

Discussion 1

Intro to the Plates of Brass

(According to the Book of Mormon)

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- 1 Nephi 1:157-171 RAV, 5:9-19 OPV - Lehi and Nephi search the Plates of Brass
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- 1 Nephi 7 RAV, 1 Nephi 22 OPV - Are these things Temporal? Spiritual?
- Jacob 3:9-25 RAV, 4:8-14 OPV - Jacob condemns the jews for looking beyond the mark
- Mosiah 1:1-13 RAV, 1:1-8 OPV - King Benjamin explains the value of the Plates of Brass
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- Helaman 5:93-101 RAV, 15:5-11 OPV - Traditions of Fathers vs the Holy Scriptures

Objectives:

- Identify the contents and purposes of the Plates of Brass
- Recognize that role the Plates of Brass play in the Last Days
- Decide how best to approach the contents of the Plates of Brass

Reading:

Lehi and Nephi search the Plates of Brass	
1 Nephi	Discussion Ideas
<p>1:157 [5:9]. ¶ And it came to pass that they did rejoice exceedingly and did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto the Lord; and they gave thanks unto the God of Israel.</p> <p>1:158 [5:10]. And after they had given thanks unto the God of Israel, my father Lehi took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning.</p>	<p>What is the difference between "searching" and "reading"? Why did Nephi say that Lehi "searched" the contents of the Plates of Brass?</p>
<p>1:159 [5:11a]. And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses, which gave an account of the creation of the world,</p> <p>1:160 [5:11b]. And also of Adam and Eve, who was our first parents,</p> <p>1:161 [5:12]. And also a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah,</p> <p>1:162 [5:13a]. And also the prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah,</p>	<p>Contents are similar to Bible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books of Moses • History of Jews • Writings of Prophets • Genealogy

<p>1:163 [5:13b]. And also many prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah.</p> <p>1:164 [5:14a]. ¶ And it came to pass that my father Lehi also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers;</p>	
<p>1:165 [5:14b]. Wherefore, he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph, yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household from perishing with famine.</p> <p>1:166 [5:15]. And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt by that same God who had preserved them.</p> <p>1:167 [5:16a]. And thus my father Lehi did discover the genealogy of his fathers.</p> <p>1:168 [5:16b]. And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph; wherefore, he and his fathers had kept the records.</p>	<p>These records are written by descendents of “Joseph”.</p> <p>Are they intended to only be “for” the descendents of Joseph?</p>
<p>1:169a [5:17]. ¶ And now, when my father saw all these things, he was filled with the Spirit and began to prophesy concerning his seed—</p> <p>1:169b [5:18]. That these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed.</p> <p>1:170 [5:19a]. Wherefore, he said that these plates of brass should never perish, neither should they be dimmed any more by time.</p> <p>1:171 [5:19b]. And he prophesied many things concerning his seed.</p>	<p>Who is “his” in reference to? Lehi, or Joseph? Consider Alma 17:33 [37:4].</p> <p>If Lehi, then how do they “go forth unto all nations....” how many nations are the seed of Lehi?</p> <p>If they are for Joseph’s seed, is that us, and how / when would you expect them to go forth?</p>

Nephi compares the Bible to the Plates of Brass

1 Nephi	Discussion Ideas
<p>3:155 [13:19]. ¶ And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.</p> <p>3:156 [13:20a]. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land.</p> <p>3:157 [13:20b]. And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.</p> <p>3:158 [13:21]. And the angel said unto me: Knowest thou the meaning of the book?</p> <p>3:159 [13:22]. And I said unto him: I know not.</p>	<p>This book Nephi is being shown is obviously the bible.</p>

