

THE BOOK OF JAROM

Chapter 1

["Chapter First" was part of *P*.

"Chapter 1" was part of the 1830 edition
but was removed in 1920]

*The Covenant Plan of Salvation Has Been Recorded on the Plates
The Lord's Covenant Way Is Manifest According To Faith*

1 **Now** behold

I [Jarom](#)

[a] **write a few words** *[The elements "[a]—[h]" will be continued in verses 14-15]* aa
[b] according to the **commandment**
[c] of [my father Enos](#)
[d] that our genealogy
[e] may **be kept**

2 **And** as these **plates** are small [f]
and as these [things](#) _____ are **written** [g]
for the intent of the benefit of our **brethren** [h]
the Lamanites

wherefore it **MUST** needs be 01

that I [\[Jarom\]](#) bb

[a] **write a little**

But I [\[Jarom\]](#)

shall **NOT write** [g] cc

the [things](#)

of [my prophesying](#)

NOR of [my revelations](#)

For what could

I [\[Jarom\]](#) **write more** than [my fathers](#) have **written?**

For have NOT they [\[my fathers\]](#) **revealed the plan of salvation?** dd

[See note on "the plan of salvation" after verse 15]

I [\[Jarom\]](#) **say** unto you

Yea and _____ this **written plan of salvation** sufficeth me

[Par. aa – Bookends]

[Heb. 01 – Use of "wherefore" meaning "as I said before"]

[Par. bb – Like beginnings "I Jarom"]

[Par. cc – Repetition of NOT, NOR]

[Par. dd – Questions to make a point]

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3 **Behold** it is expedient that MUCH should be done among this people
 [the Lamanites]
 because of the **hardness** of their **hearts** ee
and the **deafness** of their **ears** 02
and the **blindness** of their **minds** 03
and the **stiffness** of their **necks**

Nevertheless

God is exceedingly **merciful** unto them [the Lamanites] ["ly" added in 1981]
and [God] has NOT as yet swept them [the Lamanites]
 off from *the face of the land* 04

4 **And** there are **MANY** among us [the Nephites]
 who have **MANY** **revelations**

for they [the Nephites] are NOT ALL **stiffnecked**
 and as **many** as are NOT **stiffnecked**
 and have **faith**

have **communion** with **The Holy Spirit**
Which [Who] Maketh Manifest
unto the Children of Men
according to Their Faith

Covenant Obedience Brings Prosperity

5 **And now behold** **two hundred years had passed away**
and [they] **the people of Nephi** ff
 had waxed strong in *the land*
 they [the people of Nephi]
 observed to **keep** the **law of Moses** [Law] L
and [they] **the people of Nephi**
 observed to **keep**] the **sabbath day** _____ **holy**
 unto **the Lord**
and they [the people of Nephi] **profaned** NOT
 NEITHER did
 they [the people of Nephi] **blaspheme**
 and the **laws** of *the land*
 were **exceedingly strict** ["ly" added in 1920] 05

[Par. ee – Working out]

[Heb. 04 – compound preposition]

[Heb. 02 – Metaphor]

[Par. ff – Like beginnings]

[Heb. 03 – Repetition of a possessive]

[Heb. 05 – Use of “exceedingly”]

and in fine workmanship of wood 07
 [and] in buildings
and in machinery [structures with a specific function]
and also
 in iron
and [in] copper
and [in] brass
and [in] steel
 [and] in making ALL manner of tools
 of EVERY kind
 to till the ground

yea and [in making] weapons of war—
 the sharp pointed arrow
and the quiver
and the dart
and the javelin

and [in making] ALL preparations for war

9 And thus [we the Nephites] being **prepared** to meet the Lamanites
 they [the Lamanites] did **NOT prosper** against us

But [And] the word of the Lord was verified 08
 which He [the Lord] spake unto our fathers
 saying [Quotation] [Prophetic Prophecy] PP

that inasmuch as ye will **keep My commandments** [covenant language]
 ye shall **prosper** in the land

[Note: This specific foundational covenant promise is repeated almost verbatim many times in the Book of Mormon and also alluded to many times. (See the commentary on 1 Nephi 2:20)]

Those Who Obey the Covenant Commandments Have Claim to the Protection of Heaven

10 And it came to pass
 that the prophets of the Lord did threaten the people of Nephi
 according to the word of God

[Heb. 07 – Extended repetition of a preposition]
 [Heb. 08 – Use of “but” meaning “and”]

that **if** they did NOT **keep** the commandments
but **[and** they] should **fall into transgression**
[then] they should **be** destroyed
from **off** *the face of the land*

11 **Wherefore**

the prophets
and **the priests**
and **the teachers** **did** labor _____ **diligently** LL
[with **the people**] mm
exhorting with ALL long suffering
the people to **diligence**

teaching **[the people]** the **law of Moses**
and the intent for which
it [the **law of Moses**] was given

persuading them **[the people]**
to look forward unto **The Messiah**
and [to] believe in **Him To Come**
as though **He** already was [come] 09

