

## April 15–21: Enos–Words of Mormon, “He Works In Me To Do His Will”

### Overview

These short books are at the end of “the small plates” of Nephi

The small plates of Nephi span about 350 years

The 116 pages that were lost by Martin Harris covered the same time period as the small plates of Nephi

By design, the small plates reveal very little about the history and culture of the Nephies and Laminites

About one-third of the small plates of Nephi are directly or indirectly related to the brass plates

First we'll discuss the book of Enos

Then we'll discuss the reason the small plates of Nephi were included in the record

### Enos: “Mighty Prayer”

Enos tells his story of how received a remission of his sins

Enos 1:1-3

[1] Behold, it came to pass that I, Enos, knowing my father that he was a just man -- for he taught me in his language, and also in the nurture and admonition of the Lord -- and blessed be the name of my God for it --

[2] And I will tell you of the wrestle which I had before God, before I received a remission of my sins.

[3] Behold, I went to hunt beasts in the forests; and the words which I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my heart.

Enos tells us that he had a wrestle before God.

What do you think was the cause of Enos’ “wrestle... before God”?

(the words which I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my heart)

Spencer W. Kimball

“Though Enos had strayed for a time, the teachings of his father prevailed, and he returned to worthiness....

“It is apparent that Enos received his greatest inspiration and training from his own faithful father. And the teachings were frequent and powerful concerning eternal life.

“He was deeply impressed, for he said these teachings from his own father sank into his heart—so deep, so impressive, that now, as conviction of his errors pressed down upon him, he was ready to pay a heavy price for forgiveness.” (CR, April 1965)

The teachings of his father won out as he sought the Lord in mighty prayer for a forgiveness of his sins.

Enos 1:4-8

[4] And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication for mine own soul; and all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came I did still raise my voice high that it reached the heavens.

[5] And there came a voice unto me, saying: Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed.

[6] And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore, my guilt was swept away.

[7] And I said: Lord, how is it done?

[8] And he said unto me: Because of thy faith in Christ, whom thou hast never before heard nor seen. And many years pass away before he shall manifest himself in the flesh; wherefore, go to, thy faith hath made thee whole.

What was it that Enos' soul hungered for?

(forgiveness - back to verse 3)

What does Enos say that makes it clear that he prayed with great earnestness for forgiveness?

(my soul hungered... mighty prayer and supplication... all the day long... when the night came I did still raise my voice)

What did Enos receive because of his earnest supplication?

(And there came a voice unto me, saying: Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed)

Spencer W. Kimball

"The supplication of Enos is written with a pen of anguish and on the paper of faith and with a willingness to prostrate himself totally that he might receive forgiveness. His words are mighty and definitive. He could have said merely, 'I wanted information.' But he said, 'my soul hungered'. He could have merely prayed unto the Lord like so many pray, but in his eagerness for forgiveness, he said, 'I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication for mine own soul'.

"How impressive his words! 'Mighty prayer and supplication' is not the

usual prayer.... What faith! And what was the source of this great sureness except from home and parents?" (CR, April 1965)

After receiving the blessing forgiveness he prayed for his brethren, the Nephites, and also his enemies, the Lamanites, might know the gospel and might also be redeemed

Enos 1:9,11-13

[9] Now, it came to pass that when I had heard these words I began to feel a desire for the welfare of my brethren, the Nephites; wherefore, I did pour out my whole soul unto God for them.

[11] And after I, Enos, had heard these words, my faith began to be unshaken in the Lord; and I prayed unto him with many long strugglings for my brethren, the Lamanites.

[12] And it came to pass that after I had prayed and labored with all diligence, the Lord said unto me: I will grant unto thee according to thy desires, because of thy faith.

[13] And now behold, this was the desire which I desired of him -- that if it should so be, that my people, the Nephites, should fall into transgression, and by any means be destroyed, and the Lamanites should not be destroyed, that the Lord God would preserve a record of my people, the Nephites; even if it so be by the power of his holy arm, that it might be brought forth at some future day unto the Lamanites, that, perhaps, they might be brought unto salvation --

What do we learn about prayer and receiving answers to our prayers from the account of Enos?

