

& it came to pass that I spake unto my Brethren saying let us go up *again* unto Jerusalem & let us be faithful in keep-ing the commandments of the Lord for b(e)hold he is might-er then all the *arth* then why not mighteer then Laban & his fifty yea or even then his tens of thousands

there-fore let us go up Let us be strong like unto Moses for he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea & they divided hither & thither & our fathers came *through* out of **6** Nephi slayeth Laban & C ~~out~~ of captivity on dry ground & the armies of Pharro *did* follow & were drowned in the waters of the Red Sea

now behold *ye* know that this is true & ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you wherefore can ye doubt let us *go* up the lord is able to deliver us *even* as our fa-theers & to destroy Laban even as the Egyptians

now wh-en I had spoken these words they was yet roth & did still continue to murmur nevertheless they did follow me up until we came with out the walls of Jerusalem

& it was by night & I caused that they should hide themsel-ves without the wall & after that they had hid themselves I Nephi crept *into* the City & went *forth* towards the house of Laban

& I was Led by the spirit not knowing *beforehand* the things which I should do

nevertheless I went forth & as I came near unto the house of laban I beheld *a* man & he had *fallen* to the Earth before me for he was drunken with wine

7 & when I came to him *I* found that it was Laban

& beheld his sword & I drew it forth from the sheath thereof & the hilt thereof was of pure Gold & the *workmanship* thereof was excee-ding fine & I saw *that* the blade thereof was of the most precious steel

CHAPTER 4

Nephi slays Laban at the Lord's command and then secures the plates of brass by stratagem—Zoram chooses to join Lehi's family in the wilderness. About 600–592 B.C.

¹**And** it came to pass that I spake unto my **brethren**, saying: **Let** us go up again unto Jerusalem, **and** let us be faithful in keep[-]ing the commandments of the Lord; for **behold** he is mighti[-]er **than** all the **earth**, then why not mightier **than** Laban **and** his fifty, yea, or even **than** his tens of thousands?

²There[-]fore let us go up; let us be strong like unto Moses; for he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea **and** they divided hither **and** thither, **and** our fathers came through, out of [X_X_X_X_] [X_X] captivity, on dry ground, **and** the armies of Pharaoh did follow **and** were drown[-]ed in the waters of the Red Sea.

³Now behold ye know that this is true; **and** ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you; wherefore can ye doubt? **Let** us go up; the **Lord** is able to deliver us, even as our fa[-]the[]rs, **and** to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians.

⁴Now wh[-]en I had spoken these words, they **were** yet **wroth**, **and** did still continue to murmur; nevertheless they did follow me up until we came with[-]out the walls of Jerusalem.

⁵**And** it was by night; **and** I caused that they should hide themsel[-]ves without the walls. **And** after [X] they had hid themselves, I, Nephi, crept into the **city** **and** went forth towards the house of Laban.

⁶**And** I was led by the **Spirit**, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.

⁷Nevertheless I went forth, **and** as I came near unto the house of **Laban** I beheld a man, **and** he had fallen to the **earth** before me, for he was drunken with wine.

⁸**And** when I came to him I found that it was Laban.

⁹**And** I beheld his sword, **and** I drew it forth from the sheath thereof; **and** the hilt thereof was of pure **gold**, **and** the workmanship thereof was excee[-]dingly fine, **and** I saw that the blade thereof was of the most precious steel.

