1 Nephi Chapter 18

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Chapter 18
{Original 1830 Chapter V – continued}

The Lord Shows Nephi from Time to Time How to Proceed
Nephi Prays to the Lord Often in the Mount

1 And it came to pass that they [my brethren] did worship the Lord
and [they my brethren] did go forth with me
and we did work timbers of curious workmanship [exceedingly fine]

And the Lord did show me from time to time after what manner I [Nephi] should work the timbers of the ship

2 Now I Nephi did NOT work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men
NEITHER did I build the ship after the manner of men

but I [Nephi] did build it [the ship] after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me

Wherefore it [the building of the ship] was NOT after the manner of men

3 And I Nephi did go into the mount oft [a natural sacred place – a natural Temple] [AG]
and I [Nephi] did pray oft unto the Lord

Wherefore the Lord showed unto me GREAT things

4 And it came to pass that after I [Nephi] had finished the ship according to the word of the Lord

[Par. aa – Circular repetition “work”] [Par. cc – Circular repetition “ship”]
[Heb. 01 – Verb and noun with the same root “work”]
[Par. bb – Circular repetition “after the manner”]
my brethren beheld [the ship] that [the ship] was good

and that the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine  [added in 1981]

Wherefore they did humble themselves again before the Lord

The Lord Has an Order to Families in Their Journey to the Promised Land

5 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father that we should arise and go down into the ship

6 And it came to pass that on the morrow after* we had prepared ALL thingsNine *MUCH fruit and MUCH meat from the wilderness and MUCH honey in abundance and MUCH provisions

according to that which the Lord had commanded us

we did go down into the ship with ALL our loading with ALL our seeds and with whatsoever thing we had brought with us

EVERYONE according to his age [symbolic of the dispensations of earth life?]

Wherefore we did go down into the ship with ALL our wives and with ALL our children

7 And now my father had begat two sons in the wilderness the elder / eldest son was called Jacob and the younger son was called Joseph

[Heb. 02 – Compound preposition “down into”] [Heb. 04 – Repetition of preposition in list “with”]
[Heb. 03 – Plurals amplify “fruits” ] [Par. ee – Circular repetition “ALL”]
[Par. dd – Working out + Distribution of “ALL”] [Par. ** – Distribution list – “sons” ]
And it came to pass that after we had ALL gone down into the ship and we had taken with us our provisions and things which had been commanded us [by the Lord] we did put forth into the sea and we were driven forth before the wind towards the promised land and we had been driven forth before the wind for the space of MANY days.

And after they had been driven forth before the wind, behold my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to make themselves merry insomuch that they began to dance and to sing and to speak with MUCH rudeness yea even to the extent that they did forget by depart from what Power yea they were lifted up unto exceeding rudeness.

And I Nephi began to fear exceedingly lest the Lord should be angry with us and the Lord should smite us down because of our iniquity that we should be swallowed up in the depths of the sea.

Wherefore I Nephi began to speak to them with MUCH sobriety [discreet sound principles or doctrine] (AL) but behold they were angry with me saying [to me] We will NOT that our younger brother shall be a ruler over us.
Righteousness Is Necessary for Divine Direction

11 And **it came to pass**
that [they] Laman and Lemuel **did** take me
and **did** bind me with cords
and they [Laman and Lemuel] **did** treat me **with** MUCH **harshness**

**Nevertheless**
[He] the Lord **did** suffer it
that **He** [the Lord] **might** show forth His power
unto the fulfilling of His **word**
which [**word**]
He [the Lord] **had** spoken concerning the **wicked**

12 And **it came to pass**
that after they [Laman and Lemuel] **had** bound me
**insomuch** that I could NOT move

the compass ['“compass” = something related to “circular”']
which had been **prepared** of the Lord
did CEASE to work

13 **Wherefore**
they [Laman and Lemuel] knew NOT whither they should steer the ship
**insomuch** that **there arose** a GREAT storm
**yea** [there arose] a GREAT and terrible tempest

and we were **driven back** upon the waters **for the space of three days**

and they [Laman and Lemuel] **began to** be frightened exceedingly
**lest** they [Laman and Lemuel] should be drowned in________the sea

**Nevertheless**
they [Laman and Lemuel] **did** NOT loose me [see v. 12]

14 **And** on the fourth day
which we had been **driven back** [upon the waters]

the tempest **began to** be _______ exceedingly sore [added in 1981]