<p>3:160 [13:23a]. And he said: Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew; and I, Nephi, beheld it.</p> <p>3:161 [13:23b]. And he said unto me: The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel;</p> <p>3:162 [13:23c]. And it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets;</p> <p>3:163a [13:23d]. And it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many;</p> <p>3:163b [13:23e]. Nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel;</p> <p>3:164 [13:23f]. Wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.</p>	<p>Is this saying the plates of brass have more than the Bible? Or is it saying the Bible has more?</p> <p>If the plates of brass have more, and it contains things that were had among the Jews at the time of Lehi, where are those other things today? If we wanted them, are they available to us to read (like the apocrypha?) Or is there even more than that?</p>
<p>3:165a [13:24a]. ¶ And the angel of the Lord said unto me: Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew;</p> <p>3:165b [13:24b]. And when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew, it contained the plainness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.</p> <p>3:166 [13:25]. Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God.</p> <p>3:167 [13:26a]. And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches;</p> <p>3:168 [13:26b]. For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious;</p> <p>3:169 [13:26c]. And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away;</p> <p>3:170 [13:27]. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.</p> <p>3:171 [13:28]. Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God;</p> <p>3:172 [13:29a]. And after these plain and precious things were taken away, it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles;</p>	<p>Some plain and precious things might have been entire books, but what do you suppose happened when plain and precious things were removed from the bible in books that remained? What would that look like?</p> <p>Should we expect the plates of brass to contain details (even entire passages) that contain precious truths?</p> <p>What's the easiest way to identify the parts that were removed? Are you prepared to take the time to read them side by side, and compare them yourself?</p>

3:173 [13:29b]. And after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen, with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity,

3:174 [13:29c]. Thou seest because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God,

3:175 [13:29d]. Because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceeding great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

Are these things Temporal? Spiritual?

1 Nephi	Discussion Ideas
<p>7:1 [22:1a]. And now, it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had read these things which were engraven upon the plates of brass, my brethren came unto me and said unto me: What meaneth these things which ye have read?</p> <p>7:2 [22:1b]. Behold, are they to be understood according to the things which are spiritual, which shall come to pass according to the spirit and not the flesh?</p> <p>7:3 [22:2a]. And I, Nephi, said unto them: Behold, they were made manifest unto the prophet by the voice of the Spirit;</p> <p>7:4 [22:2b]. For by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets, which shall come upon the children of men according to the flesh.</p> <p>7:5 [22:3a]. Wherefore, the things of which I have read are things pertaining to things both temporal and spiritual.</p>	<p>Lamen and lemuel ask an interesting question: what do you think they meant by “spiritual” vs “flesh”?</p> <p>Their question doesn’t make much sense if you use the common definition of these terms in today’s world. (not to mention that what we have is already a translation from their language.</p> <p>In what way can prophecies be according to the spirit? Or according to the flesh?</p>
<p>7:6 [22:3b]. For it appears that the house of Israel, sooner or later, will be scattered upon all the face of the earth and also among all nations.</p> <p>7:7 [22:4a]. And behold, there are many who are already lost from the knowledge of those who are at Jerusalem.</p> <p>7:8 [22:4b]. Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away;</p> <p>7:9 [22:4c]. And they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea;</p> <p>7:10 [22:4d]. And whither they are, none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away.</p> <p>7:11 [22:5a]. And since they have been led away, these things have been prophesied concerning them, and also concerning all those</p>	

<p>who shall hereafter be scattered and be confounded because of the Holy One of Israel; for against him will they harden their hearts;</p> <p>7:12 [22:5b]. Wherefore, they shall be scattered among all nations and shall be hated of all men.</p>	
<p>7:13a [22:6a]. Nevertheless, after they have been nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles and set them up for a standard,</p> <p>7:13b [22:6b]. And their children have been carried in their arms, and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders, behold, these things of which are spoken are temporal;</p> <p>7:13c [22:6c]. For thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers;</p> <p>7:14 [22:6d]. And it meaneth us in the days to come and also all our brethren who are of the house of Israel.</p> <p>7:15 [22:7a]. And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land;</p> <p>7:16 [22:7b]. And by them shall our seed be scattered.</p> <p>7:17 [22:8a]. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed;</p> <p>7:18 [22:8b]. Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders.</p>	
<p>7:19 [22:9a]. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles—</p> <p>7:20 [22:9b]. And not only unto the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel—unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.</p> <p>7:21 [22:10]. And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations.</p> <p>7:22 [22:11]. Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel.</p> <p>7:23 [22:12a]. Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance;</p>	<p>What is “it” that he is referring to?</p>

