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1 Nephi Chapter 14

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Chapter 14

{Original 1830 Chapter III – continued}

*The Lord Will Work a Marvelous Everlasting Work
Either Leading Men to Eternal Life
or Delivering Them to Spiritual Captivity
All Men May Become Part of the House of Israel*

1 And **it shall come to pass**

that **if** the **Gentiles** shall **hearken** _____ unto **The Lamb of God** ^{aa}
in that day that He [The Lamb of God]
shall **manifest Himself**

unto them [the **Gentiles**]

in **word**

and also in **power**

[**and**] in very **deed**

unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks

if it so be

that they

[the **Gentiles**] shall **harden NOT** their hearts against **The Lamb of God** ^[deleted 1837]

2

And **if** it so be

{AG}

that they

[the **Gentiles**] shall **harden NOT** their hearts against **The Lamb of God**

[**then**] they

[the **Gentiles**] shall **be numbered**

among the **seed** of thy **father**

yea they

[the **Gentiles**] shall **be numbered**

among the **house of Israel**

and they

[the **Gentiles**] shall **be**

a **blessed** **people** ^[P= blest]

**upon the promised land
forever**

they

[the **Gentiles**] shall **be** NO more brought down

into **captivity**

and the house of Israel

shall NO more **be confounded** ^[see 1 Nephi 15:20]

3

And that **GREAT pit** which hath been **digged** for them

by that **GREAT and abominable church**

which [**GREAT and abominable church**]

was founded

by **the Devil**

and **his children**

that **he [The Devil]** might **lead away** _____ the souls

of men

down to **Hell**

[Par. aa – Repetition “The Lamb of God”]

[1 Nephi 14]

yea that **GREAT pit** which hath been **digged** for the **destruction** of men
[that **GREAT pit**] shall be filled by **those who digged it**
unto their utter **destruction** saith **The Lamb of God**

[but]NOT [unto] the **destruction** of the soul
save it be the casting of it [the soul]
into that **Hell**
which hath **NO end**

4 For behold this is according to the **captivity** of **The Devil**
and also [this is] according to the **justice** of **God**

upon ALL **those** who will work **wickedness**
and [upon ALL **those** who will work] **abomination**
before **Him** [**The Lamb of God**]

5 And **it came to pass**

that [he] **the angel** spake unto **me**
saying

Thou [**Nephi**] hast **beheld**
that **if** the **Gentiles** repent
[**then**] it shall be **well** with them

And thou [**Nephi**] also **knowest**
concerning the **covenants** of **the Lord** unto the house of Israel

and thou [**Nephi**] also hast **heard**
that whoso **repenteth NOT** _____ **MUST perish**

6 **therefore**

Wo be unto _____ the **Gentiles**
if it so be that they _____ **harden their hearts** {AG}
against **The Lamb of God**

7

For **the time cometh** saith **The Lamb of God**

that I [**the Lord**] will **work**
a **GREAT** and a marvelous **work** among the children of men 01
a [**GREAT** and a marvelous **work**] [Quote - expansion of Isaiah 29:14]
which shall be **everlasting**

EITHER on the one **hand** bb

OR on the other [**hand**]

[Heb. 01 – Verb and noun with the same root “work”]

[Par. bb – Contrasting]

EITHER to the **convincing** of them [the children of men]
unto **peace**
and [unto] **life eternal**

OR unto the **deliverance** of them [the children of men]
to the **hardness of their hearts**
and [to] the **blindness of their minds**

[and] unto their being **brought down**

into **captivity**
and also into **destruction** [P= unto]
both temporally
and spiritually

according to the **captivity** of **The Devil**
of which [**captivity**]

I [**the Lord**] have **spoken**

*According to Covenant Law "There Are Save Two Churches Only:
The One Is the Church of The Lamb of God
And the Other Is The Church of the Devil"*

8 And **it came to pass**

that **when** [he] **the angel** had **spoken** these **words**
[he] [**the angel**] **said** unto **me**

[P= saith]

Rememberest thou the **covenants** of **the Father** ["est" added]
unto the **house of Israel?**

