



10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2: Words to Joseph about the Promises of Joseph in Egypt 2 Nephi 3-5

Joseph sold by his brothers

"A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins . . . he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers." (2 Nephi 3:7)

“We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” (hymn 19)

We thank thee, O God for a prophet
To guide us in these latter days.
We thank thee for sending the gospel
To lighten our minds with its rays.
We thank thee for every blessing
Bestowed by thy bounteous hand.
We feel it a pleasure to serve thee,
And love to obey thy command.

When dark clouds of trouble hang o'er us
And threaten our peace to destroy,
There is hope smiling brightly before us,
And we know that deliverance is nigh.
We doubt not the Lord nor his goodness.
We've proved him in days that are past.
The wicked who fight against Zion
Will surely be smitten at last.

We'll sing of his goodness and mercy.
We'll praise him by day and by night,
Rejoice in his glorious gospel,
And bask in his life giving light.
Thus on to eternal perfection
The honest and faithful will go,
While they who reject this glad
message
Shall never such happiness know.

Lehi's Final Teachings 2

- Lehi's last words to Joseph (3:1–25, a father's **teaching** with **prophecies** quoted from the Brass Plates)
 - **Promises to young Joseph and his descendants 1** (3:1–3)
 - **Prophecies of Joseph in Egypt** (3:3–22)
 - a **fruitful bough** (a branch of his descendants broken off), choice seer, Moses, and a record to come forth promised
 - **Promises to young Joseph and his descendants 2** (3:23–25)
- Final blessings (4:3–11, **quotes** and **narrative summary**)
 - Blessing on the children on Laman and Lemuel (4:3–9)
 - Blessing on the sons of Ishmael (4:10)
 - Blessing on Sam (4:11)
 - Where is Nephi's blessing?
- Death of Lehi (4:12, **narrative transition report**)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

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Promises to Joseph

- **Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall . . . The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph**, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren." (Jacob to Joseph, Genesis 49:22, 26)
- ". . . I am a descendant of **Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt**. And **great were the covenants of the Lord which he made unto Joseph**. Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day. And he obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of his loins the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel; not the Messiah, but **a branch which was to be broken off, nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord that the Messiah should be made manifest unto them in the latter days . . .**" (2 Nephi 3:4–5)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

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A Choice Seer

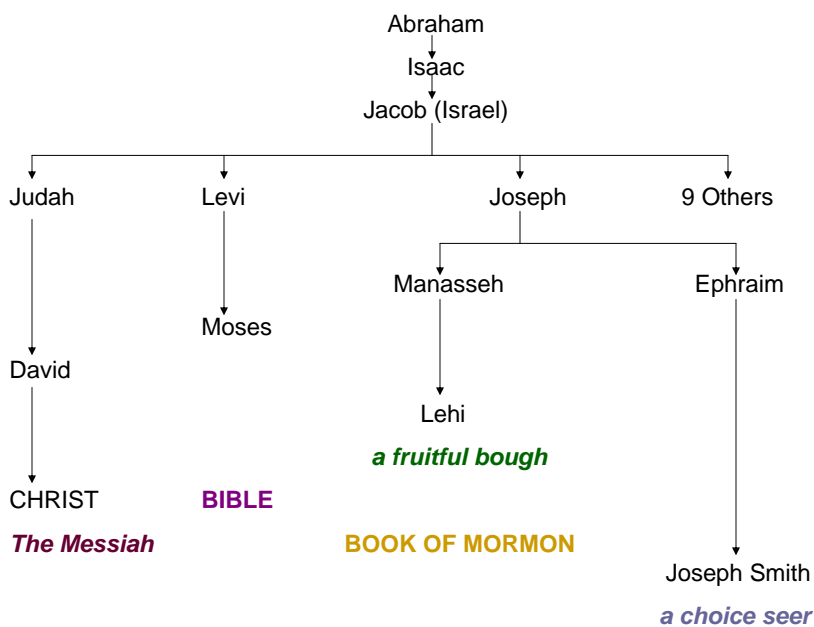
- “Yea, Joseph truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: **A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins**; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that **he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers.**” (3:7)
- “And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise, which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise; And **his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me**; for the thing, which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation.” (3:14–15)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

