

& it came to pass that we did again take our journey in the wilderness & we did travel nearly eastward from that time foreh & we did travel & wade through much affliction in the wilderness & our women bare children in the Wilderness

& so great was the blessings of the Lord upon us that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness our women did give plenty of suck for their Children & were strong yea even like unto the men & they begaan to bare their journeyings ~~wouth~~ without ~~amurmureng~~

‡& thus we see that the commandmens of God must be fulfilled & if it so be that the children of men keep the commandmens of God he doth nourish them & strengthen them & provide ways & means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he hath commanded them wherefore he did provide way<sup>s</sup> & means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness

& we did sojourn for the space of many years yea even eight years in the wilderness

& we did come to the land which we called Bountiful because of its much fruit & also wild honey & all these things were prepared of the Lord that we might not perish & we beheld the sea which we calleed ■ Irreantum which being interpreted is many Waters

& it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the Sea shore & notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions & much difficulty yea even so much that we cannot write them all we was exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the sea shore & we caeled the 32 place Bountiful because of its much fruit

& it came to pass that after I Nephi had been in the land Bountiful for the space of many days the voice of the Lord came unto me saying arise & get thee into the mountain & it came to pass that I arose & went up into the mountain & cried unto the Lord

**CHAPTER 17**

*Nephi is commanded to build a ship—His brethren oppose him—He exhorts them by recounting the history of God's dealings with Israel—Nephi is filled with the power of God—His brethren are forbidden to touch him, lest they wither as a dried reed. About 592–591 B.C.*

<sup>1</sup>**And** it came to pass that we did again take our journey in the wilderness; **and** we did travel nearly eastward from that time forth. **And** we did travel **and** wade through much affliction in the wilderness; **and** our women **did bear** children in the wilderness.

<sup>2</sup>**And** so great **were** the blessings of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children **and** were strong, yea, even like unto the men; **and** they beg[ ]an to **bear** their journeyings [ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] without [ ]murmurings.

<sup>3</sup>[ ]**And** thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. **And** if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them **and**, strengthen them, **and** provide [X\_X] means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; wherefore he did provide [X\_X] means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness.

<sup>4</sup>**And** we did sojourn for the space of many years, yea, even eight years in the wilderness.

<sup>5</sup>**And** we did come to the land which we called Bountiful, because of its much fruit **and** also wild honey; **and** all these things were prepared of the Lord that we might not perish. **And** we beheld the sea, which we calle[ ]d Irreantum, which, being interpreted is many waters.

<sup>6</sup>**And** it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the sea[ ]shore; **and** notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions **and** much difficulty, yea, even so much that we cannot write them all, we **were** exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the sea[ ]shore; **and** we called the place Bountiful, because of its much fruit.

<sup>7</sup>**And** it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been in the land **of** Bountiful for the space of many days, the voice of the Lord came unto me, saying: **Arise, and get thee** into the mountain. **And** it came to pass that I arose **and** went up into the mountain, **and** cried unto the Lord.

# BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE

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& it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me saying thou shalt construct a ship after the manner which I shall shew thee that I may carry thy People across these waters

& I sayeth Lord whither shall I go that I may find oar to moulton that I may make tools to construct the Ship after the matner which thou has shewn unto me

& it came to pass that the Lord told me whither I should go th find ore that I might make tooles

& it came to pass that I Nephi did mak Bellowses wherewith to blow the fire of the skins of beasts & after that I had made bellowses that I might have wherewith to ~~beow~~<sup>blow</sup> the fire I did smote two stones together that I might make fire

ƒe for the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should make much fire as we journied in the wilderness for hee sayeth I will make that ~~they~~ thy food shall become sweet that ye cook it not

& I will also be your light in the wilderness & I will prepare the way before you if it so tha that ye shall keep my commandments wherefore in as much as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be lead towards the promised land & ye shall know that it is by me that ye are ledd

untoa & the Lord said also that after ye have ariven to the promised land ye shall know that I the Lord am God & that I the Lord did deliver yeu from destruction yea that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem

wherefore I Nephi did strive to keep the commandments of the Lord & d did exhort my Brethren to faithfulness & diligence

& it came to pass that I did make tooles of the ore wchich I did moulton out of the rock

& when my Brethren saw that I was about to build a ship they began to murmur against me saeing our Brother is a fool for he thinketh that he can build a ship yea & he also thinketh that he can cross these great waters

<sup>8</sup>**And** it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying: **Thou** shalt construct a ship, after the manner which I shall **show** thee, that I may carry thy **people** across these waters.

<sup>9</sup>**And I said:** Lord, whither shall I go that I may find **ore** to mo[ ]lten, that I may make tools to construct the **ship** after the **manner** which thou has**t** **shown** unto me?

