

NEPHI REFERENCING ISAIAH

(2 Nephi 8:17-10:54)

In these chapters Nephi quotes Isaiah 2-14, providing a brief explanation of why he is quoting them in the first part of chapter 8.

Nephi probably omits Isaiah 1, as it is a summary of the entire book of Isaiah. Nephi's present intent is to focus specifically on the interaction between Israel and her Gentile nations by likening it to his descendants and their future interaction with Gentiles. He also draws on messianic texts in those chapters to emphasize their belief in Christ as the Redeemer. Isaiah 1 doesn't discuss either of these topics, suggesting this the reason Nephi omits it.

There is speculation that the text was either a later addition or was placed elsewhere, perhaps last, and subsequently moved to the front of the book later by someone other than Isaiah. I don't see any internal evidence to support these ideas. The fact that Isaiah 1 summarizes the rest of the book suggests it was deliberately intended as an introduction.

CHAPTER 8

V17-38 parallels Isaiah 2

V39-64 parallels Isaiah 3

V65-70 parallels Isaiah 4

V71-100 parallels Isaiah 5

CHAPTER 9

V1-13 parallels Isaiah 6

V14-38 parallels Isaiah 7

V39-60 parallels Isaiah 8

V61-81 parallels Isaiah 9

V82-115 parallels Isaiah 10

V116-131 parallels Isaiah 11

V132-137 parallels Isaiah 12

CHAPTER 10

V1-22 parallels Isaiah 13

V23-54 parallels Isaiah 14

In these chapters Nephi quotes Isaiah 2-14, providing a brief explanation of why he is quoting them in ch. 11.

In selecting these chapters, why does Nephi omit these chapters and exclude others? Nephi would have stopped at ch. 14 and not included subsequent chapters because Isa. 15-23 are a series of curses hurled at Gentile nations neighboring Israel. As such, the material there is less relevant to the Lehiters in the New World.

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Nephi's omission of Isa. 1 has caused some LDS authors to speculate the text was either a later addition or was placed elsewhere, perhaps last, and subsequently moved to the front of the book later by someone other than Isaiah. I don't see any internal evidence to support these ideas. The fact that Isa. 1 summarizes the rest of the book suggests it was deliberately intended as an introduction.

Comments on 2 Nephi 11