

PSALM OF NEPHI

2 Nephi 4-5

And now, I, Nephi, speak concerning the prophecies of which my father hath spoken, concerning Joseph, who was carried into Egypt. 2 For behold, he truly prophesied concerning all his seed. And the prophecies which he wrote, there are not many greater. And he prophesied concerning us, and our future generations; and they are written upon the plates of brass. 3

Wherefore, after my father had made an end of speaking concerning the prophecies of Joseph, he called the children of Laman, his sons, and his daughters, and said unto them:

Behold, my sons, and my daughters, who are the sons and the daughters of my first-born, I would that ye should give ear unto my words. 4 For the Lord God hath said that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; and inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence. 5 But behold, my sons and my daughters, I cannot go down to my grave save I should leave a blessing upon you; for behold, I know that if ye are brought up in the way ye should go ye will not depart from it. 6 Wherefore, if ye are cursed, behold, I leave my blessing upon you, that the cursing may be taken from you and be answered upon the heads of your parents. 7 Wherefore, because of my blessing the Lord God will not suffer that ye shall perish; wherefore, he will be merciful unto you and unto your seed forever. 8

And it came to pass that after my father had made an end of speaking to the sons and daughters of Laman, he caused the sons and daughters of Lemuel to be brought before him. 9 And he spake unto them, saying:

Behold, my sons and my daughters, who are the sons and the daughters of my second son; behold I leave unto you the same blessing which I left unto the sons and daughters of Laman; wherefore, thou shalt not utterly be destroyed; but in the end thy seed shall be blessed. 10

And it came to pass that when my father had made an end of speaking unto them, behold, he spake unto the sons of Ishmael, yea, and even all his household. 11

And after he had made an end of speaking unto them, he spake unto Sam, saying:

Blessed art thou, and thy seed; for thou shalt inherit the land like unto thy brother Nephi. And thy seed shall be numbered with his seed; and thou shalt be even like unto thy brother, and thy seed like unto his seed; and thou shalt be blessed in all thy days. 12

And it came to pass after my father, Lehi, had spoken unto all his household, according to the feelings of his heart and the Spirit of the Lord which was in him, he waxed old. And it came to pass that he died, and was buried. 13

And it came to pass that not many days after his death, Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael were angry with me because of the admonitions of the Lord. 14 For I, Nephi, was constrained to speak unto them, according to his word; for I had spoken many things unto them, and also my father, before his death; many of which sayings are written upon mine other plates; for a more history part are written upon mine other plates. 15 And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass.

A For my soul delighteth in the scriptures,

B and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children. 16

A Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord;

B and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard. 17

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth:

O wretched man that I am!
Yea, my heart sorroweth
because of my flesh;

my soul grieveth
because of mine iniquities. 18

I am encompassed about,
because of the temptations and the sins which do so easily beset me. 19

And when I desire to rejoice,
my heart groaneth
because of my sins;
nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted. 20

My God hath been my support;
he hath led me
through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and
he hath preserved me
upon the waters of the great deep. 21
He hath filled me
with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh. 22
He hath confounded mine enemies,
unto the causing of them to quake before me. 23

A Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and

B he hath given me knowledge by visions in the nighttime. 24

A And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him;
yea, my voice have I sent up on high;

B and angels came down
and ministered unto me. 25

And upon the wings of his Spirit
hath my body been carried away upon exceedingly high mountains.
And mine eyes have beheld great things, yea, even too great for man; therefore I was
bidden that I should not write them. 26

A O then, if I
have seen
so great things,
if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men
hath visited men
in so much mercy,

B why should
my heart weep and
my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and
my flesh waste away, and
my strength slacken,
because of mine afflictions? 27

And why should
I yield to sin,
because of my flesh?

Yea, why should
I give way to temptations,
that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul?

C Why am I angry because of mine enemy? 28

D Awake, my soul!
No longer droop in sin.

- D Rejoice, O my heart,
and give place no more for the enemy of my soul. 29
- C Do not anger again because of mine enemies.
- B Do not slacken my strength because of mine afflictions. 30
Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say:
- A O Lord,
I will praise thee forever;
yea, my soul will rejoice in thee,
my God, and the rock of my salvation. 31
- B O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul?
- C₁ Wilt thou deliver me out of the hands of mine enemies?
- C₂ Wilt thou make me that I may shake at the appearance of sin? 32
May the gates of hell be shut continually before me,
because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite!
- D O Lord, wilt thou not shut the gates of thy righteousness before me,
E that I may walk in the path of the low valley,
E that I may be strict in the plain road! 33
- D O Lord, wilt thou encircle me around in the robe of thy righteousness!
- C₁ O Lord, wilt thou make a way for mine escape before mine enemies!
- C₂ Wilt thou make my path straight before me!
Wilt thou not place a stumbling block in my way--
but that thou wouldst clear my way before me,
and hedge not up my way, but the ways of mine enemy. 34
- B O Lord,
I have trusted in thee, and
I will trust in thee forever.
I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh;
for I know that cursed is he
that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh.
Yea, cursed is he
that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm. 35
Yea, I know that God will give liberally
to him that asketh.
Yea, my God will give me,
if I ask not amiss;
- A therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee;
yea, I will cry unto thee,
my God, the rock of my righteousness.
Behold, my voice shall forever ascend up unto thee,
my rock and mine everlasting God. Amen. 5:1
- A Behold, it came to pass that I, Nephi, did cry much unto the Lord my God, because of the anger of my brethren. 2