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& it came to pass that I was constrained by the spirit that I should kill Laban but I said in my heart never at any time have I shed the blood of man & I shrunk & would that I might not slay him

(&) the spirit saith unto me a gain behold the Lor-d hath delivered him into thy hands yea & I also knew that he had sought to take away mine own life yea & he would not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord & he also had taken away our property

& it came to pass that the spirit said unto me again ~~to me~~ slay him for the Lord hath delivered him in-to thy hands

behold the Lord slayeth the ewicked to bring forth his righteous purposes it is better that one man should perish then that a nation should dwin-dle & perish in unbelieve

& now when I nephi had heard these words I remembered the words of the Lord which he spake unto me in the wilderness saying that in as much as thy seed shall keep my command-ments they shall prosper in the land of promise

yea & I also thought that they could not keep the Commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses save they should have the law

& I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of Brass

& again I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for this cause that I might obtain the Reckords according to his commandments

therefore I did obey the vo-ice of the spirit & took Laban by the hair of the head & I smote off his head with his own sword

& after that I had smote off his ~~own~~ head with his own sword I took the garmen-ts of Laban & put them upon mine own boddy yea even every whit & I did gird on his armour about my loins

& after that I had done this I went forth unto the treasury of Laban & as I went forth towards the treasury of Laban behold I saw the servant of Laban which had the keys of the treasury [Nephi obtains the Records 7](#)
And i commanded him in the voice of laban that he should Go with me intu the treashury

¹⁰And it came to pass that I was constrained by the Spirit that I should kill Laban; but I said in my heart: Never at any time have I shed the blood of man. And I shrunk and would that I might not slay him.

¹¹And the Spirit said[] unto me a[]gain: Behold the Lor[-]d hath delivered him into thy hands. Yea, and I also knew that he had sought to take away mine own life; yea, and he would not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord; and he also had taken away our property.

¹²And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me again [X_X]: Slay him, for the Lord hath delivered him in[-]to thy hands;

¹³Behold the Lord slayeth the []wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwin[-]dle and perish in unbelief[].

¹⁴And now, when I, Nephi, had heard these words I remembered the words of the Lord which he spake unto me in the wilderness, saying that: In []as []much as thy seed shall keep my command[-]ments, they shall prosper in the land of promise.

¹⁵Yea, and I also thought that they could not keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses, save they should have the law.

¹⁶And I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of brass.

¹⁷And again, I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for this cause—that I might obtain the rec[]ords according to his commandments.

¹⁸Therefore I did obey the vo[-]ice of the Spirit, and took Laban by the hair of the head, and I smote off his head with his own sword.

¹⁹And after [X] I had smitten off his [X] head with his own sword, I took the garmen[-]ts of Laban and put them upon mine own bod[]; yea, even every whit; and I did gird on his armo[]r about my loins.

²⁰And after [X] I had done this, I went forth unto the treasur[]y of Laban. And as I went forth towards the treasur[]y of Laban, behold, I saw the servant of Laban who had the keys of the treasur[]y. [X_X_X_X]
And I commanded him in the voice of Laban, that he should go with me into the treas[]ury.

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and he sposing me to Be his Master laben for he beheld the garments & Also the Sword Girded about my loins

and he Spake unto me conserning the elders of the jews he knowing that his Master laban had b(e)en out By night among them

and I spake unto him as if it had ben laban

and i also spake unto him that I Should carry the ingravings which ware uppon the Plates of brass to my elder brethren which ware without the wall

and i also bade him that he should follow Me

and he supposing that i spake of the brethren of the church and that i was truly that laban whom I had ~~had~~ Slew where fore he did follow me

and he spake unto me menny times conserning the elders Of the jews as i went forth unto my brethren which Ware without the wall

8 and it came to pass that when laman Saw me he was Exceedingly frightend and also Lemuel and Sam and they fled from before my pressa-ns for they Supposed it was laban and that he had slain Me and had Sot to take away their lives also

and it came to pass that I cald after them and they did hear Me wherefore they did ce(a)nce to flee from my pressance

And it came to pass that when the Servant of laban Beheld my brethran he be gan to trenbel and was About to flee from before me and return to the city Of jerusalem

and now i nephi be ing A man large in Stature and also having receivd much strength of the lord therefore i did siece uppon the servant of laban and held him that he should not flee

and it came to pass that i spake with him that if he would harken un to my words as the lord liveth and as i live even so that if he would harken un to our words we would spare His life

and i Spake unto him even with an oath that he nead not fear that he should be a free Man like unto us if he would go down in the wil()derness with us

²¹And he **supposed** me to **be** his **master**, **Laban**, for he beheld the garments **and also** the **sword** girded about my loins.

