

## LEHI TO HIS CHILDREN

2 Nephi 1-3

- And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had made an end of teaching my brethren,  
 our father, Lehi, also spake many things unto them, and rehearsed unto them,  
 how great things the Lord had done for them in bringing them out of the land of Jerusalem. 2  
 And he spake unto them  
 concerning their rebellions upon the waters, and the mercies of God in sparing their lives, that they  
 were not swallowed up in the sea. 3  
 And he also spake unto them
- A concerning the land of promise,
- B which they had obtained--
- C how merciful the Lord had been in warning us that we should flee
- D<sub>1</sub> out of the land of Jerusalem. 4
- D<sub>2</sub> For, behold, said he, I have seen a vision, in which I know that Jerusalem is  
 destroyed;
- D<sub>1</sub> and had we remained in Jerusalem
- D<sub>2</sub> we should also have perished. 5
- C But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions,
- B we have obtained
- A a land of promise,  
 a land which is choice above all other lands;  
 a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me  
 should be a land for the inheritance of my seed.
- B Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever,
- C and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord. 6
- D Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me,
- C that there shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. 7
- B Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring.
- A a And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given,
- b it shall be a land of liberty unto them; wherefore,  
 they shall never be brought down into captivity;  
 if so, it shall be because of iniquity;  
 for if iniquity shall abound  
 cursed shall be the land for their sakes,  
 but unto the righteous it shall be blessed forever. 8
- c And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of  
 other nations;
- d for behold, many nations would overrun the land, that there would be no place for  
 an inheritance. 9

- a Wherefore, I, Lehi, have obtained a promise, that inasmuch as those whom the Lord God shall bring out of the land of Jerusalem shall keep his commandments,
- b they shall prosper upon the face of this land;
- c and they shall be kept from all other nations,
- d that they may possess this land unto themselves.
- a And if it so be that they shall keep his commandments
- b they shall be blessed upon the face of this land,
- c and there shall be none to molest them,
- d nor to take away the land of their inheritance; and they shall dwell safely forever. 10
- a But behold, when the time cometh that they shall dwindle in unbelief, after they have received so great blessings from the hand of the Lord--  
 having a knowledge of the creation of the earth, and all men,  
 knowing the great and marvelous works of the Lord from the creation of the world;  
 having power given them to do all things by faith;  
 having all the commandments from the beginning, and  
 having been brought by his infinite goodness into this precious land of promise--  
 behold, I say, if the day shall come that they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer and their God,
- b behold, the judgments of him that is just shall rest upon them. 11
- c Yea, he will bring other nations unto them, and he will give unto them power,
- d and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten. 12 Yea, as one generation passeth to another there shall be bloodsheds, and great visitations among them;
- A a wherefore, my sons, I would that ye would remember; yea, I would that ye would hearken unto my words. 13
- b O that ye would awake; awake from a deep sleep,
- c yea, even from the sleep of hell,
- d and shake off the awful chains by which ye are bound,
- d which are the chains which bind the children of men,
- c that they are carried away captive down to the eternal gulf of misery and woe. 14
- b Awake! and arise from the dust,
- a and hear the words of a trembling parent,
- B whose limbs ye must soon lay down in the cold and silent grave, from whence no traveler can return; a few more days and I go the way of all the earth. 15  
 But behold,  
 the Lord hath redeemed my soul from hell;  
 I have beheld his glory,  
 and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love. 16

- C And I desire that ye should remember to observe the statutes and the judgments of the Lord;
- D behold, this hath been the anxiety of my soul from the beginning. 17 My heart hath been weighed down with sorrow from time to time, for I have feared, lest for the hardness of your hearts
- E the Lord your God should come out in the fulness of his wrath upon you, that ye be cut off and destroyed forever; 18
- E Or, that a cursing should come upon you for the space of many generations; and ye are visited by sword, and by famine, and are hated, and are led according to the will and captivity of the devil. 19
- D O my sons, that these things might not come upon you, but that ye might be a choice and a favored people of the Lord. But behold, his will be done; for his ways are righteousness forever. 20
- C And he hath said that:  
 Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments  
 ye shall prosper in the land;  
 but inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments  
 ye shall be cut off from my presence. 21
- B And now that my soul might have joy in you,  
 and that my heart might leave this world with gladness because of you,  
 that I might not be brought down with grief and sorrow to the grave,
- A a arise from the dust, my sons,  
 b and be men, and be determined in one mind and in one heart, united in all things,  
 c that ye may not come down into captivity; 22  
 d That ye may not be cursed with a sore cursing;  
 e and also, that ye may not incur the displeasure of a just God upon you,  
 d unto the destruction, yea, the eternal destruction of both soul and body. 23  
 c Awake, my sons; put on the armor of righteousness. Shake off the chains with which ye are bound,  
 b and come forth out of obscurity,  
 a and arise from the dust. 24
- A Rebel no more against your brother,  
 B<sub>1</sub> whose views have been glorious, and  
 who hath kept the commandments from the time that we left Jerusalem; and  
 who hath been an instrument in the hands of God,  
 B<sub>2</sub> in bringing us forth into the land of promise; for were it not for him, we must have perished  
 with hunger in the wilderness;  
 C nevertheless, ye sought to take away his life;  
 D yea, and he hath suffered much sorrow because of you. 25  
 E And I exceedingly fear and tremble because of you,

