1 Nephi Chapter 7

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Chapter 7
{Original 1830 Chapter II – continued}

Lehi’s Family to Marry & Raise up Seed to the Lord

7:1 And now I [Nephi] would that ye might know that after my father Lehi had made an end of prophesying concerning his seed it came to pass that the Lord spake ______ unto him [my father Lehi] again saying / [ ] that it was NOT meet [proper] for him [my father] Lehi that he should take his family into the wilderness alone but that his sons should take daughters to wife that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise

~~~ Nephi & His Brethren Return to the Land of Jerusalem for Ishmael and His Family

2 And it came to pass that the Lord commanded ______ him [my father] saying that I [Nephi] and my brethren should again return ______ into / unto the land of Jerusalem and [should] bring down ______ Ishmael and ______ his family into the wilderness

3 And it came to pass that I [Nephi] did again with my brethren go forth ______ into the wilderness to go up ______ to [the land of] Jerusalem

4 And it came to pass that we ______________________went up unto the house of Ishmael

[Par. aa – Like beginning initiators “that”]
[Heb. 01 – Use of the phrase “made an end”]
[Par. cc – Circular repetition “into the wilderness”]
[Heb. 02 – Two nouns connected by “of” = adjective]
and we did gain favor in the sight of Ishmael insomuch that we did speak unto him the words of the Lord

5 And it came to pass that the Lord did soften the heart of Ishmael and also of his whole household insomuch that they took their journey down into the wilderness to the tent of our father

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007: 13) verses 3-5 can be viewed as a chiastic parallelism. A basic outline of the parallel elements is as follows:

3. And it came to pass . . .
   [A] into the wilderness
   [B] to go up
   [C] house of Ishmael
   [D] gain favor of Ishmael
   [E] insomuch that we did speak unto him the words of the Lord

4. [D] soften the heart of Ishmael
   [C] his household
   [B] took their journey down
   [A] into the wilderness

5. [D] gain favor . . . of Ishmael

6 And it came to pass that as we journeyed in the wilderness behold

   Laman
   and Lemuel [my two brothers]
   and two of the Daughters of Ishmael
   and the two Sons of Ishmael
   and their families
   did rebel against us
   yea [they did rebel] against me Nephi [ψ = l] ee
   and [against] Sam
   and [against] their father Ishmael
   and [against] his Wife
   and [against] his three other daughters

[Par. dd – Like endings “Ishmael”]
[Heb. 03 – Symbolism number 2 = uniting with]
[Heb. 04 – Repetition of a preposition “against”]
7 And it came to pass that in the which rebellion they were desirous to return unto the land of Jerusalem

Nephi Warns Laman & Lemuel Again
The Lord Is Able to Do All Things through Covenants
Obedience Brings Deliverance--Disobedience Brings Destruction
Both Literally & Spiritually

8 And now I Nephi being grieved for the hardness of their hearts therefore I Nephi spake unto them saying

yea I Nephi spake even unto Laman and unto Lemuel saying

Behold ye are mine elder brethren and How is it that ye are so hard in your hearts and ye are so blind in your minds

that ye have need that I your younger brother should speak unto you yea and [should] set an example for you?

9 How is it that ye have NOT hearkened unto the word of the Lord?
10 [A] How is it that ye have forgotten [B] that ye have seen an angel of the Lord?

11 Yea and [A] How is it that ye have forgotten [B] ^how / what GREAT things the Lord hath done in delivering us out of the hands of Laban and also that we should obtain the record of Laban?

[^O / 1837]
12 Yea and [A] How is it that ye have forgotten that \( \text{ALL things} \) the Lord is able to do according to His \( \text{the Lord's} \) will for the children of men if it so be that \( \text{ALL things} \) they \( \text{the children of men} \) exercise faith in Him \( \text{the Lord} \)?

Wherefore [B] let us be faithful to Him \( \text{the Lord} \) \( \text{O = in} \)

13 And if it so be that we are faithful to Him \( \text{the Lord} \) \( \text{O = in} \)

then we shall obtain the land of promise

and ye shall know at some future period that the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled concerning the destruction of Jerusalem \( \text{duality - covenant} \) for \( \text{ALL things} \) which the Lord hath spoken concerning the destruction of Jerusalem \( \text{ALL things} \) MUST be fulfilled

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:13), there is a chiastic parallelism in verse 13. It is as follows:

13. . . . the word of the Lord

[A] shall be fulfilled [B] concerning the destruction of Jerusalem [C] for all things which the Lord hath spoken [B] concerning the destruction of Jerusalem

[A] must be fulfilled]

14 For behold the Spirit of the Lord ceaseth soon to strive with them \( \text{the Jews at Jerusalem} \)

they \( \text{the Jews} \) have rejected the prophets and Jeremiah have they \( \text{the Jews} \) cast into prison

And they \( \text{the Jews} \) have sought to take away the life of my father

insomuch that they \( \text{the Jews} \) have driven him \( \text{my father} \) out of the land of Jerusalem

[Par. LL – Circular repetition “the Jews”]
15 Now behold I Nephi say unto you that if ye will return unto Jerusalem mm
