

Table 3.A Beginning text of The First Book of Nephi<sup>1</sup>

The printer's manuscript diction and spelling<sup>2</sup>

line numbers added  
 ^ = insertion above the line  
 [ ] = text completely illegible

first Chapter .1.st  
 2 The ^ Book of Nephi ^ his reign & ministry. An account  
 3 of Lehi & his Wife Sariah & his four Sons being called beginning at  
 4 the eldest Laman Lemuel Sam & Nephi – the Lord warns Lehi to dep  
 5 art out of the land of Jerusalem because he prophesieth unto the people co  
 6 cerning their iniquity – & they seek to destroy his life – he taketh three days jou  
 7 -rney into the wilderness with his family – Nephi taketh his Brethren & retur  
 8 -ns to the land of Jerusalem after the record of the Jews – the account of their  
 9 sufferings – they take the daughters of Ishmael to wife – they take their  
 10 families & depart into the wilderness – their sufferings & afflictions in  
 11 the wilderness – the cours of their travels – they come to the large waters  
 12 – Nephis Brethen rebelleth against him he confoundeth them & bui  
 13 -ldeth a ship – they call the place Bountiful – they cross the large waters  
 14 into the promised land .&C. this is according to the account of Nephi  
 15 or in other words I Nephi wrote this record – I Nephi having been  
 16 born of goodly parents therefore I was taught somewhat in all the le  
 17 -arning of my father & haveing seen many afflictions in the cours of my  
 18 days nevertheless having been highly favored of the Lord in all my  
 19 days yea haveing had a great knowledge of the goodness & the mysteries  
 20 of God therefore I make a record of my procedings in my days yea  
 21 I make a record in the language of my father which consists of the  
 22 learning of the Jews & the language of the Egyptians & I know that  
 23 the record which I make to be true & I make it with mine own  
 24 [ ]nd & I make it according to my knowledge for it came to pass in  
 first year of the  
 25 the commencement of the ^ reign of Zedekiah King of Judah my fa  
 26 ther Lehi haveing dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days & in that same  
 27 year there came many prophits prophesying unto the people that they must  
 the  
 28 repent or ^ great City Jerusalem must be destroid wherefore it came to

<sup>1</sup> “The original text had four individual books with the title, ‘The Book of Nephi’. There was no numbering to distinguish between 1 Nephi, 2 Nephi, 3 Nephi, and 4 Nephi. The first and second books were distinguished early on when the words *first* and *second* were supralinearly inserted in the manuscripts, sometimes with heavier ink flow, sometimes with lighter—in either case, the insertion was not immediate.... The subsequent editing of these four book titles has been inconsistent.... The distinction for the last two books was first made by Orson Pratt in the 1879 LDS edition, when he added the extra headings ‘III Nephi’ and ‘IV Nephi’ before ‘The Book of Nephi’. These extra headings for the last two books have continued in all subsequent LDS editions.” Skousen, *Analysis of Textual Variants of the Book of Mormon, Part One*, 42-43.

<sup>2</sup> Skousen, ed., *The Printer's Manuscript of the Book of Mormon, Part One*, 52-53 (manuscript page 1).

THE FIRST BOOK OF NEPHI.

HIS REIGN AND MINISTRY.

CHAPTER I.

*An account of Lehi and his wife Sariah, and his four Sons, being called, (beginning at the eldest,) Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. The Lord warns Lehi to depart out of the land of Jerusalem, because he prophesieth unto the people concerning their iniquity; and they seek to destroy his life. He taketh three days' journey into the wilderness with his family. Nephi taketh his brethren and returns to the land of Jerusalem after the record of the Jews. The account of their sufferings. They take the daughters of Ishmael to wife. They take their families and depart into the wilderness. Their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness. The course of their travels. They come to the large waters. Nephi's brethren rebelleth against him. He confoundeth them, and buildeth a Ship. They call the place Bountiful. They cross the large waters into the promised land, &c. This is according to the account of Nephi; or, in other words, I Nephi wrote this record.*

I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days—nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days; yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians. And I know that the record which I make, to be true; and I make it with mine own hand; and I make it according to my knowledge.

For it came to pass, in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, (my father Lehi having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days;) and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people, that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed.

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<sup>3</sup> Smith, *The Book of Mormon* (1830), 5.

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Printer's manuscript analysis

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Title: The first Book of Nephi

Title appositive: his reign & ministry

Chapter designation: Chapter .1.st

Introductory declaration:

*Content synopsis*

An account of Lehi & his Wife Sariah & his four Sons being called beginning at the eldest Laman Lemuel Sam & Nephi – the Lord warns Lehi to depart out of the land of Jerusalem because he prophesieth unto the people concerning their iniquity – & they seek to destroy his life – he taketh three days journey into the wilderness with his family – Nephi taketh his Brethren & returns to the land of Jerusalem after the record of the Jews – the account of their sufferings – they take the daughters of Ishmael to wife – they take their families & depart into the wilderness – their sufferings & afflictions in the wilderness – the courses of their travels – they come to the large waters Nephi's Brethren rebelled against him he confoundeth them & buildeth a ship – they call the place Bountiful – they cross the large waters into the promised land .&C.

*Contextual statement of chronology*

my days

in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah King of Judah

my father Lehi having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days

in that same year

*Societal description*

there came many prophets prophesying unto the people that they must repent or the great City Jerusalem must be destroyed

*Verification*

this is according to the account of Nephi or in other words I Nephi wrote this record

I Nephi having been born of goodly parents therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father & having seen many afflictions in the course of my days nevertheless having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days yea having had a great knowledge of the goodness & the mysteries of God therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days yea I make a record in the language of my father which consists of the learning of the Jews & the language of the Egyptians & I know that the record which I make to be true & I make it with mine own hand & I make it according to my knowledge