

Table 3.B Beginning text of The Second Book of Nephi<sup>1</sup>

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The original manuscript diction and spelling<sup>2</sup>

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

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	second	Chapter I	
14			The ^ Book of Nephi ^ An account of the death of Lehi – Nephis
15			Brethren rebelleth ag[ ]st him – the Lord warns Nephi to depart into the
16			wilderness – &C his journeyings in the wilderness – &C – And now it came
17			to pass after I Nephi had made an end of teaching my brethren our father Lehi
18			also spake many things unto them & rehearsed unto them how great things the
19			Lord had done for them in bringing them out of the land of Jerusalem & he spake
20			unto them concerning their rebellions upon the waters & the mercies of God in
21			sparing their lives that they were not swallowed up in the sea & he also sp[ ]
22			-ke unto them concerning the land of promise which they had obtained how m[ ]
23			-ciful the Lord had been in warning us that we should flee out of the land
24			of Jerusalem for behold saith he I have seen a vision in the which I know that

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The printer’s manuscript diction and spelling<sup>3</sup>

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	second	
25		& thus it is Amen ----- The ^ Book of Nephi Chapter .1.st
26		An account of the death of Lehi – Nephis Brethren rebelleth against him –
27		the Lord warns Nephi to depart into the wilderness – &C his journeyings after I
28		in the wilderness – &C – And now it came to pass ^ Nephi had ma
29		-de an end of teaching my Brethren our father Lehi also spake many thi
30		-ngs unto them how great things the Lord had done for them in bringing them ou
31		-t of the land of Jerusalem & he spake unto them concerning their rebellions up
32		-on the waters & the mercies of God in sparing their lives that they were not sw
33		-allowed up in the Sea & he also spake unto them concerning the land of prom
34		-ise which they had obtained how merciful the Lord had been in warning us
35		that we should flee out of the land of Jerusalem for behold saith he I have seen

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<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 Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon*, 164-65.

<sup>3</sup> Skousen, ed., *The Printer’s Manuscript of the Book of Mormon, Part One*, 143 (manuscript page 46)

THE SECOND BOOK OF NEPHI.

CHAPTER I.

*An account of the death of Lehi. Nephi's brethren rebelleth against him. The Lord warns Nephi to depart into the wilderness, &c. His journeyings in the wilderness, &c.*

And now it came to pass after I, Nephi, had made an end of teaching my brethren, our father, Lehi, also spake many things unto them: how great things the Lord had done for them, in bringing them out of the land of Jerusalem. And he spake unto them concerning their rebellions upon the waters, and the mercies of God in sparing their lives, that they were not swallowed up in the sea. And he also spake unto them concerning the land of promise, which they had obtained: how merciful the Lord had been in warning us that we should flee out of the land of Jerusalem. For, Behold, saith he, I have

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Original manuscript analysis

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Title: The second Book of Nephi

Title appositive:

Chapter designation: Chapter I

Introductory declaration:

*Content synopsis*

An account of the death of Lehi – Nephis Brethren rebelleth ag[ ]st him – the Lord warns Nephi to depart into the wilderness – &C his journeyings in the wilderness – &C

*Contextual statement of chronology*

after I Nephi had made an end of teaching my Brethren

*Societal description*

how great things the Lord had done for them, in bringing them out of the land of Jerusalem & he spake unto them concerning their rebellions upon the waters & the mercies of God in sparing their lives that they were not swallowed up in the sea & he also spake unto them concerning the land of promise which they had obtained how merciful the Lord had been in warning us that we should flee out of the land of Jerusalem.

*Verification*

I Nephi  
my brethren  
our father Lehi

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<sup>4</sup> Smith, *The Book of Mormon* (1830), 59-60.