[and] I [**Nephi**] **said** unto **him** [P= saith]

Yea

9 And **it came to pass**

that **he** [**the angel**] **said** unto **me** [P= saith]

Look
and **behold**

that **GREAT and abominable church**
which is **the mother of abominations**
whose **^founder / foundation** is **The Devil** [^P / 1830]

10 And **he** [**the angel**] **said** unto **me** [P= saith]

Behold there **are** [P= is]

save two **churches only** ["save it be" edited 1837] {AG} cc
the one is the **church** of **The Lamb of God**
and the other is the **church** of **The Devil**

[Par. cc – Detailing + Distribution]

[1 Nephi 14]

Wherefore whoso belongeth NOT to the church of The Lamb of God
belongeth to that GREAT church [of The Devil]
which is the mother of abominations
and she is the whore of ALL the earth

11 And **it came to pass**
that I [Nephi] looked dd
and I [Nephi] beheld
and she the whore of ALL the earth
sat upon MANY waters
[Heb. = had extensive limits]
And she had dominion ee
over ALL the earth ff
among ALL nations
[ALL] kindreds
[ALL] tongues
and [ALL] people

12 And **it came to pass**
that I [Nephi] beheld the church of The Lamb of God
and its numbers were few
because of the wickedness
and [because of the] abominations
of the [GREAT] whore
who sat upon MANY waters [P= which]

Nevertheless
I [Nephi] beheld that the church of The Lamb [of God]
who were the saints of God
were also upon ALL the face of the earth
and their dominions upon [ALL] the face of the earth
were small [P= was]
because of the wickedness
of the GREAT whore whom [P= which]
I [Nephi] saw

13 And **it came to pass**
that I [Nephi] beheld that the GREAT mother of abominations
did gather together in / [] multitudes [^O / deleted in 1830]
upon the face of ALL the earth
among ALL the nations
of the Gentiles
to fight against The Lamb of God

[Par. dd – Repetition “Nephi”]

[Par. ee – Distribution list]

[Par. ff – Repetition of the word “ALL”]

The Covenant Power of The Lamb of God Will Prevail
All His Covenants Will Be Fulfilled

14 And **it came to pass** **
 that I **Nephi** **beheld** **the power** _____ of **The Lamb of God**
 that it **[the power]** of **The Lamb of God**
 descended upon the **saints**
 of the **church** of **The Lamb**
 and upon the **covenant people** of **The Lord**
 who were scattered [P= which
 upon **ALL the face of the earth**
 and they **[the saints**
 and the **covenant people]**
 were armed with **righteousness**
 and with the **power** of **God** in **GREAT glory**
[by the Lord]

15 And **it came to pass**
 that I **[Nephi]** **beheld**
 that **the wrath of God** was poured out
 upon **that/ the GREAT and abominable church** [O/P]
 insomuch that there were **wars** and rumors of **wars**
 among **ALL the nations [of the earth]**
 and **[among ALL the] kindreds of the earth**

16 **And as** there **began to be wars** and rumors of **wars**
 among **ALL the nations [of the earth]**
 which belonged to **the mother of abominations**

[he] the angel spake unto me
saying

Behold **the wrath of God**
 is upon **the mother of harlots**

and **behold**
 thou **[Nephi] seest** ALL these **things**—

[Par. ** -- Like paragraph beginnings or Repetition of the same initiator “And it came to pass”]

[1 Nephi 14]

[Note: According to Greg Wright (1976:8) and Donald Parry (1992:25), the above verses can be arranged in the form of *chiastic parallelism*. I have adapted that form to my style as follows:

15 And it came to pass
 that [A] I [Nephi] beheld
 that [B] the wrath of God was poured out
 [C] upon that great and abominable church
 insomuch that [D] there were wars and rumors of wars
 [E] among ALL the nations
 [E] and [among ALL the] kindreds of the earth
 16 And as [D] there began to be wars and rumors of wars
 among ALL the nations which
 [C] belonged to the mother of abominations
 the angel spake unto me [Nephi] saying
 Behold
 [B] the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots and
 behold
 [A] thou [Nephi] seest ALL these things—

