

# **“Press Forward:”**

## **A Book of Mormon Family Musical**

*(v.22, 3-14-24 – Grantsville Script 5)*

*Written by*  
**Carrie Maxwell Wrigley**

*Based on*  
**1 and 2 Nephi**  
*in*  
**The Book of Mormon**

*“Wherefore ye must press forward  
With a steadfastness in Christ,  
Having a perfect brightness of hope,  
And a love of God,  
and of all men.”*

*-- 2 Nephi 32:20*

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**Act Ia: The Departure**

From the Dust/Press Forward	Instrumental	11/13/14	(0:50)	--
Jerusalem	Laman, Lehi, Sariah, cast	(11/13/14> 2/4/22)	(4:25)	<b>Cast</b>
Something More	<b>Young Nephi</b>	(1/11/22)	(2:50)	<i>YNe</i>
Bein’ Number Two	Lemuel, Chedvah, crowd	(1/13/22)	(1:37)	<i>Lm/Lam’s</i>
Just Kinda There	Sam, Shira	(1/13/22)	(1:59)	<i>S/Shr</i>
People of Jerusalem	Jeremiah, People of Jerusalem	(3/28/14)	(2:48)	<b>Cast</b>
That I May Hear	Lehi	(11/14/14> 2/4/22)	(2:38)	<i>Le</i>
Great and Marvelous	Lehi, Children, Angels	(06/22/03)	(1:43)	<i>Le</i>
Repent! / Who in the World?	Lehi, People of Jerusalem	(06/25/13)	(1:35)	<b>Cast</b>
Blessed Art Thou, Lehi	Voice of God	(11/21/14)	(1:07)	<i>VGod</i>
Leave It All Behind	Sariah, Angels	(11/12/14)	(2:37)	<i>Sar</i>
Like This River, Like This Valley	Lehi, Sariah	(6/23/03)	(1:53)	<i>Le/Sar</i>
Our Father Is a Fool	Laman; Lemuel, Sam	(6/22/03)	(1:34)	<i>La/Lm/S</i>
For Myself	Young Nephi	(6/21/03)	(2:13)	<i>YNe</i>
Blessed Art Thou, Nephi	Voice of God	(11/14/14)	(1:04)	<i>VGod</i>
Behold, I Have Dreamed a Dream	Lehi	(11/27/14)	(0:54)	<i>Le</i>
I Will Go	Young Nephi, Lehi	(6/21/03)	(1:55)	<i>YNe/Le</i>
Getting the Plates (w/3 songs)	Lehi’s Sons, Laban	(11/27/14)	(8:30)	--
- Nephi’s Vow	Young Nephi	(11/27/14)	--	<i>YNe</i>
- Into Your Hands	Angel	(11/27/14)	--	<i>VGod</i>
- A Way	Spirit of God, Young Nephi	(11/27/14)	--	<i>VGod/YNe</i>

**Act Ib: The Journey**

What Is All This For?	Sariah, Lehi	(3/7/14)	(3:12)	<i>Sar/Le</i>
Now I Know	Sariah, Family, Angels	(11/14/14)	(1:15)	<b>Fam</b>
Come With Us	Lehi’s Sons, Ishmael’s Family	(3/28/14)	(1:51)	<b>MF (-Le/Sar/Zo)</b>
Joined In Their Journey	Ishmael’s Family, Y Nephi, Brothers	(11/17/14)	(2:54)	<b>MF (-Le/Sar/Zo)</b>
Beautiful Tonight	Lehi, Sariah, Zoram	(11/17/14)	(2:25)	<i>Le/Sar/Zo</i>
Lehi’s Dream	Lehi, Angels	(11/20/14)	(3:25)	<i>Le/ Cast</i>
In the Valley of Lemuel	Shamira, Sariah	(11/15/14)	(1:20)	<i>Sha/Sar</i>
Desert Dining Delights	Lemuel, Ched, Adi, Had, Dny, Jab, Ash	(‘03>2/5/22)	(1:00)	<i>Le/Lam’s</i>
Looking Down	Laman	(10/21/23)	(3:27)	<i>Laman</i>
Tender Mercies	Talia; Sariah, Y. Nephi, Lehi; Family	(3/4/14)	(3:40)	<b>M-Fam</b>
Out Here	Adi,Ched, Had, Dny; Family	(3/9/14)	(2:42)	<b>M-Fam</b>
Precious Things	Adi,Ched, Had, Dny; Jab, Ash	(3/28/14)	(2:22)	<i>Lam’s</i>
In the Wilderness	Laman, Lem, Jab, Ash, followers	(11/16/14)	(0:22)	<i>La/Lam’s</i>
Eventually	Sariah, Lehi, Angels, Family	(3/2/14)	(3:50)	<b>M-Fam</b>

## Act II: The Promised Land *(Family has now added Children; without Ishmael & Shamirah, now angels)*

Entr'acte: Peaceful Morning	Instrumental	(1/13/14)	(2:10)	--
Dance of the Children	Instrumental / Children	(11/17/14)	(:48)	<i>Children</i>
Home At Last	Laman, Family, Nephi	(11/16/14)	(2:00)	<b>M-Fam</b>
In the Background	Sam, Zoram, Family	(8/9/14)	(2:00)	<b>M-Fam</b>
Driven to the Mountain	Nephi, Angels	(3/2/14)	(1:40)	<i>Ne</i>
Our Brother Is a Fool/Touch Me Not!	Laman, Lemuel, Nephi, Sam, Sar, Zor	(6/22/14)	(1:55)	<b>Fam (- Le)</b>
I Have Not Forgotten	Sariah, Adina, Angels	(4/18/14)	(3:05)	<i>Sar/Ad</i>
Goin' On A Ship	Lemuel, Family	(03>2/1/14)	(3:35)	<b>M-Fam</b>
Home At Last, Reprise	Lehi, Family, Sariah	(11/16/15)	(2:07)	<b>M-Fam</b>
Beautiful Tonight, Reprise	Lehi, Angels	(11/17/14)	(2:21)	<i>Le</i>
Awake, My Sons	Lehi, Family, Angels, Sariah	(11/19/14)	(4:13)	<b>M-Fam</b>
Hey, Little Brother	Laman; Lamanites	(5/20/06)	(2:07)	<i>La/Lam's</i>
Awake, My Soul	Nephi, Angels	(6/23/03)	(3:37)	<i>Ne</i>
Wronged! Robbed!	Laman, Lemuel, Lamanites	(3/10/14)	(1:18)	<i>La/Lam's</i>
The Manner of Happiness	Nephites, Lamanites	(3/11/14)	(2:17)	<b>Cast</b>
Eventually, Reprise	Nephi, Sam, Zoram, Warriors, Angels	(3/10/14)	(1:30)	<i>Ne/War's</i>
Therefore I Make a Record	Nephi	(06/20/03)	(1:50)	<i>Ne</i>
Something More, Reprise	<b>Older Nephi</b> , Sam, Zoram	(9/17/23)	(0:43)	<i>O.Ne/S/Z</i>
Watering My Pillow	Older Nephi, Zoram; Angels	(9/17/23)	(4:06)	<i>O.Ne/S/Z</i>
We Talk of Christ	O. Nephi, Sam, Zoram, Leah, Shira, Cast	(9/23/00)	(3:20)	<b>Cast</b>
Ye Must Press Forward	Older Nephi, Cast	(2/5/03)	(2:30)	<b>Cast</b>

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## CHARACTER LIST:

### LEHI'S FAMILY

<b>LEHI:</b>	A conscientious husband and father in Jerusalem, who becomes a sober, visionary man.	(INFJ)
<b>SARIAH:</b>	His wife, dynamic and vibrant. She loves beautiful things, and adores their children.	(ENFP)
<b>LAMAN:</b>	Their oldest son and heir, intense and serious – and an absolutely devoted husband and father.	(ENTJ)
<b>LEMUEL:</b>	Their second son, jovial and sarcastic; a cheerful middle child seeking notice and validation.	(ESTP)
<b>SAM:</b>	Their third son, quiet, compliant, caring, and supportive – a gentle middle child.	(ISFJ)
<b>YOUNG NEPHI:</b>	Their fourth son, humble and deep-thinking; becomes bold, determined, and passionate.	(INFJ)
<b>ZORAM:</b>	Initially Laban's servant in Jerusalem; later a quiet, loyal adopted son in Lehi's household.	(ISTJ)
<b>JACOB:</b>	Their fifth son, born in the wilderness – a sober, thoughtful child and future leader.	(INFP)
<b>ACHAVA:</b>	Their oldest daughter, a child born in the wilderness. Name means " <i>Friendship.</i> "	(ESFP)
<b>TIVKAH:</b>	Their youngest daughter, a younger child born in the wilderness. Name means " <i>Hope.</i> "	(ISFP)
<b>JOSEPH:</b>	Their sixth son, a baby born towards the end of the wilderness journey.	(ISTP)

### ISHMAEL'S FAMILY

(Hebrew Name sources)

<b>ISHMAEL:</b>	Aging father of young adult children, Lehi's friend; a caring but quiet patriarch.	(ISTJ)
<b>SHAMIRA:</b>	Ishmael's wife; name means " <i>Protector,</i> " Sariah's friend; supportive but not afraid to speak.	(ISFJ)
<b>ASHER:</b>	Ishmael's firstborn son & heir; name means " <i>fortunate, blessed, happy one</i> " Handsome, strong.	(ESTP)
<b>JABIN:</b>	Ishmael's second son; quieter, more dutiful and analytical. Name means " <i>perceptive.</i> "	(ISTJ)
<b>HADARA:</b>	Asher's beautiful wife, mother of their young children. Name means " <i>Splendor.</i> "	(ESFP)
<b>DANYA:</b>	Jabin's bossy, critical wife; mother of their children. Name means " <i>Judgement of God.</i> "	(ESTJ)

### DAUGHTERS OF ISHMAEL: Married later to Lehi's sons, in order of age:

<b>LEAH:</b>	<b>Zoram's Wife:</b> Devoted and steadfast. Name means " <i>Cow.</i> "	(ISFJ)
<b>ADINA:</b>	<b>Laman's Wife:</b> Sensitive and needy. Name means " <i>Delicate, refined.</i> "	(ISFP)
<b>CHEDVAH:</b>	<b>Lemuel's Wife:</b> Flippant and jovial. Name means " <i>Joy.</i> "	(ESFP)
<b>SHIRA:</b>	<b>Sam's Wife:</b> Gentle and supportive. Name means " <i>Poetry.</i> "	(ISFJ)
<b>YOUNG TALIA:</b>	<b>Nephi's Wife:</b> Tender and faithful. Name means " <i>Dew of Heaven.</i> "	(INFP)

### OTHER ANCIENT CHARACTERS:

<b>NEPHI:</b>	A young adult version of Lehi's fourth son; growing into his physical and spiritual stature.	(INFJ)
<b>TALIA:</b>	Nephi's wife, the youngest daughter of Ishmael. Wise, compassionate, supportive.	(INFP)
<b>OLDER NEPHI:</b>	Nephi as a senior, now a widower, spiritual and political leader, and historian.	(INFJ)

<b>LABAN:</b>	A mighty and wicked man, feared in his community, with many armed guards and servants.	(ESTJ)
<b>ADARA:</b>	Laban's wife, a noblewoman who enjoys her husband's abundant riches. Name means " <i>Noble.</i> "	(ESFJ)
<b>VOICE OF GOD:</b>	Heard early in the show, gentle but strong. Later, sings with Angel Chorus.	(ENFJ)
<b>JEREMIAH:</b>	A concerned prophet sent to Jerusalem, attacked by its people after calling them to repentance.	(ENFJ)
<b>AKIVA:</b>	Laman's 5 y.o. son and designated heir. Name means " <i>To protect, replace.</i> "	(ESTP)

<b>PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM:</b>	Friendly but idolatrous and violent - variety of ages and personalities.	(Chorus)
<b>ANGELS:</b>	Pre-mortal and post-mortal members of Lehi's family, and others watching over them.	(Chorus)
<b>WARRIORS:</b>	Young men who fight under command of Laban in Act 1; then later in the Act 2 battles.	(Chorus)
<b>CHILDREN:</b>	Of Ishmael's sons, entering the wilderness; later also of Lehi's sons, born in the wilderness	(Chorus)

## Act 1a: The Departure

**OVERTURE: From the Dust > Ye Must Press Forward** (:50) *(Instrumental - Bold, strong, with ancient feel and foggy atmosphere. Then "Ye Must Press Forward:" Sweet, inviting, passionate – leading into...)*

**SONG: Jerusalem** *(Laman in silhouette, looking from his upper room balcony on a glorious sunlit city at dawn)*

**Laman:** Jerusalem – City of a thousand stories – Filled with so many rich and ancient glories –  
**+Sariah:** Our treasured home. *(Entering, joining him in silhouette, overlooking the city, her arm around him)*  
**Lehi:** Jerusalem – City of David and of Solomon *(Joining them – the 3 now in silhouette)*  
**+ Sariah:** Crowned by a shining temple that's become – The glowing center of our world. *(Lights up on street)*

**Cast:** Here in Jerusalem, Some folks are high in station, Some are lowly –  
And some are wild, Some are even holy; You'll find all kinds here.

