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## 1 Nephi Chapter 2

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## Chapter 2

{Original 1830 Chapter I – continued}

*Lehi Is Obedient to His Covenants with the Lord  
The Lord Delivers Lehi's Family from Destruction*

### 1 For behold

**it came to pass\***

aa

that **the Lord** spake unto my father  
yea **[the Lord spake]** unto my father **even in a dream**  
and **said** unto him [my father]

[P= sayeth]

**Blessed** art thou Lehi  
**because** of the things  
which thou [Lehi] hast **done**

And **because** thou [Lehi] hast **been faithful**  
and **[because]** thou Lehi hast] **declared** unto this people  
the things

which **I [the Lord]** **commanded** thee  
**behold** they **[the Jews]** **seek to take away thy life**

[see 1 Ne. 1:20]

### 2 And **it came to pass**

that **the Lord** **commanded** my father **even in a dream**

that he [my father] should take his family  
and [he my father should] **depart** into the wilderness

bb

### 3 And **it came to pass**

that he [my father] was **obedient** unto the **word** of **the Lord**  
**Wherefore** he [my father] **did** as **the Lord** **commanded** him

*~ Lehi Takes His Family into the Wilderness Down by the Borders Near the Red Sea  
Lehi Gives Up All He Possesses to Obey His Covenant with the Lord*

### 4 And **it came to pass**

that he [my father] **departed** into the wilderness  
**and** he [my father] **left** his house [covenant duality – the house of Israel]  
**and** [he my father] **[left]** the land of his inheritance [covenant duality - Israel]  
**and** his gold 01  
**and** his silver\* 02  
**and** his precious things dd

[Par. aa – Like “paragraph” beginnings “it came to pass”]

[Heb. 01 – Repetition of possessive “his” in a list]

[Par. bb -- Circular repetition “my father”]

[Heb. 02 – Metaphor (symbol) items of high value “gold, silver”]

[Par. cc – Enumeration list]

[Par. dd – Many “and”s]

[1 Nephi 2]

**And** [he my father] **took** NOTHING with him  
SAVE it were **his** family  
**and** [his] provisions  
**and** [his] tents

