

**Book of Lehi**  
Lehi's Conversion and Calling – comprising chapters 1 through 3  
An Abridgment made by Prophet Mormon

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**Chapter 1**

*Lehi is convicted of the errors of the church in Jerusalem from the words of the prophets Zenos and Zenock.*

I, Mormon, according to the commandment of the Lord, have made these plates of ore according to the knowledge and understanding that the Lord hath given unto me. And I write the things that I have been instructed to write, having received this instruction from the Holy Spirit.

2 For behold, the plates of Nephi are numerous and contain the entire history of Lehi and his life and mission. They also contain the writings of Nephi and other prophets of God who were given a strict commandment by the Lord that they should record their history and the history of their children. And this he hath commanded them to do so that the Lord might show unto future generations the many great and marvelous things that he hath done for the children of Lehi according to their faith and obedience towards Him.

3 And because the plates of Nephi are many, I, Mormon, have been instructed of the Lord to include only those things which will be beneficial unto future generations; yea, even unto those who shall receive these plates. And whosoever shall receive these plates shall be given the commandments of God pertaining unto them.

4 For behold, it is wisdom in the Lord that the world should not have these plates, so that the faith of all men can be tried and tested to see if they are willing to do all things in faith whatsoever the Lord shall command them. And if they keep the commandments of God as they shall be given unto them, even according to the commandments written upon these plates, then shall the greater things concerning the kingdom of God be made known unto them, until they know the mysteries of God in full.

5 And the Lord hath shown unto me many of these mysteries of God and hath laid me under strict command to show them to no man. And because of this commandment I do not write all the things that I have been shown and which have been revealed unto me by the power of the Holy Spirit. But the things that the Spirit whispereth unto me, these things I shall write.

6 And I take these things from the record that Nephi hath written upon plates of ore, and which are found among the records that I received from Ammoron.

7 Lehi lived in Jerusalem all of his days. And he was the son of Jeshron, a High Priest. And Lehi followed in the footsteps of his father and was called and anointed according to the priesthood of Aaron that was taught and accepted among the Jews who belonged to the church of God at Jerusalem. Jeshron, was a descendant of Joseph.

8 And it was this same Joseph who was sold into Egypt by his brothers, the sons of Israel. And the genealogy of Joseph to Adam, a son of God, is found upon the plates of brass which shall be preserved among the Jews. Therefore, I, Mormon, do not include the rest of the lineage of Lehi upon these plates.

9 And it came to pass that during the time that Lehi was a High Priest, the Lord sent many prophets to the people of Jerusalem to persuade them to repent of their sins and to obey the commandments of God.

10 And many of these prophets were bound by the Jews and carried forth unto the High Priests to see what should be done with them. For the people of Jerusalem mocked the prophets and ridiculed their authority to preach the word of God. For behold, the Jews were not familiar with these prophets, as they had not been acknowledged by the proper authority of the priesthood of Aaron, which the people believed resided only in the High Priests who were called to serve in the church at Jerusalem by lineage of the priesthood, and also by the laying on of hands by those who were in authority.

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11 For the people had been taught that there were none, save he who had been chosen and set apart by a sacred anointing, who could administer the word of God unto the people. And the prophets who were sent by the Lord to Jerusalem were not members of this priesthood that was accepted by the people of the church at Jerusalem, nor were they recognized as one having authority to preach the word of God to the people.

12 And it came to pass that it fell upon Lehi and others of the High Priests to try and test those who professed to be prophets of God. And this they did that they might catch those who professed to be prophets in a lie and prove to the people that they were not men sent by God, but that they were servants of Satan, who had sent them to deceive the people of God and pervert the right ways of the priesthood and authority of Aaron.

13 And there were many prophets sent forth by the Lord to bring the people of Jerusalem unto repentance. And when these prophets were bound and set before the chief priests of the people they were chastised and commanded to recant their prophecies and their testimonies and their preaching against the people.