D lest he shall suffer again;

C for behold, ye have accused him that he sought power and authority over you; but I know that he hath not sought for power nor authority over you,

B<sub>1</sub> but he hath sought the glory of God,

B<sub>2</sub> and your own eternal welfare. 26

A And ye have murmured because he hath been plain unto you.  
Ye say that he hath used sharpness;  
ye say that he hath been angry with you;

but behold, his sharpness  
was the sharpness of the power of the word of God, which was in him;  
and that which ye call anger  
was the truth, according to that which is in God,  
which he could not restrain,  
manifesting boldly concerning your iniquities. 27  
And it must needs be that the power of God must be with him,  
even unto his commanding you that ye must obey.  
But behold, it was not he, but it was the Spirit of the Lord which was in him,  
which opened his mouth to utterance  
that he could not shut it. 28

And now my son, Laman, and also Lemuel and Sam, and also my sons who are the sons of Ishmael, behold,  
if ye will hearken unto the voice of Nephi  
ye shall not perish.  
And if ye will hearken unto him  
I leave unto you  
a blessing,  
yea, even my first blessing. 29  
But if ye will not hearken unto him  
I take away my first blessing,  
yea, even my blessing,  
and it shall rest upon him. 30

And now Zoram, I speak unto you: Behold, thou art the servant of Laban; nevertheless, thou hast been brought out of the land of Jerusalem, and I know that thou art a true friend unto my son, Nephi, forever. 31 Wherefore, because thou hast been faithful  
thy seed shall be blessed with his seed,  
that they dwell in prosperity  
long upon the face of this land;  
and nothing, save it shall be iniquity among them,  
shall harm or disturb their prosperity upon the face of this land forever. 32  
Wherefore, if ye shall keep the commandments of the Lord,  
the Lord hath consecrated this land  
for the security  
of thy seed with the seed of my son. 2:1

And now, Jacob, I speak unto you:  
Thou art my first-born in the days of my tribulation in the wilderness.  
And behold, in thy childhood thou hast suffered afflictions and much sorrow, because of the rudeness of thy brethren. 2  
Nevertheless, Jacob,  
my first-born in the wilderness, thou knowest the greatness of God;  
and he shall consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain. 3

Wherefore,  
 thy soul shall be blessed, and  
 thou shalt dwell safely with thy brother, Nephi; and  
 thy days shall be spent in the service of thy God.

Wherefore,  
 I know that thou art redeemed, because of the righteousness of thy Redeemer;  
 for thou hast beheld  
 that in the fulness of time he cometh to bring salvation unto men. 4  
 And thou hast beheld in thy youth his glory;  
 wherefore, thou art blessed even as they unto whom he shall minister in the  
 flesh;  
 for the Spirit is the same,  
 yesterday,  
 today, and  
 forever.

A And the way is prepared from the fall of man, and salvation is free. 5 And men are instructed sufficiently that they know good from evil.

B And the law is given unto men. And  
 by the law no flesh is justified; or,  
 by the law men are cut off. Yea,  
 by the temporal law they were cut off; and also,  
 by the spiritual law they perish from that which is good,  
 and become miserable forever. 6

C Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah;

D for he is full of grace and truth. 7

C Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin,

B to answer  
 the ends of the law,  
 unto all those who have  
 a broken heart and  
 a contrite spirit;  
 and unto none else  
 can the ends of the law  
 be answered.[1] 8

C Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that  
 there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the  
 merits, and  
 mercy, and  
 grace

of the Holy Messiah,  
 who layeth down his life according to the flesh,  
 and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit,  
 that he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead,

D being the first that should rise. 9

D Wherefore, he is the first-fruits unto God,

C inasmuch as he shall make intercession for all the children of men;  
 and they that believe in him shall be saved. 10

And because of the intercession for all,  
 all men come unto God;  
 wherefore, they stand in the presence of him to be judged of him according to the  
 truth and holiness which is in him.

