

“Press Forward:” A Book of Mormon Family Musical (v.15, 2-9-16)

ACT 2 – THE PROMISED LAND (8 years later. Many young children have now joined the family) (# = CD, Act 2)

#1: Entr’acte (Dance of the Children, with their mothers, laughing, playing peek a boo, then skipping out merrily.)
(Last of all, two little girls, about 5 and 3 years old, are left alone on stage, dawdling and enjoying each other’s company. Lights up on Narrators, watching the children.) (>Music off)

Nar. 1: (Speaks) Look, there we are! (She points at the two little girls onstage – their mortal selves, years earlier.)
Nar. 2: Look how little we were! (A little boy, about 7 years old, enters and points to the girls.)
Nar. 1: And our brother, Jacob! (Sariah enters wearily DSR, carrying a young child, looking for them.)
Nar. 2: And little Joseph too! Look - they were so tiny! (>Music #2)
Nar. 1: (Concerned) Mother looks,,, tired. (Indeed, Sariah seems aged before her time, due to constant stress.)
Nar. 2: She WAS tired. That shouldn’t be too surprising - after EIGHT years in the wilderness, raising teenagers AND having babies! (Older children come and take care of the children, so Sariah can rest. She exits.)

#2: Strength for the Journey (1 Ne. 17:1-4)

SOI YW 1: (Singing) The journey’s been long, (Daughters of Ishmael’s sons sit DR, conversing about recent challenges)

SOI YW 2: And it’s been hard;

Young Jacob: But we get through it, (Young Jacob joins them, encouraging them)

+Faithful Son: By the strength of the Lord. (A young son of a son of Ishmael, who’s always looked up to Nephi)

+ More kids: He helps and sustains us all along our way; (They all enter and sit DR and DL, on piles of rocks there.)

+Sam, Zoram: He strengthens and nourishes us on our pathway every day. (Sam, Zoram, Laman, Lemuel join their kids)

Child 1: When storms befell, **Men:** When storms befell (UCL behind scrim: Ishmael’s wife, newly

Child 2: And our hearts were sad, **Men:** And our hearts were sad (departed, being grieved by her children.)

Child 1&2: We learned that all was well: **+ Sariah, Lehi:** All is well, (L&S comfort these newly-orphaned

+Jacob, Sisters: What we needed we had. **Family:** What we’ve needed we’ve had. adult children.)

+ More Ch: We walked in confidence **Family:** Confidence

+ More Ch: As He kept us from harm **Family:** From harm

+ More Ch: And He delivered us **Family:** Delivered us

+ More Ch:: By the pow’r of His arm. **Family:** By the pow’r of his arm! (Lights out behind scrim)

Men, Children: And in Him we found – Strength for the journey,
Whatever test or affliction or sorrow our road led through;
He gave us – Strength for the journey,
And slowly over time, our strength and our power grew. (Spot UC behind scrim, L&L wives with babies)

Wives, L&L: We bore children **Men, Children:** (Ah...) (Spot: Sariah in childbirth, in thunderstorm)

Wives: And we bore pain **Men, Children:** (Ah....) (Spot: Nephi’s wife burying a child)

Wives: We faced heat, and cold, and wind, and pouring rain **Men:** (Ah.) (Sons of Ishmael shield their children DL)

All: And we were strengthened by all that we passed through; (Baby Joseph’s first cry is heard)
And we were given the pow’r to do what we had to do. (Nephi’s wife stands bravely, wiping her tears)

All: We were given – Strength for the journey, (She is joined by her sisters, supporting her)

Women: Though we all started out with a faith that was weak and small. (Baby cry, Sariah’s baby suckling)

All: He gave us strength for the journey: (Lehi joins his wife, supporting her)

Nephi’s Wife: He gave us the pow’r to get us through it all. (Overcome with grief, Mrs. Nephi separates herself DC)

All: Despite the tears that we have cried, He has lit a light inside *(Mrs. Nephi falls to her knees in fervent prayer. A light falls on her, giving comfort.)*
 That we know will never, ever fade away!
 He gives us strength for the journey,
 And a faith that grows yet stronger every day **L&L:** *(The journey's been long, and it's been hard)*
 But we get through it, by the strength of the Lord. *(Mrs. Nephi stands boldly, with renewed faith.)*
(Lights out; scrim up; spotlight on Elder Nephi, writing DL, with his wife, reflecting on their younger life together.)

#3: Journeys Without Murmurings (1 Ne. 17:1-6)

Older Nephi: And our women did bear children in the wilderness
+Children: And were strong, even like unto the men;
 And they began to bear their journeyings
 Without murmurings...
Older Mrs. Nephi: Yes, I remember :
 Strong like unto the men,
 And we began to bear our journeyings
 Without murmurings **(Women: Ah...)**

+Older Mrs. N: And while living on raw meat in the wilderness, **(Women: Ah...)** *(The children run their mothers happily, They (we) nourished their (our) small babes the women lift and twirl their babies in a community dance)*
 Abundantly; **(Women: Ah...)**
 And after eight long years **(Women: Eight long years)** *(The men join their families, Of trials and of tears, (Women: Trials and tears,) arms around their wives)*

+Company: We arrived at a place beside a shining sea... *(They all sing together, united, facing the audience)*

(Music segues to #4, including Sound Effect – waves at the seashore, coming from the auditorium. Lehi, carrying the Liahona, leads his family as they walk forward slowly, discovering this new location with wonder and delight. Meanwhile, older Nephi and his wife read and reminisce.)

Older Nephi: “Behold, we did come to a land which we did call Bountiful, because of its much fruit and wild honey.”
O. Mrs. Nephi: Bountiful. How I loved the land Bountiful. *(Her younger self comes forward, joyfully breathing in the ocean air. Older Mrs. N. reads:)* “And we beheld the sea, and did pitch our tents by the seashore.”
Older Nephi: *(Continuing to read)* “And notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions and much difficulty, we were exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the seashore. “ *(He closes the book and leaves, as she continues to quietly reminisce.)*
O. Mrs. Nephi: “Exceedingly rejoiced.” Yes – I remember... *(lights up on the action on the seashore)*

Laman: *(to his wife)* I told you it would be worth it. It's been hard for you, all this time. But now, we've finally arrived.

