

January 8–14
1 Nephi 1–5
“I Will Go and Do”



The Prophet Nephi

1Ne 1:1-3

What do we learn about Nephi from these verses?

The Prophet Nephi

Goodly:

1. large in amount or extent or degree; "it cost a considerable amount"; "a goodly amount"; "a sizable fortune".
2. attractive, pleasing, or fine "a goodly man".

The Prophet Lehi

1Ne 1:4

What events in the Old Testament correspond with the time of Lehi?

2 Chronicles 36:10-16

[10] And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar... made Zedekiah... king over Judah and Jerusalem...

[12] And [Zedekiah] did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the Lord...

[14] Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the Lord...

[15] And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them his messengers...

[16] But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

The Prophet Lehi

1Ne 1:18-19

What do you think Lehi did that made the people at Jerusalem so angry that they wanted to kill him?

The Prophet Lehi

1Ne 2:12-13

Why did Lamien and Lemuel reject the words of their father and the other prophets?

Neal A. Maxwell

“Failing to understand the ‘dealings’ of the Lord with His children—meaning His relations with and treatment of His children—is very fundamental. Murmuring is but one of the symptoms, and not the only consequence either; in fact, brothers and sisters, this failure affects everything else!

“To misread something so crucial constitutes a failure to know God, who then ends up being wrongly seen as unreachable, uninvolved, uncaring, and unable—a disabled and diminished Deity, really—about whose seeming limitations, ironically, some then quickly complain.” (CR, Oct. 1999)

The Prophet Lehi

1Ne 2:16

What did Nephi do that caused his heart to be softened to the point that he knew that the teachings of his father were true?

W. Mark Bassett

"In order to understand the mysteries of God, or those things that can be understood only through revelation, we must follow the example of Nephi...

"Nephi's example of seeking knowledge included (1) a sincere desire, (2) humility, (3) prayer, (4) trust in the prophet, and an exercise of (5) faith, (6) diligence, and (7) obedience. This method of seeking is in great contrast to... trying to force an understanding of things meant to be revealed according to the Lord's timetable and through the power of the Holy Ghost." (CR, Oct. 2016)

Exercising Faith

1Ne 3:3-8

How did Nephi demonstrate that he understood that God would bless him to accomplish what he had been commanded to do?

Spencer W. Kimball

When my feeling of incompetence wholly overwhelmed me, I remembered the words of Nephi.... I want to tell you that I lean heavily on these promises, that the Lord will strengthen and give me growth and fit and qualify me for this great work. I have seen the Lord qualify men. In my church experience I have helped to [call] many bishops. I have seen them grow and prosper and become great and mighty men in the Church; men who were weak and men who were foolish, and they became strong and confounded the wise, and so I rely upon that promise of the Lord that he will strengthen and empower me that I may be able to do this work to which I have been called. (CR, Oct. 1943)

Exercising Faith

1Ne 3:10-14

How much effort would you say was put into their first attempt?

Gene R. Cook

“Nephi and his brothers... needed to make a decision. Would they go on believing in the Lord's word with double the faith they had before, or would they quit?... I feel [Nephi] understood the great principle that is intertwined throughout this whole experience: When tribulations and problems come, you cannot let your faith weaken, but you must redouble your faith in the Lord.” (Living by the Power of Faith, pg. 44-45)

Exercising Faith

1Ne 3:15-16, 24-26

How do we know that Nephi was committed to obeying the commandments of the Lord?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Thus Nephi made God his partner. If he failed to get the plates, it meant God had failed. And because God does not fail, it was incumbent upon Nephi to get the plates or lay down his life in the attempt.” (CR, April 1982)

Exercising Faith

1Ne 3:28-31

Why do you think that Laman and Lemuel still did not believe they could obtain the plates?

Gene R. Cook

“After two failures, Nephi still remained strong in the faith. Even when Laman and Lemuel were beating him, he believed. I ask, do you still believe when you are being beaten by life? Do you say to the Lord, ‘I do not know how I am going to do it, Father, but with thy help I am still going to accomplish thy will.’ Or, do you follow the example of Laman and Lemuel who doubted, murmured, feared, and gave up?”
(Living by the Power of Faith, pg. 47)

Exercising Faith

1Ne 4:1-4

Aside from the visit by the angel, how do we know that Laman and Lemuel had an understanding of God's power and abilities?

Exercising Faith

1Ne 4:5-12

Why do you think that Nephi reacted the way that he did to the solution that the Lord had prepared for him?

Jeffrey Holland

“I believe that story was placed in the very opening verses of [the Book of Mormon] and then told in painfully specific detail in order to focus every reader of that record on the absolutely fundamental gospel issue of obedience and submission to the communicated will of the Lord. If Nephi cannot yield to this terribly painful command, if he cannot bring himself to obey, then it is entirely probable that he can never succeed or survive in the tasks that lie just ahead.” (BYU devotional, Jan. 17 1989)

The Brass Plates

1Ne 5:11-14

From chapters 3 and 4, what did Nephi say about the importance of the brass plates?

In what ways do we know that the brass plates differ from our Old Testament?

1 Nephi 3:19-20

19] And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers;

20] And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which have been delivered unto them by the Spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time.

1 Nephi 4:15-16

15] 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.

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

John L. Sorenson

“Book of Mormon writers mention five prophets whose words appear in the brass plates: Zenos, Zenock, Ezias, Isaiah, and Neum.... Only Isaiah is surely known from existing biblical texts. Internal evidence suggests a reason why: all four direct a great deal of attention to the Northern Kingdom. Since the Masoretic text, which lies behind our King James' version, came out the South, omission of [these books] is explicable.... The probability is high, therefore, that the prophets cited from the brass plates date between 900 B.C. and the end of the Northern Kingdom in 721 B.C.” (The Brass Plates' and LDS Biblical Scholarship, pg. 5)

Next Week:

January 15–21

1 Nephi 6–10

"Come and Partake of the Fruit"

