

1 Nephi and the Exodus

Key Scripture 1 Nephi 4:2

Explanation Lehi's group saw themselves as reenacting the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Just as God had called Moses and Joshua to lead the children of Israel out of oppressive conditions, across a sea and the river Jordan, and into the promised land, so he called Lehi to lead his group out of Jerusalem, across the ocean, and to a new land of promise. Nephi thought of Moses when he exhorted his brothers to be "strong like unto Moses," who had delivered his people out of captivity (1 Nephi 4:2). As a typology, that first exodus, mainly in the Old Testament book of Exodus, became a pattern whose motifs may be found throughout Nephi's story of this second exodus. By extension, many of these themes can also be found in accounts of other Book of Mormon groups who were likewise delivered from captivity and fled into the wilderness. It is a pattern that still holds today in the personal conversion of individuals who flee evil and seek the Lord.

Sources Terrence L. Szink, "Nephi and the Exodus," in *Rediscovering the Book of Mormon*, ed. John L. Sorenson and Melvin J. Thorne (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and FARMS, 1991), 38–51; S. Kent Brown, "The Exodus: Seeing It as a Test, a Testimony, and a Type," *Ensign*, February 1990, 54–57; S. Kent Brown, "The Exodus Pattern in the Book of Mormon," *BYU Studies* 30/3 (1990): 111–26; "Nephi and the Exodus," *Ensign*, April 1987, 64–65; and Mark J. Johnson, "The Exodus of Lehi Revisited," in *Pressing Forward with the Book of Mormon*, ed. John W. Welch and Melvin J. Thorne (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1999), 54–58.

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1 Nephi	Exodus	Motifs Common to Both Accounts
1:6	3:2	fire present at calling of Lehi and Moses
1:6; 16:16	13:21	Lord's guidance
1:20	1:11–16	oppressive conditions
2:2	3:7–18	Lord's command to depart
2:6–7	3:18; 15:22; 20:25	sacrifice to the Lord after three days' journey
2:11–12; 5:2; 16:20	15:24; 16:2–3	murmuring against the Lord
2:15; 3:9; 10:16	18:7; 33:8	dwelling in tents
2:20	3:17	promise of a new land of inheritance
4:12	17:8–13	victory over enemies
7:6–7	14:12	rebellious desire to return
9:1–4	17:14	a record of the journey
11:1–14:27	19:19–31:18	instruction from God on a high mountain
15:6–16:5	19:3–25	prophet who teaches with divine instruction
16:10	7:9–21; 8:16; 14:16	miraculous objects (Liahona, rod)
16:34	Josh. 24:32	a burial
17:2–5	16:11–18	Lord's provision of ready-to-eat food
17:4	16:35; Deut. 8:2	prolonged wandering in the wilderness
17:6	16:3; 17:1	afflictions in the wilderness
17:26; 18:8–23	14:21–22, 29; 15:19	crossing a sea
17:52	34:30	a transfiguration
17:55	14:31; 20:12	acknowledgment of the Lord's power
18:7	18:3–4	two sons born in the wilderness
18:8	14:21	Lord's providential wind
18:9	32:18–19	wicked revelry
18:20	32:10	death warnings from the Lord
18:23–25	Josh. 11:23	inheritance of a promised land
19:11	20:18	thunderings and lightnings at God's presence