#4: Home At Last (1 Ne. 17:5-6)

Laman: We're home at last – My little children! *(As they stand together in warm sunset, (Singing:) We're home at last – My tender wife! with the gentle sound of ocean waves .)*
+His Wife: Here, we can finally stop and make a home,
+Children: Here, we will eat this fruit and never have to roam again.

+Lemuel: We're home at last – Through with our wandering; *(To his wife, swinging her happily as she laughs)*
+His Wife: We're home at last – Through with our pain and fear.
+Sons of Ishm: Here, we can finally rest and make an end;
+Wives, Childr: We've finally found our promised land, right here. *(Lights up on Nephi, at some distance, looking out toward the audience, as if it were the sea. He senses it is important somehow – but is unsure why.)*

Nephi: Why is that sea – Calling out to me –
 And what may lie beyond this restful shore?
 This is a place with a comforting embrace - *(This is Older Nephi, seen now as a younger man acting within the unfolding story)*
 And yet I can't help feeling there is more. **Older Mrs. Nephi:** So much more...
(Keychange)

All/Nephi: We're home at last **Nephi:** *Why is that sea) –* **Younger Mrs. Nephi:** *Nephi?...*
 Through with our wandering; *(calling out to me?)* **Nephi:** *Nephi?...*
 We're home at last *(What may lie beyond) –*
 Through with our pain and fear. *(this restful shore?)* **Older Mrs. Nephi:** *So much more...*

Here, we can finally rest and make an end; *(Is this the end?)*
 We've finally found our promised land
 Right here. *(I can't help feeling there is more...)* **Older Mrs. Nephi:** *So much more...*
 Right here. *(I can't help feeling there is more...)* **Younger Mrs. Nephi:** *Nephi?... (he turns to her)*
 Right here. *(I can't help feeling – it's a strong and growing feeling – No, I just cannot help feeling*
 Right here. *(There is more – beyond this restful shore...)* **Older Mrs. Nephi:** *So much more...*

(>Music off) *(Lights out on the family and on Older Mrs. Nephi; up on Narrators)*

Nar. 2: *(Speaks)* That time we spent in the land Bountiful, there at the ocean side, was the happiest time in my life.
Nar. 1: Mine too. But there isn't much about it here in Nephi's book.
Nar. 2: There's not much about us there in general!
Nar. 1: I know – only one verse. See, here it is.... "Jacob and Joseph, *and also my sisters...*"
Nar. 2: 4 words? We only get 4 words in the entire book?
Nar. 1: Yep. 4 words. We're ... background characters! **(>Music #5)**
Nar. 2: I guess not everybody can be in the spotlight.

#5: In the Background

Nar. 1: *(Sings)* Quietly – In the background - We cook and clean and feel and think and live.
Nar. 2: Silently - In the background - We love and pray and fear and hope and give.
Nar. 1: And yet our voices are rarely ever heard,
+Nar. 2: And what is written of us Is hardly a word *(Lights up on women, quietly busy with household tasks)*

+OMN, Women: But quietly – In the background – *(Sam and Zoram enter, each busy with tasks for the camp)*
 We strive and learn
 And hear and ache and grow; **Sam & Zoram:** *We learn and hear and ache and grow.*
 And silently – In the background –
 We serve in ways no one will ever know. **Sam & Zoram:** *No one but God will ever know!*

+Children: And yet our voices Are heard by God above; *Our voices are heard by God above*
 And he sees silently Our endless gifts of love. *And he sees... our gifts of love.*

And quietly, in the background,
 He sends his help and blessings every day; **Sam & Zoram:** *Every day,*
 And silently, in the background,
 He helps us through each challenge on our way. **Sam & Zoram:** *He helps us on our way!*

All: And it's nice to know We have so much in common **(Angels, joined by Ishmael's wife: Ah!)**
 With God himself, in heaven up above
 Who silently, in the background, Quietly pours out his gifts of love.

Nar's: Just as we do - **Sam & Zoram:** *Just as we do -* **Women and Children:** *Just as we do -*
All: In the background.

(Abruptly, the music changes to a bold driving sound, as Nephi becomes visible reaching the top of a mountain, high up, UL. Lights focus on him; lights fade out on the family below.)

#6: Driven to the Mountain (1 Ne. 17:7-9)

Nephi: Driven to the mountain, like Moses was of old; (Background lights are dramatic and stormy,
(Singing) Driven to the mountain, in the early morning cold; dark silhouetted against dark,
Following a quiet voice that beckoned me this way, as he completes his strenuous climb,
I am... Driven to the mountain today. in very early morning.)

Up here where the air is clear, on cliffs that you've clenched and clawed,
There's not another voice to hear, except for the voice of God.
And when you come here to seek Him, He doesn't turn away. (Background lights slowly turn
That's why I've come to His holy mountain... Today. airy white and peaceful blue)

And I cry... To Him.
And I cry... To Him. (Sky becomes ever more radiant and beautiful,
And I try... in early-morning patches of color)
To listen and to hear! **Angels:** (Enter, and join the singing): Ah...

Nephi: Here on this mountaintop, **Angels:** (Ah...)
My eyes are filled with things I cannot always see: (Look up and see...)
Here in this quiet place, (Ah)
His quiet voice speaks clearly, just to only me.

Driven to the mountain, like Moses was of old. (Sky becomes soft yellow – early sunrise)
Driven to the mountain.... **Angels:** (Driven to the mountain...)

(>Music off) (Lights out on mountain; up on the camp below, with Laman and son sitting DSR. They speak:)

Laman: (To his son, a curly-headed 5-year-old) So - how's my little man today?
Laman's Son: I'm good, father! I like this place better than anywhere ever! (Laman's wife joins them DSR)
Laman: It is beautiful, isn't it? But not as beautiful as your mother! (To his wife) Are you happy?
Laman's Wife: I could be happy here. (She stands, looks out) I still miss Jerusalem sometimes. But... it's nice here.