(I began to feel a desire  
I did pour out my whole soul unto God  
my faith began to be unshaken  
I will grant unto thee according to thy desires, because of thy faith)

Dallin H. Oaks

“After many hours of pleading with the Lord, Enos was told that his sins were forgiven. He then ‘began to feel a desire for the welfare of [his] brethren.’ He wrote, ‘And ... after I had prayed and labored with all diligence, the Lord said unto me: I will grant unto thee according to thy desires, because of thy faith.’ Note the three essentials that preceded the promised blessing: desire, labor, and faith.” (CR, April 2011)

As stated in verse 13, what is one of the purposes of the Book of Mormon?

(that the Lord God would preserve a record of my people,  
that, perhaps, they might be brought unto salvation)

The Small Plates of Nephi

Nephi explains the purpose his writings

1 Nephi 6:3-5

3 And it mattereth not to me that I am particular to give a full account of all the things of my father, for they cannot be written upon these plates, for I desire the room that I may write of the things of God.

4 For the fulness of mine intent is that I may persuade men to come unto the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and be saved.

5 Wherefore, the things which are pleasing unto the world I do not write, but the things which are pleasing unto God and unto those who are not of the world.

What is the content of “these plates” limited to and why?

(I desire the room that I may write of the things of God  
mine intent is that I may persuade men to come unto the God  
things which are pleasing unto God and unto those who are not of the world)

Neal A. Maxwell

"Naturally, some would like to have even more contextual material about the life, times, and culture of the peoples in the Book of Mormon... Nevertheless, such supportive but ancillary data are not the purpose for which the book has been brought forward. This reality is stated very early in the book itself..

"No wonder these scriptures fail to please or to impress the world. There are those who prefer details on ancient agriculture to the 'bread of life,' who prefer information on the rising of dynasties to insights on the rising of Jesus from the tomb. Perhaps this is so because the former type of data is very interesting without being very demanding. The second type demands both faith and, thereafter, a certain behavior." (But for a Small Moment, pg. 38)

1 Nephi 9:3-6

3... I have received a commandment of the Lord that I should make these plates, for the special purpose that there should be an account engraven of the ministry of my people.

4... these plates are for the more part of the ministry...

5 Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to make these plates for a wise purpose in him, which purpose I know not.

6 But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning; wherefore, he prepareth a way to accomplish all his works among the children of men...

Why has the Lord commanded Nephi to write "these plates"?

(for a wise purpose in him, which purpose I know not)

We will read later that Mormon uses similar wording when he tells us why he included the small plates in his abridgment

## Lost Book of Lehi

No doubt that one “wise purpose” was the great doctrinal insight contained in the small plates.

Perhaps another purpose the Lord had in mind, that Nephi didn’t understand, was to give the Book of Mormon a complete narrative even though the first 116 pages of the translation was lost.

Let's read what Joseph Smith wrote in the preface to the first (1830) edition of the Book of Mormon for an explanation of the lost 116 pages

Preface to the First Edition:

“As many false reports have been circulated respecting the [Book of Mormon], and also many unlawful measures taken by evil designing persons to destroy me, and also the work, I would inform you that I translated, by the gift and power of God, and caused to be written, one hundred and sixteen pages, the which I took from the Book of Lehi, which was an account abridged from the plates of Lehi, by the hand of Mormon”

What do we learn from the preface about the lost translation?

(one hundred and sixteen pages  
from the Book of Lehi  
abridged from the plates of Lehi, by... Mormon)

Preface of the First Edition Continued:

“which said account, some person or persons have stolen and kept from me, notwithstanding my utmost exertions to recover it again—and being commanded of the Lord that I should not translate the same over again, for Satan had put it into their hearts to tempt the Lord their God, by altering the words, that they did read contrary from that which I translated and caused to be written; and if I should bring forth the same words again, or, in other words, if I should translate the same over again, they would publish that which they had stolen”

What was the plan of those who stole this original manuscript?

