

**1 Ne. 1**

(write some preliminary thoughts, what a commentary looks like, could pour hundreds of hours into this, which is the value of scripture... scope I will be aiming for, encourage readers to appreciate what speaks to them, write down the questions they have)

His Reign and Ministry (Nephi wrote this preface. He wrote about these events much later)

An account of Lehi and his wife Sariah, and his four sons, being called, (beginning at the eldest) Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. The Lord warns Lehi to depart out of the land of Jerusalem, because he prophesieth unto the people concerning their iniquity and they seek to destroy his life. He taketh three days' journey into the wilderness with his family. Nephi taketh his brethren and returneth to the land of Jerusalem after the record of the Jews. The account of their sufferings. They take the daughters of Ishmael to wife. They take their families and depart into the wilderness. Their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness. The course of their travels. They come to the large waters. Nephi's brethren rebel against him. He confoundeth them, and buildeth a ship. They call the name of the place Bountiful. They cross the large waters into the promised land, and so forth. This is according to the account of Nephi; or in other words, I, Nephi, wrote this record. (Take a moment to notice the language of the Book of Mormon. It is KJV or “Jacobean”, the adjectival form of James, English. Or rather, it is \*almost\*. Imitating, but not always accurate.

Chapter 1

*Nephi begins the record of his people—Lehi sees in vision a pillar of fire and reads from a book of prophecy—He praises God, foretells the coming of the Messiah, and prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem—He is persecuted by the Jews. About 600 B.C. (chapter headings were introduced in the 1981 scriptures)*

**1** I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents (I agree that the interpretation “wealthy” for “goodly” makes the most sense of the following points), therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days.

**2** Yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians.

**3** And I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with mine own hand; and I make it **according to my knowledge.**

**4** For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah (This was actually 597; the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar placed Zedekiah on the throne after deporting all the elites to Babylon), king of Judah, (my father, Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed.

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**5** Wherefore it came to pass that my father, Lehi, as he went forth prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart, **in behalf of his people**. *A powerful theme of the scriptures is that spiritual gifts such as visions and forgiveness come as we earnestly seek the welfare of others)*

**6** And it came to pass as he prayed unto the Lord, there came a pillar of fire and dwelt upon a rock before him; and **he saw and heard much**; and because of the things which he saw and heard he did quake and tremble exceedingly.

**7** And it came to pass that he returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed, **being overcome with the Spirit** and the things which he had seen.

**8** And being thus overcome with the Spirit, he was carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God.

**9** And it came to pass that he saw One descending out of the midst of heaven, and he beheld that his luster was above that of the sun at noon-day.

**10** And he also saw twelve others following him, and their brightness did exceed that of the stars in the firmament.

**11** And they came down and went forth upon the face of the earth; and the first came and stood before my father, and gave unto him a book, and bade him that he should read.

**12** And it came to pass that as he read, he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord.

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

**14** And it came to pass that when my father had read and seen **many great and marvelous things** *(Nephi isn't giving us a representative picture of Lehi's visions)*, he did exclaim many things unto the Lord; such as: Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty! Thy throne is high in the heavens, and thy power, and goodness, and mercy are over all the inhabitants of the earth; and, because thou art **merciful**, thou wilt not suffer those who come unto thee that they shall perish!

**15** And after this manner was the language of my father in the praising of his God; for his **soul did rejoice**, and **his whole heart was filled**, because of the things which he had seen, yea, which the Lord had shown unto him. *There is something missing—notice that we get descriptions of the dark and dangerous, but Lehi's response is full of praise and joy.*

**16** And now I, Nephi, do not make a full account of the things which my father hath written, for he hath written many things which he saw in visions and in dreams; and he also hath written many things which he prophesied and spake unto his children, of which I shall not make a full account *(this would be the Book of Lehi)*.

**17** But I shall make an account of my proceedings in my days. Behold, I make an abridgment of the record of my father, upon plates which I have made with mine own hands *(Multiple clues suggest that Nephi was a metal worker)*; wherefore, after I have abridged the record of my father then will I make an account of mine own life.

**18** Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shown so many marvelous things unto my father, Lehi, yea, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, behold he went forth among the people, and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard. *(His spiritual experiences motivated him to action)*

**19** And it came to pass that the Jews did mock him because of the things which he testified of them; for he truly testified of their wickedness and their abominations; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the **redemption of the world**. *Prophetic teachings, especially about*

the “Day of the Lord” developed into “Apocalypticism”, the idea that God would redeem/repair the world through the help of his Servant Messiah.