<sup>10</sup>**And** it came to pass that the Lord told me whither I should go **to** find ore, that I might make tool[ ]s.

<sup>11</sup>**And** it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make **a** bellows[ ] wherewith to blow the fire, of the skins of beasts; **and** after [X] I had made **a** bellows[ ], that I might have where[ ]with to [ ] **blow** the fire, I did **smite** two stones together that I might make fire.

<sup>12</sup>[ ] **F**or the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should make much fire, as we jour**neyed** in the wilderness; for he[ ] **said:** I will make [X] [X] thy food [X] become sweet, that ye cook it not;

<sup>13</sup>**And** I will also be your light in the wilderness; **and** I will prepare the way before you, if it so **be** that ye shall keep my commandments; wherefore, in[ ]as[ ]much as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be le[ ]d towards the promised land; **and** ye shall know that it is by me that ye are le[ ]d.

<sup>14</sup>**Yea, and** the Lord said also that: **A**fter ye have **arrived in** the promised land, ye shall know that I, the Lord, am God; **and** that I, the Lord, did deliver **you** from destruction; yea, that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup>**Wherefore,** I, Nephi, did strive to keep the commandments of the Lord, **and I** did exhort my **brethren** to faithfulness **and** diligence.

<sup>16</sup>**And** it came to pass that I did make tool[ ]s of the ore w[ ]hich I did mo[ ]lten out of the rock.

<sup>17</sup>**And** when my **brethren** saw that I was about to build a ship, they began to murmur against me, saying: **O**ur **brother** is a fool, for he thin[ ]keth that he can build a ship; yea, **and** he also thinketh that he can cross these great waters.

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& thus my Brethren did complain against me & were desirous that they might not labour for they did not believe that I could build a ship neither would they believe that I were instructed of the Lord

& now it came to pass that I Nephi was exceeding sorrowful because of the hardness of their hearts & now when they saw that I began to be sorrowful they were glad in their hearts insomuch that they did rejoice over me saying we knew that ye could not construct a ship for we knew that ye were lacking in judgment wherefore thou canst not accomplish so great a work

& thou art like unto our father lead away by the foolish imaginations of his heart yea he hath lead us out of the land of Jerusalem & we have wandered in the wilderness for these many years & our women have toiled being big with child & they have borne children in the wilderness & suffered all things save it were death & it would have been better that they had died before they came out of Jerusalem than to have suffered these afflictions

behold these many years we have suffered in the wilderness which time we might have enjoyed our possessions & the land of our inheritance yea & we might have been happy

& we know that the People which were in the land of Jerusalem were a righteous People for they keep the statutes & the judgments of the Lord & all his commandments according to the law of Moses wherefore we know that they are a righteous People & our father hath judged them & hath lead us away because we would hearken unto his word yea & our Brother is like unto him & after this manner of language did my Brethren murmur & complain against us

& it came to pass that I Nephi spake unto them saying do ye believe that our fathers which were the Children of Israel would have been lead away out of the hands of the Egyptians if they had not hearkened unto the words of the Lord

yea do ye suppose that they would have been lead out of bondage if the Lord had not commanded Moses that he should lead them out of Bondage

<sup>18</sup>And thus my brethren did complain against me, and were desirous that they might not labour, for they did not believe that I could build a ship; neither would they believe that I was instructed of the Lord.

<sup>19</sup>And now it came to pass that I, Nephi, was exceedingly sorrowful because of the hardness of their hearts; and now when they saw that I began to be sorrowful they were glad in their hearts, insomuch that they did rejoice over me, saying: We knew that ye could not construct a ship, for we knew that ye were lacking in judgment; wherefore, thou canst not accomplish so great a work.

<sup>20</sup>And thou art like unto our father, led away by the foolish imaginations of his heart; yea, he hath led us out of the land of Jerusalem, and we have wandered in the wilderness for these many years; and our women have toiled, being big with child; and they have borne children in the wilderness and suffered all things, save it were death; and it would have been better that they had died before they came out of Jerusalem than to have suffered these afflictions.

<sup>21</sup>Behold, these many years we have suffered in the wilderness, which time we might have enjoyed our possessions and the land of our inheritance; yea, and we might have been happy.

<sup>22</sup>And we know that the people who were in the land of Jerusalem were a righteous people; for they kept the statutes and judgments of the Lord, and all his commandments, according to the law of Moses; wherefore, we know that they are a righteous people; and our father hath judged them, and hath led us away because we would hearken unto his words; yea, and our brother is like unto him. And after this manner of language did my brethren murmur and complain against us.

<sup>23</sup>And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake unto them, saying: Do ye believe that our fathers, who were the children of Israel, would have been led away out of the hands of the Egyptians if they had not hearkened unto the words of the Lord?