- B But behold, their anger did increase against me, insomuch that they did seek to take away my life. 3
- C Yea, they did murmur against me, saying:
- D Our younger brother thinks to rule over us;
- E and we have had much trial because of him;
- F wherefore, now let us slay him, that we may not be afflicted more because of his words.
- E For behold, we will not have him to be our ruler;
- D for it belongs unto us, who are the elder brethren, to rule over this people. 4
- C Now I do not write upon these plates all the words which they murmured against me.
- B But it sufficeth me to say, that they did seek to take away my life. 5
- A And it came to pass that the Lord did warn me,
- A that I, Nephi, should depart from them and flee into the wilderness, and all those who would go with me. 6
- Wherefore, it came to pass that I, Nephi, did take
my family, and also
Zoram and his family, and
Sam, mine elder brother and his family, and
Jacob and
Joseph, my younger brethren, and also
my sisters, and
all those who would go with me.
- B And all those who would go with me were those who believed in the warnings and the revelations of God;
- B wherefore, they did hearken unto my words. 7
- A a And we did take our tents and whatsoever things were possible for us,
- b and did journey in the wilderness for the space of many days.
- b And after we had journeyed for the space of many days
- a we did pitch our tents. 8
- And my people
would that we should
call the name of the place Nephi; wherefore, we did call it Nephi. 9
- And all those who were with me
did take upon them
to call themselves the people of Nephi. 10
- And we did observe to keep the judgments, and the statutes, and the commandments of
the Lord in all things according to the law of Moses. 11
- A And the Lord was with us; and we did prosper exceedingly;
for we did sow seed, and we did reap again in abundance.
And we began to raise
flocks, and
herds, and
animals of every kind. 12

- B And I, Nephi, had also brought the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass; and also the ball, or compass, which was prepared for my father by the hand of the Lord, according to that which is written. 13
- A And it came to pass that we began to prosper exceedingly, and to multiply in the land. 14
- B And I, Nephi, did take the sword of Laban, and after the manner of it did make many swords, lest by any means the people who were now called Lamanites should come upon us and destroy us; for I knew their hatred towards me and my children and those who were called my people. 15
- A And I did teach my people
to build buildings, and
to work in all manner
of wood, and
of iron, and
of copper, and
of brass, and
of steel, and
of gold, and
of silver, and
of precious ores, which were in great abundance. 16
- B And I, Nephi, did build a temple; and I did construct it after the manner of the temple of Solomon
- C save it were not built of so many precious things;
- D for they were not to be found upon the land,
- C wherefore, it could not be built like unto Solomon's temple.
- B But the manner of the construction was like unto the temple of Solomon; and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine. 17
- A And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did cause my people to be industrious, and to labor with their hands. 18
- And it came to pass that they would that I should be their king. But I, Nephi, was desirous that they should have no king; nevertheless, I did for them according to that which was in my power. 19
- A And behold, the words of the Lord had been fulfilled unto my brethren, which he spake concerning them,
- B that I should be their ruler and their teacher.
- B Wherefore, I had been their ruler and their teacher,
- A according to the commandments of the Lord, until the time they sought to take away my life. 20
Wherefore, the word of the Lord was fulfilled which he spake unto me, saying that:
- A Inasmuch as they will not hearken unto thy words they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord. And behold, they were cut off from his presence. 21
- B And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity.
- C For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him,
- C that they had become like unto a flint;

B wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome,
 that they might not be enticing unto my people
 the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them. 22
 And thus saith the Lord God: I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save
 they shall repent of their iniquities. 23
 And cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed;
 for they shall be cursed even with the same cursing.

A And the Lord spake it, and it was done. 24 And because of their cursing which was upon them they did
 become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety, and did seek in the wilderness for beasts of prey. 25

A And the Lord God said unto me: They shall be a scourge unto thy seed,

B to stir them up in remembrance of me;

B and inasmuch as they will not remember me, and hearken unto my words,

A they shall scourge them even unto destruction. 26

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did consecrate Jacob and Joseph, that they should be priests and teachers
 over the land of my people. 27

A And it came to pass that we lived after the manner of happiness. 28

B And thirty years had passed away from the time we left Jerusalem. 29

C And I, Nephi, had kept the records upon my plates, which I had made,

D of my people thus far. 30

E₁ And it came to pass that the Lord God said unto me:

E₂ Make other plates;

E₃ and thou shalt engraven many things upon them which are good in my
 sight,

E₄ for the profit of thy people. 31

E₁ Wherefore, I, Nephi, to be obedient to the commandments of the Lord,

E₂ went and made these plates

E₃ upon which I have engraven these things. 32 And I engraved that
 which is pleasing unto God.

E₄ And if my people are pleased with the things of God they will be
 pleased with mine engravings which are upon these plates. 33

D And if my people desire to know the more particular part of the history of my people

C they must search mine other plates. 34

B And it sufficeth me to say that forty years had passed away,

A and we had already had wars and contentions with our brethren.