**20** And when the Jews heard these things they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; and they also sought his life, that they might take it away. But behold, I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, **to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance.** A repeated theme in the Book of Mormon, and one that speaks to me—an important way God saves us is to make us ourselves mighty to deliver (I felt vindicated when I saw the French translation was in the reflexive—“God gives them power to deliver themselves”).

### 1 Ne. 2

1 For behold, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a **dream**, (Lehi is a dreamer. What is your spiritual language?) and said unto him: Blessed art thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; and because thou hast been faithful and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold, they seek to take away thy life.

2 And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a **dream**, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness.

3 And it came to pass that he was obedient unto the word of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him.

4 And it came to pass that he departed **into the wilderness.** And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and took nothing with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and departed into the wilderness. **Priorities... all this based on a dream—one can easily imagine why Laman and Lemuel had such a hard time.**

5 And he came down by the borders near the shore of the Red Sea; and he traveled **in the wilderness** in the borders which are nearer the Red Sea; and he did travel **in the wilderness** with his family, which consisted of my mother, Sariah, and my elder brothers, who were Laman, Lemuel, and Sam.

6 And it came to pass that when he had traveled three days **in the wilderness**, he pitched his tent in a valley by the side of a river of water. **Note the repetition. Wilderness was tough.**

7 And it came to pass that he built an altar of stones, and made an offering unto the Lord, and **gave thanks** unto the Lord our God. **Gratitude even in hard situations.**

8 And it came to pass that he called the name of the river, Laman, and it emptied into the Red Sea; and the valley was in the borders near the mouth thereof.

9 And when my father saw that the waters of the river emptied into the fountain of the Red Sea, he spake unto Laman, saying: O that thou mightest be like unto this river, continually running into the fountain of all righteousness!

10 And he also spake unto Lemuel: O that thou mightest be like unto this valley, firm and steadfast, and immovable in keeping the commandments of the Lord! **Object lessons/teaching moments.**

11 Now this he spake because of the stiffneckedness of Laman and Lemuel; for behold they did **murmur** in many things against their father, because he was a visionary man, and had led them out of the land of Jerusalem, to leave the land of their inheritance, and their gold, and their silver, and their precious things, to perish in the wilderness. And this they said he had done because of the foolish imaginations of his heart. **You can see where their priorities were. At the same time, their complains are understandable.**

12 And thus Laman and Lemuel, being the eldest, did murmur against their father. And they did murmur because **they knew not the dealings of that God who had created them.**

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13 Neither did they believe that Jerusalem, that great city, could be destroyed according to the words of the prophets. And they were like unto the Jews who were at Jerusalem, who sought to take away the life of my father.

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

15 And my father dwelt in a tent. *Shortest verse in the Book of Mormon. Really quite poignant.*

16 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being exceedingly young, nevertheless being large in stature, and also having **great desires to know of the mysteries of God**, wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did visit me, and did **soften my heart** that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; **wherefore**, I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers. *A close reading suggests he could have been tempted to rebel? So his great desires changed his heart? Good example of using our strengths to overcome other weaknesses.*

17 And I spake unto Sam, making known unto him the things which the Lord had manifested unto me by his Holy Spirit. And it came to pass that he believed in my words.

18 But, behold, Laman and Lemuel would not hearken unto my words; and being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts I **cried unto the Lord for them**.

19 And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying: Blessed art thou, Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart.

20 And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.

21 And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

22 And inasmuch as thou shalt keep my commandments, **thou shalt be made a ruler and a teacher over thy brethren**. *I invite everyone to look at these individuals as complex characters, rather than as “good” and “bad”. Nephi could be a bit insufferable.*

23 For behold, in that day that they shall rebel against me, I will curse them even with a sore curse, and they shall have no power over thy seed except they shall rebel against me also.

24 And if it so be that they rebel against me, they shall be a scourge unto thy seed, to **stir them up in the ways of remembrance**. *Our trials can wake us up and help us return to living correct principles.*

### 1 Ne. 3

1 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, returned from speaking with the Lord, to the tent of my father. *The casualness of this statement makes me smile.*

2 And it came to pass that he spake unto me, saying: Behold I have dreamed a dream, in the which the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brethren shall return to Jerusalem.

3 For behold, Laban hath the record of the Jews and also a genealogy of my forefathers, and they are engraven upon plates of brass.

4 Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brothers should go unto the house of Laban, and seek the records, and bring them down hither into the wilderness.

