
THE BOOK OF
MORMON
=
THE KEYSTONE

**IS THE
BOOK OF
MORMON
RACIST?**

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The Book of Mormon



**The
Keystone
of Our
Religion**

DOES GOD DIFFERENTIATE BY SKIN COLOR?

“He denieth none who come to Him –

black and white, bond and free, male and female;

And He remembereth the heathen; and **all are alike unto God** –
both Jew and Gentile”

~ 11 Nephi 11:114,115

**God is NO respecter
of persons**

WHERE DID THE 'RACES' COME FROM?

- In the 1800s, before Darwinian evolution was popularized, most people, when talking about “races” were referring to such groups as the “English race” or the “Irish race” etc
- However, after Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, that all changed
- Darwinism is inherently a racist philosophy, teaching that different groups or “races” evolved at different times and rates, so some groups are more like their ape-like ancestors than others

WHAT DOES SCIENCE SAY?

- All human beings in the world today are classified as a single race – *Homo sapiens sapiens*
- There is really ONE RACE
- Race has become a social construct with no biological basis
- Some people think there must be different “races” because there are differences between various groups of people
- Turns out that those “racial characteristics” are only minor variations
- Any two people only have about 0.2% genetic differences
- “Racial characteristics” like skin color, eye shape, only account for 6% of that 0.2% variation (ie, only 0.12%)

ONE BLOOD – ACTS 17:26

1. Adam & Eve
2. Sons & Daughters
3. Noah & Sons (and their Wives)
4. People at the Tower of Babel
5. Different people groups / cultures that spread throughout the world
 - Book of Mormon tells of one such group – the Jaredites

Confusion at the Great Tower

- ① Don't confound us
- ② Don't confound our friends
- ③ Where do we go?

Genesis 11:1-6
Ether 1:7-14

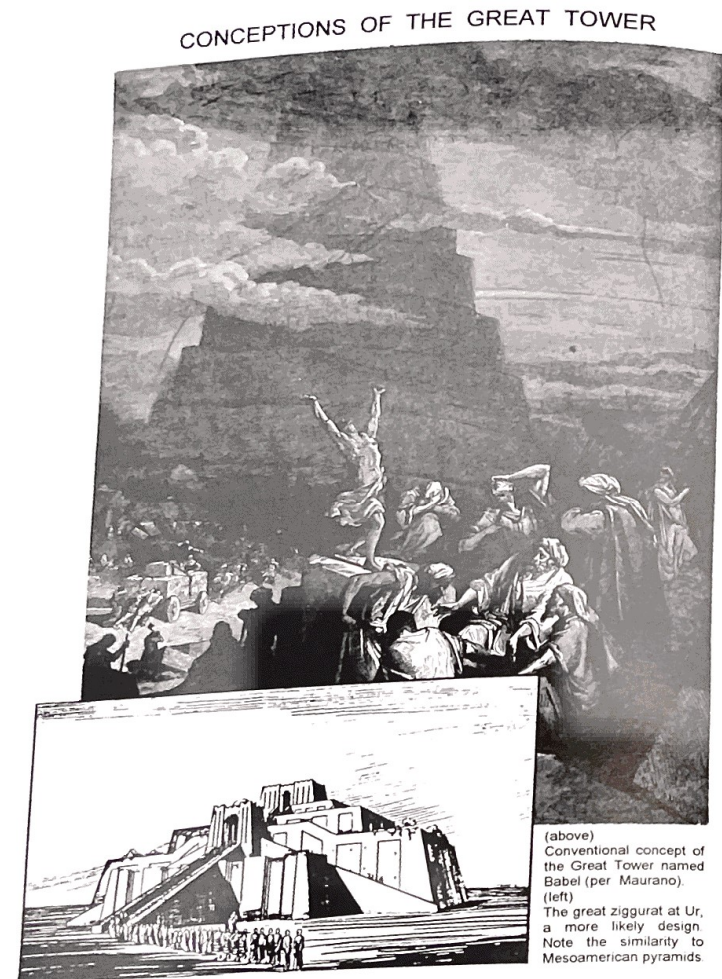


Figure 5.