Laman: (He stands, joining her) I'll build you a big beautiful house... right over there.
Better than anything you ever had in Jerusalem!
Laman's Wife: (Laughs) Oh, Laman, you're such a tease. But I believe you. You've always worked so hard for us.
Laman: I'd do anything for you. And for our family. (Their son stands, joining them.)
Laman's Wife: I know. And I'm grateful. (She embraces him happily, their son hugs them, they laugh.)
(Based on **Jacob 3:7, 1 Ne. 17:20-21**)

(By now, Nephi has re-entered the picture, gathering supplies, and hammering nails into a wooden frame SL.
Sam and Lemuel enter, stand C., watching him.)

Sam: What are you doing?
Nephi: Preparing (turns and looks at Sam jubilantly) ... to build a ship!
Laman: A ship... Why?
Lemuel: (Mockingly) Are you ... going somewhere, Nephi?

Nephi: We're all going somewhere... (Points to the ocean) There!
Sam: The many waters? Why? What's over there?
Nephi: The promised land. A large expanse of land. A beautiful land. Big enough for all of us, for generations!

Laman: *(crossing to CR, a level down.)* We're not going anywhere. This.. *(motions to his family SR)*
THIS is the promised land.

Nephi: *(Crossing to meet him CL, explaining.)* THIS is a temporary resting spot. Within a year or two, with more and more children coming, it won't be nearly big enough.

Laman: Our wives, our children... Have you seen them? They're finally happy! We're not going anywhere!

Nephi: *(Crossing back to SL to resume work on the ship.)* God says otherwise. And He says you need to help me.

Lemuel: Help you... what?

Nephi: Build the ship, of course!

Lemuel: *(Sarcastically)* So now... you're a boat builder. And you want us to be your happy little assistants!

Nephi: It's going to be an amazing ship. God showed me how to build it. Not after the manner of men. It'll be unlike anything you've ever seen before. *(He resumes his hammering.)* **(1 Ne. 17:8-16)**

#7: Our Brother Is A Fool / Touch Me Not! (1 Ne. 17:17-21, 48-55)

Lemuel: *(Sings) (in rhythm with the hammering, crossing to Laman)* Our brother is a fool - He thinks he can build a boat

Laman: *(meeting Lemuel DCR)* With these pathetic little tools, And he thinks it could even float.

Lemuel: To carry us across these waters, to some "promised land."

+Laman: Hey, brother dear, shall we come and lend a hand? *(Sam, still C, once more finds himself caught uncomfortably between warring brothers.)*

(Sariah, hearing the tumult, enters USR holding her baby protectively)

L&L Why should we ever listen, *Laman's wife and son remain DSR, watching coldly.)*
for one second to the crazy ramblings. **Sam/Sariah:** Dear Lord, not this again!
Of this little chip off the old block? *(Young Jacob enters to help his mother)*
When will there ever be an end to all this silly foolishness? **Sam/Sar./Y.Jacob:** When will it ever stop?
When will it stop? When will it ever stop?

Laman: *(cries out in rage)* I know how to make it stop – Permanently! *(He lunges at Nephi, Lemuel joins him)*
(Sam and Young Jacob leap out to try to protect Nephi. Nephi extends his hand mightily, singing:)

Nephi: Touch me not! Or God will smite you, And you'll wither like a reed!
For I am filled with his power and might, It consumes the flesh of me!
Murmur no more against your father, And withhold not your labor from me;
For God has commanded us to build this ship, To carry us across the sea. *(Laman and Lemuel cower)*
(Zoram enters, joins Sam)
He is a God of power – He is a God of might – **Sam/Zoram:** God of power, God of might
And nothing is too hard for him, there is nothing beyond his sight. *Nothing beyond his sight.*
If he commanded me to turn this water to earth, I could do all that and more; *(Sons of Ishmael enter, then join Sam and Zoram.)*
So he can surely instruct me to build this ship, here upon this shore.

L&L: *(kneeling before him)* We know of a surety That the Lord our God is with thee.
For we know it is his power That has shaken us.

Nephi: I am only your younger brother: Worship the Lord thy God;
And honor thy father and thy mother,
That thy days may be long In the land which the Lord thy God shall give thee.

Sam: *(Speaks gently)* Let's get to work. What is it you wanted us to do?

Nephi: We need to gather some more timber. Let's start over here. **(>Music off)**

(Nephi leads the men out in search of timber. Laman lags behind. Lemuel takes a last glance, then follows the group.)
(Laman pulls away into a corner alone. Once again Nephi has bested him – and it festers deep inside him)

Laman's son: *(A young child, bounding in happily, tugging at his father's sleeve. Speaks:)* Father, can you play?
Laman: *(Bruised and irritated from recent events.)* Maybe later. Go ask Jacob if he can play.
(He stands and exits sullenly SL. His wife and mother watch him in concern. Mrs. Laman sits, shattered.)

Laman's son: *(Running to Sariah)* Grandmama – Papa says to ask if Jacob can play.
Sariah: I suppose that's fine – as long as you both play nice. *(The boys go skipping off happily.)*
(Sariah looks down at Joseph, the babe in her arms, then wistfully up toward Laman. Music begins.)

#8: I Have Not Forgotten

Sariah: Sweet little baby boy, brimming with light and joy,
(Singing): Your eyes shining bright with ecstatic delight, Full of wonder at the world,
 Now a man, not a baby, in form – Tall and handsome, and yet forlorn;
 With eyes dark and angry, And blaming and cold – Battle weary and war-torn:

You've forgotten who you are – You've forgotten who you were,
 And you've forgotten who you have it in you to be.
 But I have not forgotten, And I never will forget;
 For my son, I still believe in you, And I'm pulling for you yet.

