

which they did, Satan did get great hold upon the hearts of the people upon all the face of the land.

24. And thus *ended the nine-

tieth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

25. And thus ended the book of Helaman, according to the record of Helaman and his sons.

THIRD NEPHI THE BOOK OF NEPHI

THE SON OF NEPHI, WHO WAS THE SON OF HELAMAN

And Helaman was the son of Helaman, who was the son of Alma, who was the son of Alma, being a descendant of Nephi who was the son of Lehi, who came out of Jerusalem in the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, the king of Judah.

CHAPTER 1

Nephi, son of Helaman, departs—Signs given of the Savior's birth—Opposite effects manifest—Again, the Gadianton band.

1. Now it came to pass that the †ninety and first year had passed away and it was "six hundred years from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem; and it was in the year that Lachoneus was the chief judge and the governor over the land.

2. And Nephi, the son of Helaman, had departed out of the land of ^bZarahemla, giving charge unto his son Nephi, who was his eldest son, concerning the ^cplates of brass, and all the records which had been kept, and ^dall those things which had been kept sacred from the departure of Lehi out of Jerusalem.

3. Then he departed out of the land, and ^ewhither he went, no man knoweth; and his son Nephi did keep the records in his stead, yea, the record of this people.

4. And it came to pass that in the commencement of the ninety and second year, behold, the prophecies of the prophets began

to be fulfilled more fully; for there began to be ^fgreater signs and greater miracles wrought among the people.

5. But there were some who began to say that the time was past for the words to be fulfilled, which were ^gspoken by Samuel, the Lamanite.

6. And they began to rejoice over their brethren, saying: Behold the time is past, and the words of Samuel are not fulfilled; therefore, your joy and your faith concerning this thing hath been vain.

7. And it came to pass that they did make a great uproar throughout the land; and the people who believed began to be very sorrowful, lest by any means those things which had been spoken might not come to pass.

8. But behold, they did watch steadfastly ^hfor that day and that night and that day which should be as one day as if there were no night, that they might know that their faith had not been vain.

9. Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who be-

a, 1 Ne. 10:4. *b*, Om. 13. *c*, see *a*, 1 Ne. 3. *d*, Al. 37. *e*, 3 Ne. 2:9. *f*, He. 16:13, 23. *g*, He. 14:2—7. *h*, He. 14:3, 4. * B. C. 1. † A. D. 1.

lieved in those traditions 'should be put to death except the 'sign should come to pass, which had been given by Samuel the prophet.

10. Now it came to pass that when Nephi, the son of Nephi, saw this wickedness of his people, his heart was exceedingly sorrowful.

11. And it came to pass that he went out and bowed himself down upon the earth, and cried mightily to his God in behalf of his people, yea, those who were about ^kto be destroyed because of their faith in the tradition of their fathers.

12. And it came to pass that he cried mightily unto the Lord, all the day; and behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying:

13. Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on 'this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.

14. Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfil all things which I have made known unto the children of men ^mfrom the foundation of the world, and to do the will, both of the Father and of the Son—ⁿof the Father because of me, and ^oof the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and ^pthis night shall the sign be given.

15. And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi were fulfilled, according as they had been spoken; for behold, ^qat the going down of the sun there was no darkness; and the people

began to be astonished because there was no darkness when the night came.

16. And there were many, who had not believed the words of the prophets, who ^rfell to the earth and became as if they were dead, for they knew that the great ^splan of destruction which they had laid for those who believed in the words of the prophets had been frustrated; for the signal which had been given was already at hand.

17. And they began to know that the Son of God must shortly appear; yea, in fine, all the people upon the face of the whole earth from the west to the east, both in the land ^tnorth and in the land ^usouth, were so exceedingly astonished that they ^vfell to the earth.

18. For they knew that the prophets had testified of these things for many years, and that the sign which had been given was already at hand; and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief.

19. And it came to pass that there was ^wno darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given.

20. And it had come to pass, yea, all things, every whit, according to the words of the prophets.

21. And it came to pass also that a ^xnew star did appear, according to the word.

22. And it came to pass that from this time forth there began

i, vers. 11, 16. *j*, He. 14:2—7. *k*, vers. 9, 16. *l*, ver. 8. He. 14:3, 4. *m*, see *d*, Mos. 4. *n*, see *c*, Mos. 15. *o*, see *b*, Mos. 3. *p*, He. 14:3, 4. *q*, He. 14:3, 4. *r*, ver. 17. He. 14:7. *s*, vers. 9, 11. *t*, see *p*, Al. 46. *u*, see *n*, Al. 46. *v*, ver. 16. He. 14:7. *w*, He. 14:3, 4. *x*, He. 14:5. A. D. 1.

to be lyings sent forth among the people, by Satan, to harden their hearts, to the intent that they might not believe in those signs and wonders which they had seen; but notwithstanding these lyings and deceivings the more part of the people did believe, and were converted unto the Lord.