**14 For behold, the prophets did truly testify of the iniquities of the church at Jerusalem. For the people of the church were corrupted by the examples of their leaders who had the priesthood of God but lacked the power thereof, which power can only be exercised through the Holy Spirit; and this Spirit can only be controlled upon the principles of righteousness of him who was anointed to this priesthood. For the leaders were rich and popular men among the people, and had set themselves up above the people, even unto the envying of their positions by the people. And the leaders chose other leaders who were also rich and popular men among them. And in this way, the leaders of the Jewish people assured that all men who were chosen to the Priesthood would be like unto themselves.**

15 And the people justified their own wicked state because of the examples of their leaders. Nevertheless, the leaders did not think of themselves as wicked, but as men whom God had blessed with riches and wisdom. And since the people believed that their leaders were indeed men of God, they were deceived into believing that riches and power and worldly glory were blessings of God. And in this way did Satan deceive the leaders; and the leaders did deceive the people.

**16 And because the leaders did not believe that they were wicked, they taught the people that God would not speak to the people unless He did so through the channels of the priesthood of Aaron, which was established for this purpose. And the leaders taught the people that no High Priest belonging to the order of Aaron would be allowed by God to deceive the people. And in this way the High Priests assured themselves that the people would not be swayed by a doctrine outside of the church at Jerusalem, nor by other preaching that was not approved by them.**

17 And the leaders of the people taught them the sacraments and the offerings and the ordinances of the church, which was established among the people according to the laws of Moses and according to the traditions of the Jews.

18 And it came to pass that there were two prophets that were bound and carried up before the High Priests to be judged for their crimes. And their names were Zenos and Zenock.

19 And they stood forth boldly in their chains before the counsel of High Priests that had assembled to judge them. And Lehi was among these priests who were assigned by the church to judge anyone professing to be a prophet of God.

20 And it came to pass that Zenock stood before the priests and began to speak unto them, being filled with the Spirit of God. And he spake boldly unto them saying:

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**21 Oh ye wicked and perverse generation. Why have ye polluted and corrupted the holy church of God? Why have ye led this people in such a way that the wrath of God will soon visit them even unto their own destruction? Behold, I say unto you, that their blood will be required at your hands because of your example and the things that ye have taught them. Nevertheless, their sins will be their own and they will also suffer because of them. But ye shall also suffer with them because ye have set yourselves up as the mouthpiece of God and have lied unto them by telling them that the Lord will not allow you to mislead them.**

22 Behold, ye know not the words of God, but speak vanity and foolishness unto this people. Ye have taught this people that they should worship the church and the ordinances and the traditions thereof, and yet they deny the Spirit of God that will only dwell with the children of men in righteousness.

23 Do ye not remember the words of the prophet, Isaiah? Ye have them before you, yet ye understand them not. Ye hear them, but ye do not hear their true meaning. Ye read them, but ye do not understand that which ye have read, but ye have changed the doctrine of God to conform to your own selfish interests and desires.

24 Behold, did not Isaiah say unto this church: Thus saith the Lord, To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats.

25 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

26 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot abide them; away with them; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

27 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

28 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

29 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

30 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

31 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

32 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land;

33 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

34 And it came to pass that as Lehi heard the words of Zenock, he was filled with great anguish, for he knew that Zenock spoke the truth unto them. For Lehi had known previously that the things that he was doing as a leader of the people were not the things of God. Nevertheless, he did the things that were expected of him by the people, and also those things that the church had instructed him to do.

35 And Lehi was a rich man who had acquired many riches by business among the Jews at Jerusalem. And he saved many of his riches and imparted them not unto those who were poor and needy. Neither did he impart of all his substance unto the widows and the orphans and those that were oppressed. For he had been taught that his riches were a blessing from God because of his own righteousness.

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36 **And it had been a tradition among the Jews, or rather, a commandment of the church, that each member pay a tithe to the church of all their increase. And this tithing was great, and was only used for the purposes of the church.** And also, it was required of the members of the church to give regularly to the benefit of the poor and the needy. Yet, this offering, which the people made to the poor, was only a small part of their increase; the majority of their increase the people kept for themselves and their families, thus being taught by the words and the examples of their leaders.