**All:** And in Jerusalem – Everyone stands in their appointed place –  
Everyone walks in their appointed space – And the order is crystal clear. *(Focus back to balcony)*

**Laman:** Jerusalem – You are the land of my inheritance – *(Laman is handsome, confident, happy young man,*  
What some might sometimes see as arrogance – *on the balcony of their lovely home.*  
Is just my firstborn right.

**+Lehi/Sariah:** Jerusalem – home of our lovely house upon a hill, *Laman's parents join him in harmony,*  
Near to the country home we cherish still - *a richly furnished interior visible behind them)*  
What a beautiful sight! *(Exultantly, Laman's arms around his parents)*

*(Laman waves a greeting to Adina, a lovely daughter of Ishmael, who blows him a kiss from the street. He looks like a handsome, noble prince up on his balcony, and she is smitten. She giggles to her sisters who are with her. Street view.)*

**Cast:** Here in Jerusalem, Some folks are fortunate, And some forsaken;  
And in the morning when we all awaken, You'll find all kinds here.  
And in Jerusalem (ah) – Everyone stands in their appointed place (ah) –  
Everyone walks in their appointed space – And the order is crystal clear.

*(Lehi and family enter the street scene, interacting with vendors selling various goods. Lehi, a prosperous merchant of metal goods, also sells his wares. 3 main houses are visible: Lehi's (SR, in light colors, elegant and beautiful); Laban's (grand and ornate, in dark rich colors, C); and Ishmael's (neat but simple, in earth tones, SL.*

*(Ishmael's family and others enter, greeting Lehi's family. Sariah is pleased to see her friend, Shamira, Ishmael's wife.)*

**Townspeople:** Jerusalem -  
Jerusalem;  
Our cherished home  
The only world we've known.  
*(The upper class citizens brush off local beggars. The buying and selling of goods continues.)*

**Daughters of Ishmael:** Look, here they are!  
**Shamira:** Good morning, Sariah!  
**Lehi, LL:** Something just for you! **Ishmael:** How is your fam'ly, Lehi?  
**Lehi:** They're getting taller than me...  
**Sons (in turn):** Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi,

The order's clear  
When you're living here -  
Here in Jerusalem.

**Sariah:** How are you doing, my friend?  
**Lehi:** We should be getting home,  
**Family:** Getting home, getting home.

Jerusalem -  
Jerusalem.

**Laman:** To our lovely home  
**Sariah:** Life is sweet and clear, just living here  
With my dear fam'ly.

**Sariah:** Nephi, please remember to gather more firewood on your way home. We'll need it for dinner tonight.

**Y. Nephi:** *(Meekly)* Yes, mother.

**Sariah:** And - I'll be needing your help in the kitchen again. Now that your big brothers... eat so very much every night.

**Y. Nephi:** But, I helped you last night! ... *(under his breath)* And, pretty much every night before that.

**Lehi:** *(Sternly)* Nephi, listen to your mother. And Laman, don't forget the council of the elders tonight.

Remember - as the firstborn, it's your responsibility to...

**Laman:** *(good humored, but a little exasperated, cutting him off)* I know, Father... I'll be there.

**Sariah:** Hurry home, Nephi. There's a lot to be done. *(Lehi and Sariah exit, leaving the 4 brothers)*

**Y. Nephi:** *(to Sam, under his breath)* Why is it always me that's on kitchen duty?

**Lemuel:** Because - they don't have any daughters. So, you're the closest thing they've got to... a girl!

**Laman:** *(they shove Nephi around, tousling his hair roughly)* And... not a very pretty one! Right, little brother?

**Sam:** *(Earnestly, pulling Nephi aside)* Look, Nephi - somebody has to help mother. She can't do everything herself.

**Laman:** And we men have more important things to do. Councils to meet with... Battle skills to practice...

**Lemuel:** And... *(He sees Ishmael's daughters passing by, eying them)* working on expanding the family tree! Especially you, Laman. *(Nudging him, whispering:)* The oldest - the family heir... "It's your responsibility to..."

**Laman:** I'm way ahead of you, brother. Race you! *(They race off after the girls, laughing.)*

*(Sam watches them wistfully, his eyes lingering on Shira, another of Ishmael's lovely but quieter daughters.)*

**Y. Nephi:** *(smiling)* Go ahead, Sam. I'll... see you at home.

**Sam:** She is pretty, isn't she?

**Y. Nephi:** Well - prettier than me, apparently. *(they laugh).* Go on.

**Sam:** Thanks, Nephi. *(Sam darts off happily, after his older brothers. Y, Nephi sighs deeply, gathering firewood alone.)*

### **SONG: Something More** *(Young Nephi) (2:50)*

**Y. Nephi:** Guess somebody had to be born at the end of the line.

But I gotta say, I'm just not crazy 'bout the part that is mine.

Always the slowest and smallest, And never the tallest, And never taken seriously.

Shoved, and picked on, and overlooked: The last-born, that's me.

Will I ever be - Something more - Than somebody's little brother?

Will I ever walk in a brighter space - Than someone else's shadow?

Oh, maybe I - should just sit by - And quietly accept my place.

But I long to be - I long to know - I long \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ become \_\_\_

Something more!

All my life - Exciting things - Have been going on all around me,

But it's not my place - To show my face - Or make my presence known;

Cuz I'm the slowest and smallest - And never the tallest - So I'm never taken seriously;

Forgotten, invisible - overpow'ed - By people bigger and stronger than me.

Will I ever be - Something more - Than somebody's little brother?

Will I ever walk in a brighter space - Than someone else's shadow?

Oh, maybe I - should just sit by - And quietly accept my place.

But I long \_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_, I long \_\_\_ to know \_\_\_\_\_

I long \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ become \_\_\_\_\_

Some \_\_\_\_\_ thing more! \_\_\_\_\_

Something more.

*(He heads home quietly, with the firewood he's gathered.)*

*(Laman enters with Ishmael's daughter, Adina, on his arm, along with her oldest brother, Asher - handsome, tall, and arrogant - Ishmael's firstborn. Asher's name means "fortunate, blessed, happy one" - and he lives up to the name.)*

**Asher:** So, Laman, I'll see you tonight in the Council of Elders?

**Laman:** I suppose so. *(to Adina)* Father will flip his lid if I miss that again. *(She laughs)*

**Asher:** We could just... show up a little late. Make a grand appearance, you know.

**Laman:** We did that... the last 3 times. And my father flapped his trap about it for weeks afterword. "Son, you are my firstborn, my heir! You are the hope, the future, of this family! You have your responsibilities!"

**Asher:** *(laughing)* I'm glad *my* father doesn't give me that kind of grief!

**Laman:** Well, you're lucky. *(Lemuel enters with Chedva, another of Ishmael's daughters, along with Ishmael's 2<sup>nd</sup> son, Jabin, whose name means "perspective." He's quieter and more ordinary looking than his dashing older brother.)*

**Asher:** We're both lucky, Laman. *(punches him in the arm)* Not everybody gets to be the firstborn, you know.

**Laman:** Yeah, I suppose you're right. It could be a lot worse. *(punches Asher back, they spar playfully. Adina laughs; those 3 exit.)*

**Jabin:** *(to Lemuel, watching them go.)* Lemuel – do you ever wish... you were the firstborn in your family?

**Lemuel:** *(laughing)* No.. Why?

**Jabin:** 'Cause... I do – sometimes. It'd be nice, you know, to... have... the birthright, all that... power.

**Lemuel:** Ah - not me! *(chuckles)* Not for one moment! *(sings and dances, as a crowd gathers around him, including Chedvah, Ishmael's most jovial, mischievous daughter)*

### **SONG: Bein' Number Two** *(Lemuel) (1:37)*

**Lemuel:** When you know - You'll never be the smartest - And you know - You'll never be the best;  
When you've learned you kinda hafta settle - For what trickles down from all the rest,  
As you analyze your options, And try to figure out what to do, *(Sam enters, watches quietly)*  
If you can't be number one, my friend – Then take a stab at bein' Number Two!

When you see - You'll never be the leader, The favorite – The hero – The heir, *(Chedvah and the crowd)*  
Then you do what you can with what you've got – You work - with what is there. *(Bop – bop - badadaba...)*  
So if ya don't get to be the golden boy, Then perhaps you can play the clown;  
And ya might just find that you become - The most popular guy around!  
Oh, everybody loves to laugh and smile, So if you can be that guy,  
Who brings a dose of sunshine into the room, Then you'll find out, by and by, *(ba-dah-ba-dop)*

That even though - You're not - the smartest *(Chedvah: (teasing him) That's for sure)*  
The handsomest, or the best, *(Chedvah: You can say that again) (He twirls her brightly into his dance)*  
You're likely to find, through this simple plan - That you stand out from all the rest! *(Bop ba-da -ba-dah!)*  
So even though you will never be the leader, Now you know just what to do! *(Bop – bop – bop – bop)*  
If ya can't be number one, my friend, Then enjoy yourself, just being *(etc.)*  
Number \_\_\_\_ Two! \_\_\_\_ *(He pulls Chedvah in a deep dramatic dip – she and the crowd laugh brightly.)*

*(Sam enjoys his brother's antics, along with the rest of the crowd. Laman and Asher enter and consult soberly with the council elders. Sam watches them all wistfully, then quietly moves DSL, into a quiet spot alone, and sings:)*

### **SONG: Just Kinda There** *(1 Ne. 2:9-10) (1:59)*

**Sam:** I'm not the oldest - No, I'm not the heir;  
And I'm not the family clown – I am just... kinda there.  
And I'm not the youngest (thank goodness!) - Though I'm glad to support;  
I'm not much of anything – I am just a good sport.

I'm caught in the middle – With not much to say –  
And not much to offer – With not much role to play.  
Ever since I was little – I had to learn how to share –  
And nothing was really mine – I was just... kinda there.

*(Ishmael's daughter Shira enters – lost in her own thoughts, feeling the pain of her own invisibility in her family.)*

Oh, I'm not the smartest – But I'm also not dumb.  
I'm not entertaining – No, I'm not all that fun.  
I'm just a good decent kid – So my folks let me be.  
I am nobody's hero – I am just kinda... me.

**Shira** (sings): Ah...

*... I am just kinda... me.*

I'm caught in the middle – With not much I can say –  
I don't need much attention – Kinda like it that way.  
I am quite independent – Free to breathe my own air,  
And walk my own path because – I am just kinda... there.

*I'm caught in the middle – not much to say  
I don't need much, I – am just kinda that way  
I... just... breathe..... my own air  
...I am just kinda.... there*

I don't waste time in worry – That things aren't always fair –  
It's just kinda the way it is – But I'm not in despair.  
I'm just kinda used to it – So I don't really care –  
I just mind my own business – I am just kinda... there.

Ah..

*Ah... I am just kinda... There.)*

*(Lemuel returns with his entourage, in the midst of merriment and laughter. But the merry mood dissipates quickly, as a grizzled prophet, Jeremiah, enters the city, bringing an urgent warning message. The whole community gathers to hear him, including Lehi, Sariah, and Young Nephi.)*

### **SONG: People of Jerusalem (1 Ne. 1:4) (2:18)**

**Jeremiah:** People of Jerusalem - Gather and hear my words -  
For God has spoken to me -  
And I must tell you what I've heard.

*(Laban, his armed men, and chief elders enter from Laban's house, listening:)*

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,  
Then perhaps, you may find deliverance  
From what is sure to come!

*(The crowd responds – some with indignation, others with anxiety, guilt, or earnest concern)*

*(Laban leads his group forward, challenging the prophets)*

**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! *(Laban motions his men)*

**Jeremiah:** People of Jerusalem, *(He is yanked down from his pedestal)*  
Gather and hear my words, *(Hands are bound behind his back)*  
For God has spoken to me, *(A spear is thrust under his arms)*  
And I must tell you what I've heard *(He is dragged downstage)*

**People:** *(Who 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?)*

Jerusalem, our mighty city, *(Boldly, breaking away DSC)*

Is about to be destroyed,

And there is only one way to escape it: *(Dragged to Laban's palace upstage C) (You both are crazy!)*

You must repent  
Of your abominations;  
Repent of your wickedness, your pride;  
Turn to God with your whole heart and mind, *(to Nephi)*

*(How dare you?)  
(We're all good people!)  
(It's not for you to say...)*



Then perhaps, you may find deliverance (to Lehi, Ishmael)  
 From what is sure to come! (He is dragged DS) (You'll get what's coming to you!)  
 Turn to God! / (Lehi:) People of Jerusalem! (Just go away!)  
 Turn to God! / (+Sariah, Ishm/Wife/OldestDtr:) People of Jerusalem! (Just go away!)  
 Turn to God! / (+Sam, Zoram:) People of Jerusalem! (Just go away, We're all good....)  
 People of Jerusalem! (+Nephi, C, looking helplessly on the terrible scene) (People of Jerusalem!)