Once a laughing, cherubic child, Hair curling softly around your face, *(Mrs. Laman lifts her head – a mix of pain, sadness, and anger)*
 And your peals of laughter filling the air with delight and joy and grace.
+ Mrs. Laman: Now you've lost your radiant smile – I see you struggle day by day;
 And I try to reach you – I try to touch you – But you just turn away. *(Angels enter, supporting them.)*

You've forgotten who you are *(Angels: Who you are)* –
 You've forgotten who you were, *(Who you were)*
 And you've lost sight of who you have it in you to be. *(Who it's in you to be)*
 But I have not forgotten, *(Not forgotten)* And I never will forget; *(Never will forget)*

Sariah: For my son, I still believe in you,
+ Mrs. Laman: And I'm pulling for you yet. *(And I'm pulling for you yet.)*

(harmony:) I will never stop fighting for you – Never stop aching for you – *(Never stop – Never stop)*
 Never stop believing that you'll find your way; *(Never stop – Ah)*
 And I'll never stop praying for you – Never will stop hoping *(Never stop, Never stop)*
 That you'll grow into who you were born to be... someday. *(Ah...)*

(Laman re-enters, cold and angry)

Sariah: My sweet little baby boy, brimming with light and joy,
 Your eyes shining bright with ecstatic delight, Full of wonder at the world,
 Now a man, not a baby, in form – *(Ah...)*

+ Mrs. Laman: Tall and handsome, and yet forlorn;
 You've forgotten who you are – But I've not forgotten.

Lemuel: *(Spoken, calling to him)* Hey Laman – you joining us over here?

Sariah, Mrs. L: I have not forgotten.

Sam: *(Spoken, approaching him kindly, extending a hand)* We need your help, brother.

Sariah, Mrs. L: I have not forgotten – I have not forgotten.

(Laman silently rejoins his brothers, as they continue crafting the ship. Lights fade out; up on Narrators)
(>Music off)

- Nar. 1:** (*Speaks*) Over time, our brothers worked hard to complete the ship, to carry us all to the promised land. Nephi went into the mountain often to learn more from God about how to build it just right.
- Nar. 2:** And when it was done, even Laman and Lemuel had to agree that the ship was well-built and strong, and that the workmanship of it was exceedingly fine. (**>Music Intro: #9**)
- Nar. 1:** And they humbled themselves again before the Lord. (*Light shines onto Lehi, as in his first vision*) And the voice of the Lord came to our father Lehi, that we should arise and go down into the ship.
- Nar. 2:** So, after gathering much food and provisions, we all entered the ship. (*Lehi's light out*) And we put forth into the sea, and were driven forth (*Sound effect – loud powerful wind.*) before the wind to the promised land. (**1 Ne. 18:1-8**)
- Nar. 1:** And despite many adversities upon the waters, after we had sailed for many days, we arrived at a new land, and we went forth upon the land, and pitched our tents. And we called it the promised land. (**1 Ne. 18:22-23**)

(Lights up on Lehi and the family, newly discovering the promised land. Their faces beam with wonder and great joy.)

#9: Home At Last, Reprise (**1 Ne. 17:5-6**)

- Lehi:** (*Singing*): We're home at last – Behold, my children,
We've home at last – My beloved wife! (*He tucks her under his arm.*)
- +Sariah:** (*with her small children.*) Here, we can finally stop and make a home,
- +Zoram & wife:** Here, we will plant our seeds and never have to roam again. (*Keychange*)
- +Bros/wives:** We're home at last (*Home at last*) – Through with our wandering (*Through with our wandering*)
- +Sofl/wives:** We're home at last (*Home at last*) – Through with our pain and fear. (*Through with our pain and fear.*)
- +Children:** Here, we can finally rest and make an end;
We've finally found our promised land right here:
We're home... Home at last! Home at last! (*Lights out on the family, up on Older Nephi and wife*)
- Older Nephi:** (*Reading*) "And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth... and we put all our seeds into the earth, which we'd brought from the land of Jerusalem. And they grew exceedingly; and we were blessed in abundance."
- ONephi's wife:** "And we found upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts of every kind, which were for the use of men. And we found all manner of ore - of gold, and of silver, and of copper. "
- Older Nephi:** "And the Lord commanded me, wherefore I made plates of ore, that I might engraven upon them the record of our people." (*They ponder the record reverently, lights out*)

(Lights up on Sariah, sitting alone in the moonlight, leaning on a large rock, very tired. It has been a long journey, full of adversities and heartbreaks. Her mortal strength is quickly ebbing away.)

- Sariah:** (*Singing*) We're home at last – Our family is peaceful,
In this healing place, after so much time has passed.
Maybe I can finally rest for just a while.
Maybe this... is truly home... at last.

(4 chords. She closes her eyes, and goes peacefully to sleep. After a few moments, the music segues, and Lehi comes looking for her. He sees her from a distance at first.)

#10: Beautiful Tonight, Reprise

Lehi: The stars are so beautiful tonight!
But not nearly as beautiful as you.
(No response from her, as the music continues)

Sariah? *(As the second verse plays, he approaches her. She is motionless. He finally realizes - her life's journey is now over. Agonized, he cries out:)*

Please don't leave me, Sariah - please don't go!
For I know, I'll miss everything about you.
We have finally arrived in our promised land -
But it holds so much less joy for me, without you.

(Stroking her hair gently) You're looking so beautiful tonight,
With the moonlight in your hair – sweet love, adieu.
It's been a long hard journey, a long hard fight -
But there's no one I would have rather shared it with - than you.

I feel my life, like yours, slowly slipping away; *(Angels appear, including Ishmael and his wife)*
But there are things I know, that I still need to say, *(Gently the angels rouse Sariah)*
Before my time is past, and I go home at last *(She recognizes them with joy, embraces them)*
To you, and to... My Savior. *(He looks up with joy, as a strong light falls on him from above.)*

The Lord hath redeemed my soul – And I have beheld his glory! **(Angels: Ah)**
I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love! *(Sariah begins exiting with the angels)*
In the arms of love. *as the music of their former duet plays. As she exits, she sings to him:*

Sariah (exiting:) *(Till then, adieu.)* *(Lights out slowly on Lehi)*

Nar. 1: *(Speaks)* Sometimes, people just seem to know when their time on earth is passed. *(Gentle music intro begins)*

Nar. 2: And as our father's time grew near, he gathered his family around him, to impart some final counsel.

(Lights up on Lehi, sitting center stage, surrounded by his family. Laman is on his right hand, Nephi is at his left. Lemuel and sons of Ishmael stand beside Laman. Sam, Zoram, Jacob, and Joseph stand at the side of Nephi. Their wives and children stand or sit somewhat farther away, on the side corresponding to their head of household. Nephi's wife holds her nephew, baby Joseph, recently bereft of his mother.)