37 And it did not matter if one man had an increase of a much greater worth than another, for the same offerings were required of them all. Thus the rich were allowed to keep their riches and set themselves up above those who had less than they.

38 And the poor and needy were also required to give a tithe and an offering to others who were poorer than they. This they had been taught was the commandment of God pertaining to the people of His church.

39 And in this manner the church of God justified the division of the rich and the poor—the inequality between those that had much and those that had little.

40 **And Lehi knew of himself how the members of the church had submitted unto the teachings of the church and its doctrines and ordinances and denied the true doctrine of God of which Zenock spoke.**

41 *For Zenock said unto the priests: Know ye not that the ordinances and sacraments, and offerings, and institutions, and traditions of this church are not the gospel of the Lord, but were intended to point a man towards this gospel? And that this gospel was given to us in its pure form by the mouth of the prophet, Moses? Yet, the children of Israel could not abide by this pure gospel, but required signs and symbols, and ordinances, and endowments, to teach them and keep them in remembrance.*

42 And the Lord in his frustration with the children of Israel gave the children of Israel the things which they desired, and commanded Moses to set up the ordinances and endowments of the church, so that the children of Israel would remember him and keep his commandments.

43 Nevertheless, these ordinances and traditions of this church are not the things that the Lord requireth of his people. But he requireth of them righteousness and humility before him.

44 Behold, it mattereth not unto the Lord whether or not a man belongeth to this church, or hath the priesthood of Aaron as ye claim that ye have; for the Lord judgeth a man by his works—the desires of his heart. And if his works are good, then the Lord will accept this man. But if his works are evil, then he shall have no part of the Spirit of God.

45 **And your works are evil before the Lord. For behold, ye do teach this people to respect and worship the church, and the requirements of the church, and teach them not the pure gospel and commandments of God; and the church was established to teach these things symbolically through its ordinances and services. Thus ye deceive this people and have opened the door to their destruction.**

46 Behold, I am not a member of your church, nor do I have the priesthood that ye claim giveth you the power and authority to act in the name of God, so that a man can teach this people His words. Nevertheless, God hath called me through the administrations of His holy angels, and also by the Spirit of God that dwells within me. And by these things ye shall know me, and by my works ye shall judge.

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47 Behold, because of the mercy and goodness of the Lord, I was snatched from the bitterness that awaited me if I would have continued to follow the course of life that I was following before I was called to come unto you and testify of your wickedness.

48 For behold, I was rich and popular, like unto yourselves, among those that resided in the city in which I lived. And I was a man who many looked up to and praised for the great things that I had accomplished among them. But all this praise and glory was the praise and glory of men. And the things for which I was praised were the things of this world.

49 And God sent his servant, Zenos, unto me and he met me in my house and spoke unto me about the things of God. And while he spoke to me, I was filled with the Spirit of the Lord, even so much, that I wept bitterly because of my many iniquities and my sins.

50 And after experiencing a bitterness of soul that I had never before felt, I called upon God for a remission of my sins, even upon the Son of God who is to come into the world to save the righteous from the corruptness thereof.

51 And as I called upon the Lord in my agony, I was visited with a gentle and quiet spirit that took away my pain and my anguish and filled my soul with an unspeakable joy that I cannot describe with my own words. And it is this joy that turned my sins from crimson into wool as the prophet Isaiah hath written.

52 And it is because of the Son of God that this mercy was given unto me. For I beheld a vision while in the Spirit that showed unto me the condescension of God, or in other words, the coming of His Son into this world.