*(Jeremiah is rejected, bound, and carried away violently by Laban's men, as the people scatter in fear. Laban smiles contemptuously, as Sariah ushers her sons anxiously into their house. As the townspeople dissipate, Lehi quietly separates himself, and moves to a quiet corner DSR, remembering and reflecting.)*

**SONG: That I May Hear (1 Ne. 1:5-13) (3:20)**

**Lehi:** "Turn to God with your whole heart and mind,  
 Then perhaps, you may find  
 Deliverance from what is sure to come!" *(He looks back at Jerusalem, then pleads intently:)*  
 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!

*(Gentle music begins, a little plaintive and searching. Lehi looks up earnestly, listening intently. He speaks:*

**Lehi:** What's that...? Yes, I see that light... **(Angels: Ah....)**  
 I see.... You!.... sitting in glory on your throne, surrounded by...  
 Myriads of angels, singing your praises... I wish I could be there... But I'm still needed... here.

Yes... I see... *(a look of horror crosses his face)*  
 So - it's true then... Jerusalem is about to be destroyed...  
 Our people... slain by the sword, or... carried into captivity.

And yet... there's still hope... There's a way out... Something.... so simple...

Yes, of course.... I will tell them. I will tell them all. They'll listen to me – they always have.  
 My family – my people – my community. I will tell them.... Thank you, Lord!

**SONG: Great and Marvelous (1 Ne. 1:14-15) (1:43) *(Exultantly, he sings:)***

**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!  
*(Heart filled – Rejoice!)  
 (Because of all I have seen)  
 (Things shown – To me!)  
 (Keychange)*

**Angels:** Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty!  
 Thy throne is high in the heavens! **Lehi, Angels: Ah...**

**Lehi:** I will lift 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!  
Thy throne is high in the heavens!

**Child Angels:** Lift your voice! Testify!  
Share the hope! Send forth your cry!  
Tell of His mercy! (Thy mercy, Lord!)  
Ah!

*(He continues looking up, hearing the voice of God. (Angels: Ah!)*

*(>Music off)*

*(Fade out Lehi)*

*(Jerusalem comes back into view, now torch-lit at nightfall, Lehi's family and community closing up shop for the day. Lehi enters Jerusalem, weighed down by the message he has been entrusted to share. He sings, with loving urgency.)*

### **SONG: Repent / Who in the World? (1 Ne. 1:18-20) (1:15)**

**Lehi:** My friends and my neighbors, My kindred and my people, *(He gently makes contact with his associates in Jerusalem.)*  
God sends you a message this day:

**All Onstage:** *(What did he say?)*

*(They gather around him, curious)*

**Lehi:** Jerusalem's in danger, and soon to face destruction; *(Laban and his men enter threateningly.)*

And you may save her only in one way: *(Lehi's family reacts in concern when they see Laban.)*

*(Boldly)* You must repent of your abominations,  
Repent of your idolatries, your sins!

**+ People of J:** *(Not another one!)  
(He's as crazy as the others!)*

Turn to God with your whole heart and mind;

Then perhaps, you may find deliverance

*(Laman and Lemuel are aghast and embarrassed)*

From what is sure to come!

*(Sam, Nephi, and Sariah grow concerned)*

**People of J:** Oh... 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?

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

*(He extends a final pleading hand toward them, but they all storm off, leaving him alone on the street. Laban and other nobles gather DSL, conferring angrily, gesturing toward him. Sariah nudges her sons into their house.)  
Lehi walks slowly back to his house, stunned. He walks inside, where Sariah is sitting, staring blankly out the window.)*

**Lehi:** They didn't believe me... Even our own sons... How can they be so blind?

**Sariah:** *(fighting tears, in inner conflict)* I don't know, Lehi. I don't know.

**Lehi:** *(turning to her earnestly)* Sariah - I need to ask you something. Do you... do you believe me?

**Sariah:** *(struggling)* I don't know, Lehi. I don't know what to believe. I don't know what to think.

*I... never saw... what you say you saw. (he turns from her in pain, looks out the window, eyes brimming.)*

*But I do know this. All those years ago, when we were both... so young – when I met you, on that first day,*

*In front of both of our families - and I promised, that I would be your wife, and that I would stand by you, no matter what... (she pauses) I wasn't lying. I meant every word. (tears swell, in both of them.) And I still do.*

**Lehi:** *(holding her)* Of all of the things we have collected over these many years - in this city, in this house - you, by far, are the most precious to me.

**Sariah:** *(gently)* And you, by far, are the most precious to me. Whether or not I believe you... *(she pauses)*

*And for today – that will need to be enough.*

**Lehi:** For today - that is more than enough. *(he softly kisses the top of her head.)*

**Sariah:** Why don't you go rest for a while. You've had a hard day. I'll let you know when dinner is ready.

*(He nods, and lays down on a couch, as she calls):* Nephi, please come and start the fire.

*(Lehi falls asleep. The strong spotlight begins again to shine on him, as he sleeps, and a gentle voice sings:)*

**SONG: Blessed Art Thou, Lehi** (1 Ne. 2:1-2) (1:10)

**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,  
headed by Laban, plotting against him.)*

*(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.

*(Following his dream, Lehi wakes with a start, and reenters the kitchen urgently, as Sariah is quietly kneading bread dough. Nephi is in the far side of the kitchen, tending the fire.)*

**Lehi:** Sariah – I need to talk to you.

**Sariah:** *(looking up from her task in concern, seeing his distress)* Lehi – What is it?

**Lehi:** Nephi – give us a moment.

**Y. Nephi:** *(disappointed – shut out again.)* Yes, Father. *(He leaves – but listens from the nearby corridor)*

**Lehi:** The Lord... has spoken to me in a dream... It is hard.

**Sariah:** *(fearing the worst)* Tell me.

**Lehi:** He told me – my life is in danger. All of our lives are in danger. The anger of the people against me... well, you've seen it. *(she nods)* We will need to leave. We will need to leave... everything... all of this...

**Sariah:** Leave... and go where?

**Lehi:** Where it's safe. We'll bring our tents, our family, our provisions. That's all we can take. At least for now.

**Sariah:** *(Looking around at her house, her precious things)* For now...

**Lehi:** I'll go tell the boys. We need to gather our things, and be gone by morning.

**Sariah:** By morning... *(She swallows hard, as he exits.)*

*(Sariah's eyes dart around her kitchen, scanning the precious things she has collected and cared for over a lifetime. She picks up a particularly beloved item, and holds it close, as her eyes mist over. Young Nephi watches silently, from a distance. Lights fade out on city. Sound effect: wind blowing.)*

-----  
*(Lights come up on Lehi in the wilderness, sitting on a large boulder DSR, near the makeshift tent they have set up there. Sariah and her sons approach him, full of concerns. Their boys listen in.)*

**Laman:** So - how long are we going to have to stay out here?

**Lehi:** I'm not sure. The Lord didn't say. *(Laman and Lemuel exit angrily. Nephi and Sam slip quietly into the tent)*

**Sariah:** *(softly)* 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. 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.)*

**SONG: Leave It All Behind** (1 Ne. 2:4) (2:37)

**Sariah :** Leave it all behind – Leave the world you’ve known –  
(Singing) Leave your comforts, leave your treasures –  
Leave your kinfolk, leave your home. (A gentle female angel appears 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. **Angel:** Leave it all behind – Far away  
Here in this place (Other female angels enter)  
**Angels:** Unsure how long you’ll have to stay.

Leave it all behind  
Turn your face toward the wind.  
Let it blow all your dreams away –  
Hoping something better will begin. Leave it all behind  
The wind  
Ah  
Something better will begin

Leave it all behind (*Leave it all behind*) – Follow God, follow this man – (*Follow him*)  
Though you have not shared his vision (*His vision*); Though you do not know his plan (*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 (Nephi enters, with his own thoughts and griefs)  
As you make this desert... Home... (Make this desert... Home)

Leave it all behind.. Escape it – Turn to God with your whole heart and mind -  
Leave it all - Leave it all behind \_\_\_!

Leave it all behind (*Leave it all*) – This world that’s doomed to fall (*Doomed to fall*)  
When you see things as they really are, It isn’t any sacrifice... At all. (*Leave it all behind*)  
To leave it all... Behind.

**Lehi:** (*Speaks, entering with Laman and Lemuel.*) My sons, I know this has all been difficult for you, and for your mother.  
But God has brought us, for our safety, into this majestic valley. This grand river, flowing gently into the waters  
of the Red Sea, I have named, Laman, after you. (>Music)  
And Lemuel, this valley, this place of safety and refuge, I have named after you. (1 Ne. 2:4-8)

**SONG: Like This River, Like This Valley** (1 Ne. 2:9-10) (1:53)

**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. (*he exits*)

**Sariah:** Like this river, like this valley  
Lord, I pray they’ll be.  
That they might rise to their full stature,  
Their destiny.  
Like this valley, firm and steadfast  
Immovable and sure  
So I pray you will be:  
Like this river, like this valley  
So, my sons, I pray you’ll be... (*she exits*)

(Laman and Lemuel remain. Intense music begins; they sing:)

**SONG: Our Father Is a Fool (1 Ne. 2:11-14) (1:34)**

**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! *(Sariah re-enters, concerned)*

**Lemuel:** Our father is a fool, Blindly leading us out here, *(Laman crosses to her fiercely)*  
Into this god-forsaken desert, leaving all we hold most dear *(Lemuel follows, snapping at her)*  
**Laman:** We left our home, *(Sam enters, hearing the turbulence)*  
**Lemuel:** Our lives,  
**Laman:** Our treasures, our inheritance behind: *(He tries to shield his mother from their verbal assault)*  
**+Lemuel:** What! Is the man out of his mind? *(She retreats in tears to Lehi’s rock DSR)*

**L&L:** Why did we ever listen for one second to the crazy ramblings *(They stomp to C)*  
Of this old delusionary man? — — — *(They stomp back, conspiring)*  
Maybe it’s not too late to turn around and just go home again: *(They point on the world “home”)*  
Maybe we can - Maybe we can! *(They join her at the rock, continuing their tirade)*

**Sam:** “Honor thy father and thy mother!”

**Laman:** Our father is deceived, full of foolish imaginations, *Can’t you see*  
**Lemuel:** It cannot be believed - Why would God destroy a nation *You are breaking her heart!*  
That keeps his statutes and his judgments, living by his law? *Speak no more! (Nephi enters quietly)*  
**L&L:** Something’s put a strain on the brain of dear old Pa! *Speak no more!*  
**Laman:** Our father is a fool... **Lemuel:** Our father is a fool... *(Sariah runs out in tears)*  
**L&L:** The biggest fool of all! *(In bewilderment, Y.Nephi watches this devastating firestorm in his family.)*  
... **Sam:** “Honor thy father!”

*(All but Nephi exit, continuing this intense family conflict. Gentle music begins. He moves slowly to his father’s rock)*

**SONG: For Myself (1 Ne. 2:16) (2:13)**

**Nephi:** All my life, I’ve been taught in the learning of my father; *(Sits on his father’s rock, DSL)*  
*(Singing:)* All my days, I’ve believed that what he said is so;  
But now I find that just believing *(Stands sharply, moves to LC.)*  
No longer is enough: Now I find, I need to know,  
  
For myself: I need my own experience. *(Moves to C, pleading to God)*  
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. *(He moves and kneels DR, speaking in fervent prayer:)*

**Nephi:** Dear God – you know how hard it is out here – how much everybody’s struggling. Is what Father’s saying true?  
Is this the place we need to be right now? *(Music gets brighter, as he receives his own assurance.)*

**Nephi:** For myself: I’ve gained my own experience. *(He stands slowly, gaining power)*  
*(Singing:)* 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! *(>Music off)*

*(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. It’s so hard out here. It would be nice to know... if it’s all worth it.

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

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

**Nephi:** I am 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 approach the tent, as Laman and Lemuel come storming out of it. Nephi reaches out to them, as Sam watches silently.)*

**Nephi:** Laman... it’s OK. Father’s not making this up. He knows what he’s talking about.

**Laman:** Yeah... If you *really* think that... then you’re just as crazy as he is. *(He storms off with Lemuel.)*

**Nephi:** Go ahead, Sam... Tell mother I’ll be in soon *(Sam sighs deeply, and heads into the tent.)*

*(Nephi kneels again in intense silent prayer. Gentle music begins.)*

### **SONG: Blessed Art Thou, Nephi (1 Ne. 2:18-22) (1:04)**

**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; *(Nephi takes this in)*  
And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee  
They shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord *(Nephi grows concerned for his older brothers)*  
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. Now he is learning not just who God is – but who he is.  
He rises from his knees. Then minor key music begins, and Lehi enters frantically, looking troubled.)*

**Nephi:** What is it, father? Is there something wrong?

### **SONG: Behold, I Have Dreamed a Dream (1 Ne. 3:2-5) (:54)**

**Lehi:** Behold, I have dreamed a dream, In the which the Lord hath commanded me  
*(Singing)* That thou and thy brethren shall return unto Jerusalem, *(Nephi responds with a start)*

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. *(Nephi takes in the weight of this)*

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!

