1 Nephi Chapter 13

Author(s): Alan C. Miner
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Chapter 13

{Original 1830 Chapter III – continued}

The Great and Abominable Church
Holds Captive the Saints of God
(The Dark Ages of Apostasy)

1 And it came to pass
that [he] the angel spake unto me
saying
Look

And [Nephi] looked
and [Nephi] beheld MANY nations
and [MANY] kingdoms

2 And [he] the angel said unto me
What beholdest thou?

And [Nephi] said
I [Nephi] behold MANY nations
and [MANY] kingdoms

3 And [he] the angel said unto me
These are the nations
[of the Gentiles]
and the kingdoms
of the Gentiles

4 And it came to pass
that [Nephi] saw
among the nations
of the Gentiles

the formation / foundation of a GREAT church
[^O / P ]

5 And [he] the angel said unto me
Behold the formation / foundation of a church
[^O / P ]

which [church] is MOST abominable above ALL other churches [01]
which [church] slayeth the saints of God [1]
yea and [which] church [church] tortureth them [2]
and [which] church bindeth them down [3]
and [which] church yoked them with a yoke of iron [4]
and [which] church broughth them down into captivity [5]

[Par. aa – Repetition of the possessive “which”]
[Par. bb – Working out – the actions of the Devil’s Church]
[Heb. 01 – Use of “above ALL” in comparison]
[Heb. 02 – A verb and a noun with the same root “yoke”]
And it came to pass that I beheld this GREAT and abominable church and I saw the Devil that he was the founder of it (this GREAT and abominable church).

And I also saw gold and silver and silks and scarlet and fine-twined linen and ALL manner of precious clothing and I saw MANY harlots.

And the angel spake unto me saying Behold the gold and the silver and the silks and the scarlet and the fine-twined linen and the precious clothing and the harlots are the desires of this GREAT and abominable church.

And also for the praise of the world do they destroy the saints of God and bring them down into captivity.

And it came to pass that I looked and I beheld MANY waters and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

And it came to pass that the angel said unto me Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.

[Par. cc – Detailing list ] [Heb. ** – Repetition of an article “the”]
[Par. dd – Many “and”s ] [Par. ff – Circular repetition “Gentiles”]
[Par. ee – also Extended alternating] [Par. gg – Circular repetition “seed”]
God's Hand Is in the Discovery of the Americas

12 And I [Nephi] looked to a man among the Gentiles
*which [Gentiles] were / was separated from the seed of my brethren
by the MANY waters

[Note* = which were, implying that which modifies Gentiles, but it was later changed to who was implying the man ]

and [A] I [Nephi] beheld the Spirit of God
that it [the Spirit of God]

[B] came down and wrought upon the man
and [C] he [the man] went forth
upon the MANY waters

[D] even [upon the MANY waters]

unto the seed of my brethren

[F] who were in the promised land

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God's Hand Is in the Deliverance of Humble Gentiles
They Go Forth out of Captivity
They Obtain the Americas for Their Inheritance

13 And it came to pass
that [A] I [Nephi] beheld the Spirit of God
that it [the Spirit of God]

[B] [came down]
and [D] wrought upon other Gentiles
and [C] they [the Gentiles] went forth
out of captivity
upon the MANY waters

14 And it came to pass
that I [Nephi] beheld MANY multitudes [E]
of the Gentiles
[\[F\] who were] upon the land of promise

[Note: I have structured the above verses in an extended alternating pattern in order to better illustrate the parallelism. However, the verses might possibly be structured in two parallel climactic (step) forms as follows:

12 . . .

A→B I [*Nephi] beheld *the Spirit of God
B→C that it [*the Spirit of God] came down and wrought upon the *man
C→D and he [*the man] went forth upon the *many waters
D→E even [upon the *many waters] unto the *seed of my brethren
E→F [the *seed of my brethren, who were in *the promised land

[Par. hh – Like endings “many waters”] [Par. jj – Climactic ] [Par. ii – Extended alternating*]
13 And I [Nephi] beheld the Spirit of God that it came down and wrought upon other *Gentiles and they [the *Gentiles] went forth out of captivity upon the *many waters.

14 And it came to pass that I [Nephi] beheld many multitudes of the *Gentiles that had come upon the *many waters unto the *seed of my brethren [P=they] that were scattered before the *Gentiles and they [the *Gentiles] did prosper [covenant language] and [they the *Gentiles] did obtain the land for their inheritance.

