



Type: Magazine Article

---

## The Stick of Ephraim

Editor(s): Joseph F. Smith and Edward H. Anderson

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 8, No. 10 (August 1905)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s): 781-782

---

**Abstract:** Lehi was a descendant of Manasseh and Ishmael was a descendant of Ephraim. Hence, the Book of Mormon is the stick of Joseph, which comprises descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim.

Prophet of God, who resent every insinuation against his character, and who shrink not from the world's enmity which the Prophet Joseph Smith's claim to have received a dispensation from heaven has called forth.

Again, Mr. Smith, it is proved that your assertions are untrue. It is painful to have to convict you of being a wilful perverter of facts, and also a persecutor, without excuse, of those who belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which your grandfather was the instrument of bringing into existence, and which has remained intact ever since, under the successive presidencies of Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, and Joseph F. Smith, all truthful men; but you are guilty of bearing false witness, and your unrepentant persistence in wrongdoing impels me to press the charge to judgment.

EPHRAIM.

---

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### *The Stick of Ephraim.*

Why is the Book of Mormon called the Stick of Ephraim, when it is understood to have been written by the descendants of Lehi who was a descendant of Manasseh? (See Ezekiel 37:16; Doctrine and Covenants Sec. 27:5).

The Book of Mormon refers to Lehi's colony as made up of descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim. Lehi was a descendant of Manasseh, and Ishmael, of Ephraim. In the Manual for 1903-4, (page 95) it is shown that there are promises in the Hebrew scriptures respecting Ephraim, which cannot be realized, so far as we know, except through the seed of Ephraim dwelling upon the land of America. Since Lehi was of Manasseh, and Mulek's colony were Jews, it leaves Ishmael alone to introduce the descendants of Ephraim into the western world. The intermarriage of the families of Lehi and Ishmael effectually accomplished this. President Franklin D. Richards, and other Latter-day Saints acquainted with the Prophet Joseph, have declared, to this writer's personal knowledge, that in conversation they had known him to

say that in Mormon's abridgement of the book of Lehi, (which supplied the 116 pages of manuscript lost by Martin Harris) it was plainly stated that Ishmael was of the tribe of Ephraim. Let it also be remembered that in Ezekiel 37:19, it is called the "stick of Joseph, which is in the hands of Ephraim," showing that both Ephraim and Manasseh the sons of Joseph, are included, and that the book was to be in the hands of Ephraim, at its coming forth. It is well known, through patriarchal blessings, that many of the Latter-day Saints, in whose hands is the stick, are of Ephraim. (See also chapter 35, pp. 329-333; and chapter 39 p. 375, of the Manual for 1905 6).

---

#### IN LIGHTER MOOD.

---

She: "Be frank with me." He: "I can't. My name is James."—*Harvard Lampoon*.

First we had the Strenuous Life, then the Simple Life, now we have the Equitable Life.—*Life*.

"Our elevator fell down the other day." "Was anybody hurt?" "Not exactly, but four got the dropsy."—*Yale Record*.

Customer: "What made the old guy so sore?" Boy: "He's nutty, guess. He wanted two dog biscuits, and I only asked him if he'd take 'em here or have them wrapped up."—*Cornell Widow*.

"What are you waiting for?" said the man to a little urchin waiting patiently by the roadside. "For the teams to pass. Mother told me to wait till the teams passed before I crossed the road, but they have not come yet."

A Scotch laboring man who had married a rich widow exceptional for her plainness was accosted by his employer. "Well, Thomas," he said, "I hear you are married. What sort of a wife have you got?"

"Weel, sir," was the response, "she's the Lord's handiwork, but I canna say she's his masterpiece."