**SONG: I Will Go** (1 Ne. 3:6-8) (1:55)

**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 smiles with new hope and joy - seeing in this youngest son a strength he's not seen before)*

**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. *(>Music off)*

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

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

**Lemuel:** A three day's journey there and back. If God really 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. Underscore music.)*

**Sariah:** Goodbye, my sons. Be careful. And be back soon. *(She embraces each anxiously.)*

**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, as Sariah watches with concern. To Lehi:)*

**Sariah:** You realize... that what you're asking them to do... is terribly dangerous... not to mention... *impossible*.

**Lehi:** With God... nothing is impossible.

**Sariah:** Lehi, even *you* didn't feel safe in Jerusalem. And you *never* trusted Laban. He's... *dangerous*.

**Lehi:** I know. It's...difficult. But necessary.

**Sariah:** You know, I'm not sure that *any* of this was necessary. I've already lost... my home, my friends, my community. If I lose my sons too... there's nothing left for me.

**Lehi:** Sariah, don't talk like that.

**Sariah:** *I'm* taking the tent. You can stay out here. Talk to your *God* some more.

**Lehi:** *Our* God... *(he approaches her gently)*

**Sariah:** I'm not so sure about that anymore... You can get your own dinner.

*(She enters the tent angrily. He is stunned.*

*He looks toward the path where their boys departed; and bows his head in silent prayer, as lights go down.)*

----- *(Jerusalem music begins playing softly. The brothers quietly enter the city at daybreak)* -----

**Laman:** Well, here we are. Jerusalem at last.

**Lemuel:** What do we do now?

**Laman:** *(Frustrated)* Why are you asking me?

**Lemuel:** Well... *you are* the oldest...

**Laman:** (*Grumbling*) That's true... So, if father's right, and God really wants this to happen, this should be easy, right?

**Nephi:** (*under his breath, to Sam*) It wasn't always easy for Moses.

**Laman:** (*Fiercely*) Did you say something, 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 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 don't know 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!.. so... Ha ha!.... (*Sam and Y. Nephi also laugh, more quietly.*)

**Laman:** (*Choking with anger*) Fine! I'll do it! I'll be back soon. (*He exits; lights out on the boys*)

-----(*Scene lights Laman speaking with Laban, a large, rough-mannered man, finely dressed and seated in an exquisite, expensive chair.*) -----

**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?

**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*)

**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.*)

(*Scene shifts to the brothers in their hiding place, after Laman tells them of his experience*)

**Lemuel:** I told you this was a waste of time! (>**Music #16**)

**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. Y. Nephi watches, them, remembering the commitment he made to his father, and to God. He gathers his courage, and then suddenly cries out:*)

### **SONG: Nephi's Vow (1 Nephi 3:15) (1:20)**

**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 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. The scene shifts back to Laban's palace, where the boys have now laid out an array of rich treasures before him. Laban, who is raking his fingers through their gold, pondering their offer) (>Music off)*

**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. *(His henchman nods; Zoram is aghast at this assessment.)*

**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:** *(Confronting Laban)* You can't do this!

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

**Laman:** *(Frantically breaking free of Laban's grip as Laban's guards approach)*

**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.)*

*(Scene shifts to the cavity of a rock. Laman and Lemuel are pushing Y. 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)* Now we have nothing! Absolutely nothing! All thanks to you! **(>Music #17)**

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

### **SONG: 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.) (>Music off)*

**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 to 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, 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 helped a young shepherd boy bring down a giant. He delivered the children of Israel out of *Egypt*. That same mighty power is available to *us, now*, to help us with *this*. *(Sam and Lemuel find strength in these words - but Laman sighs, turning away bitterly. To Laman, gently:)* You've just heard an *angel* speak to you – how can you even *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.)*

*(Scene shifts, as they arrive just outside the walls of Jerusalem. It is now the dark of night. **Music:** Jerusalem at Midnight)*

**Nephi:** Let's stop here. You all hide yourselves. *(Laman and Lemuel leave. To Sam)* 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.

*Nephi ventures alone into the city, toward the house of Laban. He sees a man on the earth before him. He approaches, and finds that the man is drunk and unconscious. He discovers that the man is Laban. He sees Laban's sword, and draws it slowly from the sheath. (>Music #18)*

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

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

**Nephi:** 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.) (>Music off)*

----- *(Scene shifts to the brothers, still in their hiding place, as Nephi approaches, carrying the plates, with Laban's servant Zoram following behind him.)* -----

**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! It's me, Nephi! And I've got the plates!

**Lemuel:** Nephi?... *(to the others, in delighted wonder)* He's got Laban's plates. And his armor. AND his servant!  
*(Suddenly, Zoram realizes he is not with his master. He turns to flee, but Nephi catches hold of him. They struggle, as Nephi speaks:)*

**Nephi:** 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. Laman follows, in total silence. His world is crashing ever more around him. The scene fades out.)*

## Act Ib: The Journey

*----- (Lights up on Sariah near the tent in the wilderness, seated dejectedly on the ground, looking anxiously towards the path her boys took away from their encampment.) -----*

### **SONG: What Is All This For? (1 Ne. 5:2-6) (3:12)**

**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? *(Crying to God)*  
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 till 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.... (>Music off)*

*(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. **(> Music: Now I Know)**  
**Lemuel:** We're all here.  
**Laman:** We're all home. *(Sariah is joyously surrounded by her sons. Her heart is full.)*

**SONG: Now I Know** *(1 Ne. 5:7-8) (1:15)*

**Sariah:** Now I know of a surety, That my husband was commanded to flee Into the wilderness.  
*(Singing)* And I know that the Lord has protected my sons, And given them power  
 To accomplish the thing which Lord hath commanded them.

**Lehi:** *(joyfully)* Now you know, you know! *(He twirls her around, they laugh. The boys look at each other. They've not seen their parents like this before. Angels attend quietly)*

**Sariah:** And now I know that **(+ Y. Nephi, Sam)** we are not alone - *(You are not alone!)*  
 We're not forgotten, even in this desert place. *(Lemuel/Zoram join them: Even in this place)*  
 And now I know *(Know)* that we will make our home *(Make a home)*  
 Here together, whatever we might face. *(Laman bristles at Sariah's motherly touch)*

Now I know of a surety *(Angel: Know He*  
 That God was never far from me, *Was never far from thee)*  
 Though sometimes, He had felt so far away! *(Laman: I feel so far away)*

And I know I can be strong enough *(Lam/Y. Ne:) ( can be strong enough*  
 To bear whatever comes *to bear whatever comes)*

**Sariah:** As we continue on our journey day by day. *(Angels: Ah... )*  
**Family:** Thank you Lord! Thank you, oh, my Lord! *(Lam/Lem: I can be strong enough... Angels: Ah,,,)*  
**(>Music off)**

*(Scene ends, then comes up with Lehi, examining the plates of brass, sitting with Sariah, with their sons nearby.)*

**Lehi:** These plates – they are a true treasure. The words of the prophets. The stories of our fathers.  
 These will be of crucial importance to us, as we continue on. Truly it was wisdom in the Lord,  
 that we carry them with us on our journey. *(Sariah smiles. Lehi closes the book reverently, then stands.)*

**Lehi:** My sons... *(He beckons them; they gather, curious)* The voice of the Lord has come again to me, saying  
 that we should not travel alone into the wilderness, but 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. Sariah weeps for joy.)*

**Lemuel:** Now that is *one* revelation I am not inclined to question in the *least!* **(>Music #21)**  
 We're getting' wives! *(The family exits jubilantly, with laughter and smiles)*

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

## **SONG: 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 Adina, the daughter of Ishmael he favors)* Come with us, and we will be a family out there;  
**Lemuel:** *(Brightly, to Chevkah, the daughter 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:  
**Brothers:** And come with us. ***(Ishmael's Family: Ah...)*** ***(Music off)***

**Ishmael:** Yes, we will come with you. The Lord has extended his arm of mercy to us through you. And we will take it.  
*(Speaking) (Music)* Pack your things, my children. It is time for us 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)*

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

*(Lights up on the clan in the wilderness. The girls' dresses are getting caught on the brambles of the wilderness. They are all following Y. Nephi cutting through the thick foliage, his future wife behind him, 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.)*

**Adina/Chedvah** It's so cold out here. *(Laman puts his arm protectively around his wife, with a grim expression.)*  
**Danya/Hadara:** 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.  
**Danya:** *(with Lemuel)* I'll believe it when I see it!  
**All 4 Wives:** When we get there!

**4 Wives:** *(in harmony)* A new world, they said.  
**Danya :** This is a new world, all right!  
**Chedvah:** I don't know when I've ever felt more hungry,  
**+Adina:** Or more afraid.  
**Hadara:** Trudging blindly through muddy puddles

**+Danya:** Every day and every night;  
**Chedvah:** I'm hungry –  
**+Hadara:** I'm tired  
**+Adina:** I wish  
**+Danya:** That we had simply stayed  
**+SOI-2 Wife:** ..simply stayed  
**+Asher/Jabin:** At home! (**>Music Off**)

*(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....

**Asher:** WE didn't decide anything.

**Jabin:** YOU decided! (**>Music– Part 2....**)

**Laman:** *(Stops suddenly in his tracks, halting the company behind him; Sings:)*  
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, 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!

**Jabin/Asher:** 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)*

**Danya:** *(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/Asher/Wives** It's time to return; *(The quieter family members, fearing more violence, silently follow)*

**+Jabin/Danya:** It's time to go home;

**+Laman/Adina:** It's time now to go back! *(They all start heading offstage R, leaving Nephi struggling 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! (**>Music off**)  
*(They and the sons of Ishmael lunge toward Nephi, overpowering him SL)*

**Adina:** *(Speaking, crying out suddenly:)* Wait! Stop! Please – stop! No good is ever going to come from this!

**Shamira:** *(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!

**Jabin:** *(Ishmael's 2<sup>nd</sup> son)* 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! *(Laman 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 under the stars, near their tent. Soft music begins.)*

## **SONG: 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.

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.

*(Zoram enters from the tent, sees Lehi's unaccustomed approach romantic overture - grins in silent boyish encouragement.)*

**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.

*(Zoram slowly, joyously removes the lifetime shackles from his wrists)*

**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.

**Sariah:** The world is so beautiful tonight,

**Lehi:** 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.

**Zoram:** I've always called somebody "Master,"  
But now my only Master, Lord, is you!  
And now I truly know  
Oh, never, Lord, will I doubt you!

**Zoram:** This may be a long hard fight:  
I will be faithful, Lord, to you!

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

**Ishmael:** (**>Music #25, Reunion**) 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)**  
*(Speaking)*

**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.)*

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

*(Lehi emerges suddenly 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 moves forward into a dark valley, as the others fade back)*

**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.

**Angel Choir:** Oo....

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,

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 course to taste of the love of God  
Press forward, my children,  
And choose the path that's right.  
Press forward, press on into the light.

*(Ah)*

*(Press forward, always)*

*(Choose the path that's right)*

**Sariah:** Press on into the light....

----- *(Music segues gently into the next song. The 2 mothers describe a sweet time, as the action is played out )* -----

### **SONG: In the Valley of Lemuel (VO)** *(1 Ne. 8:1 - 16:10)*

**Shamira:** 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)*

**Sariah:** It was a happy and peaceful 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)*

+ **Shamira:** Side by side, they all worked together, preparing for their new life.

**Sariah:** They gathered what was needed for the journey up ahead -

**(Angels: Ah...)**

**Shamira:** Seeds of every kind, provisions and tents, for each couple wed;

**Both:** And when everything was gathered, and when all was at last prepared,

**Sariah:** God spoke, saying it was time to leave our encampment there. *(Lights up slowly on the tents.)*

**Shamira:** And when they rose up in the morning, on the day that they were to go,

**(Angels: Ah...)**

They found a curiously fashioned little ball on the ground near the tent's front door.

*(Sariah picks up the Liahona in awe, examining it)* **(>Music off)**

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

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

**Sariah:** 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.

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

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

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

**Lehi:** (>*Music #27: Instrumental - Like a River / Broken Bow*) Yes. A river we will need to cross. Today.

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

**Chedvah:** (*his 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.

*(Music swells; scene shifts. The family is now deep in desert wilderness. The young wives are preparing the family meal. Lemuel approaches his wife Chedvah from behind – she giggles brightly.)*

**Lemuel:** So, my darling dearest - What sumptuous delights are you ladies preparing for us this evening?

**Chedvah:** Um... pretty much the same as always. More raw, cut-up animal flesh.

**Adina:** Why do we *always* have to eat it *raw*?

**Leah:** (*Zoram's wife*) Lehi has *told* us why, a thousand times. Because... God commanded it.

**Shira:** (*Sam's wife*) It's for our own safety – so our enemies can't detect us by fire as we cross this wilderness.

**Adina:** Yet another reason why I *hate* this stupid place! (*Laman looks on, concerned for her discomfort.*)

**Lemuel:** What are you talking about? I think the cuisine out here is fantastic! (*Bright satirical music begins; he sings:*)

### **SONG: Desert Dining Delights** (1 Ne. 17:2, 12)

**Lemuel:** Raw rabbit – raw pheasant – raw rattlesnake stew:

+ **Chedvah:** Dinner is divine, when there's such desert dining delights waiting for you!