[Note: The covenant language associated with “Gentiles” here informs us that the word “Gentile” does not always mean “bad” or “not of the blood of Israel,” but sometimes it refers to a cultural mix with covenant people.]
And it came to pass that I Nephi beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord. Therefore the power of the Lord was with them. And I Nephi beheld that their mother, the Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters and upon the land also gathered together to battle against them. And I Nephi beheld that the power of God was with them and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them. And I Nephi beheld that the Gentiles that had gone forth out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.

The Gentiles Shall Have a Covenant Record (the Bible)
Yet Plain and Precious Covenant Truths of The Lamb of God Will Have Been Taken Away from the Bible

And it came to pass that I Nephi beheld that they the Gentiles did prosper in the land. And I Nephi beheld a book and it was carried forth among them.
And he said unto me, Knowest thou the meaning of the book?

And I said unto him, I know not.

And he said unto me, Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew, and it is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord which He hath made unto the house of Israel, and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets.

Wherefore they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

And the angel of the Lord said unto me, Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew, and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the fullness / plainness of the gospel of the Land / Lord / ^Lamb [of God]
of Whom the Twelve Apostles bear record and they [the Twelve Apostles] bear record according to the truth which [truth] is in The Lamb of God

25 Therefore these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles according to the truth which [truth] is in God

26 And after [that] they [these things] go forth by the hand of the Twelve Apostles of The Lamb from the Jews unto the Gentiles

Behold after this [deleted in 1837] Thou [Nephi] seest the ^formation / foundation of ^that / a GREAT and abominable church which [church] is ^the / [ ] MOST abominable ^of / above ALL other churches

[A] for behold they have _____ taken away from the gospel oo of The Lamb

[B] MANY parts which are plain [things]

[C] and MOST precious [things]

[B] And also MANY covenants of The Lord have they taken away

27 And ALL this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of The Lord

and that they might blind the eyes

and [that they might] harden the hearts of the children of men

28 Wherefore [or as I said before – see v. 26] Thou [Nephi] seest

that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the GREAT and abominable church that there are MANY plain ____[things] taken away from the book [deleted in \(P\) ] which is ___ the book of The Lamb of God

[Par. oo - Chiastic Parallelism]
And after these plain and [MOST] precious things were taken away.

It [the book] goeth forth unto ALL the nations of the Gentiles.

and after it [the book] goeth forth unto ALL the nations of the Gentiles yea even across the MANY waters which [MANY waters]

thou [Nephi] hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity.

[And] thou [Nephi] seest— because of the MANY plain and [MOST] precious things which have been taken out of the book

which [things] were plain unto the understanding of the children of men according to the plainness which is in The Lamb of God

[And] thou [Nephi] seest these things which are taken away out of the gospel of The Lamb ---

an exceedingly GREAT MANY do stumble yea insomuch that Satan hath GREAT power over them

Plain and Precious Truths to Be Restored of the Covenant Gospel of The Lamb

Nevertheless

thou [Nephi] beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity [P= which]

and [who] have been lifted up by the power of God above ALL other nations upon the face of the land which [land] is choice above ALL other lands [covenant language]

[Heb. ** -- Use of “above ALL” in comparisons]
1 Nephi 13

Wherefore thou [Nephi] seest that [He] The Lord God will NOT suffer that the Gentiles will NOT utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed which are among the seed of thy brethren.

Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that state of awful woundedness. In other words, the Lord will not hold the Gentiles completely accountable for the judgments or punishments that come upon the covenant house of Israel through them because the Lord was directing those punishments.

And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me saying

[Par. pp – Repetition “seed”]
Behold saith the Lamb of God after that I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel and this remnant of the house of Israel of whom I speak is the seed of thy father [del. 1837]

Wherefore after that I have visited them the seed of thy father in judgment and after that I have smitten them the seed of thy father by the hand of the Gentiles

and after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly because of the MOST plain and [MOST] precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church which is the mother of harlots

Wherefore I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day

insomuch that I will bring forth unto them[the Gentiles] in Mine own power MUCH of My gospel which [gospel] shall be plain and precious

saith the Lamb

35 For behold saith the Lamb I will manifest Myself unto thy seed that they shall write MANY things which I shall minister unto them which shall be plain and precious

[Heb + Par. qq - Repetition of a Word Pair "plain/precious"]
and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and also after the seed of thy brethren shall dwindle in unbelief.