<sup>24</sup>Yea, do ye suppose that they would have been led out of bondage, if the Lord had not commanded Moses that he should lead them out of bondage?



# BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE

## OM/PM Manuscripts

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behold the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one he that is righteous is favoured of God bet behold this people had rejected every word of God & they were ripe in iniquity & the fallness of the wrath of God was upon them & the Lord did curse the land against them & bless it unto tur fathers yea he did curse it against them unto their destruction & he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it

behold the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited & he hath created his Children that they should possess it

& he raiseth up a righteous Nation & destroyeth the Nations of the wicked

& he leadeth away the righteous unto precious lands & the wicked he destroyeth & curseth the land unto them for their sakes

he ruleth high in the heavens for it is his thron & his earth is his footstool

he loveth them which will have him to be their God behold he loved our fathrs & he covenanted with them ye<sup>a</sup> even Abraham Isaac & Jacob & he remembered the covenants which he had made wherefore he did bring them out of the land of Egypt

& he did straiten them in the wilderness with his rod for they hardoned their hearts even as ye have & the Lord straitened them because of their iniquity he sent flying firey serpants among them & after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed & the labour which they had to perform were to look & because of the simplicitness of the way or the easiness of it there were many which perished

& they did heardon their hearts from time to time & they did revile against Moses & also against God nevertheless ye know that they were lead forth by his matchless power into the land of promise

& now after all these things the time has come that they have become wicked yea nearly unto ripeness & I know not but they are at this day about to be destroid for I know that the day must surely come that they must be destroyed save a few only which shall be lead away into captivity

<sup>35</sup>Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one; he that is righteous is favo[ ]red of God. **But** behold, this people had rejected every word of God, **and** they were ripe in iniquity; **and** the ful[ ]ness of the wrath of God was upon them; **and** the Lord did curse the land against them, **and** bless it unto our fathers; yea, he did curse it against them unto their destruction, **and** he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it.

<sup>36</sup>Behold, the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited; **and** he hath created his children that they should possess it.

<sup>37</sup>**And** he raiseth up a righteous nation, **and** destroyeth the nations of the wicked.

<sup>38</sup>**And** he leadeth away the righteous into precious lands, **and** the wicked he destroyeth, **and** curseth the land unto them for their sakes.

<sup>39</sup>He ruleth high in the heavens, for it is his throne, **and** this earth is his footstool.

<sup>40</sup>**And** he loveth those who will have him to be their God. Behold, he loved our fath[ ]ers, **and** he covenanted with them, yea, even Abraham, [X] Isaac, **and** Jacob; **and** he remembered the covenants which he had made; wherefore, he did bring them out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>41</sup>**And** he did straiten them in the wilderness with his rod; for they hardened their hearts, even as ye have; **and** the Lord straitened them because of their iniquity. He sent fiery flying serpents among them; **and** after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed; **and** the labo[ ]r which they had to perform was to look; **and** because of the simpl[ ]eness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished.

<sup>42</sup>**And** they did h[ ]arden their hearts from time to time, **and** they did revile against Moses, **and** also against God; nevertheless, ye know that they were le[ ]d forth by his matchless power into the land of promise.

<sup>43</sup>**And** now, after all these things, the time has come that they have become wicked, yea, nearly unto ripeness; **and** I know not but they are at this day about to be destroyed; for I know that the day must surely come that they must be destroyed, save a few only, who shall be le[ ]d away into captivity.

# BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE

## OM/PM Manuscripts

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wherefore the Lord commanded my father that he should depart into the wilderness & the Jews also sought to take away his life yea & ye also have sought to take away his life wherefore ye are murderers in your hearts & ye are like unto they

ye are swift to do eniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God ye have seen an angel & he spake unto you yea h ye have heard his voice from time to time & he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice but ye ware past feeling that ye could not feel his words wherefore he hath spoken unto you like unto the voice --35 of thunder which did cause he earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder

& ye also know that by the power of his almighty word he can cause the earth that it shall pass anay yea & ye know that by his word he can cause that rough places be made smoth & smooth places shall be broken up O then why is it that ye can be so hard in your hearts

behold my soul is ~~rent~~ wrent with anguish because of you & my heart is pained i fear least ye shall be cast off forever behold I am full of ~~with~~ of the spirit of God insomuch as if my frame had no strenght

& now it came to pass that when I had spoken these words they were angry with me & were desirous to throw me into the debths of the sea & as they cane forth to lay their hands upon me I spake unto them saying in the name of the Almighty God I command you that ye touch me not for I am filled with the power of God even unto the consumeing of my flesh & whoso shall lay their hands upon me shall wither even as a ~~dred~~ dried weed & he shall be as nought before the power of God for God shall smite him

& it came to pass that I Nephi sayeth unto them that they should murmur no more against their father neither should they withhold their labour from me for God had commanded me that I should build a ship

& I sayeth unto them if God had commanded me do do all things I could do it if ye he should command me that I should say unto this water be thou earth & it shall be earth & if I should say it it would be done

<sup>44</sup>Wherefore, the Lord commanded my father that he should depart into the wilderness; **and** the Jews also sought to take away his life; yea, **and** ye also have sought to take away his life; wherefore, ye are murderers in your hearts **and** ye are like unto them.