**Lemuel:** How's about a little raw cougar, raw lizard, raw fish from the stream?

**Adina:** If I have to ever eat this stuff again,

I swear I'm gonna scream! (*Lemuel playfully dangles a bloody piece of meat in front of her face*)

Aaaaaa! (*hands to her face, in a frantic scream. Lemuel and Chedvah laugh, enjoying the moment*)

+**Asher, Jabin:** (*Ishmael's sons*) Oh, I remember in Jerusalem  
There was always lots to eat.

**Adina/Laman:** Jerusalem... (*missing it badly*)

**Lemuel/Chedvah:** La la la, lah lah!

+**Hadara&Danya:** (*their wives*) Like thick barley cakes with fine olive oil,  
And honey rich and sweet (*Sigh*)

**Adina/Laman:** Ah... (*envisioning their loss*)  
And honey rich and sweet!

**Lemuel:** Now we're stuck with eatin' raw leopard,

**Chedvah:** Raw goat flesh,

+ **Lemuel:** Raw antelope and deer!

+**A/J; H/D:** When I think about those desert dining delights

+**Adina** I wish that I could disappear!

**Lemuel:** Thinkin' about those...

**Chedvah:** Slimy, **Hadara:** Chewy, **Danya:** Bloody **Chedvah:** Gooley

**All:** Desert dining delights -

**Adina:** Get me out of here! **Hadara:** Get me out of here! **Danya:** Get me out of... **All:** Get me out of here!

**Adina:** (*runs out, overwhelmed, cries out in frustration:*) I hate this place!

**Laman:** (*calling after her, reaching out his hand*) Adina....

**Sam:** (*who's been watching quietly, along with Leah and Shira. To Lemuel:*) That was a bit much, don't you think?

**Lemuel:** (*defensively*) What?!.... I didn't do anything! (*under his breath to Chedvah*) She's so sensitive! (*Chedvah nods*)

**Laman:** She is with *child*! (*They are all stunned at this news.*) I just found out myself – a few days ago.

**Lemuel:** Oh.... Well, that explains a lot... (*They all leave, except Laman, concerned for the welfare of his distressed wife*)

## **SONG: Looking Down**

**Laman:** Oh, my sweet love - This isn't what you bargained for – None of it.

*(Sings:)* I can see in your eyes that you're lookin' down  
That you can't even lift 'em up off the ground  
Though you're tryin' to conceal it, Still it's clear to me  
That you're walking through a place where you'd rather not be.

Late at night\_\_\_\_ I hear you cryin' - Though I know\_\_\_\_ how hard you're tryin'  
Though you're trying to act like everything is all right - It's all an act that I ain't buyin'  
Cuz late at night – I can hear you cryin', And it breaks my heart

I can see in your eyes that you're lookin' away  
And there's things that you feel that you just cannot say  
Though you're tryin' to conceal it, Still I feel your pain  
And I wish - I could just brush it all away – for you.

Late at night\_\_\_\_ I hear you cryin' - Though I know\_\_\_\_ how hard you're tryin'  
Though you're trying to act like everything is all right - It's all an act that I ain't buyin'  
Cuz late at night – I can hear you cryin', my love,  
And it breaks my heart... And it breaks my heart... And it breaks my heart.....

*(Spoken)* One way or another – I promise you – I'm gonna make things better – For all of us. *(last chord)*

**Lehi:** *(enters with Sariah)* Son – we'll need to have you boys go hunting again tomorrow.  
We're almost out of food again.

**Sariah:** Lots of mouths to feed around here.

**Laman:** Yeah. We'll start at first light tomorrow. *(Brief instrumental as lights fade : "And it breaks my heart...")*

-----*(The next day: Cross-fade to Nephi and his brothers, who have been hunting game in the wilderness. They are now heading back to their families – with no food to sustain them.)* -----

**Lemuel:** How could you do this to us, Nephi? You broke your steel bow? The *only* one we had left out here?

**Laman:** Now, how will we 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! *(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 Talia, Nephi's young wife, who approaches him gently.)*

**Talia:** Nephi...

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

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

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

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

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

**Talia:** *(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,

**Talia:** 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,

**+Talia:** He sends his tender mercies, *(His tender mercies)*  
Undeserved and ever-flowing  
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.

*(Music shifts to underscore, as the scene fades out Lehi and Sariah, and focuses on Nephi and his wife.)*

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

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

*(Lights come up on Nephi, approaching Lehi, who is sitting dejected and alone)*

**Nephi:** Father, look. I've made a new bow. Where shall I go to get food for us? *(Lehi looks up, sees the new bow)*  
**Lehi:** *(Humbly, with deep gratitude)* Oh, my son. My dear and faithful son. *(He embraces his son, lights out.)*

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

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

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

*(+Angels: Ah!)*

**Families:** Tender mercies (*tender mercies*) Undeserved and ever-flowing  
 Tender mercies, (*tender mercies*) that guide us on, And keep us knowing  
 That no matter what he's 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. (>Music off)

---- (*The scene shifts to another, darker place, later in the wilderness. Ishmael has recently died; soft wind blows, as the family sits at his graveside.*)

*The women of the company sit huddled in grief. The wives of Nephi, Sam, and Zoram, along with Sariah, sit with Shamira, newly widowed, comforting her. Shamira confides in Leah, her trusted oldest daughter.)*

**Shamira:** It was his decision for us to come out here.

**Leah:** I know. (*Sober music begins*)

**Shamira:** And now, he is... gone.

**Leah:** Yes.

**Shamira:** It doesn't make any sense.

**Leah:** Things don't always make sense.

*In another corner, near Ishmael's graveside, the wives of the sons of Ishmael, and of Laman and Lemuel, sing:)*

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

**Adina, Chedvah,** (*Singing*) Out here, there isn't even bread;

**Hadara, Danya:** Out here, we're hardly 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!

**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?

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;

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;

Oh, tell me what to do, Lord - Please speak to me! Out here!

*(Asher and Jabin 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...  
**+ Company:** Out here!

**Ishmael's Family:** Oh, the endless tears we've cried.  
**+ 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:)*

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

**Danya:** Why did we come out here at all?  
**Hadara:** That's ...what I'd like to know!  
**Adina/Chedvah:** We had everything we ever wanted back at home.  
**All 4:** Everything we ever needed.

**Hadara:** We had... a house... **+ Danya :** A lovely house...  
**+ Adina:** A lovely and comfortable house, full of precious things.  
**Chedvah:** We had friends –  
**+Adina:** We had our father –  
**All 4:** We had a beautiful life, in that house full of precious things.

**All Daughters:** Now 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 disease and toil,  
**+ Jabin, Asher:** Just by hunger to now be slain -  
Oh, that we could go home - And see 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.)*

### **SONG: 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 with us according to his will!

**Lemuel:** Come, let us slay them! (*Sariah and Nephi's wife approach, overhearing this, recoiling in horror.*)  
**+Jabin, Asher:** Come, let us strike them!  
**+Laman:** Come, let us kill... them! (*glissando, as music continues and escalates*)

**Voice of God:** (*with earthquake and thunder, as Laman and his followers fall to the earth*)

Stretch..... not thine hand... Against... thy... father  
And thy brother, mine anointed... Lest thou thyself... be now cut down,  
Cast off, and barred... from e...ver reaching that pro...mised land  
Toward which I thy God... even now... am lead...ing thee.

**Laman** (*trembling with fear, looking up to God, speaking:*)

I'm sorry – I'm so sorry!...(to those around him, in horrified tears)  
SO sorry! (*He bolts out in shame. The others follow him out slowly.*)

(*Lehi watches them sadly, overwhelmed with the private devastation of his sons' murderous words against him.*)  
(*Sariah stands at his side, concerned for him, and gathering her own strength and courage.*)

**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. But... (*Opens his eyes, bright with tears*)

I just never thought something like *this* could happen – in *our* family. (*He sits dejectedly on a large rock.*)

## **SONG: 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.

(*She approaches Lehi, standing gently behind him.*)

**Sariah:** But you will never stop loving them; No, you will never stop loving them.  
And you never will stop hoping, No, you never will stop hoping  
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe  
That they will finally find their way back home...  
Eventually. (*Instrumental music continues, as Sariah speaks privately with Lehi*)

**Sariah:** (*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 - you mean?... (*She nods, in tears. He rushes to her, concerned for her safety*) Out *HERE?*

**Sariah:** I'm already so tired. And so much older than the last time. How will I ever do this? (**Angels:** Ah)

**Lehi:** (*Reassuring her gently*) The same way as always. 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:** Yes. They were His ... before they were ours.

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

**Lehi:** Even now.

Come, it's time to move on. *(They breathe deeply, then turn to rejoin the family.)*

*(Laman enters gingerly, deeply bruised by recent events. (Lehi opens his arms, Laman rushes into his father's embrace)*

**Family:** Oh, love is the longest road **Zoram/Leah:** Love is what we found out here, out here. **Angels:** Ah...

*(Singing)* On which you can embark. **Laman's Wife:** Can I trust him? Can I trust him?

'Cause it goes on forever – **SOI Wives:** Maybe someday we'll get back what we lost,

**+Zoram, Leah :** From the moment that you start, Eventually! *(Keychange)*

**+Lehi:** Oh, you'll never stop loving them; **Laman:** Maybe it's not **Angels:** Oh... Never stop...Loving them.

**Sariah:** No, you'll never stop loving them. too late for me Never stop...Loving them.

To fulfill my destiny!

**L+S:** *(in rich harmony)* And you never will stop hoping, **Doubters:** Just keeping going: **Angels:** Ah...

No, you never will stop hoping We'll just keep going!

For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe

**Sariah:** That they will finally find their way back home, **Angels:** Ah...

**Lehi:** And their hearts won't always be as stone; Ah...

**Sam:** Somehow they'll find their answers on their own... *They'll find their answers on their own.*

**Sariah:** Eventually... **Adina:** Maybe I can trust him... Ah...

**Nephi:** Eventually.

*(The family gathers together in one united group, with Lehi in front, holding the Liahona)*

**Families:** Press forward! *(Press forward!)*

**Nephi:** Press forward! **Angels:** Ah!

*(>Music off)*

----- *(Lights out on Act 1. Curtain closes for a ten-minute intermission.)* -----



## Act 2 – The Promised Land *(8 years later. Many young children have now joined the family)*

**Entr'acte: Peaceful Morning** (2:10), **Dance of the Children** (:48), *The children run in - laughing, playing peek a boo, skipping merrily. Sariah interacts happily with them – but more slowly than before. Nephi and his wife Talia have now grown into young adults. Over the years, Nephi has become a tall, muscular, confident young man – physically bigger than his parents or his three older brothers. He sits with his wife on the ground, watching the children play.*

**Talia:** So – today's the day, huh?

**Nephi:** Yes, I've been keeping track. 8 years ago today – we left Jerusalem.

**Talia:** A lot's happened during that time. First losing my father - then my mother. I miss them both, so much...

**Nephi:** But... our family's also grown a lot during that time – in unity – in faith - *and* in sheer numbers.

**Talia:** *You* became a big brother!

**Nephi:** Yes – more than once. With my own little brothers – and sisters.

**Talia:** You always hated being the youngest anyway.

**Nephi:** Yes, I did... *(he chuckles warmly. Then, concerned.)* I worry about Mother, though. The journey has aged her a lot. She always looks... so tired. *(Indeed, Sariah seems aged before her time, due to constant stress. Music starts.)*

**Talia:** Well... she IS tired. That shouldn't be *too* surprising - after EIGHT years in the wilderness, raising teenage sons AND having babies!

**Nephi:** Hopefully she can start getting a little more rest, now that we've arrived in this beautiful place.

**Talia:** I still can't believe how different it is here. *(She looks around, taking in their peaceful new surroundings.)* Green trees. Clear water. An abundance of fruit and wild honey. No wonder we've all started calling it "The Land Bountiful."

**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.

### **SONG: Home At Last** (1 Ne. 17:5-6) (2:00)

**Laman:** We're home at last – My little children! *(As they stand together in warm sunset, (Singing:)* We're home at last – My tender wife! *with the gentle sound of ocean waves .)*

**+His Wife:** Here, we can finally stop and make a home,

**+Children:** Here, we will eat this fruit and never have to roam again.

**+Lemuel:** We're home at last – Through with our wandering; *(To his wife, swinging her happily as she laughs)*

**+His Wife:** We're home at last – Through with our pain and fear.

**+Sons of Ishm:** Here, we can finally rest and make an end;

**+Wives, Childr:** We've finally found our promised land, right here. *(Lights up on Nephi, at some distance, looking out toward the audience, as if it were the sea. He senses it is important somehow – but is unsure why.)*

**Nephi:** Why is that sea – Calling out to me –  
And what may lie beyond this restful shore?  
This is a place with a comforting embrace -  
And yet I can't help feeling there is more.

**Talia:** So much more... *(Keychange)*

**Family:** We're home at last  
Through with our wandering;  
We're home at last  
Through with our pain and fear.

**Nephi:** Why is that sea –  
calling out to me?  
What may lie beyond –  
this restful shore?

**Talia:** Nephi?...  
Nephi?...

**Talia:** So much more...

**Family:** Here, we can finally rest and make an end;  
We've finally found our promised land  
Right here.  
Right here.  
Right here.  
Right here.

