

NEPHI BIDS FAREWELL

(2 Nephi 15:1-18)

Nephi concludes his writings with an appeal to the Lehites in specific (v. 1-6) to humble themselves and accept his writings (v. 1, 3-5), rather than rebel and reject them (v. 2, 6). He then turns to address all future readers including all of Israel and the Gentiles as well (v. 7-18).

Nephi's focus is on those of his people who will receive and accept his words (v. 5) as a result of his importuning the Lord for them (v. 3-4). There are some whom the Spirit will touch, and manifest the power the words he writes (v. 1). But, he recognizes there are some who are led into sin by the devil, and will therefore harden their hearts against his words (v. 6).

One cannot help but assume he is implicitly referring to Laman and Lemuel, but clearly his audience goes well beyond that to subsequent generations he knows will have access to his writings.

V7-18 After addressing his own relatives, Nephi turns his attention to the rest of Israel and the Gentiles as well. As Nephi has seen much of major events of the future and the interplay between Natural Israel and the Gentiles (See. 1 Nephi 3:135-256) he is well aware they will have access to his writings as well.

Those who harden their hearts against the word of Lord (v. 6) are not redeemed from hell. However, Nephi knows that his soul is redeemed from hell (v.7) because of his religious convictions and acceptance of Christ.

V9-V10 Nephi again draws on the Tree of Life allegory, as he did in 2 Nephi 13:25-26. Nephi has seen these multitudes of people start out in the straight and narrow, only to watch them blinded by the mists of darkness or lured away into the great and spacious building (See 1 Nephi 3:126-127).

V9 "Jew", Nephi is referring to cultural Jews as opposed to literal descendants of Judah. While literal descendants of Judah predominantly settled Jerusalem, there were plenty of Benjamites and Levites who were "Jews" as well, as were whatever smattering of the other tribes present.