B Wherefore, the ends of the law which the Holy One hath given, unto the inflicting of the punishment which is affixed, which punishment that is affixed is in opposition to that of the happiness which is affixed, to answer the ends of the atonement--11

A a For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things.

b If not so, my first-born in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad.

a Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one;

b wherefore, if it should be one body it must needs remain as dead, having no life neither death, nor corruption nor incorruption, happiness nor misery, neither sense nor insensibility. 12

B Wherefore, it must needs have been created for a thing of naught; wherefore there would have been no purpose in the end of its creation.

C Wherefore, this thing must needs destroy the wisdom of God and his eternal purposes, and also the power, and the mercy, and the justice of God. 13

D<sub>1</sub> And if ye shall say there is no law, ye shall also say there is no sin. If ye shall say there is no sin, ye shall also say there is no righteousness. And if there be no righteousness there be no happiness. And if there be no righteousness nor happiness there be no punishment nor misery. And if these things are not there is no God.

D<sub>2</sub> And if there is no God we are not, neither the earth; for there could have been no creation of things,

D<sub>3</sub> neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away. 14

E And now, my sons, I speak unto you these things for your profit and learning;

D<sub>1</sub> for there is a God,

D<sub>2</sub> and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are,

D<sub>3</sub> both things to act and things to be acted upon. 15

C And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man,

B after he had created  
our first parents, and  
the beasts of the field and  
the fowls of the air, and in fine,  
all things which are created,

A it must needs be that there was an opposition;  
even the forbidden fruit  
in opposition to the tree of life;  
the one being sweet  
and the other bitter. 16

A Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. 17

B And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read,  
must needs suppose that an angel of God,  
according to that which is written,  
had fallen from heaven; wherefore,  
he became a devil,  
having sought that which was evil before God. 18  
And because he had fallen from heaven,  
and had become miserable forever,  
he sought also the misery of all mankind.  
Wherefore, he said unto Eve,  
yea, even that old serpent,  
who is the devil,  
who is the father of all lies,  
wherefore he said:

C Partake of the forbidden fruit, and ye shall not die, but ye shall be as God,

D knowing good and evil. 19

E And after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit they were driven out of the garden of Eden, to till the earth. 20

F And they have brought forth children; yea, even the family of all the earth. 21

G a And the days of the children of men were prolonged,  
b according to the will of God,  
c that they might repent while in the flesh;  
d wherefore, their state became a state of probation,  
a and their time was lengthened,  
b according to the commandments which the Lord God gave unto the children of men.

c For he gave commandment that all men must repent;

H for he showed unto all men that they were lost,

I because of the transgression

J of their parents. 22

J And now, behold, if Adam

I had not transgressed

H he would not have fallen,

G but he would have remained in the garden of Eden.

And all things which were created  
must have remained in the same state  
in which they were after they were created;  
and they must have remained forever,  
and had no end. 23

And they would have had no children; wherefore  
they would have remained in a state of innocence,  
having no joy,  
for they knew no misery;  
doing no good,  
for they knew no sin. 24

F But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. 25

Adam fell  
that men might be;  
and men are,  
that they might have joy. 26

E And the Messiah cometh in the fulness of time,  
that he may redeem the children of men from the fall.  
And because that they are redeemed from the fall  
they have become free forever,

D knowing good from evil;

I<sub>1</sub> C to act for themselves and not to be acted upon,  
I<sub>2</sub> save it be by the punishment of the law at the great and last day,  
I<sub>3</sub> according to the commandments which God hath given. 27  
II<sub>1</sub> Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh;  
II<sub>2</sub> and all things are given them which are expedient unto man.  
II<sub>1</sub> And they are free to choose  
II<sub>2</sub> liberty and eternal life,  
through the great Mediator of all men,  
I<sub>1</sub> or to choose  
I<sub>2</sub> captivity and death,  
I<sub>3</sub> according to the captivity and power of the devil;

B for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. 28

A And now, my sons, I would that ye should  
look to the great Mediator, and  
hearken unto his great commandments; and  
be faithful unto his words, and

choose eternal life,  
 according to the will of his Holy Spirit; 29  
 And not choose eternal death,  
 according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein,  
 which giveth the spirit of the devil power  
 to captivate,  
 to bring you down to hell,  
 that he may reign over you in his own kingdom. 30

I have spoken these few words unto you all, my sons, in the last days of my probation; and  
 I have chosen the good part, according to the words of the prophet. And  
 I have none other object save it be the everlasting welfare of your souls. Amen. 3:1

A And now I speak unto you, Joseph, my last-born.

