



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Book of Mormon - Lesson 2

All Things According to His Will

“And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness.” (1 Nephi 2:2)

1 Nephi 1-7

A study of this lesson will help us see, through the examples of Lehi and Nephi, that safety and salvation come through obedience to the Lord.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "As to the house of Joseph, their inheritance is in the Americas, even as Father Jacob promised in the blessing given to Joseph, that he should be 'a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall,' and that the blessings of Joseph should prevail above those of all the other tribes and extend 'unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills' ." (The Mortal Messiah, 4:336-337)

President Heber J. Grant: "I read the Book of Mormon as a young man and fell in love with Nephi more than any other character in profane or sacred history that I ever read, except the Savior of the world. No other individual has made such a strong impression upon me as did Nephi. He has been one of the guiding stars in my life." (Gospel Standards, p357)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "At some future date the Lord has promised to bring them [the Brass Plates] forth, undimmed by time and retaining their original brightness, and the scriptural accounts on them are to 'go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.'" (Mormon Doctrine, p103)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

1 Nephi 8-11; 12:16-18; 15

Historical Background		
609 B.C.	King Josiah	Twenty years prior to the Book of Mormon, the Kingdom of Judah was experiencing its last period of greatness. Josiah lost his life at the Battle of Megiddo in 609 B.C., leading his armies to stop the advance of the Egyptians, under Pharaoh Nechoh, toward the Euphrates. Nechoh gained control of Judah's political life.
609 B.C.	Jehoahaz	Son of Josiah. Became king at his fathers death. Nechoh took him away to Egypt and put his brother Eliakim on the throne. His name was changed to Jehoiakim. He reigned 11 years.
598 B.C.	Jehoiakim	Jehoiakim was bound and carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar along with thousands of others.
	Jehoiachin	Jehoiakim's son allowed to rule as a vassal king of the Babylonians. He reigned only three months and then was summoned to Babylon along with "ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths."
598 B.C.	Zedekiah	Jehoiachin's uncle, Mattaniah began to reign in his stead. His name was changed to Zedekiah. Book of Mormon history begins in the first year of Zedekiah's reign. According to Bible chronology, that was in 598 or 597 B.C.
	The Prophets	Nephi wrote that "there came many prophets prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city of Jerusalem must be destroyed" (1 Nephi 1:4). Lehi's contemporaries included Jeremiah, Huldah, Zephaniah, Habukkuk, Ezekiel, and Urijah of Kirjath-jearim.
	Lehi's Home	According to 1 Nephi 1:4 and 1:7, Lehi and his family were living at Jerusalem. The preposition "at" in this case could mean on, in, within, close by, or near. Lehi could have lived several miles away and still be considered living at Jerusalem. Any satellite towns or villages that surrounded larger population centers were regarded in ancient times as belonging to those larger centers. That Lehi and his family lived outside of Jerusalem proper is evidenced in the account of the sons' attempt to obtain the plates with their abandoned wealth: "We went down to the land of our inheritance, and we did gather together our gold, and our silver, and our precious things. And after we gathered these things together, we went up unto the house of Laban" (1 Nephi 3:22-23).