**53 And I have seen the coming of the Son of God in vision and have witnessed the mission of the Lord. And He shall come unto this people and show unto them the things that they must do in order to be saved in the kingdom of God. And He shall live among them and preach the word of God unto the Jews who are here at Jerusalem.**

**54 And He shall further witness against this church and its leaders. And the leaders of the church shall rise up against Him and turn the people from Him, contriving all types of lies and falsehoods in order to keep the people from accepting the gospel that He shall teach unto them.**

**55 For the church at Jerusalem will deny that even the Son of God doth not have the authority to preach the word of God, because He doth not have the permission of the church or its authority to do so. Nor will He be given this authority by the laying on of hands by the High Priest of this church. And for this reason shall He be rejected by the Jews.**

**56 And the Lord shall go forth among the people and establish His own truth. And His church shall be established according to the Spirit of God and not according to the commandments and traditions of men.**

**57 And He shall call others to a ministry, or to preach the gospel that He shall give unto them, both by His own mouth and by the mouth of His Spirit which He shall leave with them.**

**58 And the gospel that they shall teach shall be the words that they shall hear the Son speak while He dwelleth among them. And they shall add nothing to, nor shall they take anything away from this gospel. For it is an everlasting gospel, yea, a gospel that was preached before this world was created.**

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59 And because of the things that they shall teach, they shall be persecuted and rejected by the Jews at Jerusalem. And they shall be cast out and slain. *Behold, even the Son of God shall be taken up by the leaders of this people and crucified before them.*

60 And the leaders of this church shall mock the Lord and spit upon Him in the presence of the people. And the people shall also deny their Lord because of the example of their leaders.

61 And it came to pass that Zenock stood forth boldly before the High Priests of the church. And Lehi was astonished at what Zenock had testified concerning the Son of God and also concerning the wickedness of the church.

## Chapter 2

*Laban, the chief high priest, rejects the preaching of Zenos and Zenock, and demands their death. Lehi pleads with Laban and testifies of the wickedness of the church in Jerusalem.*

And it came to pass that after Zenock had ended his exhortation and preaching unto the leaders of the Jews, Zenos stood forth and began to expound further upon the things which Zenock had said concerning the coming of the Son of God to the world and the destruction of the Jews.

2 And I, Mormon, cannot write all the words that the prophets Zenock and Zenos preached unto the Jews at Jerusalem, for they did truly speak many things unto the Jews; and many things did they also speak unto the leaders of the Jews. And Nephi hath recorded upon his record all of the words that Zenos and Zenock spake according to the memory of his father Lehi, who was present when they stood before the High Priests at Jerusalem.

3 And the words of these two prophets are great and wonderful and have been preserved for the generations of the sons and daughters of Lehi and their descendants, and also for all those who shall receive this record in the last days. But a portion of their words I have been commanded by the Lord to include in my abridgment of the plates of Nephi, which plates I have before me.

4 And of all the words and prophecies that are recorded upon these plates of Nephi, none are as great as those that were spoken by Zenock and Zenos.

5 And it came to pass that Zenos also stood forth boldly and spake unto the High Priests, which were assembled before him. And Zenos expounded unto them a parable of an olive tree and likened the house of Israel unto this olive tree.

6 And this he did that he might show unto the Jews that which was to befall them if they continued in their wicked ways and continued to deny the gospel of the Son of God.

7 And it came to pass that Zenos likened the children of Israel unto a tame olive tree that the Lord nourished in his vineyard, or in other words, in the land of promise. And this he meant so that it might be understood that the Lord had blessed the house of Israel and had given them the land in which they dwelt, and had driven out their enemies and sent His Spirit to dwell among them.

8 And the tree became corrupt and began to decay. And the Lord commanded His servants, who were the prophets of God, to go into the vineyard and attempt to nourish the olive tree and bring back the good fruit thereof.

9 And he commanded His servants to prune it, and dig about it, and nourish it for a time to see if it would once again bring forth its natural fruit.

10 And Zenos prophesied in the parable about the destruction of the Jews; and that the Lord shall withdraw the righteous from among them and send them to other parts of the world where they would not be destroyed. This He would do to preserve unto himself the roots of the tree, or in other words, the true gospel of the Son of God.

11 And these things had reference to the children of Lehi and other people whom the Lord would lead out of the land of Israel before its destruction by its enemies.

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12 And the parable spoke of the restoration of the gospel among the Jews at the time of the coming of the Lord into the world. Nevertheless, because the trees of the vineyard are so corrupt, the Lord commands his servants to graft in the wild olive branches in hopes that he might preserve the good fruit of the tree unto himself. And the wild olive branches are the Gentiles who shall have the gospel preached unto them by the servants of God.