(Lehi sings weakly, near the end of his mortal strength:)

#11: Awake, My Sons (2 Ne. 1:4-5; 13-14; 21-24)

Lehi: Behold, I have seen in vision – Jerusalem is now destroyed;
(Singing) And if we still had been there, we also would have perished with them, my boys.
But here we are, in this new land of promise, Choice above all other lands.
And as we settle here, there are things that you all need to understand:

(Slowly and thoughtfully) Here at the end of a lifetime, I reflect on all that my eyes have seen;
I share with you one final message, and offer one final plea.
You have it within your power To be mighty, bold, and strong,
So hear the words of a trembling parent – a father's dying song:

(To Laman's group): Awake, my sons: Shake off those awful chains that bind you;
Be determined in one heart and mind, united in all things.
Arise from the dust, and put old darker times behind you.
Embrace the joy that this new land of promise brings.

Rebel no more against your brother *(He brings Nephi forward to kneel near him)*
Whose views have been glorious for years;
For without him we all would have perished long ago
In that wilderness of tears.

Awake, my sons: Shake off those awful chains that bind you; *(Angels become visible: Ah...)*
Be determined in one heart and mind, united in all things. *(The stage becomes luminous,*
Arise from the dust, and put old darker times behind you. *as in his first vision of heaven)*
Embrace the joy that this new land of promise brings. *(Sariah steps forward slowly in light)*

Sariah: *(As an angel)* And you have obtained a land of promise – And it's time now to come home, *(she beckons him)*
To inherit all that you worked for – Never more to be alone.

(He hears her, delicately balanced between this world and the next, as he gives his family final instruction)

Lehi: *(Speaking)* *(with instrumental verse)* And now my son Laman, and also Lemuel and Sam, and also my sons
who are the sons of Ishmael, behold if ye will hearken unto the voice of Nephi ye shall not
perish. And if ye will hearken unto him, I leave unto you a blessing, yea, even my first blessing.
But if ye will not hearken unto him I take away my first blessing, and it shall rest upon him.

*(This is shattering, unexpected news for Laman, who for a lifetime anticipated being
Lehi's full heir, and the undisputed leader of their family tribe, after Lehi's passing.
Lehi continues, in an ever-weakening voice:)*

Be faithful, my sons. Be faithful always... in keeping... the words... of the Lord.
(He looks up at Laman, who averts his gaze bitterly. This pains Lehi to the core.)

Sariah: *(As an angel)* *(Gently)* Lift up your head – Be comforted – And don't despair any more,
For it won't be long till you see for yourself – What all of this is for. *(She extends a hand to him)*
+Lehi, Angels: *(as he joins her and the angels, exiting together into the light. His mortal journey ends.)* Ooo.

(>Music off) *(The stage looks darker now. Nephi stands slowly, gathering his strength to stand in his father's place.)*

Nephi: *(Gently, with authority)* We must remember always the things our father has spoken to us this day.
Laman: *(Menacingly)* Oh, I remember, little brother. Believe me – this is one day I will never, ever forget.
Nephi: Laman... *(Concerned, Nephi extends a hand to Laman, who slaps it away ferociously, as fierce music
erupts. (>Music #12)*

*Lights out on the family, as a spotlight follows Laman, bolting to a dark, distant corner of the stage.
He is seething with rage, and lit by a torch or other half-light, creating dark shadows on his face.)*

#12: Hey, Little Brother (2 Ne. 4:13, 5:2-4)

Laman: *(Devastated and resentful)* Hey, little brother, You think that you're so tough!
(Singing) Hey, little brother, I've had about enough
Of your lectures and your endless words - There's none left that I haven't heard -
No outrage that you've left unstirred today!

(More gently, fighting within himself) Hey, little brother, This isn't how it used to be;
There was a time, little brother, When you once looked to me.
Funny, now, how things have changed; How ev'rything's been rearranged;
Funny and a little bit strange to see.

(Wistfully) Oh, I remember other days When we used to act in other ways.

(With longing, almost regret) Hey, little brother, I used to dry your tears;
When others hurt you, I used to calm your fears.
I used to be the one to watch your back – *(Upstage, Lemuel gathers Lamanites;*
Now it's me on the attack! *They plot Nephi's capture and death)*
How I wish we could go back in time! *(Lemuel and Lamanites: It's time to end this!)*

Oh, I never wanted to be your enemy; *(Anger begins growing to a boiling point)* (Ah...)
But you're the one who couldn't just let things be! *(Nephi enters, they seize violently upon him)*

(Ferociously) Hey, little brother, *(Lemuel/Lamanites: Ha!... Ha! Ah!)*
Don't push me against a wall,
'Cause if it comes to a battle, brother, *(Ha... Ha!....Ah!)* *(Nephi is required to struggle for*
It ain't me who's gonna fall! *his life against them all.)*

I won't let you take from me *(Ha... Ha!....Ah!)*
What is mine and what will always be!
Even if I have to free myself from you, *(Ha... Ha!....Ah!)*
Little brother! **Nephi:** Let me go...
Hey, little brother... **Lemuel:** Little brother!
Little brother! Little brother! **+Lamanites:** Little brother! Little brother!
Little brother - Hey! *(Nephi finally escapes, and runs from them.)*

(Laman's shadow becomes longer, deeper, and darker. This once-handsome, princely young man is now entirely transformed into a murderous, resentful man of violence - a shadow of what he once was, and of what he could have been. The resentment ignited now within his soul will shadow the lives of many future generations.)

(Lights fade out on Laman, and come up slowly on Nephi, crumpled in pain on the opposite corner of the stage, grieving the loss of both of his beloved parents - and also the devastating, unexpected loss of relationship with his older brothers, and the emerging rift within his family – a family whose leadership he had been entrusted with by his beloved father.)

#13: Eventually, Reprise 1 (Orphaned)

Nephi: *(Slowly, and with great feeling)* They can break your heart - Tear it right in two;
They can devastate your dreams for them, And shred them through and through.
They can take everything you tried to teach them, And throw it all away.
They can break your heart a little every day...