5 And now, behold thy brothers murmur, saying it is a hard thing which I have required of them; but behold I have not required it of them, but it is a commandment of the Lord.

6 Therefore go, my son, and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast not murmured.

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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.** *Very memorable. Is it always true?*

8 And it came to pass that when my father had heard these words he was exceedingly glad, for he knew that I had been blessed of the Lord.

9 And I, Nephi, and my brethren took our journey in the wilderness, with our tents, to go up to the land of Jerusalem.

10 And it came to pass that when we had gone up to the land of Jerusalem, I and my brethren did **consult one with another.**

11 And we **cast lots**—who of us should go in unto the house of Laban. And it came to pass that the lot fell upon Laman; and Laman went in unto the house of Laban, and he talked with him as he sat in his house.

12 And he desired of Laban the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, which contained the genealogy of my father. *Attempt #1.*

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

14 But Laman fled out of his presence, and told the things which Laban had done, unto us. And we began to be exceedingly sorrowful, and my brethren were about to return unto my father in the wilderness.

15 But behold I said unto them that: As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us. *Strongest oath possible.*

16 Wherefore, **let us be faithful** in keeping the commandments of the Lord; therefore let us go down to the land of our father’s inheritance, for behold he left gold and silver, and all manner of riches. And all this he hath done because of the commandments of the Lord.

17 For he knew that Jerusalem must be destroyed, because of the wickedness of the people.

18 For behold, they have rejected the words of the prophets. Wherefore, if my father should dwell in the land after he hath been commanded to flee out of the land, behold, he would also perish. Wherefore, it must needs be that he flee out of the land.

19 And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the **language** of our fathers;

20 And also that we may preserve unto them the **words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets**, which have been delivered unto them by the Spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time.

21 And it came to pass that after this manner of language **did I persuade my brethren**, that they might be faithful in keeping the commandments of God.

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

23 And after we had gathered these things together, we went up again unto the house of Laban.

24 And it came to pass that we went in unto Laban, and desired him that he would give unto us the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, for which we would give unto him our gold, and our silver, and all our precious things. *Attempt #2.*

25 And it came to pass that when Laban saw our property, and that it was exceedingly great, he did lust after it, insomuch that he thrust us out, and sent his servants to slay us, that he might obtain our property.

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26 And it came to pass that we did flee before the servants of Laban, and we were obliged to leave behind our property, and it fell into the hands of Laban.

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

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

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

30 And after the angel had spoken unto us, he departed.

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

#### 1 Ne. 4

1 And it came to pass that I spake unto my brethren, saying: **Let us go** up again unto Jerusalem, and **let us be faithful** in keeping the commandments of the Lord; for behold he is mightier than all the earth, then why not mightier than Laban and his fifty, yea, or even than his tens of thousands?

2 Therefore **let us go up; let us be strong** like unto Moses; for he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea and they divided hither and thither, and our fathers came through, out of captivity, on dry ground, and the armies of Pharaoh did follow and were drowned in the waters of the Red Sea.

3 Now behold ye know that this is true; and ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you; wherefore can ye doubt? Let us go up; the Lord is able to deliver us, even as our fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians. [Applying the scriptures to themselves \(though one must do so carefully\)](#)

4 Now when I had spoken these words, they were **yet wroth**, and **did still continue to murmur; nevertheless** they did follow me up until we came without the walls of Jerusalem. [Laman and Lemuel are all about the minimum effort needed with the maximum amount of complaining.](#)

5 And it was by night; and I caused that they should hide themselves without the walls. And after they had hid themselves, I, Nephi, crept into the city and went forth towards the house of Laban.

6 And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. [Nephi combines intensive, proactive effort with openness to inspiration \(of course, he may have ended up making the wrong decision...\)](#)

7 Nevertheless I went forth, and as I came near unto the house of Laban I beheld a man, and he had fallen to the earth before me, for he was drunken with wine.

8 And when I came to him I found that it was Laban.

9 And I beheld his sword, and I drew it forth from the sheath thereof; and the hilt thereof was of pure gold, and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine, and I saw that the blade thereof was of the most precious steel. [\(Note the meticulous attention to detail, another indication that Nephi was a metal worker\)](#)

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

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

12 And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me again: Slay him, for the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands;

13 Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief.

14 And now, when I, Nephi, had heard these words, I remembered the words of the Lord which he spake unto me in the wilderness, saying that: Inasmuch as thy seed shall keep my commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise.