17 And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out
 upon the mother of harlots
 which is the GREAT and abominable church
 of ALL the earth
 whose ^{^P}founder / foundation is The Devil
 [^P / 1837]

Then at that day

A→B *the work of The Father shall *commence gg
 B→C *[commence] in *preparing The Way
 C→D *[preparing The Way] for the fulfilling of *His covenants
 D→E *which [covenants] He [The Father] hath made to *His people
 E→F *[His people] who are of *the house of Israel [P = which]

John the Apostle Will Write the Remainder of What
 Nephi and Lehi Saw Concerning God's Covenant Plan
 Others Also Have Witnessed All Things from the Beginning

18 And it came to pass
 that the angel spake unto me
 saying
 Look
 19 And I [Nephi] looked
 and beheld a man
 and he [the man] was dressed in a white robe

[Par. gg – Climactic “step-up” parallelism]

20 And the angel said unto me
Behold one of the Twelve Apostles of _____ The Lamb

21 Behold _____ he shall see
and [he shall] write the remainder
of these things

hh
ii

yea and [he shall write] also
MANY things which have been

22 And he shall also write concerning the end of the world

23 Wherefore _____ the things
which he shall write
are just
and true

And behold _____ they [the things]
are written in the book
which [book]
thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew

{AG}

and at the time they [the things]
proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew

or at the time the book
proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew
the things which
were written
were plain
and pure
and MOST precious
and easy to the understanding of ALL men

24 And behold _____ the things
which this Apostle of _____ The Lamb
shall write
are MANY things
which thou [Nephi] hast seen

And behold _____ the remainder
[of the things]
shalt
thou [Nephi] see

[Par. hh – Repetition “write”]

[Par. ii – Repetition “things”]

[1 Nephi 14]

25 And behold] _____ the things
 which thou [Nephi] shalt see hereafter
 thou [Nephi] shalt NOT write
 for [He the Lord God] hath ordained the Apostle of _____ The Lamb of God
 that he [the Apostle of _____] The Lamb of God
 should write them
 [these things]

26 And also [He the Lord God] hath ordained others who have been [P= which]

To them [the ordained others]
 hath
 He [the Lord God] shown ALL things
 and they [the ordained others]
 have written them
 [ALL things]
 And they [ALL things] are sealed up
 to come forth in their purity
 according to the truth
 which [truth]
 is in The Lamb
the Lord
 in the own due time of
 unto the House of Israel

27 And I Nephi heard jj
 and [I Nephi] bear record
 that the name of the Apostle of The Lamb
 was John
 according to the word
 of the angel

28 And behold
 that I Nephi am forbidden
 should write the remainder
 of the things
 which I [Nephi] saw
 and [I Nephi] heard [^O [] / added in P]

 [Par. jj – Like beginnings “I Nephi”]

Wherefore which I [Nephi] have written the things sufficeth me

And I [Nephi] have **NOT** written but a small part of the things [deleted in 1920] {AG}

which I [Nephi] saw

29 And I [Nephi] bear record
 that I [Nephi] saw the things [Bookend #2:part B]
 which my father saw

and [that] the angel of the Lord did make them known unto me

[Ending]

30 And now

02

I [Nephi] **make an end** of speaking concerning the things

which I [Nephi] saw

while I [Nephi] was carried away in the Spirit [Bookend #2:part A]
 [See 1 Nephi 11:1]

and [even] if ALL the things

which I [Nephi] saw are NOT written

[nevertheless] [ALL] the things

which I [Nephi] have written
 are true

And **thus it is
 Amen**

* * *

{Original 1830 Chapter Break—end of Chapter III}

[Heb. 02 – Use of “make an end”]

[Note: In verses 28-29, Nephi testifies that he “**saw**” and “**heard**” the things in his vision which not only the Apostle John saw and heard, but which his “father saw [and heard].” Kevin Tolley writes: “Nephi introduces and concludes his first major visionary experience with the same phrase coined by Jeremiah. Nephi prefaces his four chapter vision (1 Nephi 11–14) with a desire to “see, and hear” the things that his father had experienced. [1 Nephi 10:17].