Behold these things shall be hid up to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of The Lamb

And in them shall be written My gospel [covenant language]

saith The Lamb and My Rock and My Salvation

And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth My Zion at that day for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost, and if they endure unto the end then they shall be lifted up at the last day and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of The Lamb.

yea/ and whoso shall publish peace [Quote – paraphrase Isaiah 52:7] and tidinggs of GREAT joy

how beautiful upon the mountains

shall they be

[Note: The temples of the Lord (where covenants are made and renewed) are located upon symbolic mountains.]

And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren

and also the book of The Lamb of God which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew

And I beheld that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.
39 And after it [the book] had come forth from the Gentiles unto them the remnant of the seed of my brethren I [Nephi] beheld other books which came forth by the power of The Lamb from the Gentiles unto them the remnant of the seed of my brethren unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren and also unto the convincing of the Jews who were scattered upon ALL the face of the earth that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of The Lamb are True.

40 And [he] the angel spake unto me saying These last records which thou [Nephi] hast seen among the Gentiles shall establish [confirm] the Truth of the first [records] which are of the twelve apostles of The Lamb [AL] [P= is] and [These last records] shall make KNOWN the plain and precious things which [things] have been taken away from them and [These last records] shall make KNOWN to ALL kindreds [to ALL] tongues and [to ALL] people

[See the note at the end of the chapter]

[Par. ss – Repetition “records”]
that [He] **The Lamb of God** is **The Eternal Father / [P / ^1837]**

(^^The Son of the Eternal Father)

and **The Savior of the World**

and that ALL men MUST come unto Him

or they can NOT be saved

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41 And they [ALL men] MUST come

according to the words which shall be established

by the mouth of **The Lamb**

And the words of **The Lamb** shall be made known

in the records of thy seed as well as

in the records of the Twelve Apostles of **The Lamb**

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**Wherefore** they both [both added]

[the first records – the Bible]

[and] [the last records – the Book of Mormon] [duality]

shall be established* in One [confirmed] (AL)

For there is One God

and One Shepherd Over ALL the Earth

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42 And the time cometh

that He [**The Lamb**] shall manifest **Himself** unto ALL Nations

both unto the Jews [first]

and also unto the Gentiles [last]

and after* He [**The Lamb**] has manifested **Himself** unto the Jews [^P= that hath]

and also unto the Gentiles

then He [**The Lamb**] shall manifest **Himself** unto the Gentiles

and also unto the Jews

and the last [the Gentiles] shall be first

and the first [the Jews] shall be last

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[Par. tt – Repetition “The Lamb”]

[Par. uu – Wording out “All Nations”]
[1 Nephi 13]

[Note: The above verses have been arranged below in chiastic parallelism similar to that proposed by Greg Wright (1976: 7) and Donald Parry (1992:23-24). I have changed the structure to highlight more items of importance:

[A] unto the convincing of (the Gentiles) and the remnant of (the seed) of my brethren

[B] and also the (Jews)

[C] who were scattered upon (all the face of the earth)

[D] that the records of the prophets and of (the twelve apostles of The Lamb)

[E] are (true)

40 And the angel spake unto me saying

[E] These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles

shall *establish (confirm) the truth

[D] of the first (records) which are of (the twelve apostles of The Lamb)

[F] and shall (make known) the plain and precious things

which [things] have been taken away from them

[F] and shall (make known) to all kindreds

tongues

and people that

[G] The Lamb of God is (the Son of the Eternal Father)

and (The Savior of the World)

[H] and that (all men MUST come) unto Him or they CANNOT be saved

41

[H] And (they MUST come) according to the words which shall be established

[G] by the mouth of (The Lamb)

[F] and the words of (The Lamb)

shall be (made known) in the records of thy seed

[D] as well as in the records of (the twelve apostles of The Lamb)

wherefore (C) they both shall be established

in One

for there is One God

and One Shepherd Over (ALL the Earth)

42 And the time cometh

that (He [the Lamb]) shall manifest Himself unto (ALL nations)

[B] both unto the (Jews)

[A] and also unto the (Gentiles)

[ end of Chiasmus]
[1 Nephi 13]

[interpretation #1]

[and the last] [the Jews according to the previous 2 couplets in verse 42]
shall be first [according to the previous 2 couplets in verse 42]
and the first [the Jews according to the previous 2 couplets in verse 42]
shall be last [according to the previous 2 couplets in verse 42]

[> or in other words [clarification]

and the last [the Jews in the latter days]
shall be first [from the time of Adam to the time of Christ]
and the first [the Jews during the time from Adam to Christ]
shall be last [in the latter-days]

