

# “Press Forward:” A Book of Mormon Family Musical (v. 8.2, 6-25-15)

## Act I: In the Wilderness

->Overture – From the Dust	<b>Nephi, Lehi, Young Nephi, Cast</b>	(11/13/14)	(:24)
-Therefore I Make a Record	<b>Nephi</b>	(06/20/03)	(1:58)
This Is Not Show About...	<b>Narrators, Cast</b>	(3/2/14)	(1:22)
>People of Jerusalem	Prophets, People of Jerusalem	(3/28/14)	(2:18)
>That I May Hear	<b>Lehi</b>	(11/14/14)	(3:20)
!>Great and Marvelous	<b>Lehi, Angels</b>	(06/22/03)	(1:43)
>Repent! / Who in the World?	<b>Lehi, People of Jerusalem</b>	(06/25/13)	(1:15)
Blessed Art Thou, Lehi	Voice of God	(11/21/14)	(1:10)
Leave It All Behind	<b>Sariah</b>	(11/12/14)	(1:38) +1:22=3:00 5/15
>Like This River, Like This Valley	<b>Lehi</b>	(6/23/03)	(2:00)
>Our Father Is a Fool	<b>Laman / Lemuel</b>	(6/22/03)	(2:14)
>In a Tent	<b>Nephi; Lehi’s Family</b>	(3/8/14)	(1:22)
>For Myself	<b>Young Nephi</b>	(6/21/03)	(2:13)
Blessed Art Thou, Nephi	Voice of God	(11/14/14)	(1:00)
>I Have Dreamed a Dream	<b>Lehi</b>	(11/27/14)	(1:00)
>I Will Go	<b>Young Nephi / Lehi</b>	(6/21/03)	(2:05)
One Road, Two Choices	<b>Narrators</b>	(11/16/14)	(2:52)
>Getting the Plates (w/3 songs)	Lehi’s Sons, Laban, Guards, Angel	(11/27/14)	(7:42)
>What Is All This For?	<b>Sariah, Lehi</b>	(3/7/14)	(3:00)
!>Now I Know	<b>Sariah, Family</b>	(11/14/14)	(1:10)
->Come With Us	Lehi’s Sons	(3/28/14)	(2:33)
->Joined In Their Journey	<b>Narrators, Families, Young Nephi</b>	(11/17/14)	(:28)
>Beautiful Tonight	<b>Lehi, Sariah</b>	(11/17/14)	(2:20)
>Lehi’s Dream	<b>Lehi</b>	(11/20/14)	(3:48)
>For Yourself	<b>Young Nephi</b>	(11/24/14)	(1:35)
In the Valley of Lemuel	<b>Narrators</b>	(11/15/14)	(1:23)
Tender Mercies	Nephi’s Wife; <b>Sariah</b>	(3/4/14)	(1:49)
Out Here	Daughters of Ishmael; <b>Families</b>	(3/9/14)	(2:30)
Precious Things	Daughters of Ishmael; <b>Families</b>	(3/28/14)	(2:05)
In the Wilderness	<b>Laman, Men, Lehi, Young Nephi</b>	(11/16/14)	(1:17)
!>Eventually	<b>Sariah, Lehi, (other faithful)</b>	(3/2/14)	(4:07) + :30?=4:37 5/4

## Act II: In The Promised Land

Entr’acte: Dance of the Children	Children	(11/17/14)	(:48)
Strength for the Journey	Company	(11/15/14)	(3:00)
Journeyings Without Murmurings	<b>Nephi; Lehi’s Family</b>	(11/15/14)	(:42)
->Home At Last	<b>Laman, Lemuel, Nephi2; Company</b>	(11/16/14)	(1:50)
In the Background	<b>Narrators, Women</b>	(8/9/14)	(2:00)

!>Driven to the Mountain	<b>Nephi2,</b>	(3/2/14)	(1:40)
Our Brother Is a Fool	<b>Laman, Lemuel, Nephi2,</b> Sam	(6/22/14)	(2:14)
->In the Background, Reprise	Sam	(8/9/14)	(:55)
->On a Ship to the Promised Land	<b>Families</b>	(6/24/03)	(3:30)
>I Have Not Forgotten	<b>Sariah</b>	(4/18/14)	(2:40)
Home At Last, Reprise	<b>Lehi,</b> Family, <b>Sariah</b>	(11/16/15)	(2:23)
>Beautiful Tonight, Reprise	<b>Lehi</b> ( <i>Sariah's death</i> )	(11/17/14)	(2:06)
>Awake, My Sons	<b>Lehi</b> ( <i>Lehi's death</i> )	(11/19/14)	(2:50) (1/22/15 +1:30)
->Hey, Little Brother	<b>Laman</b>	(5/20/06)	(2:05)
!>Eventually, Reprise	<b>Nephi2, Sariah,</b> <b>Lehi</b>	(3/10/14)	(1:00)
>Awake, My Soul	<b>Nephi2,</b>	(6/23/03)	(3:05)
Younger Brother	<b>Laman,</b> Lamanites	(3/10/14)	(1:35)
It Sufficeth Me	<b>Nephi, Laman, Lemuel</b>	(3/10/14)	(1:15)
Wronged! Robbed!	<b>Laman, Lemuel,</b> Lamanites	(3/10/14)	(1:25)
The Manner of Happiness	Nephites	(3/11/14)	(2:40)
The Time Passed Away	Jacob, Nephites	(11/22/14)	(:37)
!>Eventually, Reprise 2	<b>Nephi2,</b> Sam, Warriors	(3/10/14)	(2:50)
>We Talk of Christ	<b>Nephi,</b> Nephi's Wife,	(9/23/00)	(3:20)
!>From the Dust, Reprise	<b>Nephi, Lehi, Nephi2,</b> Choir	(11/18/14)	(:30)
Imperfect World	<b>Narrators</b>	(11/16/14)	(1:06)
>!Ye Must Press Forward	<b>Nephi,</b> Company	(2/5/03)	(2:00)

**CHARACTER LIST:** 15 + 8 =23 +34 = 57

- LEHI:** A conscientious husband and father in Jerusalem, who becomes a sober, visionary man. (INFJ)
- SARIAH:** His wife, dynamic and vibrant. She loves beautiful things, and adores their children. (ENFP)
- NEPHI:** Their fourth son, humble and deep-thinking; becomes bold, determined, and passionate (INFJ)
- LAMAN:** Their oldest son, intense and angry – and an absolutely devoted husband and father. (ENTJ)
- LEMUEL:** Their second son, jovial and sarcastic; a middle child seeking notice and validation (ESTP)
- SAM:** Their third son, quiet, compliant, caring, and supportive – a gentle middle child. (ISFJ)
- JACOB:** Their fifth son, born in the wilderness – a sober, thoughtful child and future leader. (INFP)
- JOSEPH:** Their sixth son, born towards the end of the wilderness journey. (ISTP)
- ZORAM:** Formerly a servant in Jerusalem, he is a quiet, loyal adopted son in their household. (ISTJ)
- OLDER NEPHI:** Primary narrator, an older version of Lehi's fourth son, seasoned by experience. (ENTJ)
- NARRATORS:** Nephi's two youngest sisters, serving as vibrant angelic narrators throughout the story. (ENFP)
- ISHMAEL & WIFE:** Aging parents of young adult children, and friends of Lehi and Sariah. (He ISTJ, She ISFJ)
- ISHMAEL'S DAUGHTERS:** Married to Lehi's sons: **Laman's:** Sensitive and needy, ISFP; **Lemuel's:** Flippant and jovial, ESFP; **Sam's:** Gentle and supportive, ISFJ; **Nephi's:** Tender and faithful, INFP; **Zoram's:** Devoted and steadfast, ISFJ. **THEIR CHILDREN:** Including Laman's 5 y.o. son (ESTP)
- ISHMAEL'S SONS, AND THEIR WIVES (2+):** Friends of Laman and Lemuel (#1: ISTP/ESFP; #2: ISTJ/ESTJ)
- LABAN:** A mighty and wicked man, feared in his community, with many armed guards and servants. (ESTJ)
- VOICE OF GOD:** Heard early in the show, gentle but strong. Later, sings with Angel Chorus. (ENFJ)
- PROPHETS:** Jeremiah, Urijah, others, sent to Jerusalem, slain by its people. Later, part of Angel Chorus. (ENFJ)
- PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM:** Friendly but idolatrous and violent - variety of ages and personalities. (Chorus)
- ANGELS:** Pre-mortal and post-mortal members of Lehi's family, and others watching over them. (Chorus)

# **Act I: In the Wilderness**

*--Note: All lines are sung, except where speaking is indicated.--*

## **Overture – From the Dust** (2 Ne. 3:19-20; Morm. 8:23; 2 Ne. 33:13; Is. 29:4; Moro. 10:27, 32; 1 Ne. 6:4)

*(The music is bold and strong, with an ancient American feel. Lights come up dimly, a foggy atmosphere is seen, with the singers in silhouette. They sing:)*

**Lehi:** *(center)* I speak as one crying from the dust...  
**+ Y. Nephi** *(stage left)* I speak as one crying from the dust...  
**+ Nephi:** *(s. right)* I speak as one crying from the dust...  
**Company:** Come unto Christ! *(they end on a 3-part chord, with choir and orchestra backup)*

*(8 strong chords segue into the next song, as lights come up softly on an older Nephi on the right front corner of the stage. We hear the chink of his hammer as he labors alone to carve out characters onto golden plates. He sings:)*

## **Therefore I Make A Record** (1 Ne 1:1; 2 Ne. 4:15-16)

**Older Nephi:** Having been born of goodly parents, Having been taught in the ways of God,  
And having seen many afflictions In the course of my days - nevertheless,  
Having been highly favored of the Lord, Having great knowledge of his goodness and his myst'ries,  
Therefore I make a record Of my proceedings in my days.

And upon these plates, I write the things of my soul; For my soul delighteth in the things of God.  
And my heart pondereth them, and writeth them, For the learning and the profit of my children;  
My children...

Having been born of goodly parents, Having been taught in the ways of God,  
Therefore I make a record... Of my proceedings... in... my days.

*(He returns to his work on the plates, then freezes in tableau, as lights dim on him, and come up on two young female Narrators, dressed in white, on the left front corner of the stage. They sing directly to the audience:)*

## **This is Not a Show About...**

**Nar. 1:** This is not a show about... A perfect family.

**Nar. 2:** This is not a show about... A perfect world.

**Nar. 1:** This not a show where roses bloom beneath our feet,

**N. 1&2:** Or where all is nice and sweet – No, not at all. *(Lights up on Angel Chorus, who join the singing)*

**Nar. 2:** This is gonna show that we will all sometimes face sorrow, *(Angel Chorus: Ah..)*

**Nar. 1:** Even if we know that we are doing the best we can;

**N. 1&2:** But this is gonna show that there's a power we can borrow, *(reflecting 1 Ne. 1:20)*

That can guide us through tomorrow, And help us to stand!

**Nar. 1:** This is a story Of a woman and a man;

**Nar. 2:** Trying to lead their family Towards a promised land.

**Nar. 1:** Leaving their familiar world, And all that they have known *(They hold baskets, frozen in the light)*

**Nar. 2:** To try to build a new world on their own,

**Nar1&2:** With the help of God,

With the help of God.

*(The scene comes to life. Lehi's family begins to move about interacting with vendors who enter, selling various goods. )*

*(Lights up on Jerusalem, with 3 main houses visible: Lehi's (center stage, in light colors, elegant and beautiful); Laban's (grand and ornate, in dark rich colors, SL); and Ishmael's (neat but simple, in earth tones, SR. Ishmael's family and others enter, greeting Lehi's family. Sariah is especially pleased to see her friend, Ishmael's wife.)*

<p><b>Nar. 1&amp;2:</b> This is a story <b>(Angels: Ah...)</b>          Of a woman and a man;          Trying to lead their family          Towards a promised land.</p> <p>Leaving their familiar world,          And all that they have known          To try to build a new world on their own,          With the help of God...          With the help of God.</p>	<p><b>Jewish Women:</b> Good morning, Sariah!  <b>Jewish Men:</b> How is your fam'ly, Lehi?  <b>Lehi:</b> They're getting taller than me...  <b>Sons (in turn):</b> Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi,</p> <p><b>Sariah:</b> How are you doing, my friend?  <b>Lehi:</b> We should be getting home,  <b>+Family:</b> Getting home, getting home.  <b>Angels:</b> Ah...  <b>Angels:</b> This is not a show about a perfect family...</p>
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**Nar. 1:** Our story begins in Jerusalem, a long, long time ago,  
**+Nar. 2:** As prophets share a message that the people need to know:

*(Lights out on Angel Chorus, as Prophets enter, preaching among the people. These include Jeremiah and Urijah (Jer.26)*

## **People of Jerusalem (1 Ne. 1:4)**

**Jeremiah/:** People of Jerusalem (*People of Jerusalem*)  
*Urijah+* Gather and hear my words (*Gather and hear my words*)  
 For God has spoken to me (*For God has spoken to me*)  
 And I must tell you what I've heard (*And I must tell you what I've heard*)

<p><i>(In harmony:)</i> Jerusalem, our mighty city, is about to be destroyed,          And there is only one way to escape it:          You must repent of your abominations;          Repent of your wickedness, your pride;          Turn to God with your whole heart and mind,          And then perhaps, you may find deliverance          From what is sure to come!</p>	<p><i>(Laban, his armed men, and the chief elders enter from Laban's house, listening:)</i></p>
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**Laban + People:** Who in the world do you think you are, trying to tell us what to do?  
 You're no better than any of us, why should we listen to you?  
 We're good people, just doing our best, and it's not for you to say  
 What we should do, or how we should live our lives, so please just go away!

<p><b>Prophets:</b> People of Jerusalem...          Gather and hear my words...          For God has spoken to me ...          And I must tell you what I've heard...</p>	<p><b>People:</b> (<i>Who do you think you are?</i>)  <i>(Trying to tell us what to do!)</i>  <i>(You're no better than any of us!)</i>  <i>(Why should we listen to you?)</i></p>
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*(Boldly, in harmony)* Jerusalem, our mighty city,  
 Is about to be destroyed,  
 And there is only one way to escape it: *(You both are crazy!)*

You must repent (*How dare you?*) of your abominations; *(We're all good people!)*  
 Repent of your wickedness, your pride; *(It's not for you to say...)*

Turn to God with your whole heart and mind,  
And then perhaps, you may find deliverance  
From what is sure to come!