THE CURSE UPON THE LAMANITES

Scripture	Notes
I Nephi 1:53-58	Nephi's first mention of the curse
I Nephi 2:86,87	Laman and Lemuel will be 'cast off'
I Nephi 3:133,134	They will become dark, loathsome, filthy
II Nephi 1:31-34	They will be cut off from God
II Nephi 4:31-38	The curse happens
II Nephi 12:81-87	Scales fall from their eyes

Mormon / Alma explain the curse – Alma 1:102-120

FIRST MENTION OF THE CURSE – 1 NEPHI 1:53-58

53 And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying, Blessed art thou Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart.

54 And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.

55 And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

56 And inasmuch as thou shalt keep my commandments, thou shalt be made a ruler and a teacher over thy brethren.

57 **For behold, in that day that they shall rebel against me, I will curse them even with a sore curse, and they shall have no power over thy seed, except they shall rebel against me also.**

58 And if it so be that they rebel against me, they shall be a scourge unto thy seed, to stir them up in the ways of remembrance.

LAMAN & LEMUEL CAST OFF – 1 NEPHI 1:86,87

86 And it came to pass after my father had spoken all the words of his dream or vision, which were many, he said unto us, because of these things which he saw in a vision, he exceedingly feared for Laman and Lemuel;

87 Yea, he feared lest they should be cast off from the presence of the Lord;

DARK & LOATHSOME – 1 NEPHI 3:133, 134

133 And the angel said unto me, Behold, these shall dwindle in unbelief.

134 And it came to pass that I beheld after they had dwindled in unbelief, they became a dark and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.

CUT OFF FROM GOD – II NEPHI 1:31-34

31 My heart hath been weighed down with sorrow from time to time; for I have feared, lest for the hardness of your hearts, the Lord your God should come out in the fullness of his wrath upon you, that ye be cut off and destroyed for ever;

32 Or **that a cursing should come upon you for the space of many generations**; and ye are visited by sword, and by famine, and are hated, and are led according to the will and captivity of the devil.

33 O my sons, that these things might not come upon you, but that ye might be a choice and a favored people of the Lord!

34 But behold, his will be done: for his ways are righteousness for ever; and he hath said that, Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; but inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence.

THE CURSE HAPPENS – II NEPHI 4:31-38

31 Wherefore, the word of the Lord was fulfilled which he spake unto me, saying: That inasmuch as they will not hearken unto thy words, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

32 And behold **they were cut off from his presence.**

33 And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity.

34 For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint;

THE CURSE HAPPENS – II NEPHI 4:31-38

35 Wherefore, as they were white, and exceeding fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people, the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them.

36 And thus saith the Lord God, I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save they shall repent of their iniquities.

37 And cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed: for they shall be cursed even with the same cursing.

38 And the Lord spake it, and it was done.

MORMON INTERPRETS THE CURSE – ALMA 1:102-120

102 And the Amlicites were distinguished from the Nephites; for they had marked themselves with red in their foreheads, after the manner of the Lamanites; nevertheless they had not shorn their heads like unto the Lamanites.

103 Now the heads of the Lamanites were shorn; and they were naked, save it were skin, which was girded about their loins, and also their armor, which was girded about them, and their bows, and their arrows, and their stones, and their slings, etc.

104 And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion against their brethren, who consisted of Nephi, Jacob, and Joseph, and Sam, who were just and holy men.

MORMON INTERPRETS THE CURSE – ALMA 1:102-120

105 And their brethren sought to destroy them; therefore they were cursed; and the Lord God set a mark upon them, yea, upon Laman and Lemuel, and also the sons of Ishmael, and the Ishmaelitish women;

106 And this was done, that their seed might be distinguished from the seed of their brethren, that thereby the Lord God might preserve his people, that they might not mix and believe in incorrect traditions which would prove their destruction.

107 And it came to pass that whosoever did mingle his seed with that of the Lamanites, did bring the same curse upon his seed.