5

Prophetic Lineages Prophesied by Joseph in Egypt



On Joseph Smith's Mission and Lineage

"It was decreed in the counsels of eternity, long before the foundations of the earth were laid, that he, **Joseph Smith, should be the man, in the last dispensation of this world, to bring forth the word of God to the people, and receive the fulness of the keys and power of the Priesthood of the Son of God. The Lord had his eyes upon him, and upon his father, and upon his father's father, and upon their progenitors clear back to Abraham,** and from Abraham to the flood, from the flood to Enoch, and from Enoch to Adam. **He has watched that family and that blood as it has circulated from its fountain to the birth of that man.** He was foreordained in eternity to preside over this last dispensation." *Discourses of Brigham Young, 108*

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7

The Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon

- "Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and **that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins,** and also **that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah,** shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord." (3:12)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

8

Reflection of Nephi

(4:13–35, narrative transition report that moves to a poem)

- Nephi's reflection Nephi writing for his descendants soon after the death of Lehi in the promised land (land of first inheritance)
 - Explains why he was constrained to teach his brothers despite their resistance, testify of the Lord's goodness to him in adversity
- The Psalm of Nephi (4:17–35, psalm)
 - Here the personal reflections illustrate challenges and discouragement as well as joys and learning experiences
 - "Upon these plates I write the things of my soul . . . And [I] writeth them for the learning and profit of my children" (2:15).
 - Our "large in stature," spiritual giant shares his inmost feelings!
 - Note the use of poetry (artificial use of language to convey added meaning and emotion)
 - see Grant Hardy, 71–74 for this passage laid out in verse
 - see Hardy, Appendix 5: Book of Mormon Poetry, 658–664, and the next slide for Hebrew stylistic patterns
 - Alternating expressions of discouragement and reverie (rejoicing in God)
 - What does this tell us about prophets? Us? The trials of life?

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9

Literary Excursus: Hebrew Poetry and the Book of Mormon (enrichment material)

See G. Hardy, *The Book of Mormon: A Reader's Edition*, Appendix 5, 658-64

- Hebrew Poetry
 - Not patterns of rhythms and rhymes
 - Rather *parallelism*: same idea expressed in different words in two or more successive lines
- Synonymous
 - "Open your ears that you may hear / and your hearts that you may understand" (Mosiah 2:9)
- Antithetic
 - "quick to do iniquity / and slow to remember the Lord their God" (Mosiah 13:29)
- Synthetic (completes the idea rather than restating or contrasting it)
 - "Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh as one / he that is righteous is favored of God" (1 Nephi 17:35)
- Climactic (a word or phrase is repeated in each line with additional information added each time)
 - "O that ye would awake / awake from a deep sleep / yea, even from the sleep of hell" (2 Nephi 1:13)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

10

My Souls Delighteth in the Things of the Lord

The Psalm of Nephi

Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord;
and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I
have seen and heard.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in
showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth:

O wretched man that I am!
Yea, my soul sorroweth because of my flesh
my soul grieveth because of my iniquities

And when I desire to rejoice,
my heart groaneth because of my sins;
nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted. (2 Nephi 4:16–19)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

11

Why Should My Heart Weep and My Should Linger?

The Psalm of Nephi

O then, if I have seen so great things,
if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men
hath visited men in so much mercy,
why should my heart weep and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow,
and my flesh waste away
and my strength slacken

And why should I yield because of my flesh?
Yea, why should I give way to temptations,
that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace
and afflict my soul?

Why am I angry because of mine enemy? (2 Nephi 4:26–27)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

12

Awake, My Soul! Rejoice, O My Heart!

The Psalm of Nephi

Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin.
Rejoice, O my heart,
and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.

Do not anger again because of mine enemies.
Do not slacken my strength because of mine afflictions.

Rejoice, O my heart,
and cry unto the Lord, and say:
O Lord, I will praise thee forever;
Yea, my soul will rejoice in thee,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.” (2 Nephi 4:26–30)

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10. Lehi's Final Teachings 2 (2 Nephi 3-5)

13

Example of a Prayer of Praise

“Pilgrim’s Hymn” from *The Three Hermits*



Even before we call on thy name
To ask thee, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify thee,
Thou hearest our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

**Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe thy name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in thee;
Endless thy grace, O endless thy grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.**

Both now and for ever,
And unto ages and ages,
Amen.