

UNIT 1 REVIEW
Rel 121: Introduction to the Book of Mormon 1
(lectures 1–6 for Quiz 1)

For **identifications**, review the terms below for passive recognition. Make sure that you cannot only identify the person, term, or event, but be able to explain why it is important to the gospel text.

When preparing for **scripture commentary**, be able to explain the original context of the passage (author and situation, not necessarily chapter and verse), and address basic historical questions (when and why was this text written, how did the information in it—from the original source, to the author, through editors and translators—get to us?), literary questions (what kind of writing is the passage, how does it fit into its larger context, and what are its literary aims?), and theological questions (what principles or doctrines does this passage illustrate or teach, and, just as importantly, how does it engage and affect the reader?).

On **essays** (and, to a lesser extent, for the **short answers** on quizzes), try to respond to the question as completely as possible. Begin with a sentence or two for a thesis and then organize it into short paragraphs of three or four sentences for ease of organization and grading (short answers will consist of only four or five sentences or perhaps, in some cases just a list or chart).

Course Objectives

- Increase the student’s knowledge of the Book of Mormon: familiarize him or her with the basic storylines, characters, and concepts in this book of scripture
- Help the student read, discuss, and write about the Book of Mormon as both a source of scriptural knowledge and as a sacred text: become familiar with the process of closely reading and analyzing a scriptural text (the how, what, and why of a selection of text)
- Strengthen individual testimonies of sacred truths, particularly of Jesus Christ and the doctrines of the Restoration.

Names and Terms

TITLE PAGE PURPOSES

Show the great things the Lord did for their
(our) fathers

Know the Covenants of the Lord

Convince Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the
Christ, the Eternal God

AUTHORS AND SOURCES

Lehi

- Record of Lehi

Nephi

- Large Plates of Nephi

- Small Plates of Nephi

Brass Plates and their contents

Jaredite Plates

Plates (Abridgment) of Mormon

Book proceeding forth from the mouth of a
Jew

- Old Testament

- New Testament

Reading Strategies

Ask questions, careful reading, prayerful
pondering, consider scholarly

- contributions, pray and ponder again
- Read in sections
- avoid proof texting
 - pericopes
 - structural analyses
- Understanding a Text (see graphic on last page)
- hermeneutics
 - › understanding the meaning *then* and the meaning *now*
 - establishing the text
 - › autographs or original texts do not survive
 - translation
 - › understanding the meaning of the words themselves
 - exegesis
 - › properly understanding the *original* meaning
 - › historical questions
 - › literary questions
 - › theological questions
 - exposition
 - › understanding the meaning to *current* audiences
 - › “applying the scriptures to ourselves” (see 1 Nephi 19:23)

GENRES

- Narratives – “Telling a Story”
- Introductions
 - Transition and Summary Reports
 - Editorial Digressions and Explanations
 - e.g., discussions about plates and records, “and thus we see” passages
 - Historical Narratives
 - Vision or Dream Reports
 - Miracle Stories
- Discourses – “quotations,” connected speech
- Parables and Allegories
 - Some Prayers
 - Exhortations and fatherly admonition,

sermons, longer speeches, written treatises

Dramatic Episodes

- Apocalypse

Poetry

- Laments
- Psalms (esp. Praise Songs)
- Hymns
- Prophecies “after the manner of the Jews”
- Some Prayers

PRINCIPLES

Condescension

- of the Father and the Son
- of the Son in his ministry

Person and work of the Messiah

Gathering and Scattering of Israel

Gift of faith, know by the spirit that Jesus

Christ is the son of God (ex. Nephi, D&C 46:13)

Gift of believing on the words of others (ex.

Sam, D&C 46:14)

Law of Retaliation (application?)

Mercy and deliverance for those who fear

God and come unto him

Pride, source of most sins

COVENANTS

Horizontal

- treaties, with Zoram

Vertical

- with individuals
- with people and nations

[Noah covenant]

Abrahamic covenant

Deuteronomic covenant

[David covenants]

Lehi covenant

Oaths

THEMES

Deliverance
 Revelation
 Obedience and consequent blessings
 “tender mercies”

IMPORTANT FIGURES AND CHARACTERS

Ishmael
 Jehovah = God of Israel = premortal Christ
 John the Baptist
 John the Revelator
 Josiah
 Laban
 Laman
 Lehi
 Lemuel
 “Man wrought upon by the Holy Ghost”
 Nephi
 Sam
 Sariah
 Zedekiah
 Zoram

TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS

abridgment
 Gentiles
 “goodly” parents
 History of Lehi’s Descendants
 - “Near” and “Far” History
 History of the Gentiles to the Restoration
 History of the Last Days
 Holy Ghost
 - influence and power of
 - personage of
 “horticulture motif”
 hosanna
 Israel
 Jews
 language of my father
 - learning of the Jews
 - language of the Egyptians
 Light of Christ
 Messiah

plain and precious parts
 - mistakes
 - purposeful changes, deletions, etc.
 - from the Old Testament
 - from the New Testament
 poetic use of language, purpose of
 ponder/pondering
 postapostolic Christianity
 - “Hellenized” Christianity
 “prophetic vocabulary” of 1 Nephi 10
 - destruction of the wicked
 - person and work of the Messiah
 - gathering and scattering of Israel
 Reign and ministry of Nephi
 Spirit of the Lord
 - power of the spirit, influence of the Holy
 Ghost
 - person of the Holy Ghost
 - premortal spirit of Jesus Christ
 stiffneckedness
 strait
 Superscription to 1 Nephi
 “vocabulary of praise”
 Title Page

EVENTS

Lehi’s call and first visions
 - Psalm of Lehi
 Lehi takes his family into the wilderness
 The brothers return for the plates
 - the slaying of Laban
 - the oath of Zoram
 Lehi’s family reunited
 - Sariah’s testimony
 Ishmael’s family joins the expedition
 - rebellion in the wilderness
 Lehi relates his dream of the Tree of Life
 Lehi’s sermon to his family
 Nephi’s interpretive vision of the Tree of
 Life / the Apocalypse of Nephi
 Nephi’s exhortation to his brothers

PLACES

high mountain
 Jerusalem
 River of Laman
 Valley of Lemuel
 wilderness

SYMBOLS

Allegory of the Olive Tree – see 1 Ne 8
 Christ, the Tree of Life
 dreary waste
 Exodus
 Fountain of Living Waters
 fruit
 Great and Abominable Church
 - narrow (historical) and exclusive
 application

- broad (typological) and inclusive
 application
 high mountain = temple
 iron rod
 large and spacious building
 large and spacious field
 mist of darkness
 multitude/multitudes
 path
 pillar of fire
 river
 rock
 strait and narrow path
 Tree of Life
 wide gate, broad way
 wilderness
 Word of God

Structures1 Nephi

Lehi's Jerusalem Ministry (1:4–20)
 Journey Into the Wilderness (2:1–7:22)
 Lehi's Dream and Prophecy (8:1–10:22)
 The Apocalypse of Nephi (11:1–15:19)
 The Journey Resumed (16:1–19:21)
 Nephi Quotes and Interprets Isaiah (19:22–22:18)

Notable Passages

(see Packet, section 13)

Be able to identify the original context of the passage—author, situation, and how we got the text—as well as its meaning, and its importance for individual application today

Larger Issues, Potential Short Answer or Essay Questions

- Why is the Book of Mormon “the most correct book?”
 - ▶ Another witness of the Savior
 - ▶ A source for the foundational doctrines regarding the Atonement and the Plan of Salvation.
- Be familiar with the contents and importance of the Title Page

- Know the sources and components Book of Mormon
- Know the major sections and the basic structure of 1 Nephi
- For each major section of text, ask yourself how we got the text (such issues as sources, development, authorship, intended audience and purpose); what form the text is in now (structure, genre, themes, and motifs); and why it is important (what doctrines does it teach, how it applies to us).
- Discuss how Nephi obtained the Brass Plates. What worked and what did not?
- What are the problems involved with Nephi's slaying of Laban? How do we explain them?
- How did the journey of Lehi's family in the wilderness typify the Exodus of the Children of Israel under Moses? How do both journeys serve as a type of our journey through life?
- Be able to discuss the blessings of obedience and the consequences of rebellion, citing examples from the text
- How does Nephi "bridge" one section to another or carry one motif or image into the next chapter?
- How did the sermon of Lehi in 1 Nephi 10 establish the "prophetic vocabulary" that helped Nephi in his interpretive vision of the Tree of Life?
- Considering the many types of dreams, visions, and revelations described in the Book of Mormon, what ways do we see that the Lord communicates, or tries to communicate with us?
- Recognize the different ways of writing (genres or forms). How do we read each type of writing differently, and what effects do the different genres have on us as we read the scriptures?
- What is the role of pondering in understanding the scriptures and receiving revelation?
- Understand the Christ imagery in the Tree of Life and the Fountain of Living Waters
- Study the condescension as described in 1 Nephi 11. How did the different episodes shown to Nephi in vision illustrate different aspects and phases of the condescension?
- How does Nephi's vision of Christ in the Americas in 1 Nephi 12 foreshadow the Second Coming and the Millennium?
- What does the Great and Abominable Church represent and what does it not? Why are there only two Churches?
- What were some of the ways that "plain and precious parts" were removed from the Bible? Why does this make the Book of Mormon and other records necessary?
- Briefly review the Apocalypse of Nephi in 1 Nephi 11–14. How is it a "guided tour" of history, and what peoples and periods does it cover? How is Jesus Christ central to interpreting this panoramic view of history?