13 And it came to pass that after the gospel is preached unto the Gentiles, there shall be peace for a time among them. And after a space of a time the trees of the vineyard shall once again bring forth corrupted fruit.

14 And Zenos spoke of this land, which is a promised land unto the Nephites and also unto the Lamanites and unto others whom the Lord shall bring into this land. And the gospel shall be given to the people on this continent as well as it was given unto the Jews at Jerusalem.

15 And there shall be all manner of trees throughout the vineyard of the Lord, in other words, there shall be many people upon all the continents of the world that shall hear the gospel of the Son of God and repent of their sins. And there shall be many churches that shall claim to be the pure olive tree that the Lord grew in his vineyard.

**16 And in the latter days before God once again sendeth His Son among the people, yea, even in all his glory like unto the glory that he showed unto the Nephites and the Lamanites in the land of Bountiful, God shall once again bring the knowledge of His gospel unto the Gentiles and then unto the Jews, that the last may be first, and the first may be last.**

17 And it shall come to pass that the gospel shall be established in all the parts of the world; in other words, the Lord shall graft in the wild branches into the natural olive trees and the natural branches into the wild trees, that he might once again obtain fruit that is pleasing unto him.

**18 And after this gospel shall be preached in all the parts of the world, yea, even after the voice of Jesus Christ shall be heard among all men; then still shall the Lord of the vineyard weep and say unto his servants: What could I have done more for my vineyard?**

**19 For behold, all the trees of the vineyard shall be corrupt. And the Lord shall ask of His servants what was the cause of the corruptness of His vineyard.**

20 Then shall the servant of the Lord say unto his master: Is it not the loftiness of thy vineyard— have not the branches thereof overcome the roots which are good? And because the branches have overcome the roots thereof, behold they grew faster than the strength of the roots, taking strength unto themselves.

**21 And it came to pass that Zenos expounded the meaning of the parable unto the High Priests, saying: Behold, in the latter days the church of God shall be like unto this church at Jerusalem. For the Lord will give unto them the pureness of His everlasting gospel and provide for them a way whereby they might be saved in the kingdom of God at the last day.**

22 Nevertheless, because of the branches, or in other words, because of the church of God and its supposed greatness, the roots of the tree, which is the pure gospel of God, shall be overcome. The leaders and members of the church of God shall become lofty and prideful, and their desires shall be towards the church and not set upon the gospel, which is the root of the tree, thus the branches overcoming the roots that are good.



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23 **And they shall be like unto you, and also like unto those who will be at Jerusalem when God sendeth His Son among them. For behold, they shall not understand the gospel that the Son of God, shall preach unto them. And because of the examples of the leaders of the church of God the people shall harden their hearts towards the gospel and turn their hearts towards the church for their salvation, thus denying the power of the Holy Spirit and its righteousness.**

24 And their hearts and their minds shall be set upon the things of this world and the honors and glories of men. Then shall the words of Isaiah again be fulfilled among them when he spoke unto the house of Israel, saying:

25 Woe unto the wicked for it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

26 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. **Oh, my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.**

27 The Lord standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

28 The Lord will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; **the spoil of the poor is in your houses.**

29 What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord God of hosts.

30 Moreover the Lord saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet;

31 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their private parts.

32 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,

33 The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers.

34 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,

35 The rings, and nose jewels,

36 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,

37 The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils.

38 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle, a rent; and instead of well set hair, baldness; and instead of a stomacher, a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

39 Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.

40 And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

41 And it came to pass that Zenos continued his prophecies in front of the High Priests. And he prophesied concerning the second coming of the Son of God, even when he shall appear in His power and His glory to prune His vineyard for the last time.

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42 And the Lord shall once again set His hand for the last time to prune his vineyard and attempt to bring forth good fruit from the trees thereof.

