1 Nephi Chapter 12

Author(s): Alan C. Miner
Source: *Step by Step Through the Book of Mormon, Volume 1: Through the Wilderness to the Promised Land*
Published: Springville, UT; Book of Mormon Central/Cedar Fort, Inc., 2017
Pages: 89-94

Archived by permission of the author, Alan C. Miner
Chapter 12

{Original 1830 Chapter III – continued}

Nephi's Seed Will Also Suffer from Pride

1 And it came to pass
that he the angel said unto me

Look
and behold thy seed
and also behold the seed of thy brethren

And I [Nephi] looked
and I [Nephi] beheld the land of promise
and I [Nephi] beheld multitudes of people
yea even as it were in number
as MANY people
as the sand of the sea

2 And it came to pass
that I [Nephi] beheld multitudes gathered
together to battle one against the other
and I [Nephi] beheld wars
and rumors of wars
and GREAT slaughters
with the sword among my people

3 And it came to pass
that I [Nephi] beheld MANY generations pass away
after the manner of wars
and after the manner of contentions
in the land
and I [Nephi] beheld MANY cities
yea even so MANY cities
that I [Nephi] did NOT number them

4 And it came to pass
that I [Nephi] saw a mist of darkness on the face of the land
and I [Nephi] saw lightnings
and I [Nephi] heard thunderings
and I [Nephi] heard earthquakes
and I [Nephi] heard ALL manner of tumultuous noises

[Par. aa – Circular repetition “look” “behold”]
[Heb. 03 – Plurals “wars” = amplification]
[Par. bb – Like beginnings “I Nephi”]
[Par. cc – Enumeration list]
[Heb. 01 – Two nouns connected by “of” = adjective]
[Par. dd – Many “and”s ]
[Heb. 02 – Separated compound prepositions “after” “of”]
[1 Nephi 12]

[A] and [Nephi] saw the earth and the rocks

[B] that they rent / that it rent the rocks

[A] and [Nephi] saw mountains

[B] [that they were] tumbling into pieces

[A] and [Nephi] saw the plains of the earth

[B] that they were broken up

[A] and [Nephi] saw MANY cities

[B] that they were sunk

[A] and [Nephi] saw MANY cities

[B] [that they did] tumble to the earth because of the quaking thereof

5 And it came to pass

[that] after [Nephi] saw _______ these things [deleted in 1837]

[Nephi] saw the vapor of darkness

[B] that it passed from off the face of the earth

and behold [Nephi] saw the multitudes

which/who had NOT fallen [“the” and “not” deleted on P]

[because of the] GREAT and terrible judgments of the Lord

The Lamb Will Minister to Nephi’s Seed in the Americas

6 And [Nephi] saw the Heavens open

and [He] The Lamb of God descending out of heaven

and He [The Lamb of God] came down

and showed Himself unto them

7 And [Nephi] also saw

and bare/bear record [edited in 1837]

that the Holy Ghost fell upon Twelve others

and they [the Twelve others]

were ordained of God

and [were] chosen [of God]

[Par. ee – Repeated alternating parallelism] [Heb. 04 – Prophetic Perfect tense]

[Par. ff – Circular repetition “saw”]
8  And the angel spake unto me saying:

   Behold the Twelve Disciples of The Lamb 05
   who are chosen of The Lamb 05
   [and who are ordained of The Lamb] 05
   to minister unto thy seed

[Note: The meaning of the number 12, which is considered a perfect number, is that it symbolizes God's power and authority, as well as serving as a perfect governmental foundation. It can also symbolize completeness or the nation of Israel as a whole. (biblestudy.org)]

9  And he said unto me:

   Thou rememberest the Twelve Apostles of The Lamb [O = saith] ii

   Behold they who shall judge the Twelve Tribes of Israel

Wherefore the Twelve Ministers of thy seed shall be judged of them [the Twelve Apostles] for ye are of the House of Israel

10  And these Twelve Ministers [of thy seed] whom thou beholdest shall judge thy seed

   And behold they [the Twelve Apostles and the Twelve Ministers] are righteous forever for because of their faith in The Lamb of God their garments are made white in His blood 06