And **after this manner**
did they [**the prophets priests and teachers**]
teach them **[the people]**

12 **And it came to pass**

that by so doing
they [**the prophets priests and teachers**]
kept them **[the people]**
from **being** **destroyed**
upon the face of the land

for they [**the prophets priests and teachers**]
did **prick** their **[the people's]** hearts
with **the word**

continually stirring them **[the people]** **up** 10
unto _____ **repentance**

[Par. LL – Working out]

[Heb. 10 – Compound prepositon “up unto”]

[Par. mm – Circular repetition “the people”]

[Heb. 09 – Prophetic perfect tense]

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13 And **it came to pass**

that **two hundred and thirty and eight years had passed away**

11

after the manner of **wars**

and [of] **contentions**

and [of] **dissensions for the space of MUCH of the time**

14 And

I **Jarom**

[a] do NOT **write more**

[for similar phrases, see v. 1-2]

nn

for the **plates are small** **[f]**

But **behold** _____ my brethren

ye can go to the other [large] plates of **Nephi**

for **behold** upon them [the other large plates of Nephi]

the records of our wars are **engraven**

["s" added in 1920]

according to the **writings** of **the kings**

>or those **writings**

oo

and records of our wars] which they [**the kings**]

caused to be written **[g]**

12

15 And

I [**Jarom**]

deliver these [**small**] **plates** **[f]**

into the hands of **my son Omni**

that they [these **small plates**] **[e]** may **be kept**

[b] according to the **commandments**

[c] of **my fathers**

[Note: In Paul's declaration that there is but "one Lord, one faith, [and] one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5), he alludes to the fact that there is and can be but one "**plan of salvation**." Yet the Bible can be searched in vain for a direct reference to a divine plan which the children of God might follow in their quest to . . . find a place in the heavenly abode. By contrast, the Book of Mormon is replete with such phrases as "the merciful plan of the great Creator" (2 Nephi 9:6), "the plan of our God, " (2 Nephi 9:13), "the great and eternal plan of deliverance" (2 Nephi 11:5), "the plan of salvation" (**Jarom 1:2**), "the plan of redemption" (Alma 22:13), the "plan of happiness" (Alma 42:8, and "the plan of mercy" (Alma 42:15). (Joseph F. McConkie and Robert L. Millet, Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon, vol. 2, p. 106.)]

[Heb. 11 – Use of "and" between unit numbers of tens and hundreds]

[Heb. 12 – Use of "caused to be"]

[Par. nn – Bookends]

[Par. oo – Clarification]

Chiastic Structure of Jarom

By Gregory G. Wright

Gregory Wright comments that rather than a consistently full chiastic structure, the book of Jarom is better expressed first, in a set of bookends that complete opposite legs of a chiasm, second with the material in-between composed of a number of chiastic structures. and third, with a centralized covenant message.

- [A] I, Jarom, write a few words **according to the commandment of my father** (1:1)
 [B] that our genealogy may be **kept** (1:1)
 [C] **these plates are small** (1:1)
 [D] **I write a little . . . and this sufficeth me** (1:2)
- [A] And as many as are not stiffnecked and have **faith** (1:4)
 [B] have communion with the **Holy Spirit** (1:4)
 [B] which [**Holy Spirit**] maketh manifest (1:4)
 [A] unto the children of men according to their **faith** (1:4)
- [A] But **our kings and our leaders** were mighty **men in the faith of the Lord** (1:7)
 [A] And they **taught** the people **the ways of the Lord** (1:7)
 [B] wherefore, **we withstood the Lamanites** and swept them away out of our lands (1:7)
 [C] and [**we**] **began to fortify our cities**, or whatsoever place of our inheritance (1:7)
 [C] and [**we . . . ma[de]**] **weapons of war . . . and all preparations of war** (1:9)
 [B] **and thus** being prepared to meet **the Lamanites** . . . they **did not prosper** against us [1:8,9)
 [A] the **word of the Lord** was **verified**, which **He spake** unto **our fathers** (1:9)
- Inasmuch as ye will keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land** (1:9)
- [A] the **prophets** did **threaten**, according to **the word of God** (1:10)
 [B] **prophets, priests, and teachers** did **labor diligently**, exhorting all the people (1:11)
 [C] **teaching** the law of Moses, and the intent (1:11)
 [D] persuading them to **look forward** (1:11)
 [E] unto the **Messiah** (1:11)
 [E] and believe in Him [**the Messiah**] (1:11)
 [D] to come **as though He already was** (1:11)
 [C] did they **teach** them (1:11)
 [B] they [the **prophets, priests and teachers**] kept them from being destroyed [by **laboring diligently**] (1:12)
 [A] they [the **prophets, priests and teachers**] did **prick their hearts** with **the word** (1:12)
- [D] And I Jarom **do not write more** (1:14)
 [C] for **the plates are small** (1:14)
 [B] I deliver the plates into the hands of my son Omni, **that they may be kept** (1:15)
 [A] **according to the commandments of my fathers**" (1:15)

[Jarom 1]