

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

Enos: “Mighty Prayer”

Enos 1:1-3

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

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)

Enos: “Mighty Prayer”

Enos 1:4-8

What was it that Enos’ soul hungered for?

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

What did Enos receive because of his earnest supplication?

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)

Enos: “Mighty Prayer”

Enos 1:9,11-13

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

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

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)

The Small Plates of Nephi

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.

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)

The Small Plates of Nephi

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...

Lost Book of Lehi

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”

Lost Book of Lehi

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”

Lost Book of Lehi

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”

Lost Book of Lehi

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.”

Transition to Mormon's Abridgment

Jarom 1:1-2,14

What reason does Jarom give for writing in this record?

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

Transition to Mormon's Abridgment

Omni 1:12-14

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

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

Transition to Mormon's Abridgment

Omni 1:15-16

Who was king 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?

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.

Transition to Mormon's Abridgment

Omni 1:19, 23, 25

Words of Mormon

WoM 1:3,6-7

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

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.

Next Week:

April 22–28

Mosiah 1–3

“Filled With Love Towards God and All
Men”