5 **And** [he my father] **departed** \_\_\_\_\_ **into the wilderness**\* [O= he] ee  
**And** he [my father] **came**\*down by the **borders**  
**near the shore**\_\_\_\_of the **Red Sea** 03

~~~~Lehi Travels Three Days in the Borders Nearer the Red Sea to a Valley with a River  
Lehi Rejoices in the Covenant Way

Lehi Warns of Disobedience by Combining the Literal with the Spiritual (see 1 Ne 20:18; 22:1-3)

**And** he [my father] **traveled** **in the wilderness**  
**in the borders**  
which was / ^are **nearer** \_\_\_\_\_the **Red Sea** [ O/^P]  
{AG}

**And** he [my father] **did travel** **in the wilderness**  
with his **family**  
which [family] consisted of  
**my** mother **Sariah** ff  
**and** **my** elder^brethren/brothers [^O,P/P, 1830]  
**who** were **Laman** [P= which]  
**Lemuel**  
**and** **Sam**  
[and **my** self **Nephi**] [omission]

6 **And it came to pass**  
**that when** he [my father] **had traveled three days in the wilderness**  
he [my father] **pitched his tent**  
**in a valley**  
**beside / ^by the side of a river of water** [O / ^1837] 04

7 **And it came to pass**  
**that** he [my father] **built an altar of stones** 05  
**and** [he my father] **made an offering** unto **the Lord**  
**and** [he my father] **gave** \_\_\_**thanks** unto **the Lord Our God**

8 **And it came to pass**  
**that** he [my father] called the \*name of the **River Laman** 06  
**and** it [**the River Laman**]  
**emptied into** \_\_\_\_\_ **the Red Sea**

[Par. ee – Like endings “wilderness”]

[Heb. 04 – Separated prepositions “by” “of” “of”]

[Heb. 03 – Compound prepositions “down by”]

[Heb. 05 – Two nouns connected by “of” = adjective]

[Par. ff – Distribution list]

[Heb. 06 – Call the “name” rather than the place (river)]

and the \*valley was in the borders [near the shore of the Red Sea] 06  
 [and the \*valley was] \_\_\_\_\_ near the mouth [of the Red Sea] thereof  
 [\*O= vally]

9 And **when** [he] my father saw  
 that the waters of the river  
emptied into the fountain of the Red Sea

he [my father] spake unto \_\_\_\_\_ Laman  
saying [Quote]

O that thou mightest be like unto this river 07  
continually running into

The Fountain of ALL Righteousness 08

10 **And** he [my father] also spake unto \_\_\_\_\_ Lemuel  
 ^saying

[^O/ deleted on P & 1830]

O that thou mightest be like unto this valley\* [\*O= immoveable]

Firm and Steadfast and Immovable\*  
 in keeping the commandments  
of the Lord

11 **Now this** he [my father] spake  
because of the stiffneckedness\* 09  
 of Laman and Lemuel 88

**for behold**

they [Laman and Lemuel] did murmur in MANY things against their father  
because that he [my father] was a visionary man [O= that] {AG}  
**and** [because that he [my father]] had led them [O= that he]  
out of the land of Jerusalem  
to leave \_\_\_\_\_ [their house] [see 1 Nephi 2:4]  
 [and to leave] the land of their inheritance  
 and their gold  
 and their silver  
 and their precious things  
 [and] to perish \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness [deleted]

**And this** they [Laman and Lemuel] said  
 [that] he [my father] had done [O= that]  
because of the \_\_\_\_\_ foolish imaginations of his heart 10

12 **And thus** [they] Laman and Lemuel being the eldest  
 did murmur \_\_\_\_\_ against their father

[Heb. 06 – Separated compound prepositions “in” “near”]

[Heb. 07 – Simile “like” comparison to “river”]

[Heb. 08 – Metaphor “Fountain . . .”]

[Heb. 09 – Idiom “stiffneckedness” = stubborn]

[Par. gg – Repetition “Laman and Lemuel”]

[Heb. 10 – Plurals = amplified]

[1 Nephi 2]

And they [Laman and Lemuel] did murmur [against their **father**] because  
 they [Laman and Lemuel] **knew** NOT the dealings of **That God Who Had Created Them**  
 13 NEITHER  
 did  
 they [Laman and Lemuel] **believe**  
 that Jerusalem that GREAT city could be **destroyed**  
 according to the **words** of the prophets  
 And they [Laman and Lemuel] were **like** unto the **Jews**  
 who were at Jerusalem [O= which]  
 who sought **to take away the life** of my father

14 And **it came to pass**  
 that  
 [he] my **father** did **speak** unto **them** in the \*Valley of Lemuel [\*O= vally]  
 with power  
 being filled with the **Spirit**  
**until** their frames did shake before him  
 And he [my **father**] did **confound** **them** [confound = shake] {AL}  
 that they [Laman and Lemuel] durst NOT **utter** against him

**Wherefore** they [Laman and Lemuel] did [do] [deleted in 1837]  
 as he [my **father**] **commanded** **them**  
 15 And [he] my father dwelt in a tent [in the \*Valley of Lemuel]

*Nephi Desires the Way of His Father  
 The Lord Visits Nephi  
 Nephi Shares the Things of the Lord with His Brethren*

16 And **it came to pass**  
 that I Nephi  
 be ing exceeding / ly\* young [added in 1981] 11  
 nevertheless be ing large in stature [duality] 12  
 and also having GREAT desires to **know** of the mysteries  
 of **God**

[Note: The “mysteries” of God are linked to knowledge gained through covenant obedience. The story from this point on will illustrate how this covenant obedience and covenant knowledge comes about.]