To clarify the reference to Jeremiah, Tolley notes:

Jeremiah gives a clear-cut criterion for a true prophet sent by the Lord when he says, “For who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard His word? Who hath marked His word, and

[1 Nephi 14]

heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18). . . . Although this English rendering captures the main concept, it lacks many of the nuances of the Hebrew text. “In Jeremiah 23:18, ‘perceived’ is the King James translation for the Hebrew verb *ra’ah*, which means, in its most basic sense, ‘to see.’” (David E. Bokovoy, “The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon: Still Losing the Battle,” *FARMS Review* 18/1 (2006):8) . . .

Essentially, to be a true messenger one must “see and hear” what has taken place in the “counsel of the Lord.” The latter is another phrase that has deeper meaning than what the English rendering would suggest. The Hebrew term points to “the assembly of Yahweh” or a “council of holy ones,” as opposed to “advice” from the Lord, as the KJV proposes. According to Jeremiah, the validity of a prophetic call is contingent upon the experience of standing in the assembly of Jehovah as a witness of one who “saw and heard.” (Kevin L. Tolley, “To ‘See and Hear.’” *Interpreter: A Journal of Mormon Scripture* 18 (2016): 139–58.)

Thus, Nephi legitimizes his calling as a prophet, as well as that of John the Apostle and his father Lehi. In *Isaiah* 6 (2 Ne. 16), the **prophet Isaiah** gives a similar report of his being taken up into this heavenly council.]

[Note: Steven L. Olsen writes on the significance of *Isaiah’s* writings to Nephi:

While Lehi’s interest in the brass plates centers on the genealogy of his fathers (see 1 Ne. 3:3,12; 5:11-16), Nephi emphasizes the **prophecies of Isaiah** (1 Ne. 6:1; 1 Ne. 20—21; 2 Ne. 7; 2 Ne. 12—24). These prophecies provide an authoritative antecedent to and doctrinal elaboration of Nephi’s vision. . . .

The strong thematic connections between *Isaiah’s* prophecies and Nephi’s vision allow Nephi to liken *Isaiah’s* prophecies unto his people, “for our profit and learning” (1 Ne. 19:23). **In short, Nephi is able to interpret *Isaiah’s* prophecies authoritatively because he had received [or seen and heard] a comparable vision.** An implication of this correspondence is that Nephi selected the prophecies from the brass plates that provide historical antecedence and spiritual legitimacy for his own.

Steven Olsen then lists the following **parallels** in Nephi’s writings between Nephi’s vision in 1 Nephi and Nephi’s summary (or “testimony”) chapters at the end of 2 Nephi (the end of Nephi’s record):

THEME	VISION (1 Nephi)	TESTIMONY (2 Nephi)
Christ ministers to Jews in the Holy Land	11:27-28, 31	25:10:10-12, 19
Christ ordains twelve apostles	11:29, 34	
Christ is tried and crucified	11:32-33	25:13
Apostles are persecuted; Jews scattered	11:34	25:14-15
Restoration of Israel by the Nephite record	13:34-37	25:17-22; 27:6-35; 29:1-14
Destruction of wicked at the end of time	11:35-36	30:9-10
Wars and destructions among Nephites	12:6-10	26:1,8-9
Righteous utopia among Nephites	12:11-12	26:9
Nephites destroyed as a people	12:13-19	26:10-11
Conversion of Jews and Gentiles	13:33-37; 14:5-17	26:12-16
Conditions of apostasy	13:1-9	26:20-22; 27:1-5; 28:3-32
Gentiles to occupy the promised land	13:10-19	26:19
The “record of the Jews”	13:20-29	
Salvation of God’s children	13:37-42; 14:7-17	30:88-18
Condition of salvation for Gentiles	14:1-6	30:1-7

(Steven L. Olsen, “The Centrality of Nephi’s Vision,” *Religious Educator*, vol 11 no. 2 (2010): 61-62)]