*(You'll get what's coming to you!)*

Turn to God / *People of Jerusalem!*  
Turn to God / *People of Jerusalem!*  
Turn to God / *People of Jerusalem!*  
People of Jerusalem!

*(Just go away!)*  
*(Just go away!)*  
*(Just go away, We're all good....*  
*(People of Jerusalem!)*

*(The prophets are rejected, bound and carried away violently by Laban's men, as the people scatter in fear. Lehi quietly separates himself, and moves to a quiet corner SR, remembering and reflecting. He sings:)*

## **That I May Hear** (1 Ne. 1:5-13)

**Lehi:** "Turn to God with your whole heart and mind,  
Then perhaps, you may find deliverance from what is sure to come!"

Oh, God, have mercy on me! On my people, on my family!  
Oh, God, please speak unto me, That I may hear! That I may hear! *(Lights up on Older Nephi, SL.)*

**Older Nephi:** Wherefore, it came to pass, as my father went forth and prayed unto the Lord,  
*(writing as he sings)* Even with all his heart, in behalf of his people, *(Lehi falls to his knees in front of a large boulder behind him – Light falls on the boulder as he responds, visible from the back.)*  
There came a pillar of fire, and dwelt on a rock before him; and he saw  
And heard much, causing him to quake and tremble exceedingly.

*(Center stage lights up with Lehi's bed. He approaches it, carrying out the actions described:)*

And it came to pass that he returned to his own house,  
At Jerusalem, and cast himself upon his bed,  
Being overcome with the Spirit and the things which he had seen;  
Overcome by all the things which he had seen:

**Lehi:** *(Emotionally, trembling upon his bed)* Oh God, have mercy on me!  
On my people, on my family!  
Oh, God, please speak unto me, That I may hear! That I may hear!

**Older Nephi:** And being overcome with the Spirit, he was carried away  
In vision, and he saw the heavens open, ***(Angels, joined now by the slain Prophets, begin to sing: Ah...)***  
And he saw God on his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels  
In the attitude of singing and praising their God. ***Angels: (Looking up, surrounding Lehi:) Gloria!***

And it came to pass that he saw One descending Out of the midst of heaven; and he beheld  
That his luster was brighter than the sun at noonday,  
And he also saw twelve others following him, brighter than stars.  
*(A strong spotlight falls upon Lehi, representing this heavenly visitation.)*

And they came down and went forth upon the earth;  
And the first came and stood before my father,  
And gave unto him a book, and bade him that he should read. *(Lehi reaches out in pantomime to accept this heavenly book, which he opens.)*  
And he read, saying...

**Lehi:** Wo unto thee, Jerusalem!  
For I have seen thine abominations! For I have seen!... I have seen!

**Older Nephi:** Yea, and many things did my father read concerning Jerusalem –  
That it should be destroyed, and the inhabitants thereof;  
Many should perish by the sword, And many should be carried away,  
Captive into Babylon. *(These scenes are suggested in silhouette on a screen behind Lehi)*

*(The angels continue to accompany this vision, adding their voices to the message. Lehi keeps turning pages, his face reflecting horror and concern - finally transitioning into relief and joy.)*

And when my father had read and seen Many great and marvelous things,  
He did exclaim unto the Lord:

### **Great And Marvelous (1 Ne. 1:14-15)**

**Lehi:** Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty!  
Thy throne is high in the heavens!  
And thy power and thy goodness and thy mercy  
Are over all who dwell upon the earth.

**Angels:** *(begin to accompany him, on “Ah,” in a joyous and glorious song of praise, as he continues:*

Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty!  
Thy throne is high in the heavens;  
And because thou art merciful, thou wilt not suffer  
Those who come unto thee, that they should perish.

And my heart is filled, and my soul doth rejoice,  
Because of the things which I have seen.  
Because of the things thou hast shown unto me,

**+ Angels:** I will lift my voice forever in praise to thee! *(Keychange, as Angels joyously continue singing “Ah!”)*

**Lehi:** Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty!  
Thy throne is high in the heavens!  
I will raise my voice to testify of thee,  
To share the hopeful tidings thou hast given unto me,  
For I have seen and felt of thy mercy, O Lord! Lord God Almighty! *(Coda phrase: Great and marvelous...)*

**+ Angels:** Thy throne is high in the heavens! *(He continues looking up, hearing the voice of God.  
(Lights off onstage except on Lehi. Angels exit. Lights up on Older Nephi)*

**Older Nephi:** And now I, Nephi, do not make a full account of the things which my father hath written, for  
*(Speaking)* he hath written many things which he saw in visions and in dreams;

And he also hath written many things which he prophesied and spake unto his children, of which I shall not make a full account. *(Lehi’s sons join him, concerned.)  
(He speaks to them soberly.)*

Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shown so many marvelous things unto my father, Lehi, yea, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, behold, he went forth among the people and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard. **(1 Ne. 1:16,18)** *(Sariah joins them, he speaks soberly to her. She and their sons stand to the side and watch, as the people of Jerusalem enter, and he begins to prophesy:)*

## **Repent! / Who In The World? / Depart! (1 Ne. 1:18-20)**

**Lehi:** My friends and my neighbors, My kindred and my people,  
God sends you a message this day:

**People of Jer.** What did he say? *(They gather around him, curious.)  
(Ishmael's family joins Lehi's in observing.)*

**Lehi:** Jerusalem's in danger, and soon to face destruction; *(Laban, his men, and the chief elders enter.)*  
And you may save her only in one way: *(Lehi's family reacts in concern when they see Laban.)*

You must repent of your abominations, **Chief Elder:** *(Not another one!)*  
Repent of your idolatries, your sins! **Laban:** *(He's as crazy as the others!)*  
Turn to God with your whole heart and mind;  
Then perhaps, you may find deliverance  
From what is sure to come!

**Laban + People:** Who in the world do you think you are, trying to tell us what to do?  
You're no better than any of us, why should we listen to you?  
We're good people, just doing our best, and it's not for you to say  
What we should do, or how we should live our lives, so please just go away!

**Lehi:** Repent!  
Please... Repent!  
My friends and my neighbors,  
My kindred and my people...

**People:** Just go away!  
**People:** Who asked you anyway?

**Men:** *(deep and menacing)* Just go away!

*(He extends a final pleading hand toward them, but they all storm off, leaving him alone with his family. These too depart in turn, leaving him alone. He falls back on his bed, and falls asleep. Meanwhile, we see Laban and the chief elders gather stage right, conferring angrily, gesturing toward him.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that the Jews did mock him, because of the things which he testified of them; for  
*(Speaking)* he truly testified of their wickedness and their abominations; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the redemption of the world.

And when the Jews heard these things they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; and they also sought his life, that they might take it away. *(Lights out on the Jews)*

But behold, I Nephi will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty, even unto the power of deliverance.  
**(1 Ne. 18-20, 2 Ne. 2:1)** *(The strong spotlight begins to shine again on Lehi as he sleeps on his bed.)*

For behold, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him:

## **Blessed Art Thou, Lehi (1 Ne. 2:1-2)**

**Voice of God:** *(Gently)* Blessed art thou, Lehi, Because of the things which thou hast done;  
*(Singing)* And because thou hast been faithful, because thou hast been faithful,  
And declared unto this people The things which I commanded thee  
Behold, they seek to take away thy life. *(dim light reveals the conspirators stage right)*

*(Urgently)* Wherefore I now command thee,  
To take your family, And depart into the wilderness. *(lights out on the conspirators)*  
*(In a loving tone)* Blessed art thou, Lehi – Take your family,  
And depart Into the wilderness.

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that he was obedient unto the word *(Lehi gathers his family, bringing provisions.*  
*(Speaking )* of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him. *They depart, some looking backward*  
*at their house, with longing and regret.*  
*Lights out on all except Older Nephi, continuing his narration.)*

And it came to pass that he departed into the wilderness. And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and took nothing with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and departed into the wilderness. *(Lights cross-fade from Lehi's house to barren wilderness.)* And it came to pass that when he had traveled three days in the wilderness, he pitched his tent in a valley by the side of a river of water. **(1 Ne. 2:3-6.)**  
*(Lights up on Lehi in the wilderness, sitting near their tent. Sariah approaches him, full of concerns.)*

**Sariah:** *(Speaks)* How long are we going to have to stay out here?

**Lehi:** I'm not sure. The Lord didn't say.

**Sariah:** We've left everything behind. Everything we've gathered, over so many years. Everyone we've loved. Every precious thing we ever acquired.

**Lehi:** Every precious thing... except one. The most precious thing of all. We still have our faith. And we still have our lives. *And ... we still have each other. That which is most precious is still very much with us. Even here. (He looks into her eyes, then embraces her kindly. She is still not fully convinced, but is trying. He exits, leaving her alone with her many conflicted feelings.)*

## **Leave It All Behind (1 Ne. 2:4)**

**Sariah :** Leave it all behind – Leave the world you've known –  
*(Singing)* Leave your comforts, leave your treasures –  
Leave your kinfolk, leave your home. *(Several female angels appear silently to support her)*  
Leave it all behind – Wander far away –  
To dwell in this wild and unfriendly place –  
Unsure how long you'll have to stay. *(Angels: Unsure how long you'll have to stay.)*  
Leave it all behind *(Leave it all behind) –*  
Turn your face toward the wind. *(Toward the wind)*  
Let it blow all your dreams away – *(Ah)*  
Hoping something better will begin. *(Something better will begin)*

Leave it all behind *(Ah)* – Follow God, follow this man – *(Follow him)*  
Though you have not shared his vision, though you do not know his plan. *(Follow his plan)*  
Leave it all behind *(Leave it behind)* – Leave the world you've known – *(This world you've known)*  
Trying not to shed a thousand tears *(Young Nephi enters, with his own thoughts and griefs)*  
As you make this desert... Home... *(Make this desert... Home) (Prophet 1 appears in a soft light)*

**Prophet 1:** Jerusalem will be destroyed - *(Angels, Nephi, Sariah): Leave it all behind)*

**Prophet 2:** *(Appearing in a soft light)* There is only one way to escape it -

**Pr's, YN, S:** *(+ Lehi in a soft light)* Turn to God with your own heart and mind,  
Leave it all behind! *(Prophet lights out)*

**Sariah/Y. Nephi:** Leave it all behind *(Angels: Leave it all behind)* A world that's doomed to fall *(Angels: Ah...)*  
When you see things as they really are, *(S/YN harmony, angels with them)* It isn't any sacrifice...  
*(Unison)* At all - *(Lights out angels)* To leave it all.... Behind.



*(Lights cross-fade to Lehi, entering with Laman and Lemuel. The younger boys join Sariah, quietly preparing dinner in the background.)*

**Lehi:** *(Speaks)* *(With sustained underscore music.)* Behold, my sons, this beautiful valley to which God has brought us for our safety. And this river, leading into the fountain of the Red Sea. *(Song intro begins.)* Behold, I have called this river Laman, after you, my eldest son; and Lemuel, I have called this valley after you. I know you have both left much behind. But we can be safe here, led by the hand of God. **(1 Ne. 2:4-8)**

### **Like This River, Like This Valley** *(1 Ne. 2:9-10)*

**Lehi:** Like this river, like this valley, O my sons, I pray you'll be;  
Ever peaceful, ever tranquil, ever happy, ever free.  
Like this river, ever running, into the fountain of righteousness;  
Ever fruitful, ever flowing, ever eager to heal and bless.

Like this river, like this valley, O my sons, I pray you'll be;  
That you might rise to your full stature, And fulfill your destiny.  
Like this valley, firm and steadfast, immovable and sure,  
So I pray you will be in keeping the commandments of the Lord. *(Instr: "Like this river, like this valley,")*  
So, my sons, I pray you'll be... *(The Narrators have appeared in a light SR, watching the family.)*

**Nar. 2:** *(This is not a show about a perfect family...)* *(Angry music erupts, as Laman pulls Lemuel aside SL. (Lehi moves DSR, in focused pondering and prayer unaware of the increasing turbulence behind him.)*

### **Our Father is a Fool** *(1 Ne. 2:11-14)*

**Laman:** Our father is a fool, Stuffed with silly dreams; *(Not harsh here – seeming to go along with their*  
**Lemuel:** And I know, as a rule, That nothing's as it seems. *father's plan, but laughing at him behind his back.)*  
**Laman:** He pretends that God has spoken, and has told us to flee away,  
From Jerusalem, which will be destroyed now any day:  
**Lemuel:** Like that could happen! + **Laman:** Like that could happen!

**Lemuel:** Our father is a fool, Blindly leading us out here,  
Into this god-forsaken desert, leaving all we hold most dear.

**Laman:** We left our home,

**Lemuel:** Our lives,

**Laman:** Our treasures, our inheritance behind:

**+Lemuel:** What! Is the man out of his mind?

**L&L:** Why did we ever listen for one second to the crazy ramblings Of this old delusionary man?  
Maybe it's not too late to turn around and just go home again:  
Maybe we can - Maybe we can! *(Sariah becomes increasingly concerned, as the intensity rises. The younger boys stay focused on their assigned tasks,*

**Laman:** Our father is deceived, full of foolish imaginations, *but are uncomfortably aware of their brothers'*  
**Lemuel:** It cannot be believed - Why would God destroy a nation *disrespect against their father.)*  
That keeps his statutes and his judgments, living by his law?

**L&L:** Something's put a strain on the brain of dear old Pa!

**Laman:** Our father is a fool... **Lemuel:** Our father is a fool...

**L&L:** The biggest fool of all! **Narrators:** *(Watching sadly)* This is not a show about a perfect family...

**Older Nephi:** And thus Laman and Lemuel, being the eldest, did murmur against their father. And they did murmur because they knew not the dealings of that God that created them. And they were like unto the Jews which were at Jerusalem, who sought to take away the life of my father.

