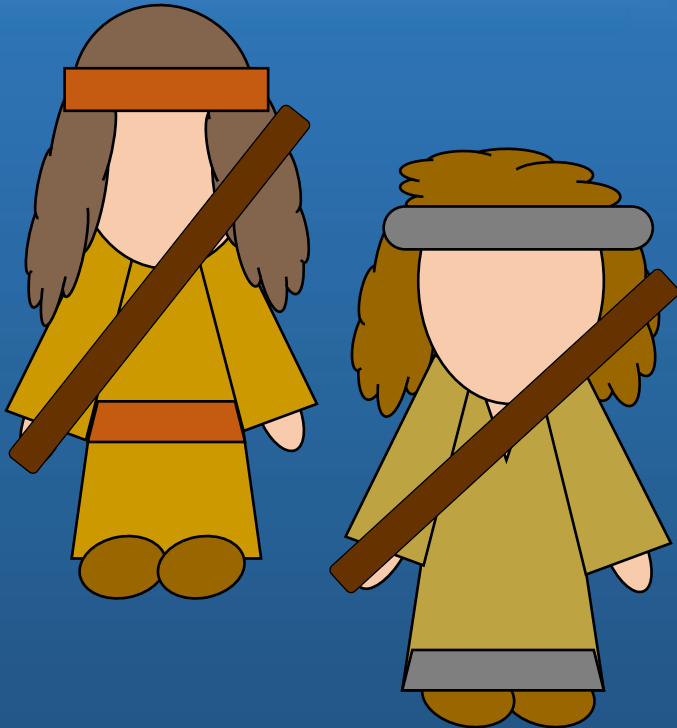
1 Nephi 3:22-26



Divine Intervention

Why were Laman and Lemuel angry with Nephi?

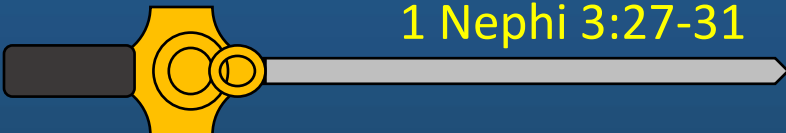
Who intervened Nephi's persecution?



Why did they continue to murmur?

SEE: Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-30)

1 Nephi 3:27-31



3rd Attempt: Let Us Go Up

*Let us go up again
unto Jerusalem*

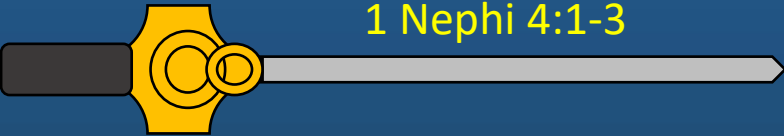


*Let us go up; the Lord
is able to deliver us*

*let us be strong like
unto Moses;*



1 Nephi 4:1-3



Faithfully Persist

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



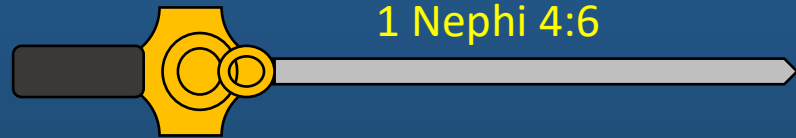
1 Nephi 4:6



“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

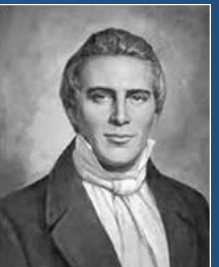
When we exercise faith in God and seek to do what He asks, even when we cannot see the outcome, He will lead us by the influence of the Holy Ghost.