15 Yea, and I also thought that they could not keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses, save they should have the law.

16 And I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of brass.

17 And again, I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for this cause—that I might obtain the records according to his commandments.

18 Therefore I did obey the voice of the Spirit, and took Laban by the hair of the head, and I smote off his head with his own sword. [Nephi doth protest too much... I don't think he is a reliable narrator here.](#)

19 And after I had smitten off his head with his own sword, I took the garments of Laban and put them upon mine own body; yea, even every whit; and I did gird on his armor about my loins.

20 And after I had done this, I went forth unto the treasury of Laban. And as I went forth towards the treasury of Laban, behold, I saw the servant of Laban who had the keys of the treasury. And I commanded him in the voice of Laban, that he should go with me into the treasury. [Incredibly creative and courageous.](#)

21 And he supposed me to be his master, Laban, for he beheld the garments and also the sword girded about my loins.

22 And he spake unto me concerning the elders of the Jews, he knowing that his master, Laban, had been out by night among them. [\(in armor?\)](#)

23 And I spake unto him as if it had been Laban. [\(what learning would have been necessary to pull this off?\)](#)

24 And I also spake unto him that I should carry the engravings, which were upon the plates of brass, to my elder brethren, who were without the walls.

25 And I also bade him that he should follow me.

26 And he, supposing that I spake of the brethren of the church, and that I was truly that Laban whom I had slain, wherefore he did follow me.

27 And he spake unto me many times concerning the elders of the Jews, as I went forth unto my brethren, who were without the walls.

28 And it came to pass that when Laman saw me he was exceedingly frightened, and also Lemuel and Sam. And they fled from before my presence; for they supposed it was Laban, and that he had slain me and had sought to take away their lives also.

29 And it came to pass that I called after them, and they did hear me; wherefore they did cease to flee from my presence.

30 And it came to pass that when the **servant of Laban** beheld my brethren he began to tremble, and was about to flee from before me and return to the city of Jerusalem.

31 And now I, Nephi, being a man large in stature, and also having received much strength of the Lord, therefore I did seize upon the servant of Laban, and held him, that he should not flee.

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32 And it came to pass that I spake with him, that if he would hearken unto my words, as the Lord liveth, and as I live, even so that if he would hearken unto our words, we would spare his life.

33 And I spake unto him, even with an oath, that he need not fear; that he should be a free man like unto us if he would go down in the wilderness with us.

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

35 And it came to pass that Zoram did **take courage** at the words which I spake. Now Zoram was the name of the servant; and he promised that he would go down into the wilderness unto our father. Yea, and he also made an oath unto us that he would tarry with us from that time forth. *Zoram’s courage, trust, and faith are particularly inspiring.*

36 Now we were desirous that he should tarry with us for this cause, that the Jews might not know concerning our flight into the wilderness, lest they should pursue us and destroy us. *Reasonable concern!*

37 And it came to pass that when Zoram had made an oath unto us, our fears did cease concerning him. *A testament to the power of oaths in the culture.*

38 And it came to pass that we took the plates of brass and the servant of Laban, and departed into the wilderness, and journeyed unto the tent of our father.

#### 1 Ne. 5

1 And it came to pass that after we had come down into the wilderness unto our father, behold, he was filled with joy, and also my mother, Sariah, was exceedingly glad, for she truly had mourned because of us. *Sariah was mentioned in the preface to 1 Nephi and 2:5, but this is the first time we hear from her.*

2 For she had supposed that we had perished in the wilderness; and she also had complained against my father, telling him that he was a visionary man; saying: Behold thou hast led us forth from the land of our inheritance, and **my sons are no more**, and **we perish** in the wilderness. *(I am so glad we have this vulnerable exchange between Sariah and her husband). Note carefully how this passages uses tenses.*

3 And after this manner of language had my mother complained against my father.

4 And it had come to pass that my father spake unto her, saying: I know that I am a visionary man; for if I had not seen the things of God in a vision I should not have known the goodness of God, but had tarried at Jerusalem, and had perished with my brethren. *(Lehi validates Sariah rather than attacking her for her concerns, then encourages her)*

5 But behold, **I have obtained a land of promise**, in the which things I do rejoice; yea, and I know that **the Lord will deliver my sons** out of the hands of Laban, and bring them down again unto us in the wilderness. *I have long been struck by the profound faith expressed by this “prophetic perfect”. Lehi’s family has years of arduous, dangerous travel ahead of them. Yet Lehi can confidently state that he “has obtained”.*

6 And after this manner of language did my father, Lehi, **comfort my mother**, Sariah, concerning us, while we journeyed in the wilderness up to the land of Jerusalem, to obtain the record of the Jews.