**Sariah:** *(Quietly, to Lehi)* The boys are having hard time. Maybe you should go and talk to them.

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that my father did speak unto them *(Lehi approaches them; actions follow the words.*  
in the valley of Lemuel, with power, being filled with the Spirit; *Sariah finds Lehi's style*  
until their frames did shake before him. And he did confound them, *a little harsh.)*  
that they durst not utter against him. Wherefore, they did as he commanded them.

*(Music intro begins. The tension is thick as a knife, as Lehi, Laman, and Lemuel join Sariah, Sam, and Nephi, who are still preparing dinner silently outside the family tent.) (1 Ne. 2:12-14)*

### **In a Tent** *(1 Ne. 2:15)*

**Older Nephi:** And my father Dwelt in a tent.  
*(Singing)* All throughout our time in the wilderness, that's how our lives were spent.

**+ L&L:** When we weren't wandering,  
**+ Sariah** Or foraging,  
**+ Sam** Or hunting for something to eat, We all dwelt in a tent –  
**L&L:** *(Sarcastically)* Now, isn't that neat!

**Lehi, Sam, L&L:** We dwelt in a tent – Lots of people under one dome: Yes, we dwelt in a tent.

**Lehi & Sariah:** It wasn't much, but we called it home.

**Sariah, Laman:** It wasn't very warm, and it wasn't very stable,  
And there wasn't much there –

**+ Lemuel:** Not so much as a table,  
**+ Sam:** But we dwelt in a tent – In the wilderness.

**+ Lehi, Nephi:** And the days were hot, and the nights were cold,  
And we suffered more than could ever be told;  
With fatigue and hunger, with conflict and pain,  
And with freezing wind, and slicing rain: *(Keychange)*

**Family:** We dwelt in a tent – Leaving all we loved behind –  
Yes, we dwelt in a tent – Unadorned and unrefined.

**Laman, Sariah:** It wasn't very roomy, or very inviting,  
**+ Lemuel:** And there wasn't much there that was very exciting

**+ Sam:** But we dwelt in a tent, **+ Nephi:** In the woods,  
**+ Lehi:** in the valley, by the riverside,

**Lam/Lem:** Where our hopes all died -

**Family:** We dwelt in a tent  
In the wilderness! *(They enter the tent, then peer out together)*  
We dwelt in a tent! *(The tent door closes sharply, as the night sky looms overhead.)*

*(Night breezes blow, the sound of wild animals and insects are heard. Nephi slips quietly out of the tent, and finds a rock to sit on, lit by moonlight. The older Nephi speaks, commenting on his younger self.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being exceedingly young, nevertheless being large in stature,  
*(Speaking )* and also having great desires to know of the mysteries of God, wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord.

## **For Myself** (1 Ne. 2:16)

**Nephi:** All my life, I've been taught in the learning of my father;  
(Singing:) All my days, I've believed that what he said is so;  
But now I find that just believing  
No longer is enough:  
Now I find, I need to know,

For myself: I need my own experience.  
For myself, I need a light inside;  
For this wilderness is simply just too hard to take,  
Without the strength of my own witness, my own guide:  
I need to know - I need to know - For myself. (Young Nephi bows his head in fervent prayer.)

**Older Nephi:** Wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord, and behold he did visit me, and did soften my heart,  
(Speaking ) that I did believe all the words of my father; wherefore I did not rebel against him like my brothers.

**Nephi:** All my life I've been taught in the learning of my father; (Lifting his head slowly as he sings)  
(Singing:) All my days I've believed that what he said is so;  
But now I find, the truth is shining deep in my own heart: (Light shines directly on him, stronger  
and stronger as he sings)  
Now I find that to the core I know,

For myself: I've gained my own experience. (He stands jubilantly)  
For myself, I've found a light inside;  
And this wilderness will never be too hard to take,  
Now that I'm led by my own witness, my own guide.  
Now I know - Now I know - For myself! (He sits on a rock, pondering his experience)

(Sam slips out of the tent and finds Nephi. Night breezes and sound effects continue as they speak.) (1 Ne. 2:17)

**Sam:** (Speaks) Nephi – it's late. Will you be coming back in soon? Mother's worried about you.

**Nephi:** (Still in the afterglow of his experience) I'll be in in a minute.

**Sam:** What are you doing out here, anyway?

**Nephi:** Oh, just... talking to God.

**Sam:** (Sits next to Nephi) So, is He... talking back?

**Nephi:** (With a full heart, close to tears) Yes.... actually, He is!

**Sam:** So... what did He say?

**Nephi:** He said... it's true. Father's not imagining it. It's all true.

**Sam:** I hope you're right. Because it's hard out here.

**Nephi:** I know. It is hard.

**Sam:** It would be nice to know... if it's all worth it.

**Nephi:** It's worth it, Sam. It's definitely worth it.

**Sam:** I'm glad... I've never seen you like this before, little brother. You seem so sure.

**Nephi:** I am sure. I've never been more sure. Father's not making it up. It's all true.

**Sam:** That's good to know.

**Nephi:** Yes. It is good to know. Now - let's get inside.

(They walk together to the tent, and enter through the door as lights go out.)

**Older Nephi:** Sam believed in my words. But behold,  
(Speaking ) Laman and Lemuel  
would not hearken to my words.

(Morning light comes up softly.  
Laman and Lemuel come storming out of the tent,  
crossing to offstage right, Nephi, gesturing toward them,  
Sam and Sariah standing helplessly behind him.)

**Older Nephi:** And being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, I cried unto the Lord for them.  
(*Nephi sits back on his rock to pray, looking up*) And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying:

### **Blessed Art Thou, Nephi** (1 Ne. 2:18-22)

**Voice of God:** (*Gently*) Blessed art thou, Nephi, because of thy faith,  
(*Singing*) For thou hast sought me diligently, With lowliness of heart.

(*More strongly*) And inasmuch as ye keep my commandments, Ye shall prosper in the land;  
And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee They shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord  
And inasmuch as thou shalt keep my commandments,  
Thou shalt be made a ruler and teacher over them. (*Nephi will have to grow into this startling new idea.*)

**O. Nephi:** (*Speaks*) And it came to pass that I, Nephi, returned from speaking with the Lord to the tent of my father.  
**Nephi:** (*Dream music begins, Lehi looks troubled*) What is it, father? Is there something wrong? (1 Ne 3:1)

### **Behold, I Have Dreamed a Dream** (1 Ne. 3:2-5)

**Lehi:** Behold, I have dreamed a dream, In the which the Lord hath commanded me  
(*Singing to Nephi:*) That thou and thy brethren shall return unto Jerusalem,  
To the house of Laban, to seek plates of brass which contain sacred records  
And bring them hither to carry with us into the wilderness.

And now, behold, thy brethren murmur, saying it's a hard thing which I have required of them.  
But behold, I have not required it of them, but it is a commandment of the Lord. (1 Ne. 3:1-5)

### **I Will Go** (1 Ne. 3:6-8)

**Nephi:** I will go, I will do The things which the Lord hath commanded,  
(*Singing:*) For I know that He will prepare a way  
Whereby we may accomplish all that He hath commanded.  
I will go, I will His work today.

**Lehi:** Go, my son; and because thou hast not murmured,  
Thou shalt be favored of the Lord.  
And oh, my son, by your faithful strength I see  
That already you've been blessed of the Lord! (*Keychange*)

**Nephi/Lehi:** I will go (*Go, my son*), I will do (*Faithful son*)  
The things which the Lord hath commanded  
For I know (*Oh, my son*) that He will prepare a way (*In you He has prepared a way*)

**Both:** Whereby we may accomplish all that He hath commanded

**Nephi:** I will go, I will do His work today... I will

**Both:** Go, (*I will*) do His work today.

(*Nephi's brothers enter, carrying tents and provisions for the trip. Laman and Lemuel are clearly irritated.*)

**Laman:** (*Speaks*) Come on, little brother. Let's go, and see how quickly we can carry out this ridiculous idea.

**Lemuel:** I still say it doesn't make any sense. A three day's journey there and back.

If God wants us to have those brass plates so much, why doesn't he just fly them here himself?  
(*Nephi and Sam observe, silently exchanging glances.*)

*(Sariah enters to see them off. She is deeply concerned about their safety.)*

**Sariah:** Goodbye, my sons. Be careful. And be back soon. *(She embraces each, with emotion and concern.)*  
**Lehi:** I'll be praying for your success.

*(Laman and Lemuel walk right past him, rolling their eyes and storming out. Nephi and Sam quietly embrace their father, then silently follow behind their elder brothers. Lights out on the tent.)*

### **One Road, Two Choices** *(Lights up on Narrators, SR; Jerusalem set change.)*

**Nar. 1:** Some people walking through the wilderness Hear the voice of God in the trees;  
*(Singing:)* They see the hand of God in every sunrise – They feel His touch with every gentle breeze.  
**Nar. 2:** But others may walk the exact same road, And miss all the wonders there –  
Focusing on all the shadows and thorns, They miss the daily evidence of God's care:  
**Nar's:** Oh, one road – two choices – Always, two different voices;  
One inviting you to turn to God – the other saying "turn away" –  
It's a choice we all encounter every day. *(Lights up on Lehi's sons in a spotlight in a corner of the stage.)*

**Lemuel:** *(Speaks)* My feet hurt. How much farther is it?  
**Nephi:** Not much longer now. *(Lights out on Lehi's sons, up on Angel Choir)*

**Nar. 1:** Some people passing through the wilderness Only notice the thunder and the rain; *(+Angels: Ah...)*  
*(Singing:)* They see the mud and the mess and the mosquitos – They feel bitterness, they feel pain.  
**Nar. 2:** But others may walk the exact same road, And see a shining rainbow up above,  
Lifting their eyes, and lifting their heart, They see yet another evidence of God's love.

*(As they sing, a beautiful morning slowly dawns in Jerusalem. Lehi's sons are seen entering the city at daybreak)*

**Nar's:** Oh, one road *(one road)* – two choices *(two choices)* – *(Angels echo)*  
Always, *(always)* two different voices *(two very different voices)* ;  
One inviting *(Ah...)* you to turn to God – the other pulling you away –  
**+Angels:** It's a choice we all encounter every day.  
**Nar's:** It's a choice we all encounter, Time after time, each day. *(One road, two choices)*  
Always – two different voices. *(Lights out on Narrators and Angel Chorus.)*

### **Scene: Getting the Plates** *(1 Nephi 3-4) (Spoken, as the brothers quietly enter the city at daybreak)*

**Laman:** *(Speaks)* Well, we're finally here.  
**Lemuel:** What do we do now?  
**Laman:** *(Frustrated)* Why are you asking me?  
**Lemuel:** Well... you *are* the oldest...  
**Laman:** *(Grumbling)* I suppose that's true... Well, this should be easy, right? That is,  
*if* God really wants this to happen.  
**Lemuel:** *(Cheerfully)* If not – then we'll know that father's crazy, after all!  
**Nephi:** *(under his breath, to Sam)* It wasn't always easy for Moses.  
**Laman:** *(Fiercely)* Did you have something you wanted to say, little brother?  
**Nephi:** *(Meekly – he's been the target of Laman's anger before.)* No...  
**Sam:** *(Gently, protecting Nephi)* Go ahead and tell us your plan, Laman.  
**Laman:** *(Flippantly, making it up as he goes along)* Well... we... cast lots.  
**Sam:** *(Shaking his head in dismay and disbelief)* That's ... the plan?...  
**Laman:** Whoever loses, goes and talks to Laban, and asks for the plates.

**Lemuel:** ALONE?

**Laman:** Of course not alone! *(Thick with sarcasm)* We walk with God, remember? We're on his errand!

**Sam:** *(Quietly, to Nephi)* I have a bad feeling about this... *(Nephi agrees. Lemuel is nervous as well.)*

**Laman:** *(Pulls out 4 straws, with a grand flourish.)* Here we are! Everybody take one. Short one loses. *(They close their eyes, and draw straws. They open their eyes, extending their straws. Laman has the short one. The others explode into laughter and relief. Laman is aghast, staring at his short straw.)*

**Laman:** WHAT?!!!

**Lemuel:** *(Chortling merrily)* Well... you *are* the oldest! Ha ha! .... *(Sam and Nephi also laugh, more quietly.)*

**Laman:** *(Choking with anger)* Fine! I'll do it! I'll be back soon. *(He exits through Laban's door, lights out.)*

**Older Nephi:** And Laman went in unto the house of Laban, and he talked with him as he sat in his house. *(Spotlight comes up on Laman speaking with Laban, a large, rough-mannered man, finely dressed and seated in an exquisite, expensive chair.)*  
And he desired of Laban the records, which were engraven upon the plates of brass.

**Laban:** So let me make sure I understand this correctly. You wish to have me give you the plates of brass which are in my treasury, containing the words of the prophets, and the record of our fathers?

**Laman:** Yes – that **is** what we desire.

**Laban:** *(Rising to his feet menacingly.)* That is my most precious and personal treasure, out of all that I possess. And you want me just to GIVE it to you? You're as crazy as your father! *(Thundering with anger)*  
How do you even *know* about those plates?