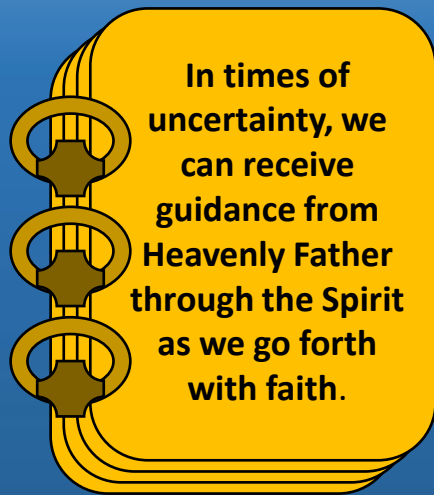


1 Nephi 4:7-19

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



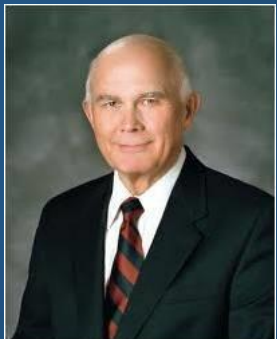


In my study of the scriptures I have noted that most revelation to the children of God comes when they are on the move, not when they are sitting back in their habitations waiting for the Lord to tell them the first step to take. ...

So we do all we can.

Then we wait upon the Lord for His revelation.

Dallin H. Oaks



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.

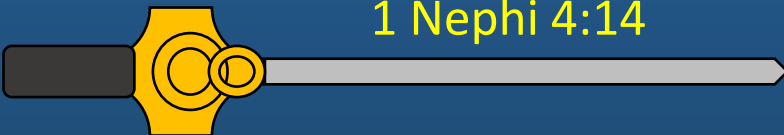
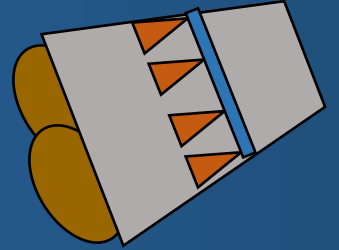
Under the law of Moses, stealing and attempted murder could both be punishable by death.

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’ 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](#) ...

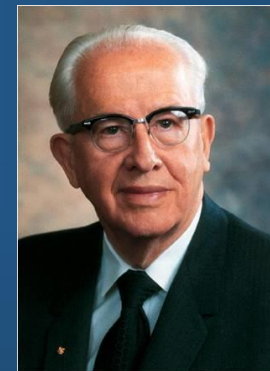
“We must diligently study the scriptures. Of special importance to us are the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants ...

“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.”

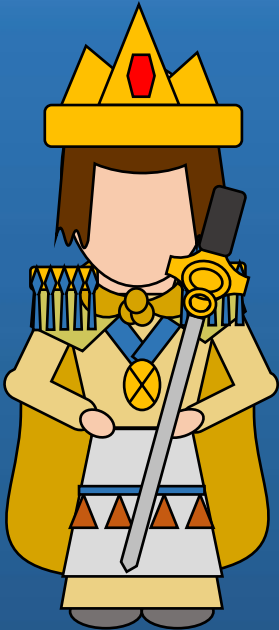
--Ezra Taft Benson



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:

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

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “A Yearning for Home,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 22

Russell M. Nelson, “Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our

Lives,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 94

Dallin H. Oaks, “In His Own Time, in His Own Way,” *Ensign*, Aug. 2013, 22–24

“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 surprising 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 foreigners 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)

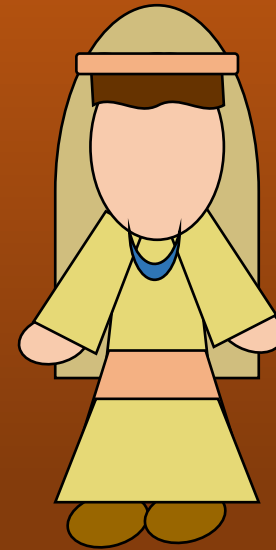
“The discovery of the Elephantine documents in 1925 showed that colonies of Jews actually did flee into the desert in the manner of Lehi, during his lifetime, and for the same reasons; arriving in their new home far up the Nile, they proceeded to build a replica of Solomon's Temple, exactly as Lehi did upon landing in the New World. Both of these oddities, especially the latter, were once considered 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 author, (3) the names of his parents and a word in praise of their virtues, with special mention of his father'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 establish the identity of the actual writer-down...of the text. Egyptian literary writings regularly close with the formula and 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)

Insight to Lehi's Time by Hugh Nibley

OF GREAT WORTH

1 NEPHI 5



SAFE RETURN

Sariah's complaints:

- Lehi was a visionary man
- Lehi had led the family away from the land of their inheritance
- Lehi had made decisions that may have led to the loss of their sons and that could lead to their own deaths in the wilderness.

