

& it came to pass that I spake unto my Brethren saying let us go up again unto Jerusalem & let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord for behold he is mightier than all the Earth then why not mightier than Laban & his fifty yea or even then his tens of thousands

therefore 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 a thither & our fathers came through out of  
**6** Nephi slayeth Laban & C  
~~out~~ of captivity on dry ground & the armies of Pharaoh 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 fathers & to destroy Laban even as the Egyptians

now when I had spoken these words they were yet wroth & did still continue to murmur nevertheless they did follow me up until we came without the walls of Jerusalem

& it was by night & I caused that they should hide themselves 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 & 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 exceeding fine & I saw then 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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 keeping the commandments of the Lord; for behold he is mightier than all the earth, then why not mightier than Laban and his fifty, yea, or even than his tens of thousands?

<sup>2</sup>Therefore 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.

<sup>3</sup>Now 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 fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians.

<sup>4</sup>Now when I had spoken these words, they were yet wroth, and did still continue to murmur; nevertheless they did follow me up until we came without the walls of Jerusalem.

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

<sup>6</sup>And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.

<sup>7</sup>Nevertheless 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.

<sup>8</sup>And when I came to him I found that it was Laban.

<sup>9</sup>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 exceedingly fine, and I saw that the blade thereof was of the most precious steel.

# BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE

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

& the spirit saith unto me a gain behold the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands yea & I also knew heat he had sought to take away mine own life yea & he would not kearken unto the commandments of the Lord & he also had lfen away our property

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

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

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

yea & I also thought that they could not keep the Commandments of the Lord accordeng 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 delevered Laban unto my hands for this cause that I might obtain the Reckords according to his commandments

therefore I did obey the voice 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 garments of Laban & put them upon mine own boddy yea even every whit & I did gird on his armour about my loins

<sup>10</sup>**And** 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.

<sup>11</sup>**And** the **Spirit** said[ ] unto me a [ ]gain: **Behold** the Lord 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.

<sup>12</sup>**And** it came to pass that the **Spirit** said unto me again to me: **Slay him,** for the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands;

<sup>13</sup>**Behold** the Lord slayeth the [ ]wicked to bring forth his righteous **purposes.** **It** is better that one man should perish **than** that a nation should dwindle **and** perish in unbelief[ ].

<sup>14</sup>**And** 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 commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise.

<sup>15</sup>**Yea,** **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.

<sup>16</sup>**And** I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of **brass.**

<sup>17</sup>**And** 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.

<sup>18</sup>**Therefore** I did obey the voice of the **Spirit,** **and** took Laban by the hair of the head, **and** I smote off his head with his own sword.

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

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

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

and he Spake unto me consenning the elders of the jews he knowing that his Master laban had b<sup>e</sup>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 bretheen 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 consenning the elders Of the jews as i went forth  $\diamond$ nt $\diamond$  my brethren which Ware without the wall

**8** and it came to pass that when laman Saw me he was Exeedingly frightend and also Lemuel and Sam and they fled from before my pressans for they Supposd is 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<sup>a</sup>ce 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 cicce uppon the servant of laban and held him that he should not flee

<sup>20</sup>And after [X] I had done this, I went forth unto the **treasur[ ]y of La[ ]ban. 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**.

<sup>21</sup>And he **supposed** me to **be** his **master, Laban**, for he beheld the garments **and** also the **sword girted** about my loins.

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

<sup>23</sup>And I spake unto him as if it had **been Laban**

<sup>24</sup>And **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.**

<sup>25</sup>And **I** also bade him that he should follow **me**.

<sup>26</sup>And 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.

<sup>27</sup>And 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.**

<sup>28</sup>And 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[ ]ence; for they supposed it was Laban, and that he had slain me and had sought to take away their lives also.**

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

<sup>30</sup>And 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.**

<sup>31</sup>And 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.

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and it came to Pass that i spake with thin 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 need not fear that he should be a free Man like unto us if he would go down in the wilderness with us

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 coomandment of the lord therefore if thou wilt go down In the wileerness to my father thou shalt have Place with us

and it came to pass that Zoram did take courage 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

now we were desirous that he should tarry with us for this cause that the jews might Not know concerning our flight into the wildersess lest they should Pursue us and destroy us

and it Came to pass that when Zorun had made an oath unto us our fears did cease concerning him

**■** Lehi searcheth the Records

And it came to pass that we took the plates of brass & the Servant of laban & departed into the wilderness & journeyed unto the tent of our father

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

<sup>33</sup>And 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 wilderness with us.

<sup>34</sup>And I also spake unto him, saying: Surely the Lord hath commanded us to do this thing; and shall we not be diligent in keeping the commandments of the Lord? Therefore, if thou wilt go down into the wilderness to my father thou shalt have place with us.

<sup>35</sup>And it came to pass that Zoram did take courage 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.

<sup>36</sup>Now 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.

<sup>37</sup>And it came to pass that when Zoram had made an oath unto us, our fears did cease concerning [ ] him.  
[X\_X\_X\_X]

<sup>38</sup>And 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.