

A photograph of a sunset over a large body of water. The sun is a bright orange-red orb on the horizon, casting a shimmering reflection on the water. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds tinged with orange and yellow from the setting sun. In the far distance, a city skyline is visible against the horizon. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The Psalm of Nephi

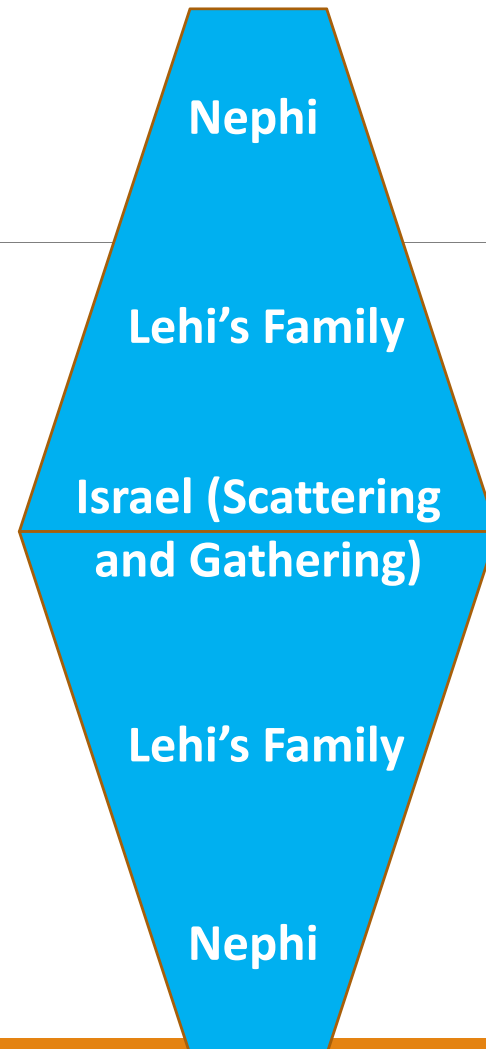
The Setting: The Death of Lehi

2 Nephi 4:12



Reaction to the Gospel of Christ

1 Nephi 1 to 2 Nephi 4



First Stanza (Chiasmus Parallelism)

Behold, *my soul* delighteth in the things of the Lord: and

My Soul Delighteth

"my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children." (4:15)

"my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord; and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard." (4:16)

"my soul delighteth in his [Isaiah's] words." (11:2)

"my soul delighteth in proving unto my people the truth of the coming of Christ . . ." (11:4)

"my soul delighteth in the covenants of the Lord which he hath made to our fathers" (11:5)

"my soul delighteth in his grace, and in his justice, and power, and mercy in the great and eternal plan of deliverance from death." (11:5)

"my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come all men must perish. (11:6)

"my soul delighteth in plainness unto my people, that they may learn." (25:4)

"my soul delighteth in the words of Isaiah . . ." (25:5)

"my soul delighteth to prophecy concerning [Christ]" (25:13)

"my soul delighteth in plainness; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men." (31:3)

First Stanza (Chiasmus Parallelism)

Behold, *my soul* delighteth in the things of the Lord: and

My heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen
and heard.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord
in showing me his great and marvelous work

My heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am!

Yea my heart sorroweth because of my flesh

My soul grieveth because of mine iniquities.

The Great Question!

Oh then

If I have seen so great things

If the Lord [in his condescension unto the children of men] hath visited men in so much mercy

Why?

Should my heart weep and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow...

And my flesh waste away and my strength slacken

Because of my afflictions

And Why?

Should I yield to sin...

...should I give way to temptations (that the evil one have place, in my heart, to destroy my peace and afflict my soul.

Why?

Am I angry because of mine enemy!

And, the Great Answer!

Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin.

Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.

Do not anger again because of mine enemies

Do not slacken my strength because of mine afflictions.