Are they just?



COMPLAINING



Thanks to Carl Fuglein (See Numbers 14)

10-10-2000

ARE WE ALMOST THERE? HOW COME I ALWAYS
HAVE TO BE LAST IN LINE? WHY DO I HAVE
TO CARRY EVERYTHING? IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE
BEEN IN THIS WILDERNESS FOR DAYS!!! WHY
WON'T YOU TELL ME WHERE WE'RE GOING?

Did you know all the
information?

LEHI'S RESPONSE

A Testimony:

Lehi knew he is a visionary man

Lehi had seen God

Lehi knew the goodness of God

Lehi knew of the imminent destruction of Jerusalem

Lehi knew there was a better place (a land of promise) in which his family was to enjoy

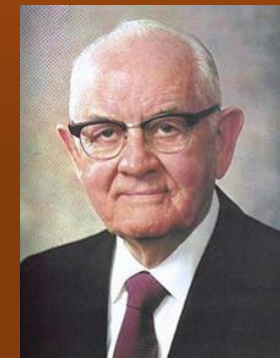
Lehi knew that his sons would be safe



Lehi comforted his wife

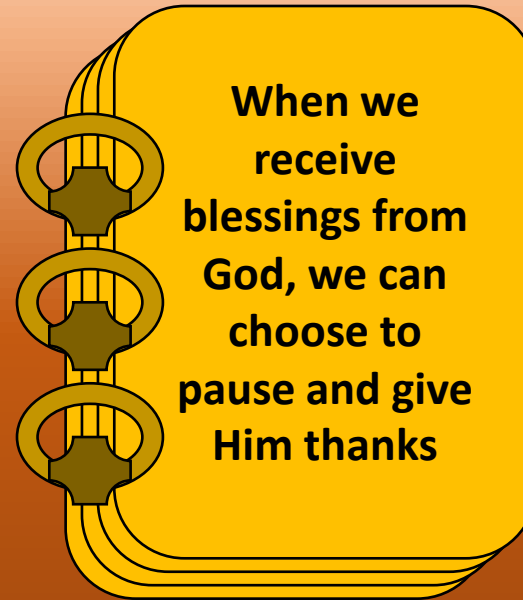


“... A successful union is the result of mature commitment, personal selflessness, unity, and loving understanding. Such a marriage includes the ability and willingness to share spiritual feelings, show love and affection, support and encourage each other, resolve normal and natural differences, and communicate effectively.”
--Spencer W. Kimball



LEARNING BY EXAMPLE

*And it came to pass that they did rejoice exceedingly and did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto the Lord; and they **gave thanks** unto the God of Israel.*



When we receive blessings from God, we can choose to pause and give Him thanks

*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Ephesians 5:20*



WHAT ARE THESE WORTH TO YOU?

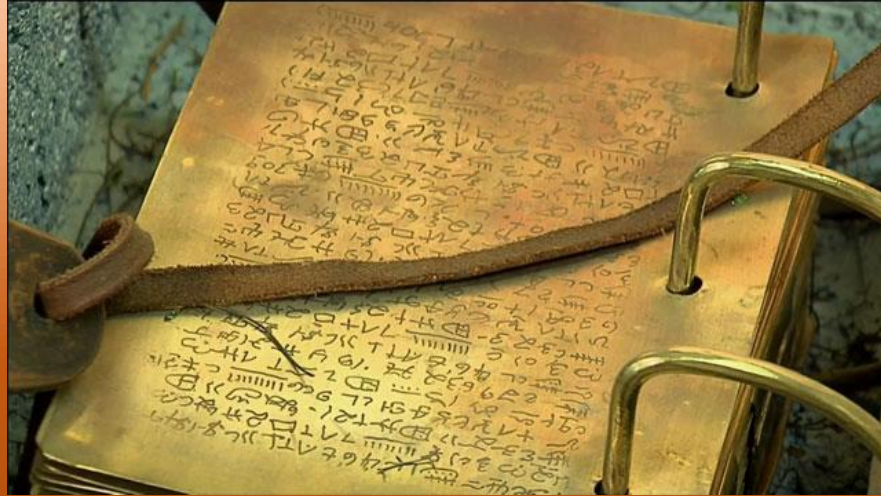


One way to determine an object's worth is by determining what people are willing to pay or exchange for the object.



