

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MORMONISM



Edited by
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of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

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NEPHI₃

Nephi₃ was the eldest son of Nephi₂. He was given responsibility for all the Nephite records in 1 B.C. (3 Ne. 1:2). Because of his great faith and his concern for his people, he was told by the voice of Jesus the day before Jesus' birth that the Savior would be born "on the morrow." Later, he consolidated, led, and defended the righteous, moving them to the land Bountiful. He survived the destructions occurring in the Western Hemisphere at the Savior's death (3 Ne. 8–9) and was the first to whom the resurrected Christ gave the power to baptize (3 Ne. 11:18–12). He served as the leading disciple in the Church spoken of in this part of the Book of Mormon and saw his people enjoy years of peace and righteousness.

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MELVIN J. THORNE

NEPHI₄

Nephi₄ was the son of NEPHI₃. Nephi₄ kept the Nephite records during the extraordinarily blessed era that followed the appearance of Jesus Christ to the Nephites. He saw his people live in love, unity (having all things in common), righteousness, and obedience because the love of God abounded in their hearts. A type of UNITED ORDER OF LAW OF CONSECRATION was practiced by them during this time. His people experienced the rebuilding of cities, prosperity, miracles, peace, and happiness. Little else is known about his life. He died sometime after A.D. 110 (see 4 Ne. 1:1–19).

MELVIN J. THORNE

NEPHITES

[The Nephites are the primary group who kept the record known as the Book of Mormon. This complex population was initially descended from Lehi through four of his sons (Sam, Nephi₁, Jacob, and Joseph) and their friend Zoram, although the descendants of other people also joined themselves to the Nephites from time to time (see Book of Mormon Peoples). The Nephites were dis-

tinguished by their belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ, as taught by Lehi and Nephi, as opposed to the lack of faith of the Lamanites, often their enemies but also descendants of Lehi.

For an account of Nephite life, see Book of Mormon Economy and Technology. Political and legal practices among the Nephites are described in Book of Mormon, Government and Legal History in. The traditions of record keeping among the Nephites are summarized in Book of Mormon Plates and Records. Nephite religious belief and culture are detailed in Book of Mormon Religious Teachings and Practices. Nephite women and their contributions are reported in Book of Mormon, Women in.]

NEUM

Neum was an ancient Israelite PROPHET whose words were contained on the PLATES of brass, a record carried to the Western Hemisphere from JERUSALEM about 600 B.C. by the Book of Mormon prophet LEHI and his colony. Neum's work is not preserved in the Hebrew Bible or other known sources. Concerning the time of his writing, it is only definite that he predated Lehi's departure.

Neum is mentioned only once in the Book of Mormon. In writing to his future readers, NEPHI₁ cited him along with other prophets who foretold aspects of the mortal mission of JESUS CHRIST. According to Neum's words, the God of ABRAHAM, Isaac, and Jacob (Jesus Christ) would be crucified (1 Ne. 19:10). This confirmed what Nephi himself had seen previously in a vision (1 Ne. 11:32–33).

KENT P. JACKSON

NEVADA, PIONEER SETTLEMENTS IN

Latter-day Saints constructed Nevada's first log cabins and founded what became the state's first permanent white settlement when, in 1849, would-be gold miners established a trading post at present-day Genoa (Carson Valley, near Reno) to supply those en route to the goldfields in northern California.

The present state of Nevada lay within the original boundaries of Utah Territory as established by Congress in 1850, and in 1855 territorial governor Brigham YOUNG appointed Orson HYDE, an apostle, as probate judge and sent him to Carson Valley to organize a county government. Hyde called for more LDS settlers to establish political