7 And when we had returned to the tent of my father, behold **their joy was full**, and my mother was comforted. *Does this mean Sariah was comforted only after her sons returned? That Lehi’s attempts did not fully work?*



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8 And she spake, saying: **Now I know of a surety** that the Lord hath commanded my husband to flee into the wilderness; yea, and I also know of a surety that the Lord hath protected my sons, and delivered them out of the hands of Laban, and given them power whereby they could accomplish the thing which the Lord hath commanded them. And after this manner of language did she speak.

9 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. **What a gift to have Sariah’s testimony! This experience has important life application—Sariah was tested in the early part of her journey, and then she received a stronger witness. I suspect that witness enabled her to get through future trials.**

10 And after they had given thanks unto the God of Israel, my father, Lehi, took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning.

11 And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses, which gave an account of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve, who were our first parents;

12 And also a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah;

13 And also the prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah; and also many prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah. **This presupposes the Bible in a form that does not line up with what we know historically. The “five books of Moses” likely came together fully in the 400s.**

14 And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine.

15 And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt, by that same God who had preserved them.

16 And thus my father, **Lehi, did discover the genealogy of his fathers.** And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph, wherefore he and his fathers had kept the records.

17 And now when my father saw all these things, he was **filled with the Spirit**, and began to prophesy concerning his seed—

18 That these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed.

19 Wherefore, he said that these plates of brass should never perish; neither should they be dimmed any more by time. And he prophesied many things concerning his seed. **I enjoyed imagining exactly how the brass plates would be revealed 😊**

20 And it came to pass that **thus far** I and my father had kept the commandments wherewith the Lord had commanded us. **I appreciate the precision. A gratifying thing to be able to say.**

21 And we had obtained the records which the Lord had commanded us, and **searched them** and found that they were **desirable**; yea, even of **great worth** unto us, insomuch that we could preserve the commandments of the Lord unto our children.

22 Wherefore, it was wisdom in the Lord that we should carry them with us, as we journeyed in the wilderness towards the land of promise.

### 1 Ne. 7

1 And now I would that ye might know, that after my father, Lehi, had made an end of prophesying concerning his seed, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto him again, saying that it was not meet

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for him, Lehi, that he should take his family into the wilderness alone; but that his sons should take daughters to wife, that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise.

2 And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that I, Nephi, and my brethren, should again return unto the land of Jerusalem, and bring down Ishmael and his family into the wilderness.

3 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did again, with my brethren, go forth into the wilderness to go up to Jerusalem. *Note that this is the only time Laman and Lemuel don't complain!!*

4 And it came to pass that we went up unto the house of Ishmael, and **we did gain favor** in the sight of Ishmael, insomuch that we did speak unto him the words of the Lord.

5 And it came to pass that the Lord did soften the heart of Ishmael, and **also his household**, insomuch that they took their journey with us down into the wilderness to the tent of our father. *This fits the context, that the entire household worked as a unit and would make decisions together, be converted together, etc.*

6 And it came to pass that as we journeyed in the wilderness, behold Laman and Lemuel, and two of the daughters of Ishmael, and the two sons of Ishmael and their families, **did rebel** against us; yea, against me, Nephi, and Sam, and their father, Ishmael, and his wife, and his three other daughters. *Of course they rebelled, because they were leaving Jerusalem yet again, this time for good.*

7 And it came to pass in the which rebellion, they were desirous to return unto the land of Jerusalem.

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

9 How is it that ye have not hearkened unto the word of the Lord?

10 How is it that ye have forgotten that ye have seen an angel of the Lord?

11 Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten what great things the Lord hath done for us, in delivering us out of the hands of Laban, and also that we should obtain the record?

12 Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten that the Lord is able to do all things according to his will, for the children of men, if it so be that they exercise faith in him? Wherefore, let us be faithful to him.

13 And if it so be that we are faithful to him, we shall obtain the land of promise; and ye shall know at some future period that the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled concerning the destruction of Jerusalem; for all things which the Lord hath spoken concerning the destruction of Jerusalem must be fulfilled.

14 For behold, the Spirit of the Lord ceaseth soon to strive with them; for behold, they have rejected the prophets, and Jeremiah have they cast into prison. And they have sought to take away the life of my father, insomuch that they have driven him out of the land.