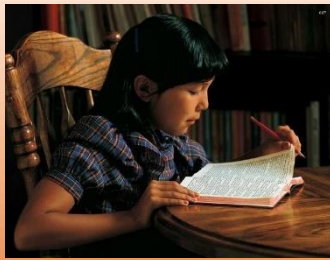
In addition to their financial value, what are other ways these items could have worth?

WHAT WAS THE SACRIFICE?



Nephi and his brothers risked their lives, sacrificed their riches, and traveled a long distance.





READING VS SEARCHING



Quantity

Quality

Skimming

Stopping and pondering

Can't wait to finish

Thirsting for more

Skipping over mundane paragraphs

Reading over and over again for understanding

Setting the book aside after reading

Praying for spiritual impressions and writing down thoughts

Forgetting what was read

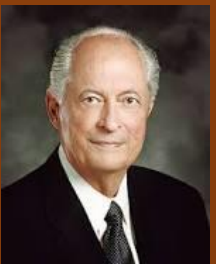
Remembering what you felt when you read and the message that God had intended for you

Putting the book out of mind

Relating what you read to your life and how to make it better



“When we want to speak to God, we pray. And when we want Him to speak to us, we search the scriptures; for His words are spoken through His prophets. He will then teach us as we listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.”
Robert D. Hales



ENLARGE MY SOUL

“When I say ‘study,’ I mean something more than reading. It is a good thing sometimes to read a book of scripture within a set period of time to get an overall sense of its message, but for conversion, you should care more about the amount of time you spend in the scriptures than about the amount you read in that time.

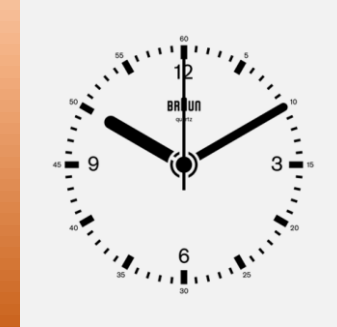
I see you sometimes reading a few verses, stopping to ponder them, carefully reading the verses again, and as you think about what they mean, praying for understanding, asking questions in your mind, waiting for spiritual impressions, and writing down the impressions and insights that come so you can remember and learn more.

Studying in this way, you may not read a lot of chapters or verses in a half hour, but you will be giving place in your heart for the word of God, and He will be speaking to you.

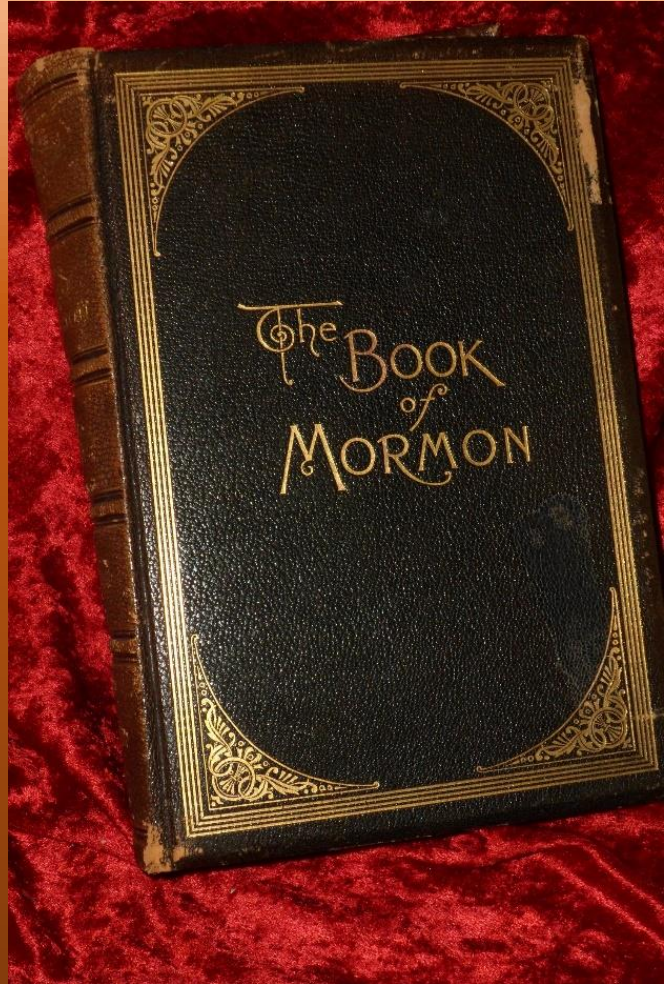
Remember Alma’s description of what it feels like:

‘It beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me’ [Alma 32:28]”

D. Todd Christofferson



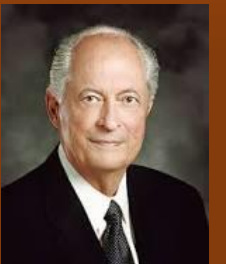
OF GREAT WORTH



As we search
the scriptures,
we can
discover their
great worth
for us.



"If you have not heard His voice
speaking to you lately, return with new
eyes and new ears to the scriptures.
They are our spiritual lifeline."
Robert D. Hales



CONCERNING HIS SEED

Lehi was filled with the Holy Spirit and received revelation “concerning his seed” (his posterity).

We can be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive revelation.

Likewise, when we sacrifice our time and energy to search the scriptures as Lehi did, we can receive strength to keep God’s commandments.



WHAT WE CAN LEARN

BY STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES?

Who we are

What we can become

Prophecies for us and for our
posterity

The commandments, laws,
ordinances, and covenants we must
live to obtain eternal life

How we must live in order to endure
to the end and return to our
Heavenly Father with honor

Robert D. Hales



VALUE OF THE BRASS PLATES



“The value of the Brass Plates to the Nephites cannot be overestimated. By means of them they were able to preserve the language (1 Nephi 3:19), most of the civilization, and the religious knowledge of the people from whence they came. (1 Nephi 22:30.) By way of contrast, the Mulekites, who were led out of Jerusalem some 11 years after Lehi’s departure, and who had no record equivalent to the Brass Plates, soon dwindled in apostasy and unbelief and lost their language, civilization, and religion. (Omni 14-18.)

“From prophet to prophet and generation to generation the Brass Plates were handed down and preserved by the Nephites. (Mosiah 1:16; 28:20; 3 Nephi 1:2.) At some future date the Lord has promised to bring them forth, undimmed by time and retaining their original brightness, and the scriptural accounts recorded on them are to ‘go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.’ (Alma 27:3-5; 1 Nephi 5:18-19.)”