[interpretation #2]

and the last [the Gentiles in the previous first couplet in verse 42]
shall be first [in the previous second couplet in verse 42]
and the first [the Jews in the previous first couplet in verse 42]
shall be last [in the previous second couplet in verse 42]

[> or in other words [clarification]

and the last [the Gentiles at the time of Peter (after the Jews)]
shall be first [in the latter-days]
and the first [the Jews from the time of Adam to Christ]
shall be last [in the latter-days]

[Note: In 1 Nephi 13:40 it makes mention of some "last records" which will "make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away." We do not know what scriptures and beliefs the wicked house of Israel may have taken with them as they were taken captive into Assyria and Babylon, but there is evidence to support the idea that efforts were made at various times to exclude or remove references to Christ and His gospel from their scriptural canon. Hugh Nibley writes:

One of the first, and certainly the greatest, of Christian Apologists was Justin Martyr. In his famous dialogue with the Jew Trypha, he charges "the teachers and the leaders of the Jews with having deliberately defaced and, where possible, removed from the scripture every trace of the true Messianic Gospel which the Jews themselves had once taught." (Nibley, An Approach to the Book of Mormon, p. 312)

Justin Martyr had accused the Jewish doctors of "removing passages which they found distasteful" from the scriptures. Martyr declared: "You know very well that your teachers whenever they detect anything in our scriptures that might refer to Christ, diligently efface it." (Dial. 120)

(Joy M. Osborn, The Book of Mormon -- The Stick of Joseph, p. 222)]
[1 Nephi 13]

[Note: Richardson, Richardson and Bentley write that while the Book of Mormon testifies to the authenticity of the Bible, it does not claim that the Bible is without error. It specifically states that there were many "plain and precious things" that were “taken away” from its pages through the evil works of men. (See 1 Nephi 13:20-32; 19:10-12; 20:1-3; 2 Nephi 3:5-22; Alma 33:3, 13, 15; 34:7; 46:23-27; Helaman 8:19-20; 15:11; 3 Nephi 10:14-17; 12:13, 17-19, 22, 29-30; 14:1.)

Critics often ask for specific examples of any "plain and precious things" found in the Book of Mormon that are not also found in the Bible. Below is just a very brief list of such “omissions” that have been restored:

The Lord prepares a way for us to keep all of His commandments (1 Nephi 3:7)
How mysteries are made known unto man (1 Nephi 10:19; Mosiah 2:9; Alma 12:10; 26:22)
The process for receiving revelation and inspiration (1 Nephi 17:45; Enos 1:10)
The gentiles to assist the house of Israel (1 Nephi 22:8-11; 2 Nephi 10:18)
The law of consecration (2 Nephi 2:2)
The reason God allows evil and opposition to continue in the world and the importance of moral agency (2 Nephi 2:2, 10:16)
The purpose of Adam’s fall & man’s existence (2 Nephi 2:22-25)
The lost prophecy of the latter-day Joseph (2 Nephi 3:6-16)
God’s word is not limited to the Bible (2 Nephi 29:3-13)
The lost teachings of Zenos (Jacob 5:1-77)
A description of the natural man, and how to overcome (Mosiah 3:19; Alma 5:6-45)
How to retain the remission of sins (Mosiah 4:11-16)
The true process of being born again (Mosiah 5:2-9; Alma 5:6-45)
The office and calling of a seer (Mosiah 8:13-17)
The manner in which faith is developed and maintained (Alma 32:26-34)
The relationship between justice and mercy (Alma 34:15-16)
The state of the soul between death and the resurrection (Alma 40:11-14)
Christians and Christianity flourished before the time of Christ (Alma 46:13-16)
The symbolisms of the remnant of Joseph’s coat (Alma 46:23)
The perpetual cycle of the human experience: obedience--blessings--prosperity--pride--sin--punishment--humility--repentance--obedience . . . (Helaman 12:1-3)
The "other sheep" spoken of in John 10:16 are identified (3 Nephi 15:16-24)
The powers of translated beings (3 Nephi 28:36-40)
Baptism is only for those who are accountable (Moroni 8:5-23)
The manner in which all truth may be verified (Moroni 10:4-5)

(Allen H. Richardson, David E. Richardson and Anthony E. Bentley, 1000 Evidences for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Part Two—A Voice from the Dust: 500 Evidences in Support of the Book of Mormon, p. 16-17)