**Laman:** *(Ashamed and frightened)* I'm sorry – I'll be on my way...

**Laban:** *(Grabs him viciously)* If I ever see you on my property again, I swear I will kill you, you little thief! Get out! *(Throws him to the ground, and walks away in disgust, as a terrified Laman runs for his life.)*

**Older Nephi:** And Laman fled out of his presence, and told us the things which Laban had done. And we began to be exceedingly sorrowful. *(Lights up on the brothers.)*

**Lemuel:** I *told* you this was a waste of time! *(Music starts)*

**Sam:** Well, at least we tried.

**Laman:** We're going back. At this point, we're a lot safer in Father's tent than we are here. *(He starts heading out; Lemuel and Sam follow him dejectedly. Nephi watches, them, remembering the commitment he made to his father, and to God. He gathers his courage, and then suddenly cries out:)*

### **Nephi's Vow** (1 Nephi 3:15)

**Nephi:** As the Lord liveth and as we live, we will *not* go down unto our father in the wilderness, *(Sings)* until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us! *(They turn and look at him, shocked at the sudden conviction of his outburst.)*

**Sam:** *(Speaks)* *(Gently, as musical underscore continues)* What are you thinking, little brother?

**Nephi:** *(Thinking out loud)* When our father left Jerusalem, he left gold, and silver, and all manner of precious things. We don't have to take what's not ours. We can simply... trade. *(They pause, pondering the idea.)*

**Sam:** *(To Laman and Lemuel)* It might be worth thinking about.

**Laman:** You want to to just give away our entire inheritance? For a **BOOK**?

**Sam:** *(Gently, to Laman)* Think about it. We won't ever be coming back here.

**Lemuel:** *(Grimly, but facing the hard truth)* And we can't take any of it with us.

**Sam:** True. All those expensive things are...

**Lemuel:** ...Useless... Where we're going.

**Laman:** *(Sighs deeply; then quietly, in resignation)* All right. I suppose... it's worth trying. Let's go. *(They follow him out, as lights go out on the boys, up on older Nephi.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that we went down into the land of our inheritance, and we did gather together our gold, and our silver, and our precious things. And then we went up again unto the house of Laban, and

desired him that he would give unto us the records contained on the brass plates, for which we would give him all our gold, and our silver, and our precious things.

*(Lights up on the boys with Laban, who is raking his fingers through their gold, pondering their offer.)*

**Laban:** It is an offer worth considering. For this is a fine collection, indeed. Well worth the price of a single treasure – however precious it might be.

**Laman:** You... you agree, then? *(The boys look at each other hopefully.)*

**Laban:** I agree.. *(Laban grabs Laman's hand and shoulder to seal the deal.)* These are precious things. I agree... that they will make a wonderful addition... *(with a sly smile)* to my treasury. *(Sharpens his talon grip on Laman.)* Which is why I'm now fulfilling my promise to you. *(Viciously, hissing into his face)* Get... off ...my property. Or... I will kill you! I will kill all of you!

**Sam:** What about the plates? *(Laban laughs contemptuously.)*

**Nephi:** You can't do this!

**Laban:** I can, and I will. *(Calls fiercely)* Guards! After these men!

**Laman:** *(Frantically breaking free of Laban's grip as Laban's guards approach)* We must be gone, NOW!

**Laban:** *(Barking orders to his guards!)* Slay them! Slay them all! *(The brothers follow Laman, running for their lives as guards chase them offstage. Laban and his men laugh contemptuously, as Laban rakes his fingers with satisfaction through their abandoned treasures, as the lights go out on Laban's house.)*

**Older Nephi:** And we did flee before the servants of Laban, and we were obliged to leave behind our property. And we fled into the wilderness, and hid ourselves in the cavity of a rock.

*(Lights up on the boys. Laman and Lemuel are pushing Nephi roughly, striking him with a rod.)*

**Laman:** *(Enraged, striking him over and over)* Why did we ever listen to you?

**Lemuel:** *(Hitting him fiercely with a rod)* Now we have nothing! Absolutely nothing! All thanks to you!

**Sam:** Stop it! Stop it now! *(He tries to shield Nephi from their blows, becoming thereby a target himself, as they begin striking him as well. An angel suddenly appears in a strong light before them:)*

## **Into Your Hands (1 Nephi 3:29)**

**Angel:** *(In a loud, powerful voice, stopping them.)* Why do you smite your younger brother with a rod? *(Sings)* Know ye not he was chosen and ordained of God - To be a ruler over you, because of your iniquities? *(They release Nephi with a start, looking at him, aghast. The angel sings more gently:)* Behold, ye shall return unto Jerusalem, and the Lord will deliver Laban into your hands - Into your hands. *(The angel departs, the light goes out.)*

**Laman:** *(Trembling with the impact of this new information).* How is it possible that the Lord will deliver Laban into our hands? Behold, he is a mighty man, and he can command fifty, yea, even he can slay fifty – then why not us?

**Nephi:** *(Gently, to Laman)* Let us go up again unto Jerusalem, and let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord; for behold, he is mightier than all the earth, then why not mightier than Laban and his fifty, yea, or even his tens of thousands?

**Lemuel:** You just saw what he can do.

**Nephi:** Yes. But I have not forgotten what *God* can do. He guided the children of Israel out of Egypt. He made the mighty waters stand and divide, hither and thither; and our fathers came through, out of captivity, on dry land. And the armies of Pharaoh, following behind them, were destroyed by His mighty hand. You *know* that this is true, and you know an *angel* has spoken to you – wherefore can you doubt?

**Laman:** *(In a tired, defeated voice, his will beaten down)* I will go as far as the city wall. No farther.  
*(This is all the faith Laman can muster.)*

**Sam:** *(Gently, seeing the transformation in his younger brother.)* Go ahead, Nephi. You lead the way.  
*(Nephi moves forward, and the others follow him silently, as the lights go down.)*

**Older Nephi:** And they did follow me up until we came without the walls of Jerusalem. And it was by night. *(Lights up)*

**Nephi:** Let's stop here. You all hide yourselves - I'm going in.

**Sam:** What are you going to do?

**Nephi:** I don't know. I'm going to follow the Lord's hand, wherever it might lead me. You all wait here.  
*(Lights out as he leaves. Action follows the narration. Underscore music begins.)*

**Older Nephi:** And I went forth into the city, towards the house of Laban. And as I came near, I beheld a man, and he had fallen to the earth before me, and behold, he was drunken with wine. And when I came to him, I found it was Laban. And I beheld his sword, and I drew it forth from the sheath, and the hilt thereof was of pure gold, and the workmanship thereof was exceeding fine. And I saw that the blade thereof was of most precious steel.

### **A Way (1 Nephi 4:12-13)**

**Spirit of God:** *(Sings quietly)* Slay him.

**Nephi:** *(Trembling)* Never have I shed the blood of man.  
*(He looks at the sword in horror, pulling it away from him.)*

**Spirit of God:** Slay him - Behold, the Lord has delivered him into your hands.  
The Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes.  
It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief.

**Nephi:** *(still trembling, singing softly)*  
*(Sings)* I will go, I will do the things the things which the Lord hath commanded,  
For I know that He will prepare... A way... *(The music intensifies)*  
*(Nephi lifts drunken stuporous Laban by the hair of his head, lifts his sword, and then brings it down suddenly with a loud crash of sound, as the lights go out on Jerusalem. Lights up on Older Nephi.)*

**Older Nephi:** *(Speaking)* And after I had slain Laban with his own sword, I put his clothes upon my body, and in his voice ordered his servant Zoram to open the treasury. And thus we obtained the plates of brass of which my father had spoken. And believing me to be his master Laban, Zoram followed me beyond the walls of the city.

**Lemuel:** *(Lights up dimly)* Someone is coming. *(He peers over the wall, then reports in terror):* It is Laban! He has slain our brother Nephi, and now seeks to slay us as well! *(They turn to run, then Nephi calls:)*

**Nephi:** Stop! Fear not! It is I, your brother Nephi! And I have gotten the plates! *(Suddenly, Zoram realizes he is not with his master. He turns to flee, but Nephi catches hold of him. They struggle, as Nephi speaks:)*

Do not fear. We are peaceful men, and we will not harm you. We are journeying into the wilderness, to the tent of our father. And if you will go with us, you shall have place with us, and we will spare your life. And you will be a free man, like unto us.

**Zoram:** *(stops struggling, and looks at Nephi intently)* I will be... free?

**Nephi:** Even like unto us. I swear it.

**Zoram:** Then... I will go with you.

**Nephi:** Onward, then. *(Jubilantly)* To the tent of our father!

**Sam & Lemuel:** *(With a fist of triumph raised)* To the tent of our father!

*(Nephi, with Zoram at his side, leads the group, Sam and Lemuel following. Laman watches them with a heavy heart, letting them get several paces ahead. Lemuel finally stops, turns, and calls back to him:)*

**Lemuel:** Laman! Are you coming with us, brother?

**Laman:** *(In a quiet, defeated voice.)* Yes. I am coming.



*(He follows them, remaining several paces behind, his head hung low. Nephi triumphantly leads the group into the wilderness – Zoram on one side, Laban’s sword in its scabbard on his waist, and the brass plates tucked carefully under his downstage arm. Nephi is a boy no longer. He has earned a rightful place as the leader of this triumphant journey home.)*

**Older Nephi:** And thus we were obedient in keeping the word of the Lord, and fulfilling his commandments. But our journey was long, and our mother Sariah greatly feared, believing us to have perished in the wilderness.

*(Lights out on Jerusalem and the brothers; lights up on Lehi and Sariah outside their tent in the wilderness. Sariah is seated dejectedly on the ground, Lehi stands some distance away.)*

## **What Is All This For?** (1 Ne. 5:2-6)

**Sariah:** *(In a mourning cry to God)* Ooo.... Ooo...  
*(Singing)*

My sons are no more, and we’re lost out here in this barren wasteland.  
It’s constantly uncertain what’s in store – Or if we will even survive!

Can you tell me – What is all this for?  
Is there a point to all this struggle, all this fear?  
‘Cause I tell you – I can’t take much more.  
And I can’t understand why we had to come out here. *(Lehi approaches her, listening and concerned.)*

To this harsh and barren place – Where there is not one loved, familiar face,  
Where there’s nobody to turn to – And no home left to return to –  
Everything and everyone I’ve loved is gone! *(Lehi rushes over to comfort her)* **Lehi:** Sariah...

**Sariah/Lehi:** *(Singing to him intensely, through tears)* Can you tell me – What is all this for? *(L:Oh, please don’t cry.)*  
Is there a point to all this struggle, all this fear? *(Let me wipe the tears from your eyes)*  
‘Cause I tell you – I can’t take much more. *(You’re so good and strong;)*  
And I can’t understand why we had to come out here. *(I’m sure it won’t be long.)*

**Sariah:** *(Breaks away, turning on him)* Our son was right! You’re just a dreamer! Just a visionary man,  
A blind old fool who can’t see what you’ve done! Our son was right!  
You’re just a dreamer... *(She immediately regrets her harsh words, crumpling with pain.)*

**Lehi:** I.... am a visionary man!  
And I know that the Lord will protect and deliver our sons.  
*(He tenderly comforts her; she crumples further under his care.)*

And I have obtained a land of promise, In the which I do rejoice!  
By the goodness of God, we have not perished with our brethren in Jerusalem –  
*(She starts to express worry – he stops her)* Sariah... *(she drops her head)*

Lift up your head – Be comforted – And don’t despair any more,  
For it won’t be long before you see for yourself  
What all of this... Is for.

**Sariah:** *(In a cry of pain – and distant hope)* Ooo....  
**+Lehi:** *(Joining and calming her)* Ooo....

*(As the song ends, the boys approach the encampment.)*

**Lemuel:** *(speaks, calling from a distance)* Mother!

**Sam:** Father!

**Laman:** *(The boys enter the stage, Laman is still at the end of the group.)* We're back.

**Nephi:** And we were able to obtain what we sought. *(He hands his father the brass plates. Lehi regards them with utmost reverence.)*

**Sariah:** Oh, my sons! I had thought I would never see your faces again. *(She embraces them fervently.)*

**Sam:** We're safe, Mother.

**Lemuel:** We're all here.

**Laman:** We're all home. *(Sariah is joyously surrounded by her sons. Her heart is full.)*

### **Now I Know** (1 Ne. 5:7-8)

**Sariah:** Now I know of a surety, *(She steps forward into a spotlight alone, as the others are frozen behind her.)*  
*(Singing)* That my husband was commanded to flee  
Into the wilderness.

And I know that the Lord has protected my sons, **(Angels stand protectively around the family: Ah)**  
And given them power  
To accomplish the thing which Lord hath commanded them.

**Lehi:** *(joining her in the spotlight)* Now you know, you know!

And now I know **(Angels: Know)** that we are not alone - *(You are not alone)*  
We're not forgotten, even in this desert place. **(Nephi joins them: Even in this place)**  
And now I know **(Know)** that **(Sam joins them)** we will make our home *(Your home is ...)*  
**(w/Angels):** Here together, **Sariah:** whatever we might face.

Now I know of a surety *(To Laman)* **(Know He)**  
That God was never far from me, **(was never far from thee, though)**  
Though sometimes, He had felt so far away! And I know **(Sometimes he felt so far away)**  
**Family:** I can be strong enough to bear whatever comes **(You can be strong enough whatever comes)**  
**Sariah:** As we continue in our journey day by day. **(Ah... )**  
**Family:** That I know of a surety. *(Lights fade out slowly, in an embrace of warmth and mutual support.)*

**Older Nephi:** And they did rejoice exceedingly, and gave thanks to the God of Israel. Then my father took those plates  
*(Speaking)* of brass, and examined them, and found them to be of great worth, for they contained the record of the  
Jews, and the genealogy of our fathers, and the writings of all the holy prophets. Wherefore it was  
wisdom in the Lord that we should carry them with us, as we journeyed in the wilderness toward the  
land of promise. *(Lights up on the family, seated, as Lehi, standing, makes an announcement.)*

**Lehi:** My sons, the voice of the Lord has come again to me, saying that it is not meet that we should travel  
alone into the wilderness. He desires that we should raise up seed unto him in the land of promise.  
*(The brothers look at each other with delighted anticipation.)*

Therefore, He has commanded that you shall return again unto Jerusalem, and take unto yourselves  
wives, of the daughters of Ishmael. *(The brothers burst into jubilant excitement.)*

**Lemuel:** Now that is one revelation I am not inclined to question in the least! *(Lights out on the family)*

**Older Nephi:** So once again, we departed into the wilderness, making our way toward Jerusalem – this time, into the  
house of Ishmael, where we found favor with him, and with all his household. **(1 Ne. 7:1-4)**

*(Lights up on Ishmael's family, seated within their house, listening intently to Lehi's sons.)*

## **Come With Us (1 Ne. 7:4)**

**Nephi:** You've heard all the prophecies – You know what's going to be –  
*(Singing)* You've seen here in Jerusalem Corruption, depravity.