(altering the words, that they did read contrary from that which I translated...  
they would publish that which they had stolen)

Preface of the First Edition Continued:

“and Satan would stir up the hearts of this generation, that they might not receive this work: but behold, the Lord said unto me, I will not suffer that Satan shall accomplish his evil design in this thing: therefore thou shalt translate from the plates of Nephi,

until ye come to that which ye have translated, which ye have retained; and behold ye shall publish it as the record of Nephi”

Rather than re-translate the Book of Lehi, what was Joseph Smith commanded to do?

(translate from the plates of Nephi... publish it as the record of Nephi)

Preface of the First Edition Continued:

“and thus I will confound those who have altered my words. I will not suffer that they shall destroy my work; yea, I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the Devil. Wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, I have, through his grace and mercy, accomplished that which he hath commanded me respecting this thing.”

If Joseph Smith had re-translate the Book of Lehi, what impact would it of had on the acceptance of the Book of Mormon?

(I will not suffer that they shall destroy my work)

The Lord doesn't seem to be to concerned if the enemies for His work create controversy and discontent which tries the faith of His followers. But here, it seems, He made preparations to make sure that there was no possible credible opposition to the work of the Book of Mormon

Transition to Mormon's Abridgment

With that background, let's read how the Book of Mormon transitions from the small plates of Nephi to Mormon's abridgment

Jarom 1:1-2,14

[1] Now behold, I, Jarom, write a few words according to the commandment of my father, Enos, that our genealogy may be kept.

[2] And as these plates are small, and as these things are written for the intent of the benefit of our brethren the Lamanites, wherefore, it must needs be that I write a little; but I shall not write the things of my prophesying, nor of my revelations. For what could I write more than my fathers have written? For have not they revealed the plan of salvation? I say unto you, Yea; and this sufficeth me.

[14] And I, Jarom, do not write more, for the plates are small. But behold, my brethren, ye can go to the other plates of Nephi; for behold, upon them the records of our wars are engraven, according to the writings of the kings, or those which they caused to be written.

What reason does Jarom give for writing in this record?

(that our genealogy may be kept  
for the intent of the benefit of our brethren the Lamanites)

Recall that this intent of the Book of Mormon was revealed to his  
father, Enos

What reasons does Jarom give for not writing any more in this record?

(For have not they revealed the plan of salvation  
go to the other plates of Nephi; for behold, upon them the records of our  
wars are engraven)

Amaleki, in the Book of Omni, ties up some loose ends that exists between the small  
plates of Nephi and the abridgment by Mormon

Omni 1:12-14

[12] Behold, I am Amaleki, the son of Abinadom. Behold, I will speak unto you  
somewhat concerning Mosiah, who was made king over the land of Zarahemla; for  
behold, he being warned of the Lord that he should flee out of the land of Nephi, and  
as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord should also depart out of the  
land with him, into the wilderness --

[13] And it came to pass that he did according as the Lord had commanded him. And  
they departed out of the land into the wilderness, as many as would hearken unto the  
voice of the Lord; and they were led by many preachings and prophesyings. And  
they were admonished continually by the word of God; and they were led by the  
power of his arm, through the wilderness, until they came down into the land which  
is called the land of Zarahemla.

[14] And they discovered a people, who were called the people of Zarahemla. Now,  
there was great rejoicing among the people of Zarahemla; and also Zarahemla did  
rejoice exceedingly, because the Lord had sent the people of Mosiah with the plates  
of brass which contained the record of the Jews.

The abridgment by Mormon begins with the Book of Mosiah. Amaleki tells us  
about Mosiah's grandfather, also named Mosiah.

The Nephites had been in the land of Nephi since Nephi was commanded to  
separate the believers from the Lamanites. Now King Mosiah is commanded to  
depart from the land of Nephi with all those who believe. They are led to the  
land of Zarahemla

Why did the king and the people of Zarahemla rejoice in the arrival of the people  
of king Mosiah?

(because the Lord had sent the people of Mosiah with the plates of brass)

Why were the plates of brass so valuable to the people of Zarahemla?