(Lights up gently on Lehi and Sariah, as angels)

Sariah: *(Softly:)* But you will never stop loving them; **(Nephi: Loving them?)**
+ Lehi: No, you will never stop loving them. **(Nephi: Loving them.)**
+ Nephi: And you never will stop hoping, No, you never will stop hoping
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe
That they will finally find their way back home...

Sariah/Nephi: Eventually.

Sariah/Lehi: Eventually.

(Lights out slowly on Lehi & Sariah)

(Nephi's grief grows to overwhelming proportions. As light on his angel parents fades out, he is left in the dark to weep alone, in the intensity of his soul. He cries out:)

#14: Awake, My Soul! (2 Ne. 4:17-35)

Nephi: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth, and my soul grieveth. *(He crumples in fierce pain and self-recrimination,*
I am encompassed about with temptations that so easily beset me; *He pulls both fists to his head.)*
And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; *(He slowly looks up, remembering his past visions and miracles.)*
Nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted:
I know in whom I have trusted.

My God hath been my support; He hath led me through mine afflictions: *(He smiles softly, remembering the adventures of his youth.)*
In the wilderness; he hath carried me across the great deep.
He hath heard my cry by day, Given me knowledge by vision in the night time,
And on the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away
Upon exceedingly high mountains, And mine eyes have beheld great things, *(His mount becomes lit again, behind him.)*
Even too great for man, That I was bidden that I should not write them.

Oh, then, if I have seen so great things, *(He sits back, more relaxed, pondering)*
Why should my heart weep, and my strength slacken?
Why should I give way to temptation,
That the evil one have place to destroy my peace, and afflict my soul?
Why am I angry because of mine enemy? *(Thinking of Laman and his bitter rage)*
Why am I angry because of mine enemy? *(More gently, realizing who the real Enemy is.)*

Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin. *(Kneeling earnestly, with growing strength)*
Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.
Do not anger again because of mine enemies, *(He slowly stands, gaining more and more power.)*
Do not slacken my strength because of mine afflictions. **(Angels: Ah..)**

O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul? Wilt thou encircle me In the robe of thy righteousness? *(His face is lifted, drinking in God's power)*
O Lord, wilt thou make a way, For mine escape before mine enemies?

O Lord, I have trusted in thee, And I will trust in thee forever, *(Restored to his full strength.)*
I will lift up my voice, I will cry unto thee,
My rock, and mine everlasting God!

Angels: *(My voice shall forever ascend unto thee, my God, my God!)* **(>Music Off)**

(Sam enters, along with Zoram, seeing Nephi in deep reflection. Speaks to him gently:)

Sam: How goes it, brother?

Nephi: The Lord has commanded... that we take our families... and journey into the wilderness.

Sam: Again?

Nephi: Again, brother. For our safety, and the safety of our little ones.

Sam: So be it then. *(Clasps a gentle hand on Nephi's shoulder.)*

Zoram: Come, let's go tell the others.

O. Nephi's Wife: And we brought with us the brass plates, and the compass, and the sword of Laban. *(They gather these items as they exit. Lights out on Nephi, Sam and Zoram.)* And we journeyed for many days into the wilderness. **(2 Ne. 5:1-14)** *(Thick drumbeats; Lights up on furious Laman and others.)*

#15: Wronged! Robbed! (Mosiah 10:12-17)

Laman: *(Incensed, discovering so many people and items gone.)* Wronged! Robbed! Time after time after time!
My younger brother, taking from me, What rightfully is mine!

Lamanites: Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that they're gonna pay
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Sariah's mourning riff, but now in intense warcry style.)*

Laman: I have been wronged *(Wronged!)* in Jerusalem, Robbed *(Robbed!)* of my inheritance, *(Lamanites echo*
My dreams and hopes and power sliced away! *(Ha! Ha! Ha!)* *his rage)*
Wronged for years *(Wronged!)* in the wilderness,
Now robbed *(Robbed!)* of my birthright, and Robbed of my right to lead today!

Lamanites: We all are - Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that they're gonna pay *(Standing proudly, Laman*
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Sariah's riff, with Ah's)* *is crowned king of his people,*
in a grand coronation.)

Lemuel: Laman is our leader now - He will protect our rights! *(Laman spreads his arms wide, with a backlight*

Lamanites: From now on, we will be called Lamanites! *behind him, creating a large shadow across the stage)*

We all are - Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that they're gonna pay!
Generation after generation, Day after day!

Laman: *(In a shadowed light from his court, commanding loudly, as king)* Kill them! Kill them all!
Make them pay for what they have taken from us!

(This song is accompanied by rising, intense yells, drumbeats, hand-clapping. Also, by the same wordless riff Sariah sang in mourning – but now intensified with drumbeats and “Ha!”s. Lights out on the Lamanites.)

#16: The Manner of Happiness (2 Ne. 5:27, 15, 34; Jacob 1:9-10; (Mosiah 10:11-17)

O. Nephi's Wife: And it came to pass *(Narrators: It came to pass)* that we lived *(That we lived)* *(Y. Mrs. Nephi has*
After the manner of happiness, *(Nephites: Ah)* *finally been blessed with a baby of her own –*
+Narrators: After the manner of happiness. *(Nephites: Ah)* *Nephi kisses his child's little head.)*

+Nephites: We asked Nephi to be our king and our protector; *(Nephi kneels humbly, with the sword of Laban,*
We looked to him for safety, And under his direction, *to be crowned by Sam and Zoram.)*
(He rises, teaching his people to be industrious.)

We built buildings, we worked wood and iron and copper, *(hammer percussion)*

We worked brass and steel and gold and silver and ore,

We built a shining glorious temple in the wilderness,

And we made... War!

(Lights up on furious armed Lamanites, armed with rough-hewn

Lamanites: *(In a rising warcry, low to high)* Ahhh... *clubs, bows, arrows, and spears, made of stone and of wood.)*

Lamanites: Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that you're gonna pay *(The Nephite mothers*
Generation after generation *fearfully shield their children)*
Day after day! *(Sariah's mourning riff, but now in intense warcry style)*

Nephi: *(Spoken, to Sam and Zoram, as the Lamanites approach.)* It's time. Let's go protect our families.
(Lamanites attack Nephites, men engage in war)

NepHITE Women and Children: Wars and contentions, year after year. *(Singing off to the side, as the men fight)*
(Singing) We try to live happily, and yet we live in fear.
We never ever know when the next attack will be, And yet we try to live happily.