MORMON INTERPRETS THE CURSE – ALMA 1:102-120

108 Therefore whosoever suffered himself to be led away by the Lamanites, **was called under that head, and there was a mark set upon him.**

109 And it came to pass that whosoever **would not believe in the tradition of the Lamanites**, but believe those records which were brought out of the land of Jerusalem, and also in the tradition of their fathers, which were correct, who believed in the commandments of God, and kept them, were called the Nephites, or the people of Nephi, from that time forth;

110 And it is they who have kept the records which are true of their people, and also of the people of the Lamanites.

MORMON INTERPRETS THE CURSE – ALMA 1:102-120

111 Now we will return again to the Amlicites, for **they also had a mark set upon them; yea, they set the mark upon themselves**, yea, even a mark of red upon their foreheads.

112 Thus the word of God is fulfilled, for these are the words which he said to Nephi:

113 Behold, the Lamanites have I cursed; and **I will set a mark upon them**, that they and their seed may be separated from thee and thy seed, from this time henceforth and for ever, except they repent of their wickedness and turn to me, that I may have mercy upon them.

MORMON INTERPRETS THE CURSE – ALMA 1:102-120

114 And again: **I will set a mark upon him** that mingleth his seed with thy brethren, that they may be cursed also.

115 And again: **I will set a mark upon him** that fighteth against thee and thy seed.

116 And again I say, He that departeth from thee, shall no more be called thy seed; and I will bless thee, etc., and whomsoever shall be called thy seed, henceforth and for ever: and these were the promises of the Lord unto Nephi, and to his seed.

MORMON INTERPRETS THE CURSE – ALMA 1:102-120

117 Now the Amlicites knew not that they were fulfilling the words of God, when **they began to mark themselves** in their foreheads;

118 Nevertheless they had come out in open rebellion against God; therefore it was expedient that the curse should fall upon them.

119 Now I would that ye should see that **they brought upon themselves the curse;**

120 And even so doth **every man that is cursed, bring upon himself his own condemnation.**

SUMMARY

- We see that some have the curse removed from them (III N 1:48-53)
 - Clearly not racial, they stopped marking themselves and their children
 - Went away during 200 years after Jesus' visit; and then returned later
- The curse comes as a result of rebellion against God, is a mark of some kind on the skin, can be black or red, is cultural, is voluntary, is done to oneself, can be done away when reject the Lamanite culture
- God is NO respecter of persons or color
- If the curse was skin color, we would have to believe that God was constantly performing miraculous transformations of people from white skin to dark skin and vice versa

SUMMARY

- The curse is about rejecting God; not about skin color
- The theory of the curse being skin color is more of a racist ideology from the 19th Century, NOT an idea from ancient cultures who did NOT have such ideas
- Racist concepts were alien to the writers of the Book of Mormon who NEVER associated race with curse

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

“He denieth none who come to Him –

black and white, bond and free, male and female;

And He remembereth the heathen; and **all are alike unto God** –
both Jew and Gentile”

~ II Nephi 11:114,115

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Appendix

LESSONS FROM I NEPHI

- Overview, Plates, Language, Timeline
- Context for the Story
- Prophecy and Escape
- Visits back for records / friends
- Visions in the dessert
- Journeys, Liahona, and Sufferings
- Rebellions
- Ship building and Ocean faring
- Reaching the Promised Land