(contained the record of the Jews)

And the people of Zarahemla originally came from the land of Jerusalem...

Omni 1:15-16

[15] Behold, it came to pass that Mosiah discovered that the people of Zarahemla came out from Jerusalem at the time that Zedekiah, king of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon.

[16] And they journeyed in the wilderness, and were brought by the hand of the Lord across the great waters, into the land where Mosiah discovered them; and they had dwelt there from that time forth.

The people of Zarahemla are also referred to as the Mulekites because they departed Jerusalem with Mulek, a son of Zedekiah -

Helaman 8:21

And now will you dispute that Jerusalem was destroyed? Will ye say that the sons of Zedekiah were not slain, all except it were Mulek? Yea, and do ye not behold that the seed of Zedekiah are with us, and they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem?

The Mulekites departed Jerusalem at the time of Zedekiah.  
Who was king Zedekiah?

Lehi departed Jerusalem during the first year of the reign of king Zedekiah. At that time Judea was tributary to Babylon. At the age of 21, Zedekiah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, but Zedekiah secretly entered into an alliance with Egypt. Nebuchadnezzar responded by laying siege of Jerusalem for 30 months. After Jerusalem fell it was plundered and razed to the ground. Solomon's Temple was destroyed. This was the destruction of Jerusalem that Lehi was warned about.

Jeremiah 52:9-11

9) Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him.

10) And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

11) Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

For some reason Mulek escaped the killing of Zedekiah's sons and was led to the Americas.

Omni 1:19, 23, 25

[19] And it came to pass that the people of Zarahemla, and of Mosiah, did unite together; and Mosiah was appointed to be their king.



[23] Behold, I, Amaleki, was born in the days of Mosiah; and I have lived to see his death; and Benjamin, his son, reigneth in his stead.

[25] And it came to pass that I began to be old; and, having no seed, and knowing king Benjamin to be a just man before the Lord, wherefore, I shall deliver up these plates unto him, exhorting all men to come unto God, the Holy One of Israel, and believe in prophesying, and in revelations, and in the ministering of angels, and in the gift of speaking with tongues, and in the gift of interpreting languages, and in all things which are good; for there is nothing which is good save it comes from the Lord; and that which is evil cometh from the devil.

Recall that Jarom stated that one of the reasons he wrote on the small plates was so “our genealogy may be kept” Amaleki states that he had no children so he gave the small plates to King Benjamin for safe keeping

### Words of Mormon

Now let's read Mormon's explanation for including them in his abridgment

WoM 1:3,6-7

[3] And now, I speak somewhat concerning that which I have written; for after I had made an abridgment from the plates of Nephi, down to the reign of this king Benjamin, of whom Amaleki spake, I searched among the records which had been delivered into my hands, and I found these plates, which contained this small account of the prophets, from Jacob down to the reign of this king Benjamin, and also many of the words of Nephi.

[6] But behold, I shall take these plates, which contain these prophesyings and revelations, and put them with the remainder of my record, for they are choice unto me; and I know they will be choice unto my brethren.

[7] And I do this for a wise purpose; for thus it whispereth me, according to the workings of the Spirit of the Lord which is in me. And now, I do not know all things; but the Lord knoweth all things which are to come; wherefore, he worketh in me to do according to his will.

What reason does Mormon give for including “these plates” with his record?

(they are choice unto me; and I know they will be choice unto my brethren)  
(I do this for a wise purpose; for thus it whispereth me, according to the workings of the Spirit of the Lord which is in me)

D&C 10:38,45

38) And now, verily I say unto you, that an account of those things that you have written, which have gone out of your hands, is engraven upon the plates of Nephi;

45) Behold, there are many things engraven upon the plates of Nephi which

do throw greater views upon my gospel; therefore, it is wisdom in me that you should translate this first part of the engravings of Nephi, and send forth in this work.

First, the Lord reminds Joseph Smith that from the Book of Lehi he learned that “a more particular account was given of these things upon the plates of Nephi”

And the Lord says about these plates “throw greater views upon my gospel”

What might we be missing if the small plates of Neph were not included?