(Keychange, as war intensifies:) The God of our fathers protects us even still.
He strengthens and arms us, and He guides us by His will.
But season after season, and day after day, The fighting still goes on!

Lamanites: 'Cause we are... Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that you're gonna pay *(Lights up on Lamanite women and children)*
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!)*

Lamanite Women and Children: For we were wronged in Jerusalem, *(Wronged!)*
(Men, still fighting:) The land of our inheritance; *(Ha!)*
Wronged while crossing over the sea, *(Wronged! – Ha! Ha! Ha!)*
Wronged in the wilderness; *(Wronged!)*
Wronged in the promised land, *(Wronged!)*
Wronged in every way that there could be! *(Wronged!)*

Lamanites: We all are.... Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that you're gonna pay
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Sariah's riff)* **(NepHites: Help us, Lord – Save us, Lord!)**

NepHites: We tried to live after the manner of happiness... Help us, Lord! *(Lam's: Sariah's riff: Ah...!)* Ha!

#17: And the Time Passed Away (Jacob 7:26)

Jacob: *(Solemnly, now a young adult)* And the time passed away with us,
(Singing) And also our lives passed away, like as it were a dream, *(Lights up slowly on the NepHites)*

+NepHites & Narrators: We being a lonesome and solemn people, Wanderers, born in a wilderness,
Born in tribulation, And hated of our brethren,
Which caused wars and contentions.

A Capella: Wherefore we did mourn out our days... *(Lights fade out slowly on the NepHites)*

(Solemn, mournful music plays. Lights up dimly on the battlefield, where fallen warriors, both NepHites and Lamanites, lay lifeless on the ground. This family war has now been raging for years.)

(Older Nephi enters the battlefield slowly from upstage center, battle-weary and heartbroken, in dim light, carrying the sword of Laban. He looks around sadly at the fallen dead at his feet – children of his beloved brethren, and also of his own tribe. Zoram, Sam, and others enter quietly behind him, surveying the sorrowful scene. Lights up on Narrators)

Narrator 1: And the people of Nephi loved him exceedingly, he having been a great protector for them, having wielded the sword of Laban in their defense, and having labored all his days for their welfare. **(Jac. 1:10)**

#18: Eventually – Reprise 2 (Battlefield)

Nephi: *(Slowly, and with great feeling, taking in the horror surrounding him)*
(Singing) They can break your heart - Tear it right in two;
They can devastate your dreams for them, And shred them through and through.
They can take everything you tried to teach them,
And throw it all away. *(He kneels at the side of one particularly young Lamanite warrior.)*
They can break your heart a little every day... *(He is overcome with grief. NepHite warriors join him.)*

Sam, Zoram: *(Approaching him gently)* But you will never stop loving them;
+ Nephi: No, you will never stop loving them. *(Angels join them, extending solace)*
+ N.Warriors: *(in gentle masculine harmony)* And you never will stop hoping, **(Angels: Ah...)**
 No, you never willing stop hoping
 For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe
Prophets: That they will finally find their way back home, *(Jeremiah and Zephaniah, both now angels)*
Warriors: And their hearts won't always be as stone,
Prophets: For there is One whose mercy shall atone **(Angels: There's One whose mercy shall atone)**
Nephi: Eventually. *(A stream of light falls on him gently, comforting him)* **(Angels/Prophets: Ah...)**
+ N. Warriors: Eventually. **(Angels/Prophets: Ah...)**

*(Nephi gently closes the eyes of the fallen young warrior, entrusting him to a perfect Savior.
 Even here, in the darkest night, He is the light that shineth in darkness – and His hands are stretched out still.)*

(Curtains close on the battlefield, as the music concludes).

(Lights up on the Narrators, DSL) **(>Music #19: Unending War)**

Narrator 1: Our brother, Nephi, never in his lifetime saw an end to wars and bloodshed.
Narrator 2: Yet, he pressed forward diligently, in the holy work divinely assigned to him - to prepare a record on solid gold plates of the sacred things of our people.
Narrator 1: That in the due time of the Lord, his words might go forth in testimony to the descendants of our people, and of our brethren; and to all the families of mankind - even to the ends of the earth.

(Curtain opens revealing Nephi, sitting at a table, working on his record.)

Nephi: *(Speaking as he writes)* Behold, I Nephi, have written what I have written, and I esteem it to be of great worth, especially unto my people. For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them: and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry. And the words which I have written in weakness will be made strong unto them. **(2 Ne. 5:30; 33:3-4)**

(>Music off) *(Older Nephi's wife enters as he speaks, She picks up and peruses the brass plates.)*

Nephi's Wife: *(Reading from the brass plates)* "He is a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. And we hid as it were our faces from him, and we esteemed him not..." **(Isaiah 53:3)**
(Sits in front of him, looking into his downcast eyes. Gently:) Sounds like... somebody I know.

Nephi: It's about the Messiah.

Nephi's Wife: I know. But it's not just about the Messiah. It's about anyone who follows in his path.

Nephi: He hasn't even come to earth yet. Not in the flesh. And yet – he's my dearest, most trusted friend. He's my one source of hope – for my people, for our children... for my brothers.

Nephi's Wife: So keep writing, Nephi, as you've been commanded. Write what you know of Him. Write for them. For our children. For our brothers. For their families, whether now or in the future.

It may not be today. It may not be this century. But someday, Nephi, your words will make a difference. Someday, your testimony will be heard. And it will help save and bless those whom you love so very much. *(He sits pondering her words.)* I'll leave you to your work. *(She exits.)*

(>Music #20)

Nephi: For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ... For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do... And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins. **(2 Ne. 25:23, 26)**

#20: We Talk Of Christ (2 Ne. 25:26; 31:10)

Nephi: Jesus is my friend - No other has given me so much. *(His mood begins to lift, as he focuses on Christ.)*
(Singing) His love for me is boundless, without an end,
And I've felt His tender, healing touch. *(His wife re-enters, listening softly)*

+Nephi's Wife: Jesus is my guide - His light shows me the way. *(Gaining more strength and assurance; he stands.)*
And my dearest hope is that I might become
A little more like Him each day.