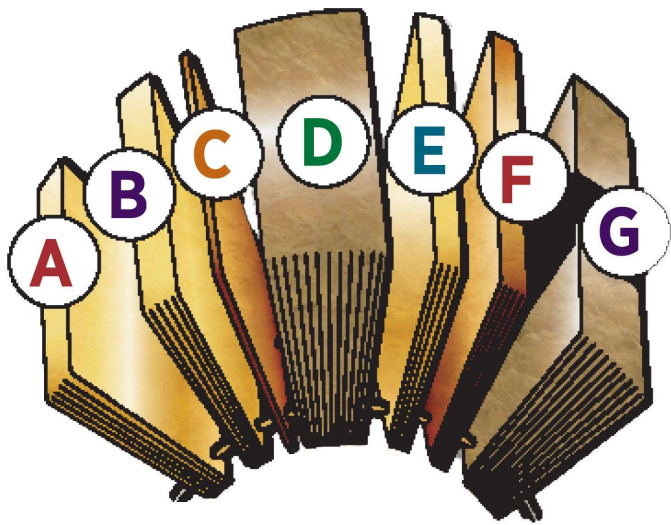
Summary

- 7 chapters; 986 verses
- Unabridged from the Small Plates of Nephi
- Covers ~ 12 years
- Begins at Jerusalem, approximately 600 years before the coming of Christ
- Recorded 30 years after leaving Jerusalem

I Nephi – Overview (Prologue)

1. An account of Lehi, Sariah and his four sons: Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi
2. Lehi prophecies to the people of Jerusalem concerning their iniquity
3. The Lord warns Lehi to depart out of the Land of Jerusalem
4. They travel three days into the wilderness
5. Then the sons return to Jerusalem to obtain the record of the Jews
6. This is an account of their suffering
7. They marry the daughters of Ismael
8. They come to the “large waters”
9. Laman and Lemuel rebel against Lehi and Nephi
10. Nephi confounds them and builds a ship
11. They name the place Bountiful
12. They cross the ocean into the promised land

THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE PLATES



- A – Lost abridgement
- B – Small plates of Nephi (unabridged)
- C – Words of Mormon
- D – Large plates of Nephi (abridged)
- E – 24 Gold Plates (abridged)
- F – Moroni's writing
- G – Sealed Portion

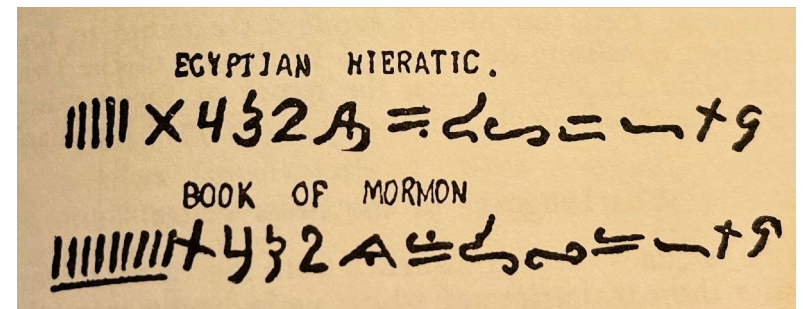
THE SMALL PLATES

- II Nephi 4:43-50
- Written 30 years after leaving Jerusalem
- Jacob 2:66-69 <1% included
- 67 And a hundredth part of the proceedings of this people, which now began to be numerous, can not be written upon these plates;
68 But many of their proceedings are written upon the larger plates, and their wars, and their contentions, and the reigns of their kings.
69 These plates are called the plates of Jacob; and they were made by the hand of Nephi.

THEIR LANGUAGE

The Nephites

- Spoke Hebrew language (language in Jerusalem at the time that they and the Mulekites left)
- Recorded in reformed Egyptian
- Mormon 4:98-100



Thelona Stevens

INTERPRETATION OF LEHI'S VISION

Symbol	Interpretation	Examples Given
Dark and Dreary Waste		
Large and Spacious Field	The World	
Tree of Life	Love of God	The coming of the Son of God
Fruit of the Tree		Blessings from the Atonement
Fountain / River of Filthy Water	Hell and the depths thereof	Wickedness

INTERPRETATION OF LEHI'S VISION (CONT.)