<sup>45</sup>Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. Ye have seen an angel, **and** he spake unto you; yea [], ye have heard his voice from time to time; **and** he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words; wherefore, he has[] spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder.

<sup>46</sup>And ye also know that by the power of his almighty word he can cause the earth that it shall pass away; yea, **and** ye know that by his word he can cause the[] rough places to be made smooth, **and** smooth places shall be broken up. O, then, why is it, that ye can be so hard in your hearts?

<sup>47</sup>Behold, my soul is [X \_ \_] []rent with anguish because of you, **and** my heart is pained; I fear le[]st ye shall be cast off forever. Behold, I am full [X\_X \_] of the Spirit of God, insomuch that [X] my frame has no strength.

<sup>48</sup>And now it came to pass that when I had spoken these words they were ang[]ry with me, **and** were desir[]ous to throw me into the depths of the sea; **and** as they came forth to lay their hands upon me I spake unto them, saying: In the name of the Almighty God, I command you that ye touch me not, for I am filled with the power of God, even unto the consum[]ing of my flesh; **and** whoso shall lay his hands upon me shall wither even as a [ \_ \_ \_] dried reed; **and** he shall be as naught before the power of God, for God shall smite him.

<sup>49</sup>And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto them that they should murmur no more against their father; neither should they withhold their labo[]r from me, for God had commanded me that I should build a ship.

<sup>50</sup>And I said unto them: If God had commanded me to do all things I could do them. If [X] he should command me that I should say unto this water, be thou earth, [X] it should be earth; **and** if I should say it, it would be done.

# BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE

## OM/PM Manuscripts

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& now if the Lord hath such great power & hath wrought so many miricle<sup>s</sup> among the children of men how is it that he cannot instruct me that I should build a ship

& it came to pass that I Nephi said many things unto my Brethren insomuch that they were confounded & could not contend against me neither dearst they lay their hands upon me nor touch me with their fingers even for the space of many days now they dedrst not do this least they should wither before me so powerful was the spirit of God & thus it had wro<sup>o</sup>gth upon them

& it came to pass that the Lord said unto me stretch forth thine hand again unto thy Brethren & they shall not wither before the<sup>e</sup> but I will shock them saith he Lord ~~the~~ & this will I do that they may know that I am the Lord their God

& it came to pass that I stretched forth my hand unto my Brethren & they did not wither before me but the Lord did shake them even according to the word which he had spoken

& now they said we know of a surety that the Lord is with thee for we know that it is the power of the Lord that hath shaken me & they fell down before me & were about to worship me but I would not suffer them saying I am thy Brother **36** yea even thy younger Brother wherefore worship the Lord thy God & honnour thy father & thy Mother that thy days may be long the land which the Lord thy God shall give thee

<sup>51</sup>**And** now, if the Lord has[ ] such great power, **and** has[ ] wrought so many miracles among the children of men, how is it that he cannot instruct me, that I should build a ship?

<sup>52</sup>**And** it came to pass that I, Nephi, said many things unto my brethren, insomuch that they were confounded **and** could not contend against me; neither du[ ]rst they lay their hands upon me nor touch me with their fingers, eve[ ]n for the space of many days. **Now** they du[ ]rst not do this le[ ]st they should wither before me, so powerful was the Spirit of God; **and** thus it had wrought upon them.

<sup>53</sup>**And** it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: **Stretch** forth thine hand again unto thy brethren, **and** they shall not wither before the<sup>e</sup>, but I will shock them, saith the Lord, **[X]** **and** this will I do, that they may know that I am the Lord their God.

<sup>54</sup>**And** it came to pass that I stretched forth my hand unto my brethren, **and** they did not wither [ ] before me; but the Lord did shake them, even according to the word which he had spoken.

<sup>55</sup>**And** now, they said: **We** know of a sure[ ]ty that the Lord is with thee, for we know that it is the power of the Lord that has[ ] shaken us. **And** they fell down before me, **and** were about to worship me, but I would not suffer them, saying: I am thy brother, yea, even thy younger brother; wherefore, worship the Lord thy God, **and** hon[ ]o[ ]r thy father **and** thy mother, that thy days may be long **in** the land which the Lord thy God shall give thee.