**Nephi:** *Is this the end?*  
*I can't help feeling there is more...)*  
*I can't help feeling there is more...)*  
*I can't help feeling – it's a strong and growing feeling – No, I just cannot help feeling*  
*There is more – beyond this restful shore...)*

**Talia:** So much more...  
Nephi?... *(he turns to her)*  
So much more...

*(Lights go out on Nephi, the family exits. UR, Sam and Zoram and their wives are quietly at work, doing simple practical tasks for the welfare of the family.)*

### **SONG: In the Background** (2:01)

**Shira/Leah:** Quietly – In the background - We work and toil and feel and think and live.

**Sam/Zoram:** Silently - In the background - We love and pray and fear and hope and give.

**Sh/Le/S/Z:** And yet our voices are rarely ever heard,  
And what is written of us is hardly a word *(The women in the family enter, their hands full, busy with the simple tasks of making a new home.)*

**Women:** But quietly – In the background –  
We strive and learn

And hear and ache and grow;

**Sam & Zoram:** *We strive and hear and ache and grow.*

And silently – In the background –

*Silently – In the background, we serve:*

We serve in ways no one will ever know.

*No one but God will ever know!*

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

*Our voices are heard :  
He sees our love!*

And quietly, in the background,  
He helps us through each challenge on our way.  
And silently, in the background,  
He sends his help and blessings every day;

*He helps us through.  
Silently, in the background,  
He sends blessings every day.*

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

**Sam & Zoram:** *Silently, in the background,*

**Women/Children:** Just as we do -

**S/Z:** *Just as we do -* **Angels:** *Just as we do -*

**All:** In the background.

*Ah!*

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

### **SONG: Driven to the Mountain** (1 Ne. 17:7-9) (1:40)

**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.

*(Background lights are dramatic and stormy, dark silhouetted against dark, as he completes his strenuous climb, in very early morning.)* **Angels:** *(Ah...)*

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.

**Angels:** *(Ah...)*

And when you come here to seek Him, He doesn't turn away.

*(Background lights slowly turn*

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

*airy white and peaceful blue)*

And I cry... To Him.

**Angels:** *(Ah...)*

And I cry... To Him.

*(Sky becomes ever more radiant and beautiful, in early-morning patches of color)*

And I try...

To listen and to hear!

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

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

(>Music off) (Lights out on mountain; up on the camp below, w Laman, Adina, now pregnant, & 5 y.o. son Akiva.)

**Laman:** (To Adina) We have arrived at last, in this beautiful place. Are you happy, my love?  
**Adina:** I could be happy here. (She stands, looks out) I still miss Jerusalem sometimes. But... it's nice here.  
(“Jerusalem” underscore, soft and tender, instrumental)

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

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

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

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

**Laman:** (crossing to CR, a level down.) We're not going anywhere. This.. (motions to his family SR)  
THIS is the promised land.  
**Nephi:** (Crossing to meet him, explaining.) THIS is a temporary resting spot. Within a year or two, (motioning  
to once again-pregnant Adina) with more and more children coming, it won't be nearly big enough.

**Laman:** Our wives, our children... Have you seen them? They're finally happy! We're not going anywhere!  
**Nephi:** (Crossing back to SL to resume work on the ship.) God says otherwise. And He says you need to help me.

**Lemuel:** Help you... what?  
**Nephi:** Build the ship, of course!  
**Lemuel:** (Sarcastically) So now... you're a boat builder. And you want us to be your happy little assistants!

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

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

**Lemuel:** (Sings) (in rhythm with the hammering, crossing to Laman) Our brother is a fool - He thinks he can build a boat  
**Laman:** (meeting Lemuel DCR) With these pathetic little tools, And he thinks it could even float.  
**Lemuel:** To carry us across these waters, to some “promised land.”  
**+Laman:** Hey, brother dear, shall we come and lend a hand?

*(Sam, still C, once more finds himself caught uncomfortably between warring brothers.)*  
*(Sariah, hearing the tumult, enters USR, holding her baby protectively. Laman's wife remains DSR, watching coldly.)*

**L&L** Why should we ever listen,  
for one second to the crazy ramblings.  
Of this little chip off the old block? **Sam/Sariah:** Dear Lord, not this again!  
When will there ever be an end to all this silly foolishness?  
When will it stop? When will it ever stop? **Sam/Sar.** When will it ever stop?

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

**Nephi:** Touch me not! Or God will smite you, And you'll wither like a reed!  
For I am filled with his power and might, It consumes the flesh of me! *(Zoram enters, joins Sam)*  
Murmur no more against your father, And withhold not your labor from me; *(Sons of Ishmael enter)*  
For God has commanded us to build this ship, To carry us across the sea. *(Laman and Lemuel cower)*

He is a God of power – He is a God of might – **Sariah/Sam/Zoram:** God of power, God of might  
And nothing is too hard for him, Nothing is too hard for him;  
There is nothing beyond his sight. Nothing beyond his sight.  
If he commanded me to turn this water to earth, God of power  
I could do all that and more; God of might  
So he can surely instruct me to build this ship, here upon this shore.

**L&L, SZ, Sol, SJ:** We know of a surety That the Lord our God is with thee.

**L&L:** *(kneeling before him)* For we know it is his power That has shaken us.

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

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

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

*(Nephi leads the men out in search of timber. Laman lags behind. Lemuel takes a last glance, then follows the group.)*  
*Laman pulls away into a corner alone. Once again Nephi has bested him – and it festers deep inside him. Sariah enters,*  
*holding her newborn baby, Joseph. Laman stands and exits sullenly. His wife and mother watch him in concern. Adina*  
*sits, shattered. Sariah looks down at Joseph, the babe in her arms, then wistfully up toward Laman. Music begins.)*

### **SONG: I Have Not Forgotten** (3:05)

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

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

Once a laughing, cherubic child, Hair curling softly around your face, (**Angels enter, supporting them: Ah**)  
And your peals of laughter filling the air with delight and joy and grace.

**+ Adina:** Now you've lost your radiant smile – I see you struggle day by day; (*Adina lifts her head, in a mix of pain, sadness, and anger*)  
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. (**Angels: Who you are**) –  
(*Who you were*)  
(*Who it's in you to be*)

But I have not forgotten, And I never will forget; (*And I never will forget*)

**Sariah:** For my son, I still believe in you,

**+ Adina:** And I'm pulling for you yet. (*And I'm pulling for you yet.*)

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

(*Laman re-enters, cold and angry*)

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

(**Angels: Ah...**)

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

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

**Sariah, Adina:** (*Singing*) I have not forgotten.

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

**Sariah, Adina:** (*Singing*) I have not forgotten – I have not forgotten...

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

(*Scene shifts, as triumphant music plays. The ship is now complete. The brothers stand admiring their workmanship.*)

**Lemuel:** I have to say, Nephi – I had my doubts, but... This ship... it's amazing!

**Nephi:** Well, I had an amazing teacher. (*Gratefully looks heavenward.*)

**Laman:** Whatever.... It seems.... solid enough.

**Lehi:** It's time, boys. Let's gather our provisions, and bring our families into the ship. (*They follow him out*)

(*Scene change. The men are now in the ship, with their wives and children, afloat on the ocean. Bouncy music starts*)

## **SONG: Goin' On a Ship**

**Lemuel:** Oh, we're goin' on a ship to the promised land  
Over the bright blue sea  
It's no ordinary trip, you understand?  
For you, and you, and me!

**Chedvah:** The promised land  
**+Hadara, Danya:** La, la, la, la, la!  
**Asher, Jabin:** We understand  
**Chdv/Had/Dny:** You and me!

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!

**+ Laman/Adina:** Ahh...  
**Chdv/Had/Dny:** The promised land -  
La la la la la!

**+Laman:** For eight long years in the wilderness **All:** Ah...  
 We've worked toward this day,  
**+Adina:** And now the work and the toil and the constant mess Are finally gonna pay!  
**Lemuel:** So... we're goin' on a ship to the promised land **Chedvah, Adina, Hadara, Danya:**  
**+ Laman:** Where we finally will be free *(dance, shake tambourines, etc.)*  
**+ Asher:** To do *(beat)* ex- *(beat)* actly what we want *with celebratory abandon*  
**+ Jabin:** And be exactly what we wanna be!

*(Dance break, repeating the music at accelerated tempo. These 8 dance, shout, hoot and holler, with wild abandon – as the quieter members of the family look on in concern. Sam nudges Nephi, speaks:*

**Sam:** It's getting a little wild out there, don't you think?  
**Nephi:** You're right, Sam. I'll go talk to them. *(He approaches his older brothers; sings to them urgently:)*

**Nephi:** We're 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:** Nephi – the constant killjoy. **Laman:** Darling little brother dear,  
**Lamn/Lemul:** It's time you finally got it through your head – You are NOT! the master here!

**Lehi:** *(trying to break it up)* Please, boys – for eight long years in the wilderness  
**+ Sariah:** We've worked toward this day;  
**+ Nephi/Talia:** After all that we have been through, Please don't throw it all away! **Onlookers:** Ah!

*(Laman and Lemuel, with Asher and Jabin, viciously bind Nephi, and tie him to the ship's stern. Lehi, Sariah, Sam, Talia, Zoram, and others are horrified by this violent action.)*

**Lam/Lem/Ash/Jab** We're \_\_\_ goin' on a ship to the promised land – Where we finally will be free  
 To do *(beat)* ex *(beat)* actly what we want, And be exactly what we wanna be! \_\_\_\_\_  
**Laman:** No one's the ma\_\_\_ster of \_\_\_ me! \_\_\_\_\_

*(The storm: Instrumental, minor key. The ship tosses and turns wildly, as rain falls violently, Nephi's wife, children, and parents plead with the brothers, to no avail. Waves, thunder, and lightning, people falling, lights on and off. Nephi continues to pray.*

**Nephi:** Lord.... Have mercy.... Lord... be with \_\_\_ me!  
 Lord \_\_\_ have \_\_\_ mercy on us all! \_\_\_ **Onlookers:** Ah!

*(Nephi's parents crumple in pain, powerless to stop the horror in their family, or the danger to them all. Sam urgently faces his older brothers, concerned for his fragile, aging parents. He cries out:)*

**Sam:** Laman – Lemuel – this *has* to stop! You're *killing* them! And endangering *all* of our lives!  
*(Conditions become more and more turbulent, until the brothers finally relent, untying Nephi. Spoken, with intensity:)*

**Jabin:** We were wrong, Nephi. *Again.* Please - please forgive us. *(Lemuel presses the Liahona into Nephi's hands.)*

**Lemuel:** We'll all die, including you, unless you can calm this storm, and get the ship back on course.  
*(Nephi stands slowly, rubbing his painful wrists, looking up to heaven. He closes his eyes in mighty prayer)*

**Nephi:** Lord God – for eight long years in the wilderness – You guided us to this day:  
**+Talia:** Merciful God in heaven –  
 Please now light \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ guide \_\_\_ our \_\_\_ way....

*(The storm begins to calm)*

+ **Lehi, Sariah, Sam, Shira, Zoram, Leah** *(in rich, reverent harmony)*

Oh, we're sailing on a ship to the promised land, by the grace of God above \_\_\_\_\_  
Lord grant us thy heavenly peace, And fill \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ thy love. \_\_\_\_\_

**Laman/Lemuel** Goin' on a ship to the pro\_\_\_\_\_mised\_\_\_\_\_ land \_\_\_\_\_

*(Lehi looks at Laman with heartfelt sorrow. He can never trust this son again, after what has occurred here.)*

---- *(Lights out. Music, Lights up: The family approaches the shores of their newly encountered promised land. Their faces beam with wonder and joy, as they discover this rich new land. Adina points, to Akiva and Laman)*

**Adina:** Look – do you see it? There's finally an end to all this water.

**Laman:** Yes. We have reached the shore at last.

**Adina:** I've never seen so many green trees. It's... spectacular.

**Laman:** I told you, my love. It's better than anything you could have ever had in Jerusalem. *(She smiles, finally content)*

**Chedvah:** *(With excitement, to Lemuel)* I can hardly even believe it. I know you said it would be amazing, but...

**Lemuel:** I promised you it would all be worth it. Now you know – I wasn't lying. *(She hugs him; he spins her joyfully.)*

**Lehi:** This is the land that I saw, all those years ago - what we've been seeking all this time – our *promised* land.

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

**Lehi:** *(Singing):* We're home at last – Behold, my children,  
We've home at last – My beloved wife! *(He tucks her under his arm.)*

+**Sariah:** *(with her small children.)* Here, we can finally stop and make a home,

+**Sam & wife:** Here, we will plant our seeds and never have to roam again. *(Keychange)*

+**SZ,Wives/L&L,wives:** We're home at last *(Home at last)* – Thru with our wandering *(Thru 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!