then ye shall also perish with them.

And now if ye have choice [correct judgment, discernment] (AL)
then go up to the land [of Jerusalem] and remember the words
which I Nephi speak unto you
that if ye ______ go [up to the land of Jerusalem]
then ye will also perish [with them].

for thus the Spirit of the Lord constraineth me [compels me] (AL)
that I Nephi should speak

Laman and Lemuel Seek to Take Away Nephi's Life
Nephi (and His Future Seed) Are Delivered by the Lord

16 And it came to pass that when I Nephi had spoken these words unto my brethren nn
they [my brethren] were angry with me* ['see v. 19]

And it came to pass that they [my brethren] did lay their hands upon me* ['see v. 19]
for behold they [my brethren] were exceedingly wroth [see v. 17]
and they [my brethren] did bind me with cords* ['see v. 14, 19]
for they [my brethren] sought to take away my life [see v. 14, 19]
that they [my brethren] might leave me in the wilderness to be devoured by wild beasts

17 But it came to pass that I Nephi prayed unto the Lord saying
O Lord according to my faith which is in me / ^Thee [O* / ^O*] oo
[O Lord] wilt Thou deliver me from ______ the hands [evil power] pp
of my brethren

yea [O Lord] even give me strength
that I Nephi may burst these bands [of my brethren]
with which [bands]
I Nephi _______ am bound*

[Par. mm – Repeated alternating “If / then”]
[Par. oo – Like beginnings (3 times)]
[Par. nn – Circular repetition “my brethren”]
[Par. pp – Rhyming]
[Heb. 05 – A wish or a prayer]
18 And it came to pass that when [Nephi] had said these words, the bands were loosed from off my hands [symbolic of covenant power] and [from off my] feet and I [Nephi] stood before my brethren and I [Nephi] spake unto them [my brethren] again.

19 And it came to pass that they [my brethren] were angry with me again and they [my brethren] sought to lay hands upon me [again].

but behold yea and also her mother and one of the sons of Ishmael did plead with my brethren insomuch that they [my brethren] did soften their hearts and they [my brethren] did cease striving to take away my life.

20 And it came to pass that they [my brethren] were sorrowful because of their wickedness insomuch that they [my brethren] did bow down before me and [they my brethren] did plead ____ with me that I [Nephi] would ____ forgive them [my brethren] of the thing that they [my brethren] had done ____ against me.

21 And it came to pass that I [Nephi] did frankly (freely) forgive them [my brethren] of ALL [the things] that they [my brethren] had done [against me] and I [Nephi] did _______ exhort them [my brethren] that they [my brethren] would pray unto the Lord Their God for forgiveness.

And it came to pass that they [my brethren] did so [pray unto the Lord Their God for forgiveness].

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[Heb. 06 – Number symbolism - three in number = witness]
[Par. qq – Circular repetition “forgive”]
[Par. rr – Like endings “the Lord their God”]
And after that they my brethren had done praying unto the Lord AG 07

we did again travel on our journey towards the tent of our father ss

22 And it came to pass that we did come down unto the tent of our father

And after that I Nephi and all my brethren and all the house of Ishmael had come down unto the tent of my father

and they did give thanks unto the Lord Their God

and they did offer sacrifice unto the Lord Their God

and they did offer burnt offerings unto Him THE Lord Their God 09 10

8:1 And it came to pass that we had gathered together all manner of seeds of every kind

both of grain of every kind

and also of the seeds of fruits [del. in 1840] ** of every kind 12

[Note: The “seeds of every kind” especially included the potential “seeds” or posterity of Nephi and Lehi. The “fruit of every kind” especially included the “fruit of the womb” of the daughters of Ishmael. The purpose of this return trip to Jerusalem was so that the sons of Lehi could take these “daughters to wife, that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise” (1 Ne. 7:1). Thus Nephi and Lehi were blessed with the covenant gift of “eternal lives.”]

[Note: The parallel initiating phrase “it came to pass” (also viewed as “like paragraph beginnings”) has been used 17 times in chapter 7 (including verse 1 of chapter 8).]

[Heb. 07 – Repetition of the phrase “had done” (see verses 20, 21)]
[Par. ss – Like endings [3 times = the highest importance]
[Heb. 09 – Verb and noun with the same root “offer”]
[Heb. 10 – Symbolism 3 times = the highest praise]
[Par. tt – Distribution]
[Heb. 11 – Separated prepositions “of . . . of”]
[Heb. ** – Plurals]
[Heb. 12 – Symbolism 3 times = the very best “kind” of “seed”]
[1 Nephi 7]

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:14), 1 Nephi 7: 16-19 can be viewed as a complex chiastic parallelism. I have taken the liberty to modify it slightly. The following is a brief outline of the parallel phrases:

16 And it came to pass that when I, Nephi had spoken these words unto my brethren,

A 1 they were angry with me

2 they were exceedingly wroth

3 they sought to take away my life

17 B I prayed unto the Lord, saying

C wilt thou deliver me

C’ give me strength that I may burst these bands

18 B’ when I had said these words

19 A’ 1’ they were angry with me again

2’ [they] sought to lay their hands upon me

3’ they did cease striving to take away my life