

## **NEPHITES AND LAMANITES SEPARATE**

(2 Nephi 4:1-26)

**V1-4** Despite Nephi's petitions to the Lord on their behalf (v.1), Nephi's brothers are determined to do away with him (v. 2). Their arguments against Nephi are he is attempting to usurp rulership from them when they should be ruling, and he has been a cause of problems to them (v. 3), so they decide to kill him for it (v. 4).

**V5-9** The Lord warns Nephi of his brother's intentions and commands him and all who will go with him to leave (v. 5). So, all of the people who believe in the warnings and revelations of God (v. 6), pack up and leave. They travel for some time, and then establish camp (v. 7). They name the place they camp in "Nephi" and the group decides to go under the name of "Nephites" as well (v. 8).

**V10-28** These verses contrast the religious nature, the blessed condition, and the industry of the Nephites (v. 10-18, 26-28) with the secularism, slothfulness, and cursed nature of the Lamanites (v. 19-25).

The Nephites keep the Law of Moses (v. 10) and are therefore prospered by the Lord in all their agricultural endeavors (v. 11) as well as in their families (v. 13). When the two groups separated Nephi took the brass plates, the Liahona (v. 12), and the sword of Laban (v. 14). Using the sword of Laban as an example, Nephi makes more swords as a means of defending themselves from the Lamanites (v. 14). Nephi teaches the people to be industrious (v. 17) in constructing all kinds of buildings and in metal work as well (v. 15). Nephi builds a temple after the pattern of Solomon's (v. 16). This appears to have been the first permanent structures that they built after living in tents for years. This was an endeavor of epic proportions supported by a large society with great wealth and a specialized workforce (see 1 Kings 6-7). Obviously, the temple built by Nephi was only patterned after Solomon's and couldn't have been made of cut stones, worked timbers, and gold ornaments. It also seems to suggest that Nephi built the Temple himself. The preceding and following verses make reference to the other people building and doing things, but all of Nephi's references to the construction in this verse are in the first-person singular. If this is the case, and Nephi built it alone, then it really must have been a rather simple construct.

**1. Why did Nephi and the others flee from Nephi's brothers (Lamanites)?**

**2. Why did they want to kill Nephi?**

**3. What did Nephi build in the Land?**

**4. Why was it important that the Nephites and Lamanites be apart?**

**5. Why did Nephi build a temple?**