--Bruce R. McConkie



CONTENTS OF BRASS PLATES

1. The first five books of the Old Testament (see 1 Nephi 5:11)

2. A valuable gift from the holy prophets (see 1 Nephi 5:13)

3. Writings of a prophet who lived in Jerusalem at the same time as Lehi (see 1 Nephi 5:13)

4. A record of Lehi's fathers (see 1 Nephi 5:14-16)

5. The future of the plates of brass (see 1 Nephi 5:18)

6. Why Lehi's family needed the plates of brass (see 1 Nephi 4:13-15)

A. The book of Jeremiah

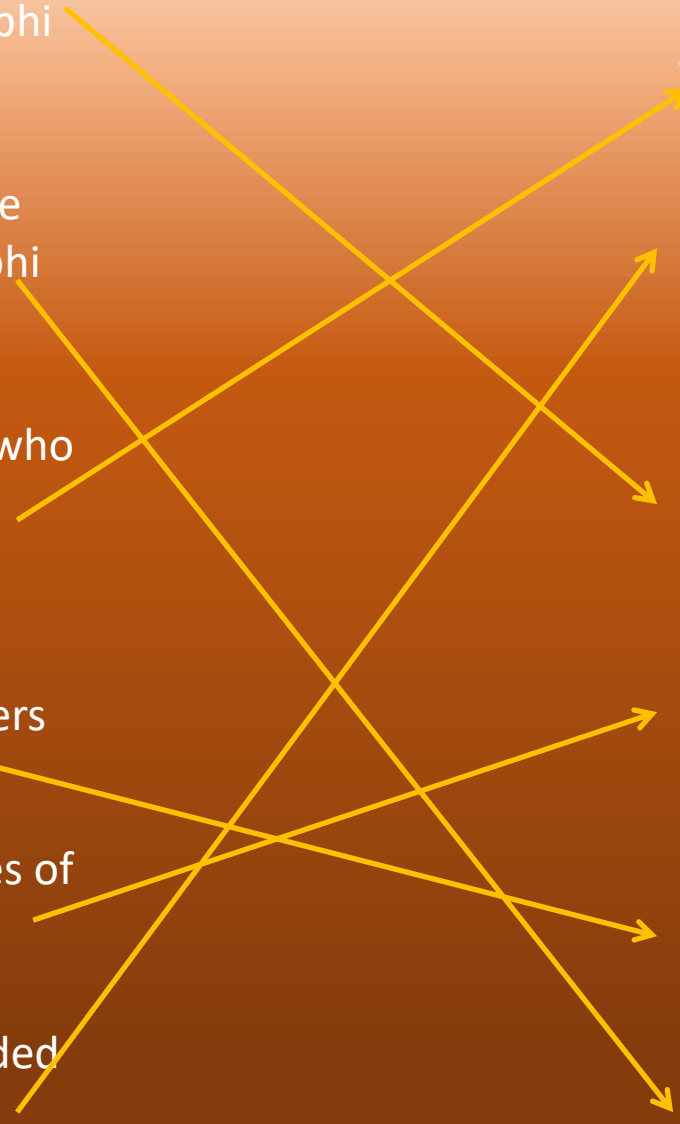
B. To help Lehi's family and posterity keep God's commandments

C. The books of Moses

D. Will go forth to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people

E. Genealogy

F. Prophecies



Sources:

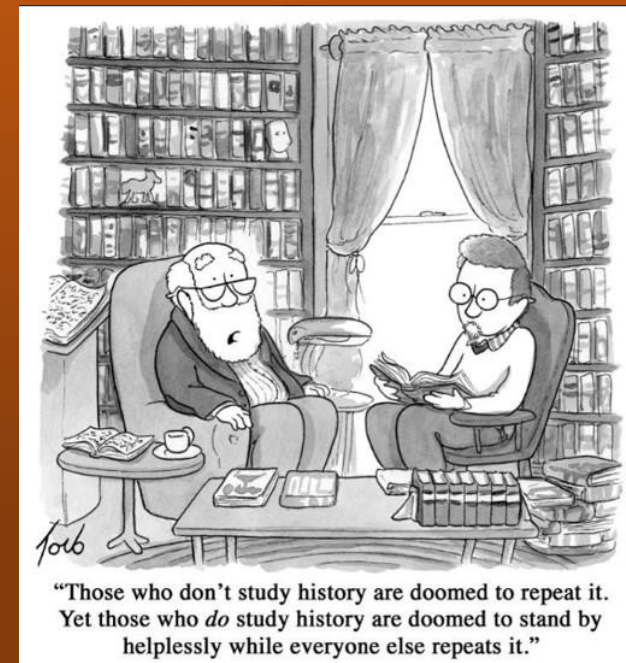
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Robert D. Hales "Holy Scriptures: The Power of God unto Our Salvation," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2006