23. And it came to pass that Nephi went forth among the people, and also many others, ^ybaptizing unto repentance, in the which there was a great remission of sins. And thus the people began again to have peace in the land.

24. And there were no contentions, save it were a few that began to preach, endeavoring to prove by the scriptures that it was no more expedient to observe the law of Moses. Now in this thing they did err, having not understood the scriptures.

25. But it came to pass that they soon became converted, and were convinced of the error which they were in, for it was made known unto them that the ^zlaw was not yet fulfilled, and that it must be fulfilled in every whit; yea, the word came unto them that it must be fulfilled; yea, that one jot or tittle should not pass away till it should all be fulfilled; therefore in this same year were they brought to a knowledge of their error and did confess their faults.

26. And thus the ninety and second year did pass away, bringing glad tidings unto the people because of the signs which did come to pass, according to the words of the prophecy of all the holy prophets.

27. And it came to pass that

the ninety and third year did also pass away in peace, save it were for the ^{2a}Gadianton robbers, who dwelt upon the mountains, who did infest the land; for so strong were their holds and their secret places that the people could not overpower them; therefore they did commit many murders, and did do much slaughter among the people.

28. And it came to pass that in the ninety and fourth year they began to increase in a great degree, because there were many dissenters of the Nephites who did flee unto them, which did cause much sorrow unto those Nephites who did remain in the land.

29. And there was also a cause of much sorrow among the Lamanites; for behold, they had many children who did grow up and began to wax strong in years, that they became for themselves, and were led away by some who were Zoramites, by their lyings and their flattering words, to join those Gadianton robbers.

30. And thus were the Lamanites afflicted also, and began to decrease as to their faith and righteousness, because of the wickedness of the rising generation.

CHAPTER 2.

Nephite degeneracy—White Lamanites—Both peoples unite for defence against robbers and murderers.

1. And it came to pass that thus passed away the ninety and fifth year also, and the people began to forget ^athose signs and wonders which they had heard, and began to be less and less astonished at a sign or a wonder from heaven, insomuch that they

^y, see *u*, 2 Ne. 9. ^z, see *o*, 2 Ne. 25. ^{2a}, He. 2:11—13. CHAP. 2: *a*, He. 14:3—7.
3 Ne. 1:8, 13—21. A. D. 3—5.

began to be hard in their hearts, and blind in their minds, and began to disbelieve all which they had heard and seen—

2. Imagining up some vain thing in their hearts, that it was wrought by men and by the power of the devil, to lead away and deceive the hearts of the people; and thus did Satan get possession of the hearts of the people again, insomuch that he did blind their eyes and lead them away to believe that the doctrine of Christ was a foolish and a vain thing.

3. And it came to pass that the people began to wax strong in wickedness and abominations; and they did not believe that there should be any more signs or wonders given; and Satan did go about, leading away the hearts of the people, tempting them and causing them that they should do great wickedness in the land.

4. And thus did pass away the ninety and sixth year; and also the ninety and seventh year; and also the ninety and eighth year; and also the ninety and ninth year;

5. And also an hundred years had passed away since the days of ^bMosiah, who was king over the people of the Nephites.

6. And six hundred and nine years had passed away since Lehi left Jerusalem.

7. And nine years had passed away from the time when the ^csign was given, which was spoken of by the prophets, that Christ should come into the world.

8. Now the Nephites began to ^dreckon their time from this period when the sign was given, or from the coming of Christ; there-

fore, nine years had passed away.

9. And Nephi, who was the father of Nephi, who had the charge of the records, ^edid not return to the land of ^fZarahemla, and could nowhere be found in all the land.

10. And it came to pass that the people did still remain in wickedness, notwithstanding the much preaching and prophesying which was sent among them; and thus passed away the tenth year also; and the eleventh year also passed away in iniquity.

11. And it came to pass in the thirteenth year there began to be wars and contentions throughout all the land; for the ^gGadian-ton robbers had become so numerous, and did slay so many of the people, and did lay waste so many cities, and did spread so much death and carnage throughout the land, that it became expedient that all the people, both the Nephites and the Lamanites, should take up arms against them.