**Wherefore** I [Nephi] did cry unto the Lord [To “cry” means to pray] [O= cried]  
 And behold He [the Lord] did visit me [Nephi was granted a great vision concerning his calling]  
 and He the Lord did soften my heart

[Heb. 11 – The use of the word “exceeding-ly”]

[Heb. 12 – Idiom having excellent character traits]

that I [Nephi] did believe ALL the words  
 which had been spoken by \_\_\_\_\_ my father

**Wherefore** I [Nephi] did NOT rebel against him [my father] like unto my brothers

13

17 And I [Nephi] spake unto Sam  
 making known unto him \_\_\_\_\_ the things

which the Lord had manifested \_\_\_\_\_ unto me  
 by His Holy Spirit

And it came to pass

that he [Sam] \_\_\_ believed in \_\_\_ my words  
 18 But behold Laman and Lemuel would NOT hearken  
 unto my words

and being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts  
 I [Nephi] cried unto the Lord for them

14

*The Lord Covenants with Nephi*

19 And it came to pass

that the Lord spake unto me  
 saying

**A** Blessed art thou Nephi [singular]  
 because of thy faith

for [because of thy faith]

**B** thou [Nephi] hast sought Me diligently  
**C** with lowliness of heart

15

20 And

**D** inasmuch as ye [plural] shall keep \_\_\_\_\_ My commandments [covenant terms]

**E** ye [plural] shall prosper

16

**F** and [ye plural] shall be led to a land of promise

**G** yea even a land which I [the Lord] have prepared for you

yea a land which is choice above ALL other lands

17 hh

[Note: The Lord first addresses Nephi in the singular (“thou”), and then when citing the covenant terms the Lord possibly uses the plural “ye” to include everyone in Nephi’s expanded group.—see Kevin L. Barney, “Enallage in the Book of Mormon,” *JBMS* 3/1 (Spring 1994): 115-118.]

[Heb. 13 – Compound preposition “like unto”] [Heb. 16 – Enallage singular “thou” to plural “ye”]

[Heb. 14 – Idiom “hardness of heart”] [Heb. 17 – Hyperbole comparison “above ALL”]

[Heb. 15 – Idiom “lowliness of heart” = humble] [Par. hh – Upward gradation of sense – the covenant way]

[1 Nephi 2]

[Note: By using various words of this extremely important covenant promise— "inasmuch as ye shall keep My commandments ye shall prosper and shall be led to a land of promise," the writers of the Book of Mormon will maintain a covenant theme throughout their record. For example, the specific phrase "prosper in the land" appears 42 times alluding to this covenant promise, yet there are only 22 instances that might be termed a "quote": 1 Ne. 2:20, 1 Ne. 4:14, 1 Ne. 13:15,20; 2 Ne. 1:9,20, 2 Ne. 4:4; Jarom 1:9; Omni 1:6; Mos. 1:7, Mos. 2:22,31; Alma 9:13, Alma 36:1,30, Alma 37:13, Alma 38:1, Alma 48:15,25, Alma 50:20; Hel. 3:20; Ether 2:8-11.

An expanded explanation of this "prosper in the land" covenant between God and His covenant people is found in the Bible, in chapters 28--29 of Deuteronomy. It expresses in detail both the blessings and the curses of this covenant. (The curses are also found in Ether 2:7-12.) In total, there are 59 instances of the word "prosper" in the Old Testament; yet besides the quote in Deuteronomy, there are only 4 that might be considered a "quote": Joshua 1:7; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Chronicles 24:20; 31:21. Intriguingly, there are only 2 instances of the word "prosper" in the New Testament, neither of which would be considered a "quote" of the covenant.

Thus, while the three "testaments" of a covenant people (Old Testament, New Testament, and Book of Mormon) and history all allude to the fulfillment of this covenant between the Lord and His covenant people, the Book of Mormon is more literarily consistent with the thematic wording--something that might be expected from an abridgment process overseen by a father (Mormon) and his son (Moroni), and a translation through one man.]

- 21 **And**  
**inasmuch as** thy brethren shall rebel against thee ii  
they [thy brethren] shall be **cut off** from the **presence of the Lord** jj
- 22 **And**  
**inasmuch as** thou [**Nephi**] shalt **keep** **My commandments** kk  
thou [**Nephi**] shalt be **made** \_\_\_\_\_ a ruler  
**and** a teacher  
over thy brethren
- 23 **For behold**  
**in that day**  
**that** they [thy brethren] shall rebel against **Me** LL  
**I** [**the Lord**] will **curse** them even with a sore **curse** 18
- and** they [thy brethren] shall have NO **power** over thy seed mm  
except they [thy seed]  
shall rebel against **Me** also
- 24 **And if it so be that** \_\_\_\_\_ they [thy seed] {AG}  
shall] rebel against **Me**  
[**then**] they [thy brethren] shall be a **scourge** unto thy seed [scourge = a cause of suffering]  
[a **scourge**]to stir them [thy seed] **up** 19 20  
**in the ways of remembrance**  
[the covenant way]

[Par. ii – Repetition of “thy brethren”]  
[Par. jj – Repetition of “shall”]  
[Par. kk – Repetition of “Me” and “My”]  
[Par. LL – Repetition of “rebel against”]

[Heb. 18 – A verb and a noun with the same root “curse”]  
[Par. mm – Repetition of “thy seed”]  
[Heb. 19 – Compound preposition “up in”]  
[Heb. 20 – Separated prepositions “in” “of”]