You know that when God speaks, he carries out his every word;

**Brothers:** Now we have shared a message, and we hope that you have heard:

**Laman:** *(Gently, to the daughter of Ishmael he favors)* Come with us, and we will be a family out there;

**Lemuel:** *(Brightly, to the daughter of Ishmael he favors)* Come with us, for we have got a new world to share.

**Lam, Lem, Sam:** *(To the family: )* Come with us to a land of promise, choice above all other lands;

**Lam, Lem** Oh, hear and understand:

**+Nephi, Sam** And come with us.

**Laman:** Come with us, and we will build a new world there;

**Lemuel:** For there's plenty of room to grow and room to share.

**Lam, Lem, Sam:** Come with us to a promised land that's full and rich and broad.

**Nephi:** Come with us, and be guided with us By the hand of God.

**Laman:** Come with us, and we will be a family out there; *(Ishmael's Family: A family out there,)*

**Lemuel:** Come with us, for we have got a new world to share. *(Ishmael's Family: New world to share)*

**LLNS:** Come with us to a land of promise, choice above all other lands;

**L&L:** Oh, hear and understand:

**Brothers:** And come with us.

**L&L:** Oh, hear and understand: *(Ishmael's Family: Ah...)*

**Brothers:** And come with us.

**Ishmael:** Yes, we will come with you. The Lord has extended his arm of mercy to us through you. And we will  
*(Speaking)* take it. Pack your things, my children. It is time to leave this city, before there is no part of it left.

*(They gather their things, prepared to travel. The mood is bright and excited. Already some mutual attractions are evident between the Lehi's sons and Ishmael's daughters. Lights out on Ishmael's house. Lights up on the Narrators, stage right.)*

## **Joined in Their Journey (1 Ne. 7:5-21)**

**Nar. 1&2:** So the families were joined in their journey; But, sad to say, they weren't united long.

*(Singing)* For when the rigors and realities Hit among the wild, brambled trees,  
They soon were singing quite a different kind of song:

*(Lights up on the clan in the wilderness. The girls' dresses are getting caught on the brambles of the wilderness. They are all following Nephi cutting through the thick foliage, with Zoram at his side, and their two future wives behind them, helping each other and their aging parents along. Sam and his future bride are next, followed by Laman and Lemuel, trailing behind the rest with their complaining consorts. At the end are the sons of Ishmael and their wives and children.)*

**L&L Wives:** It's so cold out here. *(Laman puts his arm protectively around his wife, with a grim expression.)*

**SOI-1&2 Wives:** Do we have any idea at all where we're going?

**All 4 Wives:** Or how long it will take for us to get there?

**Laman:** It's... a ways still.

**Lemuel:** But I promise it will be worth it.

**SOI-2 Wife:** *(with Lemuel)* I'll believe it when I see it!

**All 4 Wives:** When we get there!

**SOI-1/L&L Wives:** *(in harmony)* A new world, they said.  
**SOI-2 Wife:** This is a new world, all right!  
**Laman's Wife:** I don't know when I've ever felt more hungry,  
**+Lemuel's Wife:** Or more afraid.  
**Lemuel's Wife:** Trudging blindly through muddy puddles  
**+SOI-2 Wife:** Every day and every night;  
**Lam/SOI-1 Wives:** I'm hungry –  
**Lem/SOI1 Wives:** I'm tired  
**L&L Wives:** I wish  
**+SOI-1 Wife:** That we had...  
**+SOI-2 Wife:** ..simply stayed  
**+SOI 1-2:** At home!

*(Lehi's sons remain silent, but battle their own frustrations and questions, which are amplified by awareness of the distress of the women they care for. Speaking:)*

**Wife of Ishmael:** *(Frustrated with their complaints, erupts loudly:)* Stop! Stop it, all of you!  
**Ishmael:** *(Quietly, in a conciliatory tone.)* We decided this together....  
**Son of I. 1** WE didn't decide anything.  
**+ Son of I. 2:** YOU decided!

**Laman:** *(Stops suddenly in his tracks, halting the company behind him:)*  
*(Singing)* Maybe we should just go back.  
**Lemuel:** To what?  
**Laman:** Back... To Jerusalem!  
**Sam:** What?  
**Laman:** It can't be any worse than this!  
**Lemuel:** You have a point.  
**Sam:** But father said... *(Nephi stops him)*

**Nephi:** You're free to do whatever you choose.  
**Sam:** But, Nephi...  
**Nephi:** If you want to go back, so be it.  
**Laman:** Fine! *(He starts heading the other direction, with Lemuel, the sons of Ishmael, and their women and children, as Ishmael, Sam, Zoram, and their women stay with Nephi. It is the first family split.)*  
**Nephi:** But do know this. If you choose to go back, you will perish with the rest of them!  
**Laman:** *(Approaching him menacingly)* Little brother, I have grown SO weary of your constant interference!  
*(Speaking)* *(Venomously commands the others:)* Get him!

*(Tumult and uproar erupts in the family. Laman, Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael lunge toward Nephi, overpowering him, as the others watch in horror, powerless to stop this.)*

**Laman:** Just tie him up,  
*(Singing)* And leave him for dead!  
**Lemuel/SOI-1:** So that we can do what we want instead!  
**Lemuel:** I'm sure there's some wild animal here  
That would appreciate a tasty snack! *(They tie him up, and leave him struggling alone, DSL)*

**SOI-2 Wife:** *(To Lemuel, snickering)* At least someone will get to eat today!  
**Laman:** Come on, everybody, let's get on our way. *(His followers join him SR)*  
**Lem/SOI-1/Wives** It's time to return; *(The quieter family members, fearing more violence, silently follow)*  
**+SOI2/W:** It's time to go home;  
**+Laman/W:** It's time now to go back! *(They all start heading offstage R, leaving Nephi alone DSL)*

**Nephi:** Oh, Lord, according to my faith in thee, wilt thou now deliver me?  
Give me strength that I may break these bands with which I now am bound!  
*(He exerts himself and the bands fall to the ground, freeing him. He calls after the departing group:)*

Laman, you don't know what you're doing!  
Stop and turn around!  
The Lord has a better course for us!

**Lemuel:** However did he get free?  
**Laman:** I don't know – *(viciously)* But this time we won't wait for the animals to get him!  
*(They and the sons of Ishmael lunge toward Nephi, overpowering him SL)*

**Laman's Wife:** *(Speaking, crying out suddenly:)* Wait! Stop! Please – stop! No good is ever going to come from this!  
**Ishmael's Wife:** She's right. Stop it! Stop it now! *(They keep their fierce hold on Nephi, but stop trying to hurt him.)*  
Boys, we've seen what's happened in Jerusalem. Do we *really* want to go back to that?  
This boy is our best chance. And God is our only hope. If we separate ourselves from Him, we will surely perish, whether it be here, or in Jerusalem, or anywhere else. Let the boy go. Please – let him go!

**Son of Ish. 2:** They're right. Let him go. *(Laman resists)* "Thou shalt not kill." *(Shamed and shaken, they release him. Speaking to Nephi, helping him stand up :)* I'm sorry. We shouldn't have done that.  
**Laman:** *(With deep sincerity and regret.)* I'm truly sorry. You're my younger brother – I should never have let that happen. And it will never happen again. I promise. Please forgive me. *(He drops to his knees before Nephi.)* Please forgive all of us. *(The other attackers drop beside him to their knees, their heads bowed.)*

**Nephi:** *(to Laman, gently)* Of course I forgive you. *(He drops to his knees, looking into Laman's eyes.)*  
We're brothers, aren't we? We remain together - *always.* *(He extends a strong embrace to Laman, which Lemuel and Sam join.)*

Now – pray to God. We're all going to need His help for the journey ahead. Ask for His forgiveness. And for His strength. *(They all drop to their knees, as Laman utters a simple but heartfelt prayer.)*

**Laman:** Dear God, please forgive us this terrible thing that we have done. The journey has been hard, and it may continue to be hard. Please help us do better. *(emotion overcomes him.)* Amen.  
**Company:** *(this simple prayer having touched their hearts, due to their complaints and weaknesses. They all resolve to do better.)* Amen.  
*(Nephi rises to his feet, then assists his brothers in doing the same. The company follows.)*

**Nephi:** *(Gently)* So we go forward, right? We move on. *(Extends his hand)*  
**Laman:** *(Clasping Nephi's hand)* Yes, brother – we move on. *(Calling to the others)* To the tent of our father!  
**All:** To the tent of our father!  
*(He exits SL walking side by side with Nephi, followed by all the others. Lights out on the company, as light comes up on Lehi and Sariah, DSR, sitting together under the stars. Soft music begins.)*

## **Beautiful Tonight**

**Sariah** *(Sings):* The stars are so beautiful tonight.  
**Lehi:** But not nearly as beautiful as you.  
**Sariah:** Oh, come now. I haven't bathed in weeks.  
**Lehi:** That doesn't matter.  
**Sariah:** I'm wearing the same tattered dress that I've worn every day since we left Jerusalem.  
**Lehi:** But you're far more beautiful now even than you were back then.

**Lehi:** You've gotten stronger, Sariah, and it shows  
In your eyes, in everything about you.  
You wear the confidence of somebody who knows  
That there's need to doubt, no need to fear.

**Sariah:** Do you know when the children will be here?

**Lehi:** They'll be here... whenever they arrive.

**Sariah:** I look forward to no longer being  
The only woman here in camp!

**Lehi:** I look forward to the pitter-patter of many future little feet.

**Sariah:** Filling our promised land with many precious little lives.

**Lehi:** You've gotten stronger, Sariah, and it shows

In your eyes, in everything about you.

**+ Sariah:** You/I wear the confidence of somebody who knows

**Sariah:** That there never was a need for me to doubt you.

**Lehi:** The world is so beautiful tonight,  
But not nearly as beautiful as you.

**Sariah:** This wilderness can be a long hard fight,

**+Lehi:** But there's no one I'd rather share it with than you.

*(Ishmael enters the scene, followed by their two families, thrilled to arrive after their long journey.)*

**Ishmael:** Lehi! My dear old friend! *(They greet each other warmly, as Sariah ecstatically embraces and welcomes her sons and the new arrivals.)* **(1 Ne. 7:22)**

**Lehi:** Ishmael! A warm welcome to you and your household! So now our two families become one!

**Ishmael:** True! I predict that we shall see many lovely grandchildren!

**Lehi:** Yes! As it should be! *(They chuckle warmly)*

**Ishmael:** So - where is this promised land of yours?

**Lehi:** This promised land of *ours*, old friend! We shall find it soon - Now that *you* are here!

*(It is a happy and festive time of heartfelt unity and hope. The new women in camp quickly bring a spirit of home that cheers the spirits of all. Soon, other tents arise beside Lehi's tent. His family is longer alone in the wilderness. Night falls, and each family goes into their tent. Dream music begins.)*

## **Lehi's Dream (1 Ne. 8)**

**Nar 1&2:** *(Chant)* Early one morning, in the valley of Lemuel, Lehi awoke with a start!  
*(He emerges from the tent door, looking like he's seen a ghost.)*

**Sam:** *(Speaks)* What is it, father?

**Lehi:** *(Sings)* Behold, I have dreamed a dream; Or in other words, I have seen a vision.  
And because of the things I have seen, I exceedingly fear.  
For you, my two oldest sons – Laman and Lemuel –  
But Nephi and Sam, I rejoice for you – Oh, hearken all and hear:

**Sariah:** *(Speaks)* What did you see?

**Lehi: (Sings)** I saw a man dressed in white who bade me follow him;  
And as I followed him, I found myself alone  
In a dark and dreary wilderness  
By myself for many hours on my own.

Then I prayed to the Lord and I saw a tree  
And partook of its fruit white and fair;  
And it filled my soul with exceeding joy,  
And I knew that what I'd found, I had to share.

So I cast my eyes around – Hoping my family might be found;  
And I saw you all, and you heard my call, and some of you joined me and partook  
Of the fruit of the tree; but some of you would not come to me.  
Though I beckoned and I called, you would not partake at all,  
And it broke my heart.

And I also beheld a straight and narrow path  
Which came along by an iron rod.  
I saw many people pressing forward  
To come to the tree, which was the love of God. *(Keychange)*

**Angel Choir:** Ah....

Then a mist of darkness rose and concealed the path,  
And many who commenced did lose their way;  
But others caught hold of that rod of iron,  
Pressing forward on it boldly all the way,

**Angel Choir:** Ah....

Till they came to the tree, *(Ah..)* and fell down there and partook, just like me. *(Ah...)*  
But others wandered and were drowned – and no longer could be found  
And it broke my heart. *(Ah)*

Press forward, my children, hold fast to the iron rod  
That can lead you on a straight path to taste of the love of God *(Ah)*  
Press forward, my children, *(Press forward, always)*  
And choose the path that's right. *(Choose the path that's right)*  
Press forward, press on into the light. *(He and Sariah gather their boys in a family embrace as the lights fade.)*

**Older Nephi:** And after I, Nephi, did hear the words of my father, I was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things. *(Underscore Music: "Vision")* For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded to them. And I sought to know these things for myself. And the Lord answered me, and showed me many great - and terrible - things about the future of my people.