[Par. ff – Circular repetition “Laman and Lemuel”]
[Heb. 07 – Preposition “with” + noun = adverb “harshly”]
[Heb. 08 – Use of words “began to be”]
15 And it came to pass that we were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea [see v. 10, 20]

After that we had been driven back upon the waters for the space of four days

[they] my brethren began to see that the judgments of God was/were upon them and that they MUST perish

SAVE that they should repent of their iniquities

Wherefore they came unto me and loosed the bands which was/were upon my wrists

and behold they [my wrists] had swollen exceedingly

and also mine ankles were much swollen

and GREAT was the soreness thereof

16 Nevertheless I did look unto My God

and I did praise Him [My God] ALL the day long

and I did NOT murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions

17 Now my father Lehi had said MANY things unto them [my brethren] and [my father Lehi] had said MANY things also unto the sons of Ishmael

but behold they [my brethren] did breathe out much threatenings against anyone that should speak for me

and my parents being stricken in years

and [my parents] having suffered much grief because of their children

yea they [my parents] were brought down even upon their sick-beds by these threatenings

18 Because of their grief and [because of their] MUCH sorrow and [because of the] iniquity of my brethren

[Heb. 09 – Idiom “breathe out” - meaning to give life to evil with words - see Psalm 27:12]

[Heb. 10 – Plurals amplify “threatenings”]

[Par. gg – Circular repetition “my parents”]
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they [my parents] were brought near even to be carried out of this time to meet Their God

yea their [my parents'] grey hairs were about to be brought down to lie low in the dust

yea even they [my parents] were brought near to be cast with sorrow into a watery grave

[Note: This is a possible allusion to the story of Joseph of Egypt. In that story, Joseph’s father Jacob stated that to have his “youngest son” taken from him would “bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. (See Genesis chapters 42-44; especially 42:38; also 44:29, 31. See Isaiah 29:4; also Jeremiah 26:20-23).]

19 And Jacob and Joseph also being young [and] having need of much nourishment were grieved because of the afflictions of their mother and also my wife with her tears and [with her] prayers and also my children [with their tears and [with their] prayers] did not soften the hearts of my brethren that they [my brethren] would loose me

20 And there was nothing save it were the power of God which threatened them with destruction [that] could soften their hearts Wherefore when they [my brethren] saw that they [my brethren] were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea they [my brethren] repented of the thing which they had done insomuch that they [my brethren] loosed me

21 And it came to pass [that] after they [my brethren] had loosed me behold I [Nephi] took the compass And it [the compass] did work whither [in that place or situation] (AL) I [Nephi] desired it [the compass to work]

[Par. hh – Synonymous list of terms for dying] [Heb. ** -- Euphemisms]
And it came to pass that I, Nephi, prayed unto the Lord, and after that I, Nephi, had prayed unto the Lord, the winds did cease and the storm did cease and there was a great calm.

22 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship that we sailed again towards the Promised land.

Lehi Arrives in the Promised Land

23 And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days we did arrive to the Promised land and we went forth upon the land and we did pitch our tents and we did call it the Promised Land.

24 And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth and we began to plant seeds yea we did put all our seeds into the earth which seeds we had brought from the land of Jerusalem.

And it came to pass that they [our seeds] did grow exceedingly Wherefore we were blessed in abundance.

25 And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise as we journeyed in the wilderness that there were beasts in the forests of every kind both the cow and the ox and the ass and the horse and the goat and the wild goat.
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and we did find **ALL manner** of wild animals which were for the use of men
And we did find **ALL manner** of ore
both of gold and of silver and of copper

[Heb. **-- Repetition of a preposition “of”]
[Par. kk – Distribution list?]

**Note:** According to Alan Goff, ancient people looked back to foundational events or creation events in a way that transformed the present and the future as they came into contact with the past; these events served as the beginning of time for their people. Not only did past events serve as interpretive guides, but the people conceived themselves as reliving those events. Goff calls this **repetition**.

According to Goff, readers of the Book of Mormon need to reconsider their conclusion that because the Book of Mormon contains some repetitions from the Bible, Joseph Smith merely plagiarized the book. Plagiaristic claims specifically ignore a genuinely biblical manner of writing. One must look deeper to show the sophisticated nature of the Book of Mormon narrative.

### Three Biblical Archetypes Compared to Nephi's Construction of the Ship

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