Elder Bruce R. McConkie "Mormon Doctrine", 2nd ed. [1966], pg. 103



<p>Marriage 1 Nephi 5:4-7:</p> <p>“A happy marriage is not so much a matter of romance as it is an anxious concern for the comfort and well-being of one’s companion.” If you want a happy marriage, do what happily married couples do. Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley “What God Hath Joined Together,” Ensign, May 1991, 73.</p>	<p>The description of Nephi 1 Nephi 5:11-13:</p> <p>The brass plates of Laban contained the history of the Jews from the creation down to Lehi's day. It included the Old Testament prophecies written prior to Lehi's day. Even the prophecies of Lehi's contemporary, Jeremiah, were contained on the plates (see 1 Ne 5:13). Almost all the major Old Testament prophets' prophecies were recorded. The Nephite record would not have included prophecies from Daniel, Ezekiel, Micah, or Malachi. This is hinted at by the ministry of the Savior among the Nephites. At that time, the Lord made sure that the most important scriptures were a part of the Nephite record. This required Him to rehearse some of the Old Testament prophecies which were either of great doctrinal importance or which the Nephites did not have. A careful study of 3 Nephi demonstrates that he mostly quoted Isaiah, Micah, and Malachi.</p> <p>The plates of brass represented a larger body of literature than our current Old Testament. This is apparent from the statement of Nephi, it (today's Bible) is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many (1 Ne 13:23). The plates of brass obviously contained a considerable body of literature no longer extant in our Old Testament. It contained the words of many prophets whose message, without the Book of Mormon, would have otherwise been lost to the world. These were men who clearly taught of a Messiah who would come in the flesh to redeem his people. These prophets include Zenock, Zenos, and Neum (see the Book of Mormon Index). Gospeldoctrine.com</p>
<p>Quick to Forgive 5 Nephi 4-7:</p> <p>“Marriage partners must be quick to forgive. If we will sue for peace, taking the initiative in settling differences—if we forgive and forget with all our hearts ... if we forgive all real or fancied offenses before we ask forgiveness for our own sins—if we pay our own debts, large or small, before we press our debtors—if we manage to clear our own eyes of the blinding beams before we magnify the motes in the eyes of others—what a glorious world this would be! Divorce would be reduced to a minimum; courts would be freed from disgusting routines; family life would be heavenly; the building of the kingdom would go forward at an accelerated pace; and the peace which passeth understanding would bring to us all a joy and happiness which has hardly ‘entered into the heart of man.’”</p> <p><i>The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball</i>, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 242.</p>	<p>"These plates of brass, contained the prophecies of all the holy Prophets from the beginning—from the days of Adam; hence they must have contained the prophecies of Enoch, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in Egypt. The prophecies of Isaiah and many others of the holy Prophets were contained upon these plates of brass.</p> <p>"Notwithstanding brass is a metallic substance capable of being dissolved and crumbling back, in a few years to the elements, yet there was a miracle wrought upon these plates of brass. The Prophet said that these plates of brass should not be dimmed by time, that God would preserve them to the latest generations. What for? In order that they might come forth and their contents be translated by the Urim and Thummim, that these contents might be declared to all nations, and kindreds, and tongues, and people, who were the descendants of Lehi upon the face of all this continent, from the frozen regions of the north to the very utmost extremities of South America. That all these nations should come to a knowledge of the things contained on those plates of brass." Orson Pratt (<i>Journal of Discourses</i>,16: 55)</p>
<p>1 Nephi 5:11 The five books of Moses are referred to as the "Pentateuch." The Bible dictionary states:</p> <p>"A Greek word meaning the fivefold book; a name given to the five books that stand at the beginning of our Bible, and that contain the Torah or law of Israel. The Pentateuch was written by Moses, although it is evident that he used several documentary sources from which he compiled the book of Genesis, beside a divine revelation to him. It is also evident that scribes and copyists have left their traces upon the Pentateuch as we have it today; for example, the explanation of Moses' supposed death (Deut. 34:5-12) was surely added by a later hand. But latter-day revelation confirms that Moses was the author of the first five books of the Bible." The first five books of Moses represent the most important of all Jewish canon. <i>The Torah</i> is the Jewish bible and contains nothing more than the first five books of Moses. <i>The Talmud</i> contains many other Old Testament writings, but these are considered to be less important - doctrinally and historically.</p>	