7:24 [22:12b]. And they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness;

7:25 [22:12c]. And they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

7:26 [22:13a]. And the blood of that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, shall turn upon their own heads;

7:27 [22:13b]. For they shall war among themselves, and the sword of their own hands shall fall upon their own heads, and they shall be drunken with their own blood.

7:28 [22:14a]. And every nation which shall war against thee, O house of Israel, shall be turned one against another.

7:29 [22:14b]. And they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord.

7:30 [22:14c]. And all that fight against Zion shall be destroyed.

7:31 [22:14d]. And the great whore, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord, yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust; and great shall be the fall of it.

7:32 [22:15a]. For behold, saith the prophet, The time cometh speedily that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men;

7:33 [22:15b0]. For the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned.

7:34 [22:16a]. For the time soon cometh that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men;

7:35 [22:16b]. For he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous.

7:36 [22:17]. Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it be so that the fullness of his wrath must come and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire.

7:37 [22:18a]. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.

7:38 [22:18b]. Behold, my brethren, I say unto you that these things must shortly come; yea, even blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke must come;

7:39 [22:18c]. And it must needs be upon the face of this earth.

7:40 [22:18d]. And it cometh unto men according to the flesh if it so be that they will harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel;

<p>7:41 [22:19a]. For behold, the righteous shall not perish;</p> <p>7:42 [22:19b]. For the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.</p>	
<p>7:43 [22:20a]. And the Lord will surely prepare a way for his people, unto the fulfilling of the words of Moses, which he spake, saying:</p> <p>7:44 [22:20b]. A prophet shall the Lord, your God, raise up unto you, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.</p> <p>7:45 [22:20c]. And it shall come to pass that all those who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.</p> <p>7:46 [22:21a]. And now, I, Nephi, declare unto you that this prophet of whom Moses spake was the Holy One of Israel;</p> <p>7:47 [22:21b]. Wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness;</p> <p>7:48 [22:22a]. And the righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded;</p>	
<p>7:49 [22:22b]. But it is the kingdom of the devil which shall be built up among the children of men, which kingdom is established among them which are in the flesh.</p> <p>7:50a [22:23a]. For the time speedily shall come that all churches which are built up to get gain,</p> <p>7:50b [22:23b]. And all those who are built up to get power over the flesh,</p> <p>7:50c [22:23c]. And those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world,</p> <p>7:50d [22:23d]. And those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity,</p> <p>7:51 [22:23e]. Yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake;</p> <p>7:52 [22:23f]. They are those who must be brought low in the dust;</p> <p>7:53 [22:23g]. They are those who must be consumed as stubble;</p> <p>7:54 [22:23h]. And this is according to the words of the prophet.</p>	
<p>7:55 [22:24]. And the time cometh speedily, that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall; and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory.</p>	<p>All of this seems to be Nephi explaining how these things will happen in the “flesh”.</p> <p>In what ways could these things also</p>