43 And He shall call his servants to work at His side. And He will allow the good and the bad to continue to grow together. Nevertheless, He shall clear away the bad as the good groweth, making sure that the branches will never again overrun the strength of the roots.

44 And it shall come to pass that the trees of His vineyard shall once again bring forth good fruit for the space of many seasons. And when evil fruit shall once again come into the vineyard, then will the Lord cause to be gathered all of the fruit of His trees. And the good He shall preserve unto himself, and the bad He will cast away in its own place. And then the end of the world shall come; and the Lord will cause His vineyard to be burned with fire—and all these things according to the parable and prophecy of Zenos.

45 And it came to pass that after Zenos had testified of the end of the world and the destruction of the wicked, Laban, the chief high priest, stood forth and commanded that Zenos be struck down for his blasphemy against the church of God. For behold, Laban denied that the church of God was corrupt and that the leaders thereof were misleading the people. And Laban stood forth and testified of the righteousness of the church and its leaders.

46 And upon his command one of the guards who had carried Zenock and Zenos into the chamber of the High Priests put forth his sword to silence Zenos.

47 And Lehi sprang forth from his seat, which was set high above the assembly of the people and was among those of the other High Priests. And Lehi stood between the sword of the guard and Zenos.

48 *And Lehi pleaded with the other High Priests that no harm should come to these two prophets of God. And he pleaded unto them, saying: What cause have we against these two men? Do they not speak the truth concerning us? Do they not speak unto us of our iniquities and corruption? Know we not that they have been sent by God to preach repentance unto us that we might not experience the pain and anguish of the wrath of God because of our sins?*

49 **Behold, my soul hath been burdened much because of the ways of this church and those things which we teach unto the people. And have we not set ourselves up above the people, even so much that when we walk by them on the street or in the synagogue that they do worship us and bow down before us? How can we not see that these things are an abomination before God and that we are misleading this people to trust more in the church and its leaders than in the gospel that we are supposed to be teaching unto them?**

50 **And have we not taken the money that hath been given to the church, because of the commandment of the Lord regarding the tithing of his people, and have we not used this money to build great synagogues and great temples, yet we suffer that there remain the poor and needy among us? Doth this not bear testimony that we do love our money and our substance, and our fine apparel, and the adorning of our churches, more than we love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted?**

51 **And in our solemn assemblies do we not justify our actions and doings because of the praise of the world? Do we not make concessions to the word of God because we believe that we will be mocked and ridiculed by the pride and ignorance of the world? In fine, do we not change the precepts and doctrines of God, and even the pure ordinances that were given unto us by the prophet, Moses; do we not change them to suit our whims and satisfy the desires of the world that we may be accepted by it?**

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52 Behold, my soul is racked with anguish because I know that these things are true, and I also know that these two men are prophets of God who have been sent unto this church to bring us unto repentance so that we might not be destroyed.

53 And it came to pass that Lehi did have success with some of the other High Priests who were present in the chambers, and also with many of the people who attended the inquisition of Zenos and Zenock.

54 Nevertheless, Laban, who was the Chief High Priest, did stand forth to confound Lehi; and he commanded that Lehi should be bound also and judged for his testimony against the church of God and its leaders.

55 But Lehi was beloved by the people and there were none who wanted to see him cast out from among them.

56 And there was another High Priest who knew that the things that Lehi had spoken were true. And his name was Ishmael; and he had for a long time known Lehi and his family. And they were friends who had shared many times together united with their families. But Ishmael dared not to say anything in the defense of Lehi; for Ishmael feared Laban.

57 And it was Laban who also had the loyalty and the trust of the captain of the guard and the soldiers who were assigned to administer the law in that part of the land of Israel.

58 And it came to pass that Lehi could see the hardness of the heart of Laban, and he also could see that the people began to be swayed by the words of Laban.

59 And Lehi left the chamber and went out into the street and knelt down and prayed unto the Lord in behalf of his people. And he prayed with all the energy of his soul, yea, even with all of his heart; for great was his anguish for the sins of the people.