Symbol	Interpretation	Examples Given
Rod of Iron	The word of God	The ministry of Jesus
Mist of darkness	Temptations of the devil	Apostasy, wickedness, war, the great and abominable church, plain and precious things removed from the scriptures
Great and spacious building	Pride, wisdom, and vain imaginations of the world	Persecution of the Son of God and those who follow Him

LESSONS – ALL INVITED TO COME TO CHRIST

- John 3:16
- God's love is the most desirable above all other things, most joyous to the soul
- All men MUST come unto Him or they cannot be saved (1 N 3:193)
- Final state of our souls is God's kingdom or cast out (1 N 4:61)



LESSONS – 4 GROUPS

- 3 groups seeking the tree
 1. Hit the mist of darkness and were lost
 2. Reached the tree but were ashamed by persecution and went away
 3. Reached the tree and partook of the fruit and joyous
- 4th group NOT seeking the tree, just the great building
- Compare with Parable of the Sower from Mark 4
 - Mark 4:12 – Don't know this parable? How will you know the rest?

LESSONS – 4 GROUPS / PARABLE OF THE SOWER

#	Parable of the Sower	Meaning	Lehi's Vision Groups
1	Seed fell by the wayside	Never responded to the call; Rejected the invitation to Come to Christ	People pressing to the building
2	Seed on stony ground	Fell away because of affliction or persecution	People who reached the tree but ashamed
3	Seed choked by thorns	Fell away because of temptations, cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches	People lost in the mists of darkness
4	Seed on good ground that yielded fruit	Hear the Word, receive it, bring forth fruit	People who reached the tree and partook of and enjoyed the fruit

NEPHI TEACHES HIS BROTHERS

- Chapter 4 – Interprets Lehi's vision for them
- Chapter 5 – Teaches them of Israel escaping Egypt's bondage and the coming of the Messiah
- Chapter 6/7 – Interprets Isaiah's prophecies to persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer

NEPHI INTERPRETS ISAIAH 48 & 49 (CH 7)

- Five major sections of the interpretation:
 1. Israel will be scattered over all the earth
 2. Israel will be gathered / receive Christ & the Gospel
 3. Destruction will come upon the enemies of Zion
 4. Righteous will be gathered into One Fold; Satan will be powerless
 5. Nephi admonishes his brothers to obey God and be saved

AMERICA AND THE MARVELOUS WORK

- 1 Nephi 7:15 = Prophecy of USA
- 1 Nephi 7:17 = Marvelous work among the Gentiles

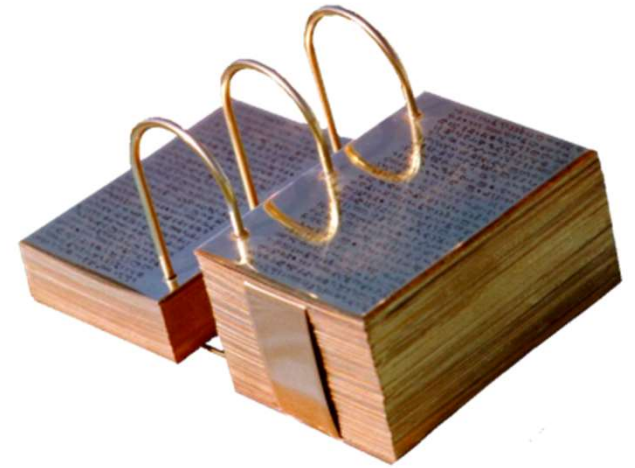
Closing of 1 Nephi (7:66)

- Nephi to L&L
- Those things written on the plates of brass are true
- You must be obedient to the commandments of God

THE BRASS PLATES

The Brass Plates

- Brought by the Nephites after obtaining in Jerusalem
- Written in Egyptian
- Contain 5 books of Moses
- Include law of Moses
- 1 Nephi 1:158-166; 6:2,3



Chapter Summary of Ether

- 1 Great tower to the coast
- 2 Moroni prophesies of the witnesses and coming forth
- 3 Ocean voyage, beginning of their civilization, origin of secret combinations in the new world
- 4 The majority of the Jaredites history, culture, events are summarized
- 5 Moroni's Hall of Faith and his second 'sign off'
- 6 Prophecy of the last days and the final ending of the Jaredite nation

Promises to Jared and his Brother

- ① God will go before them on a great journey
- ② God will lead them to a choice land, above all others
- ③ God will raise up a mighty nation, none greater at that time