B Thou wast born

C in the wilderness of mine afflictions; yea, in the days of my greatest sorrow did thy mother  
 bear thee. 2

D And may the Lord consecrate also unto thee this land, which is a most precious land,

E for thine inheritance and the inheritance of thy seed with thy brethren,

F for thy security forever,

G if it so be that ye shall keep the commandments of the Holy One of  
 Israel. 3

A And now, Joseph, my last-born,

B whom I have brought out of

C the wilderness of mine afflictions,

D may the Lord bless thee forever,

E for thy seed

F shall not utterly be destroyed. 4

A<sub>1</sub> For behold, thou art the fruit of my loins;

A<sub>2</sub> and I am a descendant of Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt.

B And great were the covenants of the Lord

C which he made

D unto Joseph. 5

E Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day.

D And he

C obtained

B a promise of the Lord,

A<sub>1</sub> that out of the fruit of his loins

A<sub>2</sub> the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel;  
 not the Messiah,  
 but a branch which was to be broken off,  
 nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord that the Messiah should be made  
 manifest unto them in the latter days, in the spirit of power,  
 unto the bringing of them out of darkness  
 unto light--  
 yea, out of hidden darkness and out of captivity  
 unto freedom. 6

AA A For Joseph truly testified, saying:

B A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins. 7

A Yea, Joseph truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me:

B A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among  
 the fruit of thy loins.

BB C And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his  
 brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them,

D even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with  
 thy fathers. 8

C And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work  
 which I shall command him.

E And I will make him great in mine eyes;

C for he shall do my work. 9

CC<sub>1</sub> E And he shall be great

B like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you,

C to deliver my people, O house of Israel. 10

B And Moses will I raise up,

C to deliver thy people out of the land of Egypt. 11

B But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins;

C and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins--and not to  
 the bringing forth my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word,  
 which shall have already gone forth among them. 12

CC<sub>2</sub> D Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write;  
 and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write;  
 and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins,  
 and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah,  
 shall grow together, unto  
 the confounding of false doctrines and  
 laying down of contentions, and  
 establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and  
 bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days,  
 and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. 13

E And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord. 14

DD A And thus prophesied Joseph, saying:

B a i Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise, which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled.

ii Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise; 15

iii And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father.

iii And he shall be like unto me; for the thing, which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation. 16

ii Yea, thus prophesied Joseph: I am sure of this thing, even as I am sure of the promise of Moses;

i for the Lord hath said unto me, I will preserve thy seed forever. 17

CC<sub>1</sub> b<sub>1</sub> And the Lord hath said: I will raise up a Moses; and I will give power unto him in a rod;

CC<sub>2</sub> b<sub>2</sub> and I will give judgment unto him in writing.  
Yet I will not loose his tongue, that he shall speak much, for I will not make him mighty in speaking.  
But I will write unto him my law, by the finger of mine own hand;  
and I will make a spokesman for him. 18

b<sub>1</sub> And the Lord said unto me also: I will raise up unto the fruit of thy loins;

b<sub>2</sub> and I will make for him a spokesman. And I, behold, I will give unto him that he shall write the writing of the fruit of thy loins, unto the fruit of thy loins; and the spokesman of thy loins shall declare it. 19

i And the words which he shall write shall be the words which are expedient in my wisdom should go forth unto the fruit of thy loins.

ii And it shall be as if the fruit of thy loins had cried unto them from the dust;

for I know their faith. 20  
And they shall cry from the dust;

iii yea, even repentance unto their brethren, even after many generations have gone by them.

ii And it shall come to pass that their cry shall go, even according to the simpleness of their words. 21

Because of their faith

i their words shall proceed forth out of my mouth unto their brethren who are the fruit of thy loins;

and the weakness of their words  
will I make strong in their faith,[2]

BB a unto the remembering of my covenant which I made unto thy fathers. 22

- AA A And now, behold, my son Joseph, after this manner did my father of old prophesy. 23
- B Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed; for thy seed shall not be destroyed, for they shall hearken unto the words of the book. 24 And there shall rise up one mighty among them,
- C who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, to work mighty wonders,
- E and do that thing which is great in the sight of God,
- D unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren. 25

And now, blessed art thou, Joseph. Behold, thou art little; wherefore hearken unto the words of thy brother, Nephi, and it shall be done unto thee even according to the words which I have spoken. Remember the words of thy dying father. Amen.

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1. 2 Nephi 2:7. DWP showed the beginning and ending elements.
  2. The second **ii** and **i** in 2 Nephi 3:20-21 form a direct system of the form **abcabc**.