²²And he **spake** unto me **concerning** the elders of the **Jews**, he knowing that his **master**, **Laban**, had **been** out **by** night among them.

²³And I **spake** unto him as if it had **been** **Laban**

²⁴And **I** also **spake** unto him that **I** should carry the **engravings**, which **were** up[] on the **plates** of brass, to my elder brethren, **who were** without the walls.

²⁵And **I** also **bade** him that he should follow **me**.

²⁶And he, supposing that **I** **spake** of the brethren of the church, and that **I** was truly that **Laban** whom I had **[X] slain** where[] fore he did follow me.

²⁷And he **spake** unto me **man[]y** times **concerning** the elders **of the Jews**, as **I** went forth unto my brethren, **who were** without the walls.

²⁸And it came to pass that when **Laman** **saw** me he was **exceedingly frightened**, and also Lemuel and Sam. And they fled from before my pres[]e[-]nce; for they **supposed** it was **Laban**, and that he had slain **me** and had **sought** to take away their lives also.

²⁹And it came to pass that I **called** after them, and they did hear **me**; wherefore they did **cease** to flee from my pres[]ence.

³⁰And it came to pass that when the **servant** of **Laban** **beheld** my brethren he be[] gan to **tremble**, and was **about** to flee from before me and return to the cit[]y of **Jerusalem**.

³¹And now **I**, **Nephi**, be[] ing a man large in **stature**, and also having received much strength of the **Lord**, therefore **I** did **seize** up[] on the servant of **Laban**, and held him, that he should not flee.

³²And it came to pass that **I** **spake** with him, that if he would **hearken** un[] to my words, as the **Lord** liveth, and as **I** live, even so that if he would **hearken** un[] to our words, we would spare **his** life.

³³And **I** **spake** unto him, even with an oath, that he **need** not fear; that he should be a free **man** like unto us if he would go down in the wil()derness with us.

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and i also spake unto him saying shurely the lord hath commanded us to do this thing and shall we not be dilligent in keeping the comma()ndment of the lord therefor if thou wilt go down In(to) the wilderness to my father thou shalt have Place with us

an(d) it came to pass that Zoram did take c(o)urrage at the words which i spake now Zorum was the name of the Servand and he promisd that he would go down into the w(i)ld(e)rness unto our father Yea and he also made an oath unto us that he would tarry with us from that time forth

now we ware desirus that he should tarry with us for this cause that the jews might Not k(n)ow conserning our flight into the wilderness lest they should Persue us and destroy us

and it Came to pass that when Zorum had made an oath Unto us our fears did seace conserning ~~th~~ him
■ Lehi searcheth the Records

And it came to pass that we took the plates of brass & the Servant of laban & departed in(to) the wilderness & j(o)urn(i)ed Uuto the tent of our father

³⁴And I also spake unto him, saying: S[_]urely the Lord hath commanded us to do this thing; and shall we not be dil[_]igent in keeping the comma()ndments of the Lord? Therefore, if thou wilt go down into the wilderness to my father thou shalt have place with us.

³⁵And it came to pass that Zoram did take cour[_]age at the words which I spake. Now Zoram was the name of the servant; and he promised that he would go down into the wilderness unto our father. Yea, and he also made an oath unto us that he would tarry with us from that time forth.

³⁶Now we were desirous that he should tarry with us for this cause, that the Jews might not know concerning our flight into the wilderness, lest they should pursue us and destroy us.

³⁷And it came to pass that when Zoram had made an oath unto us, our fears did cease concerning [_] him.
[X_X_X_X]

³⁸And it came to pass that we took the plates of brass and the servant of Laban, and departed into the wilderness, and journeyed unto the tent of our father.