### Chapter 3

*The conversion and calling of Lehi. God commands Lehi to depart Jerusalem.*

**And it came to pass that as Lehi prayed unto the Lord, he was visited by the Spirit of God and was shown a marvelous vision in which appeared before him a pillar of fire.** And the pillar of fire was seen by those who were around the place where Lehi had fallen to the ground.

2 And it came to pass that a voice spoke unto Lehi from within the pillar of fire. Nevertheless, those who were around Lehi, even those that beheld the pillar of fire, could hear no voice from within.

3 And I, Mormon, have been commanded by the Lord not to write the things which Lehi heard from the voice within the pillar of fire. For the things which he heard are many things that the Lord hath commanded to be sealed up and kept from the eyes of the world until the time that these things shall come forth unto the children of men at the appointed time of the Lord.

4 But because of the things that Lehi did see and hear, he did fear exceedingly for his people and for all the world.

5 And it came to pass that Lehi, being overcome by the Spirit because of the things that he had both seen and heard in the vision, returned to his home and laid himself upon his bed.

6 And Lehi cried unto the Lord that he might be forgiven for his many sins and that he might understand further what the Lord would require of him.

7 And it came to pass that he was once again carried away in a vision in which he saw many of the things of which Zenock and Zenos had testified.

8 For he truly beheld the coming of the Son of God to the earth. And he saw the Lord go out among the people at Jerusalem and begin to preach His gospel unto them. And he saw others who the Lord had called to help him teach the people His gospel.

9 And one of the servants of the Lord came and stood before Lehi and gave unto him a book and commanded him that he should read the book. And as Lehi read the book he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord and rejoiced exceedingly.

10 And Lehi was called of God to go unto the people of Jerusalem and teach unto them the things which he had read in the book.

11 And it came to pass that Lehi went forth again unto the people of Jerusalem and began to expound on the things which had been testified of by Zenos and Zenock, and also on the things which he had read in the book that was given unto him in his vision.

12 And Lehi preached many things unto the people of Jerusalem, and to his friends, and to his relatives, and to his family, which consisted of his wife, Sariah, and his sons and his daughters.

13 And it came to pass that the people of Jerusalem rejected the words of Lehi and cast him out from among them and mocked him. For behold, the people at Jerusalem were hardened by their pride, and also by the pride that they had in the church of God to which they belonged.

14 **And they mocked Lehi, saying: How can thee, being one man alone, claim that the church of God is corrupt? Dost thou not believe that the Lord hath prospered this church and sanctified it because of its righteousness? Do we not attend regularly to the ordinances and traditions that Moses handed down to us? And we know that Moses was a prophet of God and that he showed us all things that we must do in order to be saved in the kingdom of God at the last day. And do we not do all the things that he hath commanded us?**

15 **And Lehi rebuked them, saying: Know ye not that the Lord suffered Moses to give unto you a lower law because of your wickedness? And this lower law is the law that this church teacheth unto the people.**

16 **For behold, the sacraments and the ordinances and all the rituals thereof are symbols and representations of the pure gospel of the Lord. And the commandments that ye have been given have been given unto you because of your inability to live the higher law, which law is this gospel of which the prophets of old have spoken.**

17 And if there was no law given unto the children of Israel at the time they rebelled against the Lord in the wilderness, then they would have been left unto themselves and they would have never had the opportunity to inherit the promised land.

18 And it was this law that brought peace among them and suffered them to live one with another without violence and without all manner of wickedness that would surely have led to their destruction.

19 But behold, *this law that was given unto the children of Israel was a law of ordinances and sacrifice that they might not forget the Lord their God who had led them forth to the land of promise.*

20 And these laws and ordinances were types and portents of those things that would come to pass in eternity. *And it is this eternal law that ye cannot understand. Yea, I say unto you, that this eternal law is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even he who shall come into the world, and the only way whereby man might be saved in the eternal kingdom of God.* **And ye do not understand this gospel because ye have hardened your hearts against the Spirit of the Lord, which teacheth this pure gospel.**

21 *And this church and all churches that the Lord suffereth to be built up on this earth to turn the hearts of the children of men towards him, are not this gospel, nor do they represent this gospel. But they are set up among men to point them towards this eternal gospel, which is the only gospel of eternal salvation.*

22 **And it shall come to pass that the Lord himself shall come down amongst His people in the flesh and teach this eternal gospel unto them. And they shall reject him and kill him because they do not understand His gospel, and this they do because they do not have the Holy Spirit with them.**

23 And the Lord hath sent many prophets unto us to preach repentance and prepare us to meet the Lord and hear His gospel, whether in this flesh, or as a spirit when we die.