12. Therefore, all the Lamanites who had become converted unto the Lord did unite with their brethren, the Nephites, and were compelled, for the safety of their lives and their women and their children, to take up arms against those Gadian-ton robbers, yea, and ^halso to maintain their rights, and the privileges of their church and of their worship, and their freedom and their liberty.

13. And it came to pass that before this thirteenth year had passed away the Nephites were threatened with utter destruction because of this war, which had become exceedingly sore.

14. And it came to pass that those Lamanites who had united

^b, Mos. 29:46, 47. ^c, see ^a. ^d, ver. 7. ^e, 3 Ne. 1:2, 3. ^f, Om. 13. ^g, He. 2:11—13. ^h, see ^m, Mos. 29. A. D. 10—14.

with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites;

15. And 'their curse was taken from them, and their skin became 'white like unto the Nephites;

16. And their young men and their daughters became exceedingly fair, and they were numbered among the Nephites, and were called Nephites. And thus ended the thirteenth year.

17. And it came to pass in the commencement of the fourteenth year, the war between the *robbers and the people of Nephi did continue and did become exceedingly sore; nevertheless, the people of Nephi did gain some advantage of the robbers, insomuch that they did drive them back out of their lands into the mountains and into their secret places.

18. And thus ended the fourteenth year. And in the *fifteenth year they did come forth against the people of Nephi; and because of the wickedness of the people of Nephi, and their many contentions and dissensions, the Gadianon robbers did gain many advantages over them.

19. And thus ended the fifteenth year, and thus were the people in a state of many afflictions; and the sword of destruction did hang over them, insomuch that they were about to be smitten down by it, and this because of their iniquity.

CHAPTER 3.

Lachoneus, governor of the land, receives epistle from Giddianhi, the robber chieftain—Surrender demanded—Lachoneus ignores demand and prepares for defence.

1. And now it came to pass that in the sixteenth year from the coming of Christ, 'Lachoneus,

the governor of the land, received an epistle from the leader and the governor of this band of robbers; and these were the words which were written, saying:

2. Lachoneus, most noble and chief governor of the land, behold, I write this epistle unto you, and do give unto you exceeding great praise because of your firmness, and also the firmness of your people, in maintaining that which ye suppose to be your 'right and liberty; yea, ye do stand well, as if ye were supported by the hand of a god, in the defence of your liberty, and your property, and your country, or that which ye do call so.

3. And it seemeth a pity unto me, most noble Lachoneus, that ye should be so foolish and vain as to suppose that ye can stand against so many brave men who are at my command, who do now at this time stand in their arms, and do await with great anxiety for the word—Go down upon the Nephites and destroy them.

4. And I, knowing of their unconquerable spirit, having proved them in the field of battle, and knowing of their everlasting hatred towards you because of the many wrongs which ye have done unto them, therefore if they should come down against you they would visit you with utter destruction.

5. Therefore I have written this epistle, sealing it with mine own hand, feeling for your welfare, because of your firmness in that which ye believe to be right, and your noble spirit in the field of battle.

6. Therefore I write unto you, desiring that ye would yield up unto this my people, your cities,

i, see *d*, 1 Ne. 2. *j*, see *f*, 2 Ne. 30. *k*, He. 2:11—13. CHAP. 3: *a*, 3 Ne. 1:1.
b, see *m*, Mos. 29. * A. D 15.

your lands, and your possessions, rather than that they should visit you with the sword and that destruction should come upon you.

7. Or in other words, yield yourselves up unto us, and unite with us and become acquainted with our 'secret works, and become our brethren that ye may be like unto us—not our slaves, but our brethren and partners of all our substance.

8. And behold, I swear unto you, if ye will do this, with an oath, ye shall not be destroyed; but if ye will not do this, I swear unto you with an oath, that on the morrow month I will command that my armies shall come down against you, and they shall not stay their hand and shall spare not, but shall slay you, and shall let fall the sword upon you even until ye shall become extinct.

9. And behold, I am Giddianhi; and I am the governor of this the 'secret society of Gadianton; which society and the works thereof I know to be good; and they are of ancient date and they have been handed down unto us.

10. And I write this epistle unto you, Lachoneus, and I hope that ye will deliver up your lands and your possessions, without the shedding of blood, that this my people may recover their rights and government, who have dissented away from you because of your wickedness in retaining from them their rights of government, and except ye do this, I will avenge their wrongs. I am Giddianhi.