15 Now behold, I say unto you that if ye will return unto Jerusalem ye shall also perish with them. And now, if ye have choice, go up to the land, and remember the words which I speak unto you, that if ye go ye will also perish; for thus the Spirit of the Lord constraineth me that I should speak. *(The Spirit working through Nephi yes, but also working through Nephi's personality, and traits)*

16 And it came to pass that when I, Nephi, had spoken these words unto my brethren, they were angry with me. And it came to pass that they did lay their hands upon me, for behold, they were exceedingly wroth, and they did bind me with cords, for they sought to take away my life, that they might leave me in the wilderness to be devoured by wild beasts. *Again, Laman, Lemuel, and Nephi all contributed to getting them into this mess. Sure Laman and Lemuel are the aggressors and so the most accountable, but perhaps Nephi could have dealt with the situation another way.*

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17 But it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord, saying: O Lord, according to my faith which is in thee, wilt thou deliver me from the hands of my brethren; yea, even **give me strength that I may burst these bands with which I am bound**. One of my favorite prayers in the scriptures. I relate deeply as I have felt strengthened to deliver myself. Powerful balance—we seek God’s help, and the answer is often through our own strength and the strength and support of others.

18 And it came to pass that when I had said these words, behold, the bands were loosed from off my hands and feet, and I stood before my brethren, and I spake unto them again. *Note Nephi’s humility.*

19 And it came to pass that they were angry with me again, and sought to lay hands upon me; but behold, **one of the daughters of Ishmael**, yea, and also her mother, and one of the sons of Ishmael, did plead with my brethren, insomuch that **they did soften their hearts**; and they did cease striving to take away my life. *I like the idea that this daughter ends up as Nephi’s wife 😊 The fact he mentions her first, before her brother or mother, indicates she was special to him.*

20 And it came to pass that **they were sorrowful, because of their wickedness**, insomuch that they did bow down before me, and did plead with me that I would forgive them of the thing that they had done against me. *Note Laman and Lemuel’s journey... they get harder and harder and require more and more external force to effect changes. At this point they still feel remorse.*

21 And it came to pass that **I did frankly forgive them all that they had done**, and I did exhort them that they would pray unto the Lord their God for forgiveness. And it came to pass that they did so. And after they had done praying unto the Lord we did again travel on our journey towards the tent of our father. *Nephi’s greatness. He annoys his family but is also good at forgiving them.*

22 And it came to pass that we did come down unto the tent of our father. And after I and my brethren and all the house of Ishmael had come down unto the tent of my father, they did give thanks unto the Lord their God; and they did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto him.

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**Additional Reading:** [Mosiah 1:3–7](#); [Alma 3:11–12](#).

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#### Mosiah 1:3-7

**3** And he also taught them concerning the records which were engraven on the plates of brass, saying: My sons, I would that ye should remember that were it not for these plates, which contain these records and these commandments, we must have suffered in ignorance, even at this present time, not knowing the mysteries of God.

**4** For it were not possible that our father, Lehi, could have remembered all these things, to have taught them to his children, except it were for the help of these plates; for he having been taught in the language of the Egyptians therefore he could read these engravings, and teach them to his children, that thereby they could teach them to their children, and so fulfilling the commandments of God, even down to this present time.

**5** I say unto you, my sons, were it not for these things, which have been kept and preserved by the hand of God, that we might read and understand of his mysteries, and have his commandments always before our eyes, that even our fathers would have dwindled in unbelief, and we should have been like unto our brethren, the Lamanites, who know nothing concerning these things, or even do not believe them when they are taught them, because of the traditions of their fathers, which are not correct.

**6** O my sons, I would that ye should remember that these sayings are true, and also that these records are true. And behold, also the plates of Nephi, which contain the records and the sayings of our fathers from the time they left Jerusalem until now, and they are true; and we can know of their

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surety because we have them before our eyes.

7 And now, my sons, I would that ye should remember to search them diligently, that ye may profit thereby; and I would that ye should keep the commandments of God, that ye may prosper in the land according to the promises which the Lord made unto our fathers.

#### **Alma 3:11-12**

11 And it came to pass that whosoever would not believe in the tradition of the Lamanites, but believed those records which were brought out of the land of Jerusalem, and also in the tradition of their fathers, which were correct, who believed in the commandments of God and kept them, were called the Nephites, or the people of Nephi, from that time forth—

12 And it is they who have kept the records which are true of their people, and also of the people of the Lamanites.