And when I returned from speaking with the Lord, I found my brothers disputing with one another about the things my father had spoken unto them. *(Lights up on Laman, Lemuel, and Sam arguing.)*

**Nephi:** Stop! Why are you fighting?

**Sam:** Because we can't understand the things our father has said unto us.

**Nephi:** Have ye inquired of the Lord?

**Laman:** *(with genuine sadness.)* We have not, for the Lord maketh no such thing known... unto us. **(1 Ne. 15:2-9)**

## **For Yourself** (1 Ne. 15:11)

**Young Nephi:** (*Gently, to Laman*) If you will ask Him, If you will seek Him,  
(*Singing*) If you will turn to Him, then He will turn to you.  
If you will knock at His door, if you will speak to Him,  
Then He will open that door, and He will speak to you. (**Angels appear, adding their witness:**)

(*With assurance*) For yourself – you can have your own experience; (*Your own experience*)  
For yourself – you can find a light inside. (*Find a light inside*)  
For this wilderness can simply be too hard to take (*Ah....*)  
Without the strength of your own witness, your own guide. (*Ah...*)  
Soon you can know – (*Soon you can know*) Soon you... can know – (*Know...*)  
For yourself. (*For yourself.*) / (*Ask Him–Seek Him–Turn to Him, and He will turn to you...*)  
(*Laman looks up into Nephi’s eyes. Nephi grips his brother’s hands in assurance.*)  
*Music segues gently into the next song.*)

## **In the Valley of Lemuel** (1 Ne. 8:1 - 16:10) (*Lights up on Narrators and Angel Choir*)

**Nar. 1:** There in the valley of Lemuel, there at the riverside,  
Two families slowly merged into one – Each daughter became a bride. (*In dance, the daughters emerge*)

**Nar. 2:** It was a happy and fruitful time, as each man found his wife, (**Angels: Ah...**)  
(*The brothers and Zoram take the hands of their wives, as do Lehi and Ishmael and his sons*)  
Side by side, they all worked together, preparing for their new life.

**Nar. 1:** They gathered what was needed for the journey up ahead - (**Angels: Ah...**)  
Seeds of every kind, provisions and tents, for each couple wed;

**Nar. 2:** And when everything was gathered, and when all was at last prepared,  
God spoke, saying it was time to leave their encampment there. (*Lights up slowly on the tents.*)

**Nar. 1:** And when they rose up in the morning, on the day when they were to go, (**Angels: Ah...**)  
**Nar. 1&2:** They found a curiously fashioned little ball on the ground near the tent’s front door.

**Sariah:** (*Speaks*) What is it?

**Lehi:** I’m not sure... It seems to be... a compass of some kind.

**Sariah:** (*Examining it*) Look at this workmanship. It’s exquisite. Where could this have come from?

**Lehi:** It could have come from only one place. It is a gift from God, to lead us through the wilderness.  
(*He begins walking with the Liahona, getting more and more excited.*)

Look – the spindle on the top is moving. It’s pointing us where we need to go!

**Sariah:** This little ball is what will lead us to the promised land! (*The family begins to wake and enter the scene.*)

**Nephi:** What is it, father?

**Lehi:** (*Overjoyed*) Look – it’s a compass! A compass from heaven!

**Nephi:** It’s pointing towards the river.

**Lehi:** Yes. A river we will need to cross. Today.

**Lemuel:** Sounds... wet.

**Lemuel’s Wife:** And cold.

**Laman:** Surely there’s another way out of here.

**Lehi:** No. We will follow God’s compass. That is our path to safety - our path to the promised land.  
(*Lights out on them, up on Older Nephi, writing. Underscore Music: “Like This River”*)



**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that we did take our tents and depart into the wilderness, across the river Laman. And we did follow the directions of the ball, which led us in the more fertile parts of the wilderness.

And after we had traveled for the space of many days we did pitch our tents, that we might rest ourselves and obtain food for our families. (*Lights up on Nephi and his brothers bow hunting.*)

And it came to pass that as I, Nephi, went forth to slay food, behold, I did break my , which was made of fine steel. And my brethren were angry with me, because of the loss of my bow. (*Music ends*)

**Laman:** How will we now obtain food for our families?

**Lemuel:** (*Bitterly*) Our bows have lost their springs, and now you have broken the one thing that stood between us and starvation. (*Sarcastically*) Good work, Nephi!

**Sam:** (*Examining the broken bow*) How could this have happened? This bow was of the finest steel.

**Nephi:** I know. I'm not sure how it happened. (*Lehi and Sariah approach, greeting them anxiously.*)

**Sariah:** My sons, you're home!... (*seeing them empty-handed*) Everyone is so hungry...

**Lehi:** Why have you not brought back food?

**Lemuel:** You know... that's a *really* good question! (*The family begins to gather, concerned, watching silently.*)

**Laman:** (*Contemptuously*) Tell him, Nephi! Tell him what you did. (*Nephi silently raises his broken bow.*)

**Sariah:** Your fine steel bow! Our one security in this barren wasteland... How did this happen?

**Nephi:** I'm not sure... It just happened. I'm so sorry.

**Lehi:** (*Losing confidence*) I'm sorry too. I'm sorry that I ever listened. I'm sorry that I brought you all out here. We should have just stayed home and hoped for the best.

**Laman:** (*Under his breath*) That's what I've been saying all along.

**Sariah:** Lehi, I know you don't mean that...

**Lehi:** (*Bitterly*) No, I do mean that! (*To God:*) Lord, I trusted you! I trusted you with my safety, and that of my wife, and of my children and my family. And now Ishmael's family too. They all trusted me, they all followed me out here. Because I trusted you, and followed you! Why have you now abandoned us? Why? (*He runs off in despair. They are all silenced and stunned. They've never seen him like this before.*)

**Lemuel:** (*Harshly, to Nephi*) You see what you did – prophet-boy?

(*The family dissipates slowly, murmuring – all but Nephi's wife, who approaches him gently.*)

**N's Wife:** Nephi...

**Nephi:** (*a little sharply*) What... are you going to attack me too?

**N's Wife:** No – of course not! I just don't want you to be alone.

**Nephi:** You can't do anything.

**N's Wife:** No. But I do know someone who can. (*For the first time, Nephi lifts his head, looking at her.*)

## **Tender Mercies** (1 Ne. 1:20)

**Nephi's Wife:** (*Gently, to her downcast young husband*) Just when the night turns its darkest,  
(*Singing:*) Just when the wind howls its worst;  
Just when you almost have given up hope,  
Just when you think you're at the end of your rope,

He sends his tender mercies, Undeserved and ever-flowing.  
Tender mercies, That sustain your soul, and keep you knowing  
That no matter what, he's always there, and you're always his constant care:  
Tender mercies.

(*Lights up on Sariah, who has found Lehi sitting alone.*)

**Sariah:** *(to a discouraged Lehi)* Just when the world you've known is ending,  
When you once again crash into yet another wall,  
Just when you think you've reached your limit at last,  
When you honestly believe that all your good days are past,

**+N. Wife:** He sends his tender mercies, *(His tender mercies)*  
That pick you up, and keep you going,  
Tender mercies, *(Tender mercies)*  
That sustain your soul, and keep you knowing  
That no matter what, he's always there, and you're always in his constant care,  
Tender mercies.

*(The song concludes gently, as lights fade out on Lehi and Sariah.)*

**Nephi's Wife:** You'll know what to do.  
*(Speaking:)* He'll let you know what you need to do.

**Nephi:** *(Softly)* Yes. He already has. *(He kisses her forehead, and departs, as lights go out on them.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make out of wood a bow, and out of a straight stick, an arrow;  
wherefore I did arm myself with a bow and an arrow, with a sling and with stones. And I went forth  
unto my father, *(lights up on Lehi, sitting alone)* and said:

**Nephi:** *(Gently, to Lehi)* Father, whither shall I go to obtain food? *(Lehi looks up, and sees the new bow)*  
**Lehi:** *(Humbly, with deep gratitude)* Oh, my son. My dear and faithful son. *(He embraces his son, lights out.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that he did inquire of the Lord. And he was sorely chastened for his murmurings;  
nevertheless, the voice of the Lord said unto him, "Look upon the ball." And following directions on the  
ball, I did go forth and slay wild beasts, that I did obtain food for our families. And their joy was great;  
and they did humble themselves before the Lord, and did give thanks unto him.  
*(Lights up on the family with the ball.)*

**Women:** We grow stronger and stronger,  
*(Singing:)* With every passing day.

**Men:** Though the journey seems longer and longer,

**Families:** We know he is there for us, all the way, with his *(Keychange)* **(+Angels: Ah!)**

**Families:** Tender mercies *(tender mercies)* That keep us safe, and keep us going,  
Tender mercies, *(tender mercies)* that guide us on, And keep us knowing  
That his love for us is always there, *(Always there,)*  
And we're always in his constant care, *(Constant care.)*  
And there's really nothing we can't bear, *(Ah...)*  
Nourished by his daily, tender mercies, tender mercies, His tender mercies.

**Older Nephi:** And we took our journey again, traveling for the space of many days. And then we did pitch our tents,  
*(Speaking)* and did tarry for the space of a time.

And it came to pass that Ishmael died, and was buried in a place called Nahom, meaning consolation.  
And his daughters did mourn his loss exceedingly.

*(Lights up on the women of the company, huddled in grief. The wives of Nephi, Sam, and Zoram,  
along with Sariah, sit with Ishmael's widow, comforting her. In another corner, near Ishmael's graveside,  
the wives of the sons of Ishmael, and of Laman and Lemuel, sing:)*

## **Out Here** (1 Ne. 16:34-36)

**SOI/L&L Wives:** Out here, there isn't even bread;  
(Singing:) Out here, we're barely even fed.  
And my father would be alive, not dead, If we hadn't come out here.

Out here, it's either hot or cold;  
Out here, we simply do what we are told.  
Going this way, going that way, on the whim of a silly ball,  
If you ask me, it just makes no sense at all!

Coming out here – I didn't have a choice.  
Out here – I haven't got a voice.  
What I hope for doesn't matter –  
What is dear to me is gone –  
And the answer is we simply must go on - Out here! (Light up on Lehi, in a corner alone)

**Lehi:** (Sadly) Out here, Lord, your voice has grown so dim; I wonder if the children may be right.  
Am I just a blind old fool, Chasing down some silly dream,  
And dragging along my family without reason?

**Lehi:** Already it has taken my dear friend's life –  
Who will be next, Lord? My son... my wife? Out here...

**Nephi:** Out here, it seems impossible to bear; (Light up on Nephi, in another corner alone)  
But I know that nothing is too hard for thee!  
Won't you please show me the way, Lord – For I know that you are there;  
Tell me what to do, Lord - Please speak to me! Out here! (Sons of Ishmael join their sisters onstage)

**Ishmael's Children:** Our father would not have died, if we were not...  
**+ Company:** Out here!  
**Lehi & Sariah :** We can't say we haven't tried our best... (Families of Sons of Ishmael join them)  
**+ Company:** Out here! (Laman, Lemuel, enter, listening angrily)  
**Ishmael's Family:** Oh, the endless tears we've cried. (Sam and Zoram enter, listening in concern)  
**+ Nephi, Lehi, Zoram, Sam:** We have prayed, no one's replied.  
**+ Laman, Lemuel:** To the questions burning here inside...  
Out here!

**Nephi:** Father, please show me the way –  
**+Lehi:** Make thy will clear.  
**(Sariah:** Make thy will clear...)  
**All:** Out here!

*(The music segues to an angrier tone, reprising the earlier rebellion. Singing in whisper)*

**SOI-2's's Wife:** Why did we come out here at all?  
**SOI-1's Wife:** That's ...what I'd like to know!  
**L&L Wives:** We had everything we ever wanted back at home.  
**All:** Everything we ever needed.

## Precious Things (1 Ne. 16:34-36)

**SOI-1's Wife:** We had... a house... + **SOI-2 Wife** A lovely house...  
**+ Laman's Wife:** A lovely and comfortable house, full of precious things.  
**Lemuel's Wife:** We had friends –  
**+Laman's Wife:** We had our father –  
**All 4:** We had a beautiful life, in that house full of precious things.

And most of all – We had happiness – So much happiness, together there.  
We had plenty to eat, and our lives were sweet,  
And our faces were smiling and fair – You couldn't find a happier family anywhere.

**Lemuel's Wife:** Our father – oh,  
**+Laman's Wife:** We miss him so.  
**+3 Daughters:** It's hard to leave him here in this dark and barren place.  
**SOI-2's Wife:** If we were still at home,  
**SOI-1's Wife:** And chosen not to roam,  
**All:** Then perhaps these tears would not be streaming down our face.

For life is hard – And we have wandered much – (*Laman, Lemuel, Sam, Zoram, and sons of Ishmael*  
Here in this wilderness Of sorrow and of pain. *join their wives.*)  
We've suffered hunger and thirst and fatigue and toil, just by hunger to now be slain -  
Oh, that we could go home, And have our precious things again!

*(They turn to their husbands for comfort and protection. The men are touched – and angered –  
by the heartbreak of their wives – other than Sam and Zoram, who are increasingly concerned.  
Lehi and Nephi overhear this exchange from a distance. Laman, tender to the feelings of his  
suffering wife, is particularly incensed.)*

## In the Wilderness (1 Ne. 16:37-39)

**Laman:** (*Erupting ferociously, to Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael*) Behold, let us slay our father!  
And our brother Nephi too!  
For we know that he lies to us, we know what he is really trying to do:  
To lead us to some strange wilderness, there to make himself a king  
That he may do to us according to his will!

**Lemuel:** Come, let us slay them! (*Sariah and Nephi's wife approach, overhearing this, recoiling in horror.*)  
**+Son of I. 1, 2:** Come, let us strike them!  
**+Laman:** Come, let us kill... them!

**Older Nephi:** But the Lord was with us,  
And his voice came down, (*they fall to the ground, hearing, as a strong spotlight shines on them*)  
And did speak many words unto them,  
And they were chastened exceedingly, wherefore they did repent  
And did turn away their anger. (*Nephi and Lehi join the group; they are reconciled.*)

Wherefore we were able to continue (*The full group gathers and continues journeying, with*  
In our journey towards the promised land; *Nephi in the lead, holding and following the Liahona*)  
We traveled in the wilderness,  
Guided by God's hand.

*(Lehi walks away at some distance from the family, still overwhelmed with the private devastation of his son's murderous words against him. Sariah approaches him gently.)*

**Sariah:** *(Speaks)* He never said the journey would be easy.

**Lehi:** No. But He also never said it would be like this.

**Sariah:** He did say... they never partook of the fruit.

**Lehi:** *(closing his eyes in painful recollection)* I know. *(Opens his eyes, bright with tears)*

I just never thought something like this could happen – in our family. *(She approaches him gently)*

## Eventually

**Sariah:** *(Sings)* 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.

But you will never stop loving them; No, you will never stop loving them.  
And you never will stop hoping, And you never will stop groping  
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe  
That they will finally find their way back home...  
Eventually.