<p>7:56 [22:25a]. And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth;</p> <p>7:57 [22:25b]. And he numbereth his sheep, and they know him;</p> <p>7:58 [22:25c]. And there shall be one fold and one shepherd;</p> <p>7:59 [22:25d]. And he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture.</p> <p>7:60 [22:26a]. And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power;</p> <p>7:61 [22:26b]. Wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years;</p> <p>7:62 [22:26c]. For he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness; and the Holy One of Israel reigneth.</p> <p>7:63 [22:27]. And now, behold, I, Nephi, say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh.</p> <p>7:64 [22:28]. But behold, all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people shall dwell safely in the Holy One of Israel if it so be that they will repent.</p>	<p>happen in the “spirit”?</p>
<p>7:65 [22:29]. ¶ And now, I, Nephi, make an end; for I durst not speak further as yet concerning these things.</p> <p>7:66 [22:30a]. Wherefore, my brethren, I would that ye should consider that the things which have been written upon the plates of brass are true;</p> <p>7:67 [22:30b]. And they testify that a man must be obedient to the commandments of God.</p> <p>7:68 [22:31a]. Wherefore, ye need not suppose that I and my father are the only ones that have testified and also taught them.</p> <p>7:69 [22:31b]. Wherefore, if ye shall be obedient to the commandments and endure to the end, ye shall be saved at the last day.</p> <p>7:70 [22:31c]. And thus it is. Amen.</p>	<p>Why would Nephi hesitate to say more? Do you think he was choosing not to tell Laman and Lemuel more? Or the readers of his book in the later days?</p> <p>If he is speaking to us (not Lamen and Lemuel) why would he be testifying the truthfulness of the contents of the Plates of Brass, rather than just testifying of the things he’s written?</p>

Jacob condemns the jews for looking beyond the mark

Jacob	Discussion Ideas
<p>3:9 [4:8a]. ¶ Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord!</p> <p>3:10 [4:8b]. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways!</p>	<p>How does a person explore the depths of the mysteries of God?</p>

<p>3:11 [4:8c]. And no man knoweth of his ways, save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God.</p> <p>3:12 [4:9a]. For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth, which earth was created by the power of his word.</p>	<p>Should we be seeking revelation from God about his ways?</p>
<p>3:13 [4:9b]. Wherefore, if God, being able to speak and the world was, and to speak and man was created, oh, then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure?</p> <p>3:14 [4:10a]. Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord but to take counsel from his hand.</p> <p>3:15 [4:10b]. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy over all his works;</p> <p>3:16 [4:11a]. Wherefore, beloved brethren, be reconciled unto him through the atonement of Christ, his Only Begotten Son,</p> <p>3:17 [4:11b]. That ye may obtain a resurrection, according to the power of the resurrection which is in Christ, and be presented as the firstfruits of Christ unto God, having faith, and obtained a good hope of glory in him before he manifesteth himself in the flesh.</p>	
<p>3:18a [4:12a]. ¶ And now, beloved, marvel not that I tell you these things.</p> <p>3:18b [4:12b]. For why not speak of the atonement of Christ, and attain to a perfect knowledge of him, as to attain to the knowledge of a resurrection and the world to come?</p> <p>3:19 [4:13a]. Behold, my brethren, he that prophesieth, let him prophesy to the understanding of men; for the Spirit speaketh the truth and lieth not.</p> <p>3:20 [4:13b]. Wherefore, it speaketh of things as they really are and of things as they really will be; wherefore, these things are manifested unto us plainly for the salvation of our souls.</p> <p>3:21 [4:13c]. But behold, we are not witnesses alone in these things; for God also spake them unto prophets of old.</p>	
<p>3:22 [4:14a]. ¶ But behold, the Jews were a stiffnecked people; and they despised the words of plainness, and killed the prophets, and sought for things that they could not understand.</p> <p>3:23 [4:14b]. Wherefore, because of their blindness, which blindness came by looking beyond the mark, they must needs fall;</p> <p>3:24 [4:14c]. For God hath taken away his plainness from them and delivered unto them many things which they cannot understand because they desired it.</p>	<p>This scripture is often viewed as a recommendation to NOT seek to understand the mysteries of God.</p> <p>Are we supposed to ponder upon the mysteries of God, or not, and if so, what is this warning all about, and how do we avoid it?</p>