11  And the angel said unto me:

   Look and I looked and I beheld three generations [did] pass away in righteousness 07
   and their garments were white even like unto The Lamb of God

   And the angel said unto me:

   These three generations are made white in the blood of The Lamb because of their faith in Him [The Lamb of God]

[Heb. 05 – Symbolism of “twelve”]  [Par.ii – Circular repetition “Apostles” “Ministers”]
[Par. gg – Circular repetition “twelve”]  [Heb. 06 – Symbolism “garments” “white” “blood”]
[Par. hh – Circular repetition “saw”]  [Heb. 07 – Preposition “in” + action = adverb]
12 And I Nephi also saw many of the fourth generation of which did pass who passed away in righteousness.

Nephi's Seed Is Overcome by the Seed of His Brethren through Pride and Sin

13 And it came to pass that I Nephi saw the multitudes of the earth gathered together.

14 And he the angel said unto me, Behold thy seed and also the seed of thy brethren.

15 And it came to pass that I Nephi looked and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes against the seed of my brethren.

16 And he the angel spake unto me saying, Behold the fountain of filthy water which thy father saw yea even the river of which he spake. And the depths of the river thereof are the depths of Hell.

17 And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the Devil which blindeth the eyes and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men and leadeth them away into broad roads that they may perish and they are lost.
18 And the large and spacious building which thy father saw is [the] vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men.

And a GREAT and a terrible gulf divideth them _______ [the children of men]

And while he the angel spake these words [unto me]

I [Nephi] beheld

and I [Nephi] saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed

[And] according to the word of the angel and because of the pride of my seed and [because of] the temptations of the Devil

I [Nephi] beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed

[Note: In this retelling of his visitation by an angel, Nephi will repeat the same or similar phrase (“the angel said/spake unto me”) an amazing forty-four times (1 Nephi 11: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36; 1 Ne. 12: 1, 8, 9, 11, 11, 14, 16, 19, 22; 1 Ne. 13: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 8, 11, 21, 23, 23, 24, 34, 40). The angel will also quote “The Lamb of God” (Chapter 13: 33-37). The continued repetition of this phrase (“the angel said/spake unto me”) represents one of the longest series of repetitions in the Book of Mormon. According to Royal Skousen, the fact that Nephi is directly quoting the words of the angel makes it clear that the name in the Original Manuscript (“Jesus Christ”) “is precisely what the angel in 1 Nephi 12:18 gives as the name of The Lamb of God.” “This passage contains the first occurrence of the name Jesus Christ in the Book of Mormon text (excluding the Title Page).” Thus the later editorial change to “the Messiah” creates difficulty. “The original use of Jesus Christ in 1 Nephi 12:18 is crucial to understanding the later reference in 2 Nephi 25:19. In 2 Nephi 10:3, Nephi’s brother Jacob indicated that an angel had told him that the name of the Savior would be Christ (“Jesus” isn’t mentioned). The name “Jesus Christ” might have been edited out because prior to this point, “Messiah” was the name the text had used to refer to Christ. (Royal Skousen, Analysis of Textual Variants of the Book of Mormon, part 1, p. 258-259.)]
20 And it came to pass that I beheld the people of the seed of my brethren overcame those they had gone forth in multitudes upon the face of the land.

21 And I saw them the seed of my brethren gathered together in multitudes.

22 And he the angel said unto me, Behold these the seed of my brethren shall dwindle in unbelief.

23 And it came to pass that I beheld that after they had dwindle in unbelief

[Note: In my structured text, the word “seed” (or “seeds”) appears 81 times in the entire 22 chapters of the book of 1 Nephi. Of this total, 44 appear in just two chapters (12 and 13). The remaining 20 chapters account for only 37.

According to Marcus Ladd (And He Spake Unto Me: Structural Revelations and Prophetic Pattern in 1 Nephi, 2012,13), who has structured the entire book of 1 Nephi in a large chiastic parallelism, these chapters (12 & 13) are at the apex, or presumably the most important part of that chiasm.]