*(The family is now settling on the new land, enjoying its many treasures.)*

**Jabin:** Asher, have you seen this? There's gold in these mountains – and silver, and copper – so much of it!

**Asher:** We can make a *huge* fortune here!

**Sam:** Nephi, look at this soil. It's so rich and fertile. We'll be able to grow *all* of our seeds here, year after year.

**Nephi:** Truly – this is a land choice above all other lands. God has been *so* good to us, to lead us *here*.

*(The children run across the shore, playing and laughing with delight.)*

*(Sariah slips away just after sunset 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.)*

## **SONG: Beautiful Tonight, Reprise**

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

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

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

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

**Lehi:** I feel my life, like yours, slowly slipping away; *(Angels: Ah) (As guardian angel rouses Sariah)*  
But there are things I know, that I still need to say, *(Guardian angel lifts Sariah to her feet)*  
Before my time is past, and I go home at last *(Sariah becomes aware of her current state)*  
To you, and to... My Savior. *(He looks up with joy, as a strong light falls on him from above.)*

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

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

---- *(The scene shifts again – this time, with Lehi sitting center stage, as his family gathers around him. Laman is on his right hand, Nephi is at his left. Lemuel and sons of Ishmael stand beside Laman. Sam, Zoram, Jacob, and Joseph stand at the side of Nephi. Their wives and children stand or sit somewhat farther away, on the side corresponding to their head of household. Nephi's wife, Talia, holds her nephew, baby Joseph, recently bereft of his mother.)* -----

**Talia:** *(speaking quietly to her sister)* He probably doesn't have much time left.

**Shira:** No. Sometimes, people just have a sense of... when it's their time to go. **(Music begins)**

**Lemuel:** *(whispering to Laman)* It's your time to step up now, brother. I can feel it.

**Laman:** *(whispering back to Lemuel)* It's been a long time coming. *(He entirely expects the family leadership to be officially transferred to him, as the firstborn, as his father passes. Lehi sings weakly, near the end of his mortal strength:)*

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

**Sam/Zoram (observing):**

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

*(Slowly and thoughtfully)* Here at the end of a lifetime, I reflect on all 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, *Power – Mighty, bold, and strong*  
So hear the words of a trembling parent – a father's dying song: *Father....*



*(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. *New land of promise...*

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. *(Laman and Lemuel exchange glances, fuming quietly.)*  
*(This not what they expected on this important day.)*

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 Zoram,  
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, 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, entirely 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:)*

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

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

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

**Nephi:** *(Gently, with authority)* We must remember always the things our father has spoken to us this day.

**Laman:** *(Menacingly)* Oh, I remember, little brother. Believe me – this is one day I will never, ever ... forget!

**Nephi:** Laman... *(Concerned, Nephi extends a hand to Laman, who slaps it away ferociously, as fierce music erupts.)*

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

### **SONG: Hey, Little Brother (2 Ne. 4:13, 5:2-4) (2:07)**

**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; *(Nephi enters, searching)*  
When others hurt you, I used to calm your fears. **(Nephi: Laman?)**  
I used to be the one to watch your back – *(Upstage, Lemuel gathers Lamanites;*  
Now it's me on the attack! *They silently surround Nephi, ready to pounce)*  
How I wish we could go back in time! **(Lemuel and Lamanites: Now it's time to end this!)**  
*(They seize violently upon him, restrain him)*

Oh, I never wanted to be your enemy; **(Lemuel/Lamanites: Ah...)**  
But you're the one who couldn't just let things be! *(Anger grows to a boiling point)*

*(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! **(Lemuel/Lamanites: Hey, little brother**  
*(Don't you push me!)*  
*(Hey, little brother!)* *(Nephi is required to struggle for*  
*his life against them all.)* *(Ah...)*

I won't let you take from me *(Ha... Ha!....*  
What is mine and what will always be! *(Ah! Ha!....)*  
Even if I have to free myself from you, *(Ah! ....Ah!... Little brother, little brother,*  
Little brother! *(Threatening his life)* *(Little brother, little brother,*  
Hey, little brother... *(Little brother, little brother,*  
Little brother! Little brother! *(Little brother! Little brother!)*  
Little brother - Hey!

**Chedvah, crying out:** Stop it! All of you! That's enough! He's your BROTHER! *(Nephi escapes, runs from them.)*  
**Laman (snarling)** My LITTLE brother! *(He storms off, followed by the other Lamanites, last of all by Chevkah.)*

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

*(Lights come up slowly on Nephi, crumpled in pain, grieving the loss of both of his beloved parents - and also the devastating, unexpected loss of relationship with his older brothers, and the emerging rift within his family – a family whose leadership he had been entrusted with by his beloved father. He sings, in a broken voice, his grief growing to overwhelming proportions. He is left in the dark to weep alone, in the intensity of his soul. He cries out:)*

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

**Nephi:** O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth, and my soul grieveth. *(He crumples in fierce pain and self-recrimination,*  
I am encompassed about with temptations that so easily beset me; *He reaches sharply for the sword*  
And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; *of Laban, an angel restrains him)* **(Angels: Ah...)**

Nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted: **(Angels: Know in whom (in whom you have trusted)**  
I know in whom I have trusted. *(You have trusted)*

**Nephi:** My God hath been my support;  
He hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness;  
He hath carried me across the great deep.

*(Angels: (Thy support,  
(Thru thine afflictions in the wilderness  
(He hath carried thee 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

*(Thy cry by day)  
(In the night-time)  
(Carried away)*

**+ Angels:** Upon exceedingly high mountains, *(high mountains)* And mine *(thine)* eyes have beheld great things,  
Even too great for man, That I was bidden that I should not write them. *(Ah)*

**Nephi:** 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,  
**+ Angels:** That the evil one have place to destroy my *(thy)* peace, and afflict my *(thy)* soul?  
**Nephi:** Why am I angry because of mine enemy?  
Why am I angry because of mine enemy?

*(Why should thy strength slacken?)  
(Why shouldst thou give way to temptation)  
(Reaches for sword)  
(Angel: Not this way, no, not this time)  
(Angels: Not this time)*

Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin.  
Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.

*(Awake thy soul! No longer droop in sin.)  
(Ah...)*

**+ Angels:** Do not anger again because of mine *(thine)* enemies,  
Do not slacken my strength because of mine *(thine)* afflictions. *(Female Angels: Ah..)*

O Lord, wilt thou redeem my *(his)* soul?  
Wilt thou encircle me *(him)* In the robe of thy righteousness?  
O Lord, wilt thou make a way,  
For mine escape before mine enemies?

*(Lord, wilt thou redeem his soul?)  
(Encircle him in righteousness)  
(Lord, make a way:  
(Escape thine 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!

*(I've trusted in thee, In thee forever)  
(My voice shall forever ascend unto thee, my God, my God!)*

*(>Music Off)*

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

**Sam:** How goes it, brother?

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

**Sam:** Again?

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

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

**Zoram:** Come, let's go gather the others, and be gone by morning.

*(On their way out, they gather the brass plates, the Liahona, and the sword of Laban. Light outs.)*

*(The sun slowly rises on a new day. Asher and Jabin rush in frantically to find Laman and Lemuel.)*

**Asher:** Laman – Lemuel – come with us – now!

**Laman:** Wait – what's all this about?

**Jabin:** They're gone – all of them. Your brothers and sisters – your people – your father's treasures...

**Lemuel:** What? Are you sure? *(Intense music begins, with thick angry drumbeats)*

**Asher:** We looked everywhere. I'm telling you – they are gone. *(Their families and followers begin to gather)*

**SONG: Wronged! Robbed! (Mosiah 10:12-17) (1:18)**

**Laman:** *(Incensed – Cries out in rage:)* Aaaaaa.... 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:** For I was wronged *(Wronged!)* in Jerusalem, Robbed *(Robbed!)* of my inheritance, *(Lamanites echo*  
My dreams and hopes and power sliced away! *(Ha! Ha! Ha!)* *his rage)*  
Wronged for years *(Wronged!)* in the wilderness,  
Now robbed *(Robbed!)* of my birthright, and Robbed of my right to lead today!

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

**Lemuel:** Laman is our leader now - He will protect our rights! *(Laman spreads his arms wide, with a backlight*  
**Lamanites:** From now on, we will be called Lamanites! *behind him, creating a large shadow across the stage)*

We all are - Wronged! Robbed! We'll see that they're gonna pay!  
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Sariah's riff, as a ferocious war cry: Ah!)*

**Laman:** *(In a shadowed light from his court, commanding loudly, as their new ruler)* Kill them! Kill them all!  
Make them pay for what they have taken from us! *(Ha!)* *(Lights out on the Lamanites.)*

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

**Talia (VO):** And it came to pass *(Nephites: It came to pass)* that we lived *(That we lived)* *(Talia has finally*  
After the manner of happiness, *(Nephites: Ah)* *been blessed with a baby of her own –*

**+Angels:** After the manner of happiness. *(Nephites: Ah)* *Nephi kisses his child's little head.)*

**+Nephites:** With Nephi as our king and our protector; *(Nephi kneels humbly, with the sword of Laban,*  
We look to him for safety, And under his direction, *to be crowned by Sam and Zoram.)*  
*(He rises, teaching his people to be industrious.)*  
We've built buildings, we've worked wood and iron and copper, *(hammer percussion)*  
We've worked brass and steel and gold and silver and ore,  
We've built a shining glorious temple in the wilderness,  
And we've made... War! *(Lights up on furious armed Lamanites, armed with rough-hewn*

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

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

*(Nephite warriors arm selves with swords and shields. Lamanites attack Nephites, men engage in war)*

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

*(Keychange, as war intensifies:)* The God of our fathers protects us even still. *(Angels: Ah...)*  
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! **(Nephites: Help us, Lord! Save us, Lord!)**

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

Wronged in the wilderness; *(Wronged!)*  
Wronged in the promised land, *(Wronged!)*  
Wronged in every way that there could be! *(Wronged!)*

**Lamanites:** We all are.... Wronged! Robbed! *(Lemuel attacks Shira, Sam rushes in to protect her)*  
We'll see that you're gonna pay *Lemuel is stabbed by Sam, falls dead)*  
Generation after generation, Day after day! *(Sariah's riff, as Nephites chase Lamanites off their lands. Chevkah, leaning over her fallen husband,*

**Nephites:** We tried to live after the manner of happiness... *decides to stay with her Nephite sisters.*  
Help us, save us, Lord! **(Lam's: Ha!)** *She has had enough of Laman's ferocity.)*

*(Solemn, mournful music plays. Lights up dimly on the battlefield, where fallen warriors, both Nephites and Lamanites, lay lifeless on the ground – including Lemuel. This relentless family war will be raging for centuries to come.)*

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

### **SONG: Eventually – Reprise (Battlefield) (1:30)**

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

*(He is overcome with grief. Nephite warriors join him.)*

**Sam, Zoram:** *(Approaching him gently)* But you will never stop loving them;  
**+ Nephi:** No, you will never stop loving them. *(Angels join them, extending solace)*  
*(in gentle masculine harmony)* And you never will stop hoping, **(Angels: Ah...)**  
No, you never willing stop hoping  
For the tiniest strand of a reason to believe

**Prophets:** That they will finally find their way back home, *(Jeremiah, Lehi, and Ishmael, now as angels)*  
**Warriors:** And their hearts won't always be as stone,  
**Prophets:** For there is One whose mercy shall atone **(Angels: There's One whose mercy shall atone)**  
**Nephi:** Eventually. *(A stream of light falls on him gently, comforting him)* **(Angels/Prophets: Ah...)**  
**+ N. Warriors:** Eventually. **(Angels/Prophets: Ah...)**

*(Nephi gently closes the eyes of the fallen young warrior, entrusting him to a perfect Savior.*

*Even here, in the darkest night, He is the light that shineth in darkness – and His hands are stretched out still.)*

*(Fade out on the battlefield. Music segues to instrumental music, "Unending War" (1:17, continuing to dialogue.)*

--- (*Lights up on Nephi, now sitting alone, with empty gold plates on the desk before him.*)

(*Talia enters quietly, carrying a tray of simple food.*)

**Talia:** Nephi – I’ve brought you some food.

**Nephi:** Thank you – but ... I’m not hungry.

**Talia:** (*setting the tray down, sitting quietly beside him.*) How’s the writing going?

**Nephi:** Oh.... slow. I’m still just.. on the first page.

**Talia:** Well - that’s a start...

**Nephi:** When I was just a boy, not long after we left Jerusalem, he showed me... all of this. I never told anyone – not even you. But - He showed me... the same tree that... my father saw. And then...he showed me... things that were going to happen – on this land – to our family. I saw... the conflicts, the battles, the destruction.

**Talia:** You saw it... before it ever happened?

**Nephi:** (*in deep pain*) Yes.

**Talia:** Before we even... stepped foot into the wilderness?

**Nephi:** Yes – *before* all that. He showed me... everything... So... none of this has been... a surprise.

**Talia:** What else did you see? (*Nephi smiles softly, his eyes lifted, with new hope in the memory*)

**Nephi:** I saw... how it all turns out. Here... in this promised land. (*He takes her hand*) I saw... a future day, when... a book would go forth to the world, in a time of... great trouble and confusion. A book that would... lead people to God, creating... peace.