3:25 [4:14d]. And because they desired it, God hath done it, that they may stumble.	
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King Benjamin explains the value of the Plates of Brass

Mosiah	Discussion Ideas
<p>1:1 [1:1a]. And now, there was no more contention in all the land of Zarahemla among all the people who belonged to King Benjamin, so that King Benjamin had continual peace all the remainder of his days.</p> <p>1:2 [1:2a]. And it came to pass that he had three sons; and he called their names Mosiah, and Helorum, and Helaman.</p> <p>1:3 [1:2b]. And he caused that they should be taught in all the language of his fathers, that thereby they might become men of understanding and that they might know concerning the prophecies which had been spoken by the mouths of their fathers, which were delivered them by the hand of the Lord.</p>	
<p>1:4 [1:3]. And he also taught them concerning the records which were engraven on the plates of brass, saying: My sons, I would that ye should remember that were it not for these plates, which contain these records and these commandments, we must have suffered in ignorance, even at this present time, not knowing the mysteries of God;</p> <p>1:5 [1:4a]. For it were not possible that our father Lehi could have remembered all these things, to have taught them to his children, except it were for the help of these plates;</p> <p>1:6 [1:4b]. For he, having been taught in the language of the Egyptians, therefore, he could read these engravings and teach them to his children, that thereby they could teach them to their children, and so fulfilling the commandments of God, even down to this present time.</p>	
<p>1:7 [1:5a]. I say unto you, my sons: Were it not for these things, which have been kept and preserved by the hand of God, that we might read and understand of his mysteries and have his commandments always before our eyes, that even our fathers would have dwindled in unbelief;</p> <p>1:8 [1:5b]. And we should have been like unto our brethren, the Lamanites, who know nothing concerning these things, or even do not believe them when they are taught them, because of the traditions of their fathers which are not correct.</p> <p>1:9 [1:6a]. O my sons, I would that ye should remember that these sayings are true, and also that these records are true,</p>	<p>Again, it says the plates of brass contain “his mysteries”. Why is that the common theme?</p> <p>Again, a prophet testifying that the contents of the plates of brass are true. If every word had to be engraved in order for us to have them, why does the Book of Mormon repeatedly testify the truthfulness of the plates of brass?</p>

<p>1:10 [1:6b]. And behold, also the plates of Nephi, which contain the records and the sayings of our fathers from the time they left Jerusalem until now; and they are true, and we can know of their surety because we have them before our eyes.</p>	
<p>1:11 [1:7a]. And now, my sons, I would that ye should remember to search them diligently, that ye may profit thereby;</p>	<p>Why do they keep using the word “search”?</p>
<p>1:12 [1:7b]. And I would that ye should keep the commandments of God, that ye may prosper in the land according to the promises which the Lord made unto our fathers.</p>	<p>If Mormon was happy to leave out the other things that Benjamin taught his sons, why did he include the part where he tells them to “search” the plates of brass diligently?</p>
<p>1:13 [1:8]. And many more things did King Benjamin teach his sons, which are not written in this book.</p>	

