

The Plates of Brass



Reminder...

**King
Josiah's
Reforms
620 BC**

Rediscovery (and editing) of the Book of Deuteronomy

Strict adherence to the letter of Law of Moses

Limited all sacrifice to the Temple

Belief in Israel's 'righteousness' [and divine protection] due to strict obedience to the Law

Persecution of false prophets (visionaries)

Rejection of any additional divine guidance outside of the Law (A Torah, a Torah, we have a Torah!)

Strict punishment against any preforming sacrifices outside the Temple

The Unspoken “Subplot”

Nephi (The New “Joseph”) vs Laman and Lemuel (the orthodox Deuteronomists)

Nephi is:

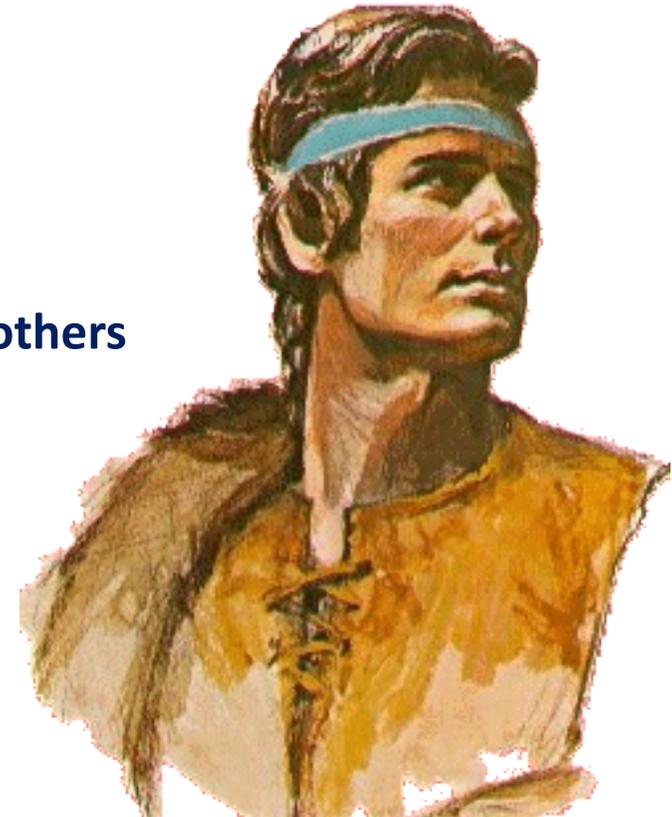
The Younger Brother

Named for the “grain god of Egypt” by his father

Left to be killed of wild beasts in the wilderness by his brothers

Made a ruler over his brothers

Has visions and dreams



Dreams and Visions

1 Nephi 2:1



The Problem (Inverted)

Thus,

And [Laman and Lemuel] were like
unto the Jews who were at Jerusalem

Neither did they believe that
Jerusalem...could be destroyed
according the words of the prophets.

They did murmur because they knew
not the dealings of that God who
created them

Laman and Lemuel, being the eldest,
did murmur against their father





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.

Oct 1999 General Conference

The Problem

An ex-Mormon blog, which currently counts nearly 12,000 “recovering Mormons”, posted group survey results in early 2013 that showed that

nearly half of those who answered the survey would describe themselves as atheist,

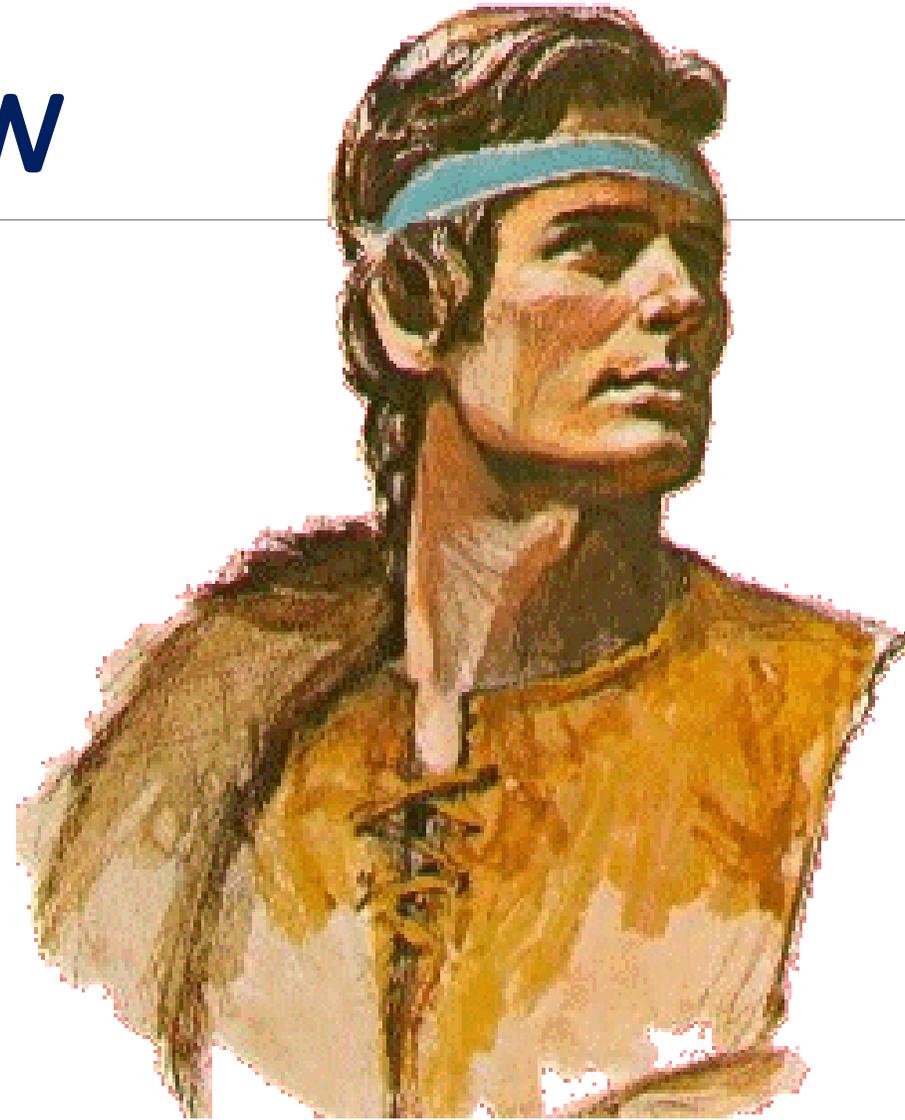
another 30% would describe themselves as agnostic,

whereas only 0.5% would describe themselves as Catholic and only 2.4% would describe themselves as following an “other Christian religion”...



How Nephi knew

1 Nephi 2:16



The Abrahamic Journey

Abraham 1:2

Follower

Desire-er

Follower

Possessor

Lehi

Obedient

Revelation

Hard Obedience

Greater Vision

Nephi

Obedient

Revelation

Hard Obedience

Greater Vision

What About Us?



Of Brass Plates and Rods

1 Nephi 3,4