*(Ishmael's wife, now an aging widow, also enters with a grieving heart.)*

**Ishmael's Wife:** Once you've given birth to another soul,  
They're forever a part of you – Without them you're not whole.

**+Sariah:** So whether they do right, or whether they do wrong,  
Whether they are weak, or whether they are strong, *(Others join the group, rendering their support)*

**+Nephi's Wife:** Oh, you'll never stop loving them; No, you'll never stop loving them.

**+Sam's Wife:** And you never will stop hoping, And you never will stop groping  
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe

**+Zoram's Wife:** That they will somehow find their way back home...  
Eventually. *(Instrumental music continues as Sariah speaks with Lehi)*

**Sarah:** *(spoken)* There's something else you probably need to know.

**Lehi:** *(still focused sadly on his rebellious sons)* Oh? What's that?

**Sariah:** *(hesitates)* It's hard..

**Lehi:** *(tunes in to her, concerned)* What is it, Sariah?

**Sariah:** *(takes a deep breath, then tells him:)* We're going to be doing this again.

**Lehi:** Doing what?

**Sariah:** *(quietly – a little afraid)* Being parents.

**Lehi:** What do you mean? We're already parents.

**Sariah:** *(with increased emphasis, looking straight into his eyes)* We're going to be doing ALL of this... AGAIN.

**Lehi:** *(he turns from her, bewildered - So much to take in all at once.)* Again?... Here... NOW?... How did this happen? *(Their youngest child is in his late teens. Becoming a father again, in his advanced age, will not be easy – especially out here, where providing for his current family is already so challenging)*

**Sariah:** The same way as always, I guess... *(seeing his struggle – feeling even more alone – turns from him in tears.)* I'm already so tired. And so much older than the last time. How will I ever do this?

**Lehi:** *(Approaching her gently)* The same way as always, I guess. With me at your side. And with the God of heaven watching over us both.

**Sariah:** And over our children. **All** of them. *(They are both mindful of their troubled elder sons – and of this newest addition soon to join their family, in these harsh conditions. They are united in faith and resolve.)*

**Lehi:** They were His ... before they were ours.

**Sariah:** And we will continue to care for them well. Even here.

**Lehi:** Even now.

*(Lights up on **Angel Chorus/Narrators**, lifting their voices in support: Ah..)*

<b>I/N/S/Z Wives:</b>	Oh, love is the longest road	<b>Angel Chorus:</b>	Ah...
	<i>(Singing)</i> On which you can embark.		
<b>+Lehi /Sariah:</b>	'Cause it goes on forever – From the moment that you start,		
<b>+Sam &amp; Wife:</b>	Oh, you'll never stop loving them;	<b>Angel Chorus:</b>	<i>Never stop...Loving them.</i>
<b>+Zoram &amp; Wife:</b>	No, you'll never stop loving them.		<i>Never stop...Loving them.</i>
	And you never will stop hoping,		Ah...
	And you never will stop groping		
	For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe		
<b>Sariah:</b>	That they will finally find their way back home,		Ah...
<b>Lehi:</b>	And their hearts won't always be as stone;		
<b>S+L+I. Wife</b>	Somehow they'll find their answers on their own...		Ah...
<b>Sariah:</b>	Eventually...		
<b>All:</b>	Eventually.		<i>Eventually.</i>

----- ***(Lights out on Act I. Curtain closes for a ten-minute intermission.)*** -----

## **ACT 2 – THE PROMISED LAND** (8 years later, with an older cast, and adding young children)

**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.*)

**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, carrying a small baby, looking for them.*)

**Nar. 2:** And little Joseph too! Look - they were so tiny! (*Music begins: Intro: "Strength for the Journey"*)

**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!

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

**Lemuel's Wife:** (*Singing*) The journey's been long,

**Laman's Wife:** And it's been hard;

**Nephi's Wife:** But we get through it,

+ **Sam's Wife:** By the strength of the Lord.

+ **Zoram's Wife:** He helps and sustains us all along our way;

+ **Sariah:** He strengthens and nourishes us on our pathway every day.

<b>Wives:</b>	When the storms befell,	<b>Children:</b> <i>When the storms befell,</i>
<b>Wives:</b>	And our hearts were sad,	<b>Children:</b> <i>And our hearts were sad,</i>
<b>Wives:</b>	We learned that all was well:	<b>Children:</b> <i>All was well,</i>
<b>Wives:</b>	What we needed we had.	<b>Children:</b> <i>What we needed we had.</i>

<b>Wives:</b>	We walked in confidence	<b>Children:</b> <i>In confidence</i>
<b>Wives:</b>	As He kept us from harm	<b>Children:</b> <i>He kept us from harm</i>
<b>Wives:</b>	And He protected us	<b>Children:</b> <i>He protected us</i>
<b>Wives &amp; Ch:</b>	By the strength of His arm.	( <i>The men enter, joining their families: Ah... </i> )

+ **Men:** And in Him we found – Strength for the journey,  
**Wives:** Whatever test or affliction or sorrow our road led through;  
+ **Men:** He gave us – Strength for the journey,  
**Wives:** And slowly over time, our strength and our power grew.

**Wives:** We bore children **Men:** (*Ah...*)  
**Wives:** And we bore pain **Men:** (*Ah....*)  
**Wives:** We faced heat, and cold, and wind, and pouring rain, **Men:** (*Ah....*)  
**All:** And we were strengthened by all that we passed through;  
And we were given pow'r to do what we had to do.

**All:** We were given – Strength for the journey,  
**Women:** Though we started this road with a faith that was weak and small.  
**All:** He gave us strength for the journey:  
**Nephi's Wife:** He gave us the pow'r to get us through it all.

**Women:** Despite the tears that we have cried,  
**+Men:** He has lit a light inside That we know will never, ever fade away!  
**All:** He gives us strength for the journey,  
 And faith that grows yet stronger every day

**L&L:** *(The journey's been long, and it's been hard)*  
**All:** But we get through it, by the strength of the Lord.

### **Journeyings Without Murmurings (1 Ne. 17:1-6)**

**Older Nephi:** And our women did bear children in the wilderness *(Young children join their mothers onstage)*  
 And were strong, even like unto the men; *(The children hug their mothers, looking up)*  
 And they began to bear their journeyings *(They engage in a community circle dance)*  
 Without murmurings...

And while living on raw meat in the wilderness, *(Mothers with small babies join the group,*  
 They nourished their small babes abundantly; *lifting and twirling their babes happily)*  
**+Women:** And after eight long years of trials and of tears, *(The men join their families, arms around their wives)*  
**+Company:** We arrived at a place beside a shining sea... *(They all sing together, facing the audience)*

*(Sound effect – waves at the seashore, coming from the auditorium. The family walks forward slowly, discovering this new location with wonder and delight.)*

**Older Nephi:** Behold, we did come to a land which we did call Bountiful, because of its much fruit and wild honey.  
*(Speaking:)* And we beheld the sea, which we called Irreantum, which, being interpreted, means - many waters.

And it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the seashore, and notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions and much difficulty, yea even so much that we cannot write them all, we were exceedingly rejoiced when we came to 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.

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

**Laman:** We're home at last – My little children! *(They run up and hug him)*  
*(Singing:)* We're home at last – My tender wife! *(He twirls her, she laughs brightly)*

**+His Wife:** Here, we can finally stop and make a home,  
**+His 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)*  
**+Lm's Wife:** We're home at last – Through with our pain and fear. *(Embracing him)*

**+Men:** Here, we can finally rest and make an end;  
**+Women:** 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 -  
 And yet I can't help feeling there is more. *(Keychange)*

**All/Nephi:** We're home at last *(Why is that sea) – Through with our wandering; (calling out to me?)*  
 We're home at last *(What may lie beyond) – Through with our pain and fear. (this restful shore?)*  
 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...)*  
Right here. *(I can't help feeling there is more...)* **(O. Nephi and Nar's join in words "there is more")**  
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...)* *(Lights up on Narrators)*

**Nar. 2:** *(Speaks)* That time we spent in 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. **2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 5:26** – "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!

**Nar. 2:** I guess not everybody can be in the spotlight.

## **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

**+Women:** But quietly – In the background – We strive and learn and hear and ache and grow;

And silently – In the background – We serve in ways no one will ever know.

**+Children:** And yet our voices Are heard by God above;

And he sees silently Our endless gifts of love.

**+Sam, Zoram:** And quietly, in the background, He sends his help and blessings every day;

And silently, in the background, He helps us through each challenge 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 -

**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, center stage. Lights focus on him; lights fade out on the family below.)*

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

**Nephi:** Driven to the mountain, like Moses was of old;

*(Singing)* Driven to the mountain, in the early morning cold;

Following a quiet voice that beckoned me this way,

I am... Driven to the mountain today.

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.

That's why I've come to His holy mountain... Today.

And I cry... To Him.

And I cry... To Him.

And I try...

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.  
 Driven to the mountain.... (*Driven to the mountain...*)

*(The mountain goes dark. Lights up on the camp below, with Laman and son. 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:** 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. I still miss Jerusalem sometimes. But it's nice here.  
**Laman:** 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.  
**Laman's Wife:** I know. And I'm grateful. (*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)*

**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:** We're not going anywhere. This.. THIS is the promised land.  
**Nephi:** 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:** 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 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**)

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

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

**L&L** Why should we even listen for one second to the ramblings  
 Of this crazy little chip off the old block? (*Lehi stands with Sariah, aghast*)  
 When will there ever be an end to all this silly foolishness?  
 When will it stop? When will it ever stop?

**Laman:** *(cries out in rage)* I know how to make it stop – Permanently!  
*(They lunge at Nephi; he 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. *(They cower)*

He is a God of power – He is a God of might –  
And nothing is too hard for him, there is nothing beyond his sight.  
If he commanded me to turn this water to earth, I could do all that and more;  
So he can surely instruct me to build a 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.

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

**Nephi:** We'll start here. *(Lights out as they start working timbers. Ship set change, as Sam sings in a spotlight)*

## In the Background, Reprise

**Sam:** *(Sings)* Quietly - In the background – I try to do the things that I should do.  
Silently - In the background - I labor to stand solid, strong, and true.  
And yet my voice Is rarely ever heard;  
I guess that you could say I am a man of few words.  
Yet silently – In the background – I'm part of the story just the same;  
And quietly – In the background – I serve a God who knows me by my name.  
*(Lights out on Sam, up on Narrators.)*

**Nar. 1:** *(Speaks)* 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.

**Older Nephi:** And they did humble themselves again before the Lord. And the voice of the Lord came unto my father,  
*(light shines onto Lehi, as in his first vision)* that we should arise and go down into the ship. So, after  
gathering much food and provisions, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children.

*(Lights up on family in the ship)* And after we had all gone down into the ship, and had taken with us our  
provisions and things which had been commanded us, we did put forth into the sea, and were driven  
forth before the wind to the promised land. *(Sound effect – loud powerful wind.)*

And after we had been driven forth before the wind for the space of many days, behold, my brethren  
and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to make themselves merry: **(1 Ne. 18:1-9)**

**On A Ship To The Promised Land** (1 Ne. 18:9-21) (Starts off frivolously playful and lighthearted)

**Lemuel & Wife:** Oh, we're sailing on a ship to the promised land **Sons of Ishmael & Wives:** (The promised land)  
(Singing) Over the bright blue sea! (La la la la la!)  
It's no ordinary trip, you understand (We understand)  
For you and you and me (You and me!)

**+SOI & wives:** We left our lovely homes in Jerusalem All our silver and our gold - But!  
What's waiting for us there in the promised land  
Is wealth and treasure untold! (La la la la la!)

**Laman & Wife:** For eight long years in the wilderness, We've waited for this day!  
And now the muck and the mud and the constant mess  
Are finally gonna pay! (La la la la la!)

**+Lemuel & Wife:** Because we're sailing on a ship to the promised land, where we finally will be free  
To do (!) ex (!) actly what we want; To be exactly what we wanna be!

**Nephi:** (Reproving them) We are sailing on a ship to the promised land, By the grace and power of God,  
And we only will arrive, don't you understand, If we hold to the iron rod!

**Lemuel:** (Confronting him harshly) Nephi, the constant kill-joy; Darling little brother dear,  
**L&L:** It is time you finally got it through your head,  
**+Sons of I:** You are not (!) the master here!

**Lehi:** (Pleading fervently) Please, boys, for eight long years in the wilderness,  
We've worked toward this day;

**+Sariah:** After all that we have been through, Please don't throw it all away!  
(Laman and Lemuel viciously bind Nephi with cords, and throw him down harshly,  
devastating their aging parents, and Nephi's wife and children, who fall beside him in tears.)

**L&L/SOI/Wives:** We are sailing on a ship to the promised land, And finally we will be free  
To do (!) ex (!) actly what we want; To be exactly what we wanna be!

**Laman:** (Emphatically) No one's the master of me!  
(The storm: Instrumental, minor key. In pantomime, Nephi's wife, children, and parents plead with the  
brothers, to no avail. Waves, thunder, and lightning, people falling, lights on and off. Finally, as  
conditions become more and more dangerous, the brothers untie Nephi. The sea roars as they sing:)

**Sam:** Oh, we're sailing on a ship to the promised land...  
**Lemuel:** At least, that was the plan.  
**Sam:** But God has got us in the fist of his mighty hand.  
**L&L:** Nephi, you're the man  
Who got us through the perils of the wilderness:  
Could you help us once again?  
Could you help us make it safely to the promised land.  
And bring this storm to an end?

(Nephi stands slowly, rubbing his painful wrists, looking up to heaven. The storm calms.)  
**Nephi:** Eight long years in the wilderness Have led us to this day  
Merciful God in heaven, wilt thou light and guide our way? (Lehi hands him Llahona; he steers ship.)

**All:** Oh, we're sailing on a ship to the promised land, by the grace of God above.  
Lord, wilt thou grant us thy heavenly peace, And guide us with thy love.