Ammon teaches Lamoni from the Plates of Brass

Alma	Discussion Ideas
<p>12:101 [18:24]. And Ammon began to speak unto him with boldness and said unto him: Believest thou that there is a God?</p>	
<p>12:102 [18:25]. And he answered and said unto him: I do not know what that meaneth.</p>	<p>This section is included because the things that Ammon explains to Lamoni are nearly all part of the first book of Moses, and Ammon’s version of Genesis was ... the plates of brass.</p>
<p>12:103 [18:26]. And then Ammon said: Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit?</p>	<p>Consider as you read this that the things in this course were enough to convince Lamoni of the incorrect traditions of his fathers, AND to convince him to give up everything he had in order to come to know God. I’ve highlighted some things that this account lists out that we will also be covering.</p>
<p>12:104[18:27]. And he said: Yea.</p>	
<p>12:105 [18:28a]. And Ammon said: This is God.</p>	
<p>12:106 [18:28b]. And Ammon said unto him again: Believest thou that this Great Spirit, who is God, created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?</p>	
<p>12:107 [18:29]. And he said: Yea, I believe that he created all things which are in the earth; but I do not know the heavens.</p>	
<p>12:108 [18:30]. And Ammon said unto him: The heavens is a place where God dwells, and all his holy angels.</p>	
<p>12:109 [18:31]. And King Lamoni said: Is it above the earth?</p>	
<p>12:110 [18:32]. And Ammon said: Yea, and he looketh down upon all the children of men; and he knows all the thoughts and intents of the heart; for by his hand were they all created from the beginning.</p>	
<p>12:111 [18:33]. And King Lamoni said: I believe all these things which thou hast spoken. Art thou sent from God?</p>	
<p>12:112 [18:34]. Ammon said unto him: I am a man; and man in the beginning was created after the image of God; and I am called by his</p>	

Holy Spirit to teach these things unto this people, that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true;

12:113 [18:35]. And a portion of that Spirit dwelleth in me, which giveth me knowledge and also power, according to my faith and desires which are in God.

12:114 [18:36a]. Now when Ammon had said these words, he began at the creation of the world, and also the creation of Adam, and told him all the things concerning the fall of man;

12:115 [18:36b]. And rehearsed and laid before him the records and the holy scriptures of the people, which had been spoken by the prophets, even down to the time that their father Lehi left Jerusalem;

12:116 [18:37]. And he also rehearsed unto them (for it was unto the king and to his servants) all the journeyings of their fathers in the wilderness, and all their sufferings with hunger and thirst, and their travel, and so forth.

12:117 [18:38a]. And he also rehearsed unto them concerning the rebellions of Laman, and Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael; yea, all their rebellions did he relate unto them;

12:118 [18:38b]. And he expounded unto them all the records and scriptures, from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem down to the present time.

12:119 [18:39a]. But this is not all; for he expounded unto them the plan of redemption, which was prepared from the foundation of the world;

12:120 [18:39b]. And he also made known unto them concerning the coming of Christ; and all the works of the Lord did he make known unto them.

Alma's thoughts on the Plates of Brass

Alma	Discussion Ideas
17:31a [37:1]. ¶ And now, my son Helaman, I command you that ye take the records which have been entrusted with me;	Again the prophecy that eventually the plates of brass will go forth to the world.
17:31b [37:2]. And I also command you that ye keep a record of this people, according as I have done, upon the plates of Nephi, and keep all these things sacred which I have kept, even as I have kept them—for it is for a wise purpose that they are kept;	Again, he emphasizes that they contain “the mysteries.”
17:32 [37:3]. And these plates of brass which contain these engravings, which have the records of the holy scriptures upon them, which have the genealogy of our forefathers, even from the beginning.	Again he testifies that they are true (or “holy writ”).

<p>17:33 [37:4]. And behold, it has been prophesied by our fathers that they should be kept, and handed down from one generation to another, and be kept and preserved by the hand of the Lord until they should go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, that they shall know of the mysteries contained thereon.</p> <p>17:34 [37:5]. And now, behold, if they are kept, they must retain their brightness; yea, and they will retain their brightness, yea, and also shall all the plates which do contain that which is holy writ.</p>	
<p>17:35a [37:6a]. Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me;</p> <p>17:35b [37:6b]. But behold, I say unto you: That by small and simple things are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances doth confound the wise.</p> <p>17:36a [37:7a]. And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes;</p> <p>17:36b [37:7b]. And by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise and bringeth about the salvation of many souls.</p>	
<p>17:37a [37:8a]. And now, it has hitherto been wisdom in God that these things should be preserved;</p> <p>17:37b [37:8b]. For behold, they have enlarged the memory of this people, yea, and convinced many of the error of their ways, and brought them to the knowledge of their God, unto the salvation of their souls.</p> <p>17:38 [37:9a]. Yea, I say unto you: Were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates, Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites of the incorrect tradition of their fathers;</p> <p>17:39 [37:9b]. Yea, these records and their words brought them unto repentance; that is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord, their God, and to rejoice in Jesus Christ, their Redeemer</p> <p>17:40 [37:10]. And who knoweth but what they will be the means of bringing many thousands of them, yea, and also many thousands of our stiff-necked brethren, the Nephites, who are now hardening their hearts in sins and iniquities, to the knowledge of their Redeemer?</p>	<p>Again, we are presented with the idea that these plates contain information that can and will convince people that the traditions they inherited were incorrect. (both Lamanites and Nephites)</p>
<p>17:41 [37:11]. Now these mysteries are not yet fully made known unto me; therefore, I shall forbear.</p> <p>17:42 [37:12]. And it may suffice, if I only say they are preserved for a wise purpose, which purpose is known unto God; for he doth counsel in wisdom over all his works; and his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.</p>	