24 And we have cast out these holy men of God because we could not understand the things that they have preached unto us. And the blood of these men shall be upon our hands. And we shall suffer the wrath of God because of them.

25 And it came to pass that the people were angry with Lehi and sought from that time forth to take him and bind him and carry him up unto the chamber of the High Priests, so that he, too, might be tried for heresy and blasphemy before the church.

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26 And they sought to take away his life as they did the lives of Zenos and Zenock. For behold, Laban had delivered up Zenos and Zenock to be killed by the hands of the people. And the people took Zenos and Zenock, and after they had stoned them, they hung them by the neck until they were dead.

27 And there were many of the people who loved Lehi and his family and did not desire that he be destroyed or cast out from among them. But the greater part of the people wanted Lehi cast out from among them or bound and taken before the other High Priests where he would surely be sentenced to death.

28 And it came to pass that Lehi fled from before the people and went unto his family and told them all the things that had befallen him.

29 And it came to pass that Lehi gathered up his family and some provisions and fled with them into the wilderness before the more wicked part of the people could alert the High Priests of his plans to flee Jerusalem.

30 *For behold, the Lord had warned Lehi in a dream that he should take his family and flee into the wilderness. And Lehi was promised that if he would keep the commandments of God in all things, he would be blessed; and also his wife and his children would be saved.*

31 And it came to pass that Lehi left his gold and his silver and all of his material possessions and fled with his family into the wilderness.

32 And he traveled many days in the wilderness until he came down unto the borders of the Red Sea.

33 And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel, the elder sons of Lehi, began to mock their father and murmur against him. For they did not want to leave the land of their inheritance and their gold and their silver and all their precious things. And they murmured and complained that their father was a visionary man who had dreams and visions that they did not understand.

34 And Laman and Lemuel spoke to their father, saying: Why hast thou judged the people of the church at Jerusalem? Thou also were a great leader among them and also a priest after the order of Aaron. And did not the Lord promise His people that He would never allow them to be led astray by those who lead his church? And we know that the leaders of the people are righteous men because they have been called of God by the laying on of hands, and also by the Spirit of God.

35 And thou hast judged them and pronounced evil upon their heads because of the foolish dreams and visions which thou hast had, which we believe are the imaginations of thy heart.

36 For behold, how could it be possible that they be wicked men when the Lord hath shown His acceptance of them by granting them with prosperity and happiness? And they teach the people the words that are written, which are the words of the Lord which were written by the hand of Moses for the salvation of all Israel.

37 And thus Laman and Lemuel did murmur against Lehi and desired to return again to the Land of Jerusalem. For behold, the family of Lehi did indeed suffer many things in the wilderness; and because of these sufferings, Laman and Lemuel did rise up and murmur against their father.

38 And it came to pass that Lehi stood forth before his sons and rebuked them, being filled with the power and Spirit of God. And he confounded them, evensomuch that they did shake and tremble before their father, even that they dared not speak nor murmur anymore against him.

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39 And it came to pass that the two younger sons of Lehi, yea, even Sam and Nephi, did give heed unto the counsel of their father and believed the things that he said unto them.

40 For behold, the Lord had chosen Nephi, the youngest, to lead his elder brothers. And for this purpose the Lord sent his Spirit unto Nephi and blessed him with wisdom and understanding that far exceeded that of his older brethren.

41 And the Lord promised Nephi that he and his posterity would be a great blessing unto his father Lehi and unto all of the children of Lehi, even unto the generations of Laman and Lemuel, if it so be that he keepeth the commandments of the Lord.