**L&L:** (We're sailing on a ship to the pro...mised... land...) (With feigned nonchalance)

**Laman's son:** *(A young child, bounding in happily, tugging at his father's sleeve. Speaks:)* Father, can you play?  
**Laman:** *(Still bruised and irritated from recent events.)* Maybe later. Go ask Jacob if he can play.  
**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. She looks down at Joseph, the babe in her arms, then wistfully up at Laman. Music begins.)*

## **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 lost sight of who you have it in you to be.  
But I have not forgotten, And I will not 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,  
And your peals of laughter filling the air with delight and joy and grace.  
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.

You've forgotten who you are – You've forgotten who you were,  
And you've lost sight of who you have it in you to be.  
But I have not forgotten, And I will not forget;  
For my son, I still believe in you, And I'm pulling for you yet.

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

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 – Tall and handsome, and yet forlorn;  
You've forgotten who you are – But I have not forgotten – I have not forgotten. *(Lights out on family.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship that we sailed again towards the promised land.  
*(Speaking )* And after we had sailed for the space of many days we did arrive...and we went forth... and we did call 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.)*

## **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 two small sons)* Here, we can finally stop and make a home,  
**+Nephi & 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! At last! (*Lights out on the family, up on Older Nephi*)

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth... and we did put all our seeds into the earth,  
(*Speaking*) which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly;  
wherefore, we were blessed in abundance.

And it came to pass that we did find 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 did find all manner  
of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper.

And it came to pass that the Lord commanded me, wherefore I did make plates of ore, that I might  
engraven upon them the record of my people. (*He hammers out characters as lights fade out on him.*)

(*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:** We're home at last – Our family is peaceful,  
(*Singing*) 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.*)

## **Beautiful Tonight, Reprise**

**Lehi:** The stars are so beautiful tonight!  
But not nearly as beautiful as you.  
(*No response, 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 oh, 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;  
But there are things I know, that I still need to say,  
Before my time is past, and I go home at last  
To you, and to... My Savior. (*He looks up with joy, as a strong light falls on him from above.*)  
(*Angels appear, as in his first vision*)

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! (*Gently the angels raise Sariah*)  
In the arms of love. (**Sariah**, *exiting with angels: 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, Sam is at his left. Lemuel and sons of Ishmael stand beside Laman. Nephi, Sam, Zoram, Jacob, and Joseph stand at the side of Sam. Their wives and children stand or sit somewhat farther away, on the side corresponding to their head of household. Lehi sings weakly, near the end of his mortal strength:)***

## **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.

**Nar. 1:** *(Speaks)* Our father Lehi gave many instructions and blessings to our family that day, before passing on.

**Nar. 2:** And our brother Nephi tried to be faithful to the charge given him, to lead our family in righteousness.

**Nar. 1:** But his well-intentioned efforts - were not always well-received. *(Lights out on the Narrators)*

*(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. Lights out on the family, as a spotlight follows Laman, bolting to a dark, distant corner of the stage. He is seething with rage.)*

## **Hey, Little Brother (2 Ne. 4:13)**

**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 - Now it's me on the attack!

How I wish we could go back in time!

Oh, I never wanted to be your enemy; *(His anger begins growing to a boiling point)*

But you're the one who couldn't just let things be!

*(Ferociously)* Hey, little brother, Don't push me against a wall,

'Cause if it comes to a battle, brother, It ain't me who's gonna fall!

I won't let you take from me What is mine and what will always be!

Even if I have to free myself from you, Little brother!

Hey, little brother... Little brother! Little brother! Little brother - Hey!

*(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.)*

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*(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 the relationship with his older brothers.)*



## Eventually, Reprise

**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 on Lehi and Sariah, as angels)*

**Sariah/Lehi:** *(Softly:)* But you will never stop loving them;

**+ Nephi:** No, you will never stop loving them.

*(harmony)* And you never will stop hoping, And you never will stop groping  
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe

**Sariah/Lehi:** That they will somehow find their way back home...

**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 cry alone, in the intensity of his soul)*

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

**Nephi:** O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth, and my soul grieveth.  
I am encompassed about with temptations that so easily beset me;  
And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins;  
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  
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,  
Even too great for man, That I was bidden that I should not write them.

Oh, then, if I have seen so great things,  
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.  
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. ***(Angels, now joined by Lehi & Sariah: Ah...)***

O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul? Wilt thou encircle me In the robe of thy righteousness?  
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,  
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!)* *(Lights out on Nephi, up on older Nephi.)*

**Older Nephi:** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did cry much unto the Lord my God because of the anger of my brethren. But behold, their anger did increase against me. **(1 Ne. 5:1-2)**  
*(Speaking)*  
*(Lights out on him, up on Laman, gathering support from others incensed in the wake of Lehi's death.)*

### **Younger Brother (2 Ne. 5:3)**

**Laman:** *(To Lemuel, roughly)* Our younger brother Seeks to rule over us,  
*(Singing)* And we have had much sorrow Because of him.

**+Lemuel:** Wherefore, now let us slay him, That we may not be afflicted more  
Because of his words – Come, let us slay him! *(Sons of Ishmael join them from the shadows)*

**Lemuel:** *(Viciously)* Our younger brother **(Laman and SOI: Our/your younger brother )**  
Seeks to rule over us *(He seeks to rule over us!)*  
And we have had much sorrow *(So much sorrow)*  
Because of him. *(Because of him! Oh,)*

**L&L, Sons of I:** Wherefore, now let us slay him, That we may not be afflicted more  
Because of his words – Come, let us slay him!

**Laman:** We will not have him to be our ruler -

**+Lemuel:** No, that he will never be!

**L&L:** For it belongs to us, the elder brethren To rule this people! **Lamanites:** *(entering)* Ah...

**L&L:** Our younger brother **(Lamanites: Your younger brother)**  
Seeks to rule over us *(He seeks to rule over us!)*  
And we have had much sorrow *(So much sorrow)* Because of him. *(Because of him! Oh...)*

**L&L:** Wherefore, now let us slay him,

**All:** That we may not be afflicted more Because of his words

**Laman:** Come, let us slay him! **Lemuel:** Come, let us slay him!

**Both:** Come, let us slay.... him! **Lamanites:** Your younger brother seeks to rule over us!

**L&L:** Our younger brother! **All:** Ha! *(Nephi enters the picture, they seize him. Action follows the words.)*

### **It Sufficeth Me (2 Ne. 5:4-14)**

**Older Nephi:** It sufficeth me to say, they tried to slay me. **(Nephi: Leave me alone!)**  
It sufficeth me to say, they tried to take my life. **(Laman: Little brother!)**  
They didn't want to hear me or to obey me **(Lemuel: You will never rule over us!)**  
And the rest of the story is... **(Laman: Don't let him go!)**  
And the rest of the story is... **(Lemuel: He's just too strong!)**  
By the grace of God, again - I got away. **(Lights out on the brothers)**

And the Lord did warn me to depart from them And flee into the wilderness.  
With all who would go with me, With my sisters and my family,  
With all those who would hear the revelations of God! **(Lights up on Nephites: Ah...)**

**+Nephites** We took the compass, and the records, and the sword of Laban,  
And after its manner we crafted many swords;

**Older Nephi:** For I knew their hatred against me and my children And against those who were called my people.  
I knew their hatred,

**+Nephites:** And so we went away. **(Lights out on Nephites)**

**Older Nephi:** And that's all that it sufficeth me to say. **(Thick drumbeats; Lights up on furious Laman and others.)**

## **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:** Wronged in Jerusalem, Wronged in the wilderness, Wronged in every possible way!  
Robbed of my inheritance, 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  
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(A-ya-ya-ya-ya-ya-ya!)*

**Lemuel:** Laman is our leader now - He will protect our rights!

**Lamanites:** From now on, we will be called Lamanites!

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

*(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 Lamanites; up on Narrators and Nephites)*

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

**Narrators:** And it came to pass *(Nephites: It came to pass)* that we lived *(That we lived)*  
After the manner of happiness,

**+Nephites:** After the manner of happiness.

We asked Nephi to be our king and our protector;  
We looked to him for safety, And under his direction,

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

Generation after generation

Day after day! *(Sariah's mourning riff, but now in intense warcry style, repeated higher and higher, as Lamanites attack Nephites, men engage in war)*

**Older Nephi:** And as forty years passed away, we had already had wars and contentions with our brethren.

*(Speaking)* **(2 Ne. 5:34)** *(Intense war music crescendos, as the Lamanites approach.)*

**Nephite Women and Children:** Wars and contentions, year after year. *(Singing off to the side, as the men fight)*

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  
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Hi-yi-yi..)* *(Lights up on Lamanite women and children)*

**Lamanite Women and Children:** **(Mosiah 10:11-17)**  
*(Men, still fighting:)* For we were wronged in Jerusalem, *(Wronged!)*  
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: Ah...!)* Ha!

*(The fighting freezes in a dark silhouette, fading to black as Jacob, now an older boy, steps forward alone in a spotlight.)*

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

**Jacob:** *(Solemnly)* 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:** 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)*

*(Lights up dimly on the battlefield, where fallen warriors, both Nephites and Lamanites, lay lifeless on the ground. Solemn mournful music plays.)*

*Nephi enters the battlefield slowly from upstage center, battle-weary and heartbroken, 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)**

### **Eventually – Reprise 2** *(Field of Battle)*

**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)*

**Sam:** *(Approaching him gently, with Zoram at his side)* But you will never stop loving them;  
**+ Nephi:** No, you will never stop loving them.

**+ N.Warriors:** *(in gentle masculine harmony)* And you never will stop hoping, And you never will stop groping  
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe  
That they will somehow find their way back home...

**Nephi:** Eventually.

**N. Warriors:** Eventually. *(Nephi gently closes the eyes of the fallen young warrior. Lights out on the battlefield.)*

**Jacob:** *(Lights up on Jacob, in a spotlight alone)* And it came to pass that many means were devised to reclaim  
*(Speaking)* and restore the Lamanites to a knowledge of the truth. But it all was vain, for they delighted in wars and  
bloodshed, and they had an eternal hatred against us, their brethren. And they sought by the power of  
their arms to destroy us continually.

Wherefore we, the people of Nephi, did fortify against them with our arms, and with all our might,  
trusting in the God and rock of our salvation; wherefore, we became as yet conquerors of our enemies.  
**(Jacob 7:24-25)**

*(Lights out on Jacob, up on Narrators.)*

**Narrator 1:** Our brother, Nephi, never in his lifetime saw an end to contentions 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. *(Lights up on Older Nephi, working on his record.)*

**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.

**Older 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.  
*(Music resumes)* And the words which I have written in weakness will be made strong unto them.  
**(2 Ne. 5:30; 33:3-4)**

*Lights up on Nephites, as he continues to carve characters into the record.)*

**Nephites:** Oh, love is the longest road On which you can embark.

*(Singing in harmony)* 'Cause it goes on forever – From the moment that you start, *(Keychange, broadly)*

Oh, you'll never stop loving them; **(+Older Nephi: )** No, you'll never stop loving them.

And you never will stop hoping, And you never will stop groping

For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe *(Older Nephi's wife enters, watching from the doorway)*

**Older Nephi:** That they will somehow find their way back home,

**+O. Nephi's Wife:** And their hearts won't always be as stone;

**All:** Somehow they'll find their answers on their own *(on their own...)* *(His wife joins him gently)*

**Older Nephi:** Eventually... **Lam's:** *(Ah..Sariah's riff, offstage)*

Eventually.

**Lamanites:** Ah... *(Sariah's riff, resolving to peaceful major chord, offstage.)*

**Older Nephi's Wife:** *(Speaks, 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.

**Older Nephi:** It's about the Messiah.

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

**Older 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.

**Older 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.)*

**Older 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)**

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

**Older 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.

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.

We talk of Christ - we rejoice in Christ - *(Nephi's wife re-enters, listening.)*  
And we write according to our prophecies  
That our children may know to whom they may look *(She joins him, sharing his faith)*  
For their salvation, for healing, for hope.

**+Nephi's Wife:** Jesus is my light: Most joyous to my soul! *(Warmly, in combined assurance)*

He has lifted my eyes, He has healed my heart:  
He has made me whole! *(Nephites, rising in crescendo: Oh...)* *(Lights up on Nephites)*

**+Nephites:** Jesus is my Savior: He pays the awful cost  
*(harmony)* Of my sins and my sorrows - He rescues me -  
And without Him, I would be forever lost!

We talk of Christ - we rejoice in Christ -  
And we write according to our prophecies  
That our children may know to whom they may look  
For their salvation, for healing, for hope. *(Lights up on Angels, including Lehi/Sariah)*

**+Angels:** 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.

**Nephites:** We talk of Christ - we rejoice in Christ -  
And we write according to our prophecies  
**+Angels:** That our children may know to whom they may look  
For their salvation, for healing, for hope!

*(Lights out on all, except the Narrators)*

**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 – including, the lives of millions of Lamanite descendants. *(Underscore music begins – “What All of This Is For / A Land of Promise”)*  
*(Speaking)* So many of them have now received the words of this sacred book, with its enduring message of hope, faith, and love that never gives up – no matter what. *(Angel voices: “Ah” [“Great and Marvelous”])*

**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. He can dry our tears, cheer our hearts, and see us through whatever challenges life might put before us.

**Narrator 1:** So it was, in the time in which we lived. *(The music continues with Sariah’s riff, reflecting ancient times.)*

**Narrator 2:** So it continues to be, in the time in which you live. *(The music concludes with warm resolution.)*

## **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...)*

**Company:** Press forward!

## **From the Dust, Reprise**

*(In spotlights, as in the beginning)*

**Older Nephi:** I speak as one crying from the dust -

**+Lehi:** I speak as one crying from the dust –

**+Nephi:** To my brethren, to the ends of the earth:

**+Company:** Come unto Christ!

*(Spotlights out; whole company lit)*

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

**Older Nephi:** 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.

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

**+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.

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

**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.

**Angels:** Ah...

*(Angels exit briefly)*

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

**Angels:** *(this time bringing the Lamanites with them, representing a later time of redemption and gathering)* Ah...

**Nephites:** 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!

**Angels and Lamanites:** Ah...

**Company:** Ah!  
**Nephi's Family:** Press Forward!  
**Company:** Ah!