Traditions of Fathers vs the Holy Scriptures

Helaman	Discussion Ideas
<p>5:93 [15:5]. And I would that ye should behold that the more part of them are in the path of their duty, and they do walk circumspectly before God; and they do observe to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments according to the Law of Moses.</p> <p>5:94 [15:6]. Yea, I say unto you that the more part of them are doing this, and they are striving with unwearied diligence that they may bring the remainder of their brethren to the knowledge of the truth; therefore, there are many who do add to their numbers daily.</p>	
<p>5:95 [15:7a]. And behold, ye do know of yourselves, for ye have witnessed it, that as many of them as are brought to the knowledge of the truth, and to know of the wicked and abominable traditions of their fathers, and are led to believe the holy scriptures—</p> <p>5:96 [15:7b]. Yea, the prophecies of the holy prophets, which are written, which leadeth them to faith on the Lord and unto repentance, which faith and repentance bringeth a change of heart unto them—</p>	<p>Here is this idea again that the teachings on the plates of brass are able to convince people of the incorrect traditions of their fathers.</p> <p>Why is this a theme any time we read about the plates of brass?</p>
<p>5:97 [15:8]. Therefore, as many as have come to this, ye know of yourselves, are firm and steadfast in the faith and in the things wherewith they have been made free.</p> <p>5:98 [15:9a]. And ye know also that they have buried their weapons of war, and they fear to take them up, lest by any means they should sin; yea, ye can see that they fear to sin;</p> <p>5:99 [15:9b]. For behold, they will suffer themselves that they be trodden down and slain by their enemies and will not lift their swords against them, and this because of their faith in Christ.</p> <p>5:100 [15:10]. And now, because of their steadfastness— when they do believe in that thing which they do believe, for because of their firmness when they are once enlightened—behold, the Lord shall bless them and prolong their days, notwithstanding their iniquity;</p>	
<p>5:101 [15:11]. Yea, even if they should dwindle in unbelief, the Lord shall prolong their days until the time shall come which hath been spoken of by our fathers, and also by the prophet Zenos, and many other prophets concerning the restoration of our brethren, the Lamanites, again to the knowledge of the truth.</p>	<p>And he gives a quick shout out to Zenos ... who's book is exclusively on the plates of brass.</p>

Discussion:

Does the Book of Mormon say that the Plates of Brass will be revealed in the last days?

Should we be treating the stories in scripture as Allegory, or history? How are Allegories intended to be understood (or unpacked)?

Why the constant mention of Mysteries in conjunction with the plates of brass?

How can you “safely” Ponder the Depths of the Mysteries of God while avoiding the dangers of looking beyond the mark?

Are the things that we currently consider to be true, based on our various traditions, more reliable than the things we will be reading on the plates of brass? Why the constant mention of incorrect traditions being dispelled by the plates of brass? If the plates of brass disagree with things we “know” to be true, how should we resolve that?