11. And now it came to pass when Lachoneus received this epistle he was exceedingly aston-

ished, because of the boldness of Giddianhi demanding the possession of the land of the Nephites, and also of threatening the people and avenging the wrongs of those that had received no wrong, save it were they had wronged themselves by dissenting away unto those wicked and abominable robbers.

12. Now behold, this Lachoneus, the governor, was a just man, and could not be frightened by the demands and the threatenings of a robber; therefore he did not hearken to the epistle of Giddianhi, the governor of the robbers, but he did cause that his people should cry unto the Lord for strength against the time that the robbers should come down against them.

13. Yea, he sent a proclamation among all the people, that they should 'gather together their women, and their children, their flocks and their herds, and all their substance, save it were their land, unto one place.

14. And he caused that 'fortifications should be built round about them, and the strength thereof should be exceeding great. And he caused that armies, both of the Nephites and of the Lamanites, or of all them who were numbered among the Nephites, should be placed as guards round about to watch them, and to guard them from the robbers day and night.

15. Yea, he said unto them: As the Lord liveth, except ye repent of all your iniquities, and cry unto the Lord, ye will in nowise be delivered out of the hands of those 'Gadianton robbers.

16. And so great and marvel-

c, see *i*, 2 Ne. 10. *d*, see *i*, 2 Ne. 10. *e*, vers. 22—24. *f*, see *c*, Al. 48. *g*, He. 2:11—13. A. D. 16.

ous were the words and prophecies of Lachoneus that they did cause fear to come upon all the people; and they did exert themselves in their might to do according to the words of Lachoneus.

17. And it came to pass that Lachoneus did appoint chief captains over all the armies of the Nephites, to command them at the time that the robbers should come down out of the wilderness against them.

18. Now the chiefest among all the captains and the great commander of all the armies of the Nephites was appointed, and his name was ^hGidgiddoni.

19. Now it was the custom among all the Nephites to appoint for their chief captains, (save it were in their times of wickedness) some one that had the spirit of revelation and also prophecy; therefore, this ^hGidgiddoni was a great prophet among them, as also was the chief judge.

20. Now the people said unto ^hGidgiddoni: Pray unto the Lord, and let us go up upon the mountains and into the wilderness, that we may fall upon the robbers and destroy them in their own lands.

21. But ^hGidgiddoni saith unto them: The Lord forbid; for if we should go up against them the Lord would deliver us into their hands; therefore we will prepare ourselves in the center of our lands, and we will gather all our armies together, and we will not go against them, but we will wait till they shall come against us; therefore as the Lord liveth, if we do this he will deliver them into our hands.

22. And it came to pass in the ^{*}seventeenth year, in the latter end of the year, the proclamation of ^hLachoneus had gone forth throughout all the face of the land, and they had taken their ^hhorses, and their ^kchariots, and their cattle, and all their flocks, and their herds, and their grain, and all their substance, and did march forth by thousands and by tens of thousands, until they had all gone forth to the place which ^hhad been appointed that they should gather themselves together, to defend themselves against their enemies.

23. And the land which was appointed was the ^mland of Zarahemla and the ⁿland Bountiful, yea, to the line which was between the land Bountiful and the land ^oDesolation.

24. And there were a great many thousand people who were called Nephites, who did gather themselves together in this land. Now Lachoneus did cause that they should gather themselves together in the land ^psouthward, because of the great curse which was upon the ^qland northward.

25. And they did ^rfortify themselves against their enemies; and they did dwell in one land, and in one body, and they did fear the words which had been spoken by Lachoneus, insomuch that they did repent of all their sins; and they did put up their prayers unto the Lord their God, that he would deliver them in the time that their enemies should come down against them to battle.

26. And they were exceedingly sorrowful because of their enemy. And ^rGidgiddoni did cause that they should make weapons of

h, vers. 20, 21, 26. 3 Ne. 4:13, 24, 26. *i*, 3 Ne. 1:1. *j*, see *m*, 1 Ne. 18. *k*, see *l*, Al. 18. *l*, vers. 13, 23, 24. *m*, Om. 13. *n*, see 2*k*, Al. 22. *o*, see 2*l*, Al. 22. *p*, see *n*, Al. 46. *q*, see *p*, Al. 46. *r*, see *c*, Al. 48. *s*, see *h*. * A. D. 17.