**Talia:** (*a heartfelt but distant hope*) Peace... (**Music ends**)

**Nephi:** Not in our day. Not... for thousands of years. But someday, reaching... our descendants, and those around them.

**Talia:** You saw... a book... that would do all of that.

**Nephi:** Yes. But - what I didn’t know then... is what I’ve been told now. I... am to begin writing that book.

**Talia:** Writing – what... your visions, your... father’s visions?....

**Nephi:** My story. Our story – our family’s story. And yes, the visions too.

**Talia:** Writing *your* family’s history has gotta be... a little challenging.

**Nephi:** Yeah. It’s hard to know... what to say.

**Talia:** Well... If he told you to write this book, he’ll tell you what to write. When it’s time. When you’re ready.

(*She leaves the tray of food beside him and exits softly, as he ponders her words.*)

(*He pauses, then begins hammering characters into gold pages. He sings:*)

### **SONG: Therefore I Make A Record (1 Ne 1:1; 2 Ne. 4:15-16) (1:50)**

**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... (*He looks up, envisioning his children’s future*)

Having been born of goodly parents, (*Picking up his engraving tools slowly,*  
Having been taught in the ways of God, *preparing at last to write*)  
Therefore I make a record  
Of my proceedings... in... my days. (*Lights out, as an instrumental verse of the song plays out.*)

(*Talia re-enters with great excitement, carrying the brass plates.*)

**Talia:** Nephi - Look what I found here! In these brass plates you brought from Jerusalem. The words of Isaiah - Listen...  
*(She reads from the brass plates) "He is a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. And we hid as it were our faces from him, and we esteemed him not...." (Isaiah 53:3)*  
*(Sits in front of him, looking into his downcast eyes. Gently:)* Sounds like... somebody I know.

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

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

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

**Talia:** So write the story, 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 voice will be heard. And it will help save and bless and redeem those that you love so very much. *(He sits pondering her words.)* I'll leave you to your work. *(She exits.)*

**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... (Soft music begins: "We Talk of Christ.")*

*"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) (The music continues, as lights fade on Nephi and his record.)*

----- *(Music continues. Lights up on the same scene – but now, many decades later. -----  
Nephi is now an older man, still diligently working on his record. An older Sam and Zoram join him, in battle armor.)*

**Zoram:** Nephi – we've been able to protect the city, once again. The people are grateful.

**Sam:** Over all these years, they've learned to look to you as their king, and their protector.

**Nephi:** I'm just carrying out the instructions given to me, Sam – by a higher source.

**Zoram:** All those swords you had us make, after the manner of the sword of Laban – they've saved the lives of our people – again.

**Sam:** Do you think the battles will ever stop?

**Nephi:** No. Laman and his legions will never tire of coming against us. I know their hatred.

**Zoram:** So – we'll need to keep making more of those swords?

**Nephi:** Yes, Zoram. Unfortunately.

**Sam:** Who would have thought - My baby brother. Growing up to be... a leader, a champion... even a historian.

**Nephi:** Believe me – I'm just as surprised as anybody.

## **SONG: Something More, Reprise 2** (1:13)

**Nephi:** Oh, here I am, enscribing this record, Word by word, line by line.  
Looking back - on all that's happened over my whole lifetime.

**Sam:** You were the shortest and smallest,

**Zoram:** And never the tallest

**S+Z+N:** And never taken seriously;

**Nephi:** But once I put myself in the hands of God  
Turns out he had other plans for me.

He has made of me – Something more – Than somebody's little brother.  
He has lifted me up to a brighter place – Beyond all the storms and shadows. **(Sam/Zoram: Ah)**

**+Zoram/Sam:** And he's got a plan, for the family of man, For every soul who seeks his face:  
To help them see – To help them know – And to help them become... Something more!  
Something more.

**Sam:** *(Spoken)* Well, I better get home. Shira's expecting me for dinner.

**Nephi:** Say hi to her and the kids for me.

**Sam:** Will do. You're... welcome to join us if you like.

**Nephi:** No thanks. I'm fine.

**Sam:** *(After a beat – concerned)* Are you.... fine?

**Zoram:** It's been several months now, since.... she passed. How you holding up?

**Nephi:** Hm.. It's definitely lonelier - without her. But... I've got plenty to keep me busy.  
Thanks for asking.

*(He draws strength from these good men who have stood quietly by his side all these years.)*

**Sam:** I worry about you, Nephi. You do.. so much, all the time... for our people... with this record...  
Meanwhile, it seems – you hardly eat – you almost never sleep... *(Music starts)*

**Nephi:** Sleep *has* been ... difficult of late. *(Sam and Zoram listen intently, with compassion, as Nephi sings:)*

### **SONG: Watering My Pillow**

**Nephi:** I water my pillow with tears - When I think about all the years  
Of pain, and grief, and conflict with those I love.  
I water the pillow of my bed When I think about things ahead:  
Things I was shown in my youth, by the heavens above.

**Sam/Zoram:** *Those so loved...*

--

*Heav'ns above*

I've seen the destruction of my people, Many centuries in advance, --  
Distantly still hoping... that there might still be a chance *Distantly hoping that there might still be a chance*  
That things somehow might get better – but it seems now, even so, *That things somehow might get better...*  
That what I've seen must unavoidably befall - *What you've seen must unavoidably befall*  
So every night, I grieve over it all - Watering my pillow. --

**Sam:** *(Speaking gently)* There have been *some* good things.

**Nephi:** I know. *(He continues singing, as the men join him, pondering their own journeys, sorrows, and consolations.)*

**Nephi:** I water my pillow, every night – Thinking of things to write  
In this sacred record now assigned to me.  
I recall the visions and the sights – Moonless valleys, and glorious heights,  
The broad expanse of all I've been blessed to see!

**Sam/Zoram:** *Ah...(descending line)*

*Ah...*

*Ah...*

*Ah... Blessed to see!*

Taught by angels – taught by God Himself – from His shining throne above, *Taught by angels, by God Himself*  
I've been tenderly enfolded in the arms of His love *Tenderly enfolded in the arms of His love*  
I've been led through daily wilderness, *Led through daily wilderness,*  
Through mountains, seas, and more – *Through mountains, seas, and more*

By His miracles – His kind, sustaining grace –  
And in grateful memory, tears fall down my face,  
Watering my pillow.

*By His miracles, His kind sustaining grace -  
In grateful memory, tears fall down my face...*

--

**Zoram:** *(Speaking)* I hope you can sleep better tonight, knowing that our people are out of harm's way.

**Nephi:** *(With emotion, thinking of battles still ahead.)* For now.



**Nephi:** *(Sings)* How can one who's been as blessed as I  
Send forth almost daily - Such an agonized soul-cry?  
But though my pain is all too real,  
My faith is just as deep –  
And it gives me comfort as I fall asleep.

**Sam/Zoram:** *...As blessed as I  
Such an agonized soul-cry!  
..Though my pain is real,  
My faith is just as deep...  
... Fall asleep..*

*(He looks up, steps toward audience, center, Sam and Zoram flanking right and left)*

I water my pillow when I review – All that I have been shown about you – *(Descending line) Ah...*  
Who will someday read these humble words of mine; *Ah ....*  
When someday this record will be found, *Ah ....*  
A voice from the dust, crying up from the ground – *Ah ....*  
In the latter days, midst the fires that refine! *Ah ....*

I have seen you armed with power, *Armed with pow..er,*  
And great glory from on high – *Glory from on high*  
Including – through this record, Coming from this hand of mine. *Including through this record: Ah...*  
I've seen your struggles, and your vict'ries, *Struggles – Vict'ries -*  
And that final glorious day *Final glorious day*  
When the Savior in His glory comes *When the Savior in his glory*  
To rule and reign! *To rule and reign!*

*(To the audience – those of a future day:)*

**Nephi:** And you and I will stand side by side ---  
You from your time, and I from mine; ---  
Fellow laborers in the kingdom of our God! *(Fellow laborers in the kingdom of our God!)*  
Till then, may my words give you strength, ---  
Knowing we shall meet at length ---  
At Jesus' feet, in clouds of glory in the air. *At Jesus' feet, in clouds of glory in the air.*

I'll look forward to that great day – ---  
With him and you in that glorious place, ---  
And feel tears of joy *Tears of joy*  
Fall from my eyes, and down my face... *Fall from my eyes, and down... my... face...*  
Watering... my pillow..... Watering my pillow. *Ah... Ah...*

*(After the song, Sam approaches his brother gently, as Zoram watches.)*

**Sam:** Nephi – There's something I've been.. meaning to tell you...

**Nephi:** Oh? *(Inviting further information)* *Gentle music begins: **What All of This Is For***

**Sam:** You remember that... *(recalling)* moonlit night, back when we were kids, when we sat outside Father's tent?  
*(Nephi nods)* You told me... the *journey...* would be *hard..* But it would be.. *worth it.*

**Nephi:** *(With emotion, recalling that earlier time)* I remember, Sam.

**Sam:** Well... you were right. It *has* been worth it.

I'm a better man – a *stronger* man – not in *spite* of what we've been through – but *because* of it.

**Nephi:** *(Nods, looking at his brother with gratitude)* It's true, Sam. We're *all* stronger now.

**Zoram:** *(Approaching the brothers quietly)* I have something to tell you, too.

**Nephi:** Yes Zoram?

**Zoram:** I was... *born* into slavery. I never expected... to have a home - a family – to be a *free man*.  
But ...because of you.. and especially (*looking up*)... because of *Him*... I now have.. *all* of that.  
And I'll be.. forever grateful.

**Nephi:** (*clapping his hand on Zoram's shoulder*) You've been a true friend, Zoram. All these years. And Sam...  
(*clapping his other hand on his brother's shoulder – like Moses supported by Caleb and Joshua*)  
Your quiet strength has sustained us *all*. Through *all* of this.

**Sam:** (*Quietly*) Not *my* strength. (*He looks up, in grateful reverence. Music begins, as all 3 look up, smiling softly*)

**SONG: We Talk Of Christ** (2 Ne. 25:26; 31:10) (3:20)

**Nephi:** Jesus is my friend - No other has given me so much.

+ **Sam:** His love for me is boundless, without an end,

+ **Zoram:** And I've felt His tender, healing touch.

(*The wives of Sam and Zoram enter quietly*)

+ **Leah, Shira:** Jesus is my guide - His light shows me the way.  
And my dearest hope is that I might become  
A little more like Him each day.

**Nephi, Sam, Zoram:** We talk of Christ -

+ **Leah, Shira:** We rejoice in Christ -

**Nephi:** And we write according to our prophecies

+ **Sam, Zo, Le, Shr** That our children may know to whom they may look  
For their salvation, for healing, for hope.

(*Angels slowly join them*)

**Nephi/Sam/Zoram:** Jesus is my light: (***Prophets: He is...***)

+ **Lehi, Ishmael:** Most joyous to my soul!

He has lifted my eyes, He has healed my heart:

+ **Cast:** He has made me whole!

**Men:** Jesus is my Savior: He pays the awful cost  
Of my sins and my sorrows - He rescues me -

(*Women: Ah*)

**All:** And without Him, I would be forever lost! (*In rich harmony*)

**All:** We talk of Christ – We rejoice in Christ -

**Ne/Le/Jer:** And we write according to our prophecies

**All:** That our children may know to whom they may look  
For their salvation, for healing - For hope!

**All:** He is my King! (*He is my King!*) The great Creator; (*Great Creator*)  
And someday He'll come again! (*He'll come again!*)

**All:** And when I see Him, (*When I see Him,*)  
Sooner or later (*Sooner or later*)

**Nephi:** I hope He'll know me as His friend.

**Ne/Sam/Zo:** We talk of Christ,

+ **Le, Sh, Sar:** We rejoice in Christ -

**Ne/Le/Jer:** And we write according to our prophecies

+ **Cast:** That our children may know to whom they may look...  
For their salvation, for healing, for hope!

*(Soft music plays: "Imperfect World." Nephi returns to the gold plates, pauses, then reads words he recently carved there.*

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

*(speaking to audience)* I am *not* a perfect man. And I did *not* come... from a perfect family. But, notwithstanding my weakness, God has used me as his instrument, to provide a record that shares his perfect plan with *you*, his beloved children – lighting the way back home - to *Him*. (2 Ne. 33:11)

**SONG: Ye Must Press Forward** (2 Ne. 31:20) (2:30)

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

+ **Shira, Leah:** Ye must press forward, Ye must press forward, With a steadfastness in Christ.

+ **Zoram, Sam:** Having a perfect brightness of hope  
And a love of God and of all men;  
Having a perfect brightness of hope  
And a love of God and of all men.

+ **Cast:** Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,  
With a steadfastness in Christ;  
Ye must press forward, ye must press forward,  
With a steadfastness in Christ.

**Nephi, Sam, Zoram:** Look unto Jesus and follow him, as you choose your path each day,  
+ **Shira, Leah** Even in the darkness, his light shines brightly, Showing you the way.

**Cast:** 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:** *Press forward – Press forward  
Steadfast in Christ\_\_\_\_\_!  
Press forward – Press forward  
Steadfast in Christ!*

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

**Company:** Ah!