Nephi: We talk of Christ - we rejoice in Christ - *(His wife joins him warmly)*
And we write according to our prophecies
+Nephi's Wife: That our children may know to whom they may look
For their salvation, for healing, for hope. *(Angels appear: Ah...)*

Narrator 1: Nephi spent his life testifying of Christ, in spoken words to his people, and in written words preserved *(Speaking)*
for future generations. Like his father before him, *(lights up on Lehi and Sariah)* he did talk of Christ, he preached and testified of Christ. But that family legacy of faith and testimony did not end with them.

Narrator 2: Year after year, generation after generation, century after century, other prophets arose in turn among our father's family – each bearing witness of the Savior, each adding his voice to the united testimony written and preserved in that sacred family record.

(Lights up one at a time on later Book of Mormon prophets and heroes, set in scenes reflecting their ministry. These begin to sing – portrayed by men who appeared earlier in the show. They are backed up by the Narrators, by Nephite and angel women and children, and by Lehi and Nephi and their wives.)

Jacob: Jesus is my light: *(Played by : Jacob)*
+Capt Moroni: Most joyous to my soul! *(Played by: Sam, with a title of liberty)*
+ Abinadi: He has lifted my eyes, He has healed my heart: *(Played by : Ishmael, preaching to Noah's court)*
+ Samuel the L: He has made me whole! *(Played by : Laban, standing on a wall)*

Alma the Y: Jesus is my Savior: *(Played by: Laman)*
+Ammon: He pays the awful cost *(Played by: Lemuel)*
+Sons of Mosiah: Of my sins and my sorrows - He rescues me - *(Played by: Sons of Ishmael, Laban's Henchman)*
(In rich harmony) And without Him, I would be forever lost!

Mormon: We talk of Christ – We rejoice in Christ - *(Played by: Zoram)*
+Jeremiah, Zephaniah: And we write according to our prophecies *(Played by : Jeremiah, Zephaniah, as angels)*
All Prophets: That our children may know to whom they may look *(Angel Moroni (AaronP) passes gold*
For their salvation, for healing, for hope! *Plates to young Joseph Smith (Jacob P)*

(The stage now begins to be lit with vignettes of modern individuals and families discovering the Book of Mormon, and drawing upon its power. We see missionaries sharing the Book of Mormon with a tender-eyed young woman. We see a mother reading the Book of Mormon to her young children. We see a man praying for guidance, Book of Mormon in hand. We see a radiant family in a circle, studying the Book of Mormon.)

Cast: He is my King! (*He is my King!*) the great Creator; (*Great Creator*)
And someday He'll come, and He'll come again! (*He'll come again!*)
And when I see Him, (*When I see Him,*) sooner or later (*sooner or later*)
I hope He'll know me as His friend.

Lehi/Nephi: We talk of Christ ,
Sariah/Mrs.Nephi: We rejoice in Christ -
Prophets: And we write according to our prophecies
+Cast: That our children may know to whom they may look
For their salvation, for healing, for hope!

(Lehi and Sariah, as angels, marvel over the wonders that have occurred with their posterity, the fruit of their many hardships, griefs, and disappointments in the wilderness. Now they can clearly and joyfully see, for themselves, "what all of this is for.") (**>Music #21:** "What All of This Is For / A Land of Promise")

Narrator 1: The words of Nephi, and those that followed him, have now gone forth in many languages, and in many nations - blessing many families, and changing many lives (*We continue to see the impact of the Book on modern lives & families.*)
(Speaking)

Narrator 2: We never know when our humble efforts might make a difference in the life of a loved one – whether in this mortal journey, or beyond. But God, who sees the end from the beginning, and who knows what we do not, can guide us securely to our most fruitful course of action.

Narrator 1: He can dry our tears, cheer our hearts, and see us through whatever challenges life might put before us.
Narrator 2: So it was, in the time in which we lived. (*The music continues with Sariah's riff, reflecting ancient times.*)
Narrator 1: So it continues to be, in the time in which you live. (*The music concludes with warm resolution.*)

#22: Imperfect World

Nar. 1: (*Sings*) Soon you will go home to your... Imperfect family.
Nar. 2: Soon you will go home to your... imperfect world.
Nar. 1&2: But you are not alone as you press forward through your sorrows,
Building happier tomorrows in your promised land!
(Lights up on whole Company, onstage)

Company: 'Cause we all live the story of a woman or a man,
Trying to live a good life, just doing the best we can;
Seeking to build a better world, a little more each day;
Looking for heaven's help along the way.

Nar. 1&2: With our imperfect world –
Company: With our beautiful, amazing, stunning... Imperfect world.
Nar. 1&2: (*This is not a show about a perfect family!...*)

#23: From the Dust, Reprise

Lehi: I speak as one crying from the dust -
+Nephi: I speak as one crying from the dust –
+ Prophets: To my brethren, to the ends of the earth:
+Company: Come unto Christ!

(In spotlights, as in the beginning)

(Whole company lit)

#24: Ye Must Press Forward (2 Ne. 31:20)

Nephi: Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,
With a steadfastness in Christ;

+ His Wife: Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,
With a steadfastness in Christ.

+Lehi: Having a perfect brightness of hope
And a love of God and of all men;

+Sariah: Having a perfect brightness of hope
And a love of God and of all men.

Nephites: Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,
With a steadfastness in Christ;
Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,
With a steadfastness in Christ.

Nephi: Look unto Jesus and follow him
As you choose your path each day,
+ His Wife: Even in the darkness, his light shines brightly
Showing you the way.

Company: Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,
With a steadfastness in Christ;
Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,
With a stead___fast___ness___ In Christ!

Nephi's Family: Press Forward!

Company: Ah!

*(Follow spot follows him to center.)
(He sings directly to the audience)*

*(As other cast members join him, they
likewise sing directly to the audience,
in a final combined testimony)*

Angels: Ah...

Angels: (Ah...)

Angels: Ah...

#25: Exit Music