

CHRISTUS

Ezekiel's Two Sticks:

Holy Bible and Book of Mormon

Libretto compiled from scripture by Drs. Deon Nielsen and Kendall O. Price

I. Opertura

(Orchestra Alone)

II. Praeludium

1. Word of the Lord

The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel, saying:
Thou son of man,
Take thee one stick,
And write upon it,
For Judah,
For the children of Israel his companions;
Take another stick,
And write upon it,
For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim,
For all the house of Israel his companions;
Join them one to another into one stick;
They shall become one in thine hand.

(Ezekiel 37: 15-17 Stick of Judah—*Old Testament*)

2. Whither Can I Go?

Whither can I go from Your spirit?
Whither can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to the heavens,
You are there!
If I make my home in the lowest depths,
Behold, You are there!
If I take up the wings of the morning
And dwell on the ocean's farthest shore,
Even there Your hand will lead me.
Your right hand will hold me
Behold, You are there!

(Psalm 139 Stick of Judah—*Old Testament New Union Prayer Book 1975* with permission)

3. I, Nephi

I, Nephi, proceed to give an account
Upon these plates of my ministry.
I speak of the things my father saw.
My father spake concerning the Jews:
That after they should be destroyed,
Even that great city Jerusalem,
And many be carried captive into Babylon,
In the due time of the Lord,
They should return agan,
Yea, even six hundred years from the time
That my father left Jerusalem,
A prophet would the Lord God raise up
Among the Jews—even a Messiah,
Or, in other words, a Savior of the world.

(1 Nephi 10: 1, 3-4 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

4. Believe!

Believe in God;
Believe!
That He is,
And that He created all things,
Both in Heaven and in Earth;
Believe in God;
Believe!
That He has all wisdom,
And all power,
Both in Heaven and in Earth;
Believe in God;
Believe!

(Mosiah 4: 9 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

5. Desire and Belief

Nephi: After I had desired to know the things that my father had seen,
And believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me,
As I sat pondering in mine heart
I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord,
Yea, into an exceeding high mountain,
And the Spirit said unto me:
Angel: Behold, what desirest thou?
N: I desire to behold the things which my father saw.
A: Believest thou what thy father saw?
N: Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father.
When I had spoken these words,
The Spirit cried with a loud voice, saying:
A: Hosanna to the Lord,
The most high God;
For he is God over all the earth,
Yea, even above all.
Blessed art thou, Nephi,
Because thou believest
In the Son of the most High God;
Wherefore, thou shalt behold
The things which thou hast desired.

(1 Nephi 11: 1 - 6 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

6. Look!

Nephi: And he spake unto me
As a man speaketh with another:

Angel: Look!

N: I looked, and beheld the great city of Jerusalem,
And I beheld the city of Nazareth;
And in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, fair and pure.

A: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the
Mother of the Son of God,
After the manner of the flesh.

N: And I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit
For the space of a time
The angel spake unto me, saying:

A: Look!

N: I looked and beheld the virgin again,
Bearing a child in her arms.

A: Behold the Lamb of God,
Yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!

A: Look!

N: I looked and beheld the Lamb of God
Going forth among the children of men;

A: Look!

N: I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that
He was taken by the people;
Yea, the Son of God was judged of the world;
And I saw and bear record.

I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up upon the cross
Slain for the sins of the world.

(1 Nephi 11: 11-24, 32-33 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

A: Look!

N: I beheld a book carried forth
Among the Gentiles in many nations.

A: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew.
And is a record of the Jews,
Which contains the covenants of the Lord,
Which he hath made unto the house of Israel;
When it proceedeth forth from the mouth of a Jew;
It contained the fulness 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.

(1 Nephi 13: 20-24, 29 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

7. A Blessing

I, Lehi, speak unto you, Joseph, my last-born:
Thou art the fruit of my loins;
I am a descendant of Joseph
Who was carried captive into Egypt.
Great were the covenants of the Lord
Which he made unto Joseph.
Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day.
And he obtained a promise of the Lord,
That out of the fruit of his loins,
The Lord God would raise up a
Righteous branch unto the house of Israel;
Not the Messiah,
But a branch which was to be broken off,

Nevertheless, to be remembered
In the covenants of the Lord
That the Messiah should be made manifest
Unto them in the latter days,
In the spirit of power,
Unto the bringing of them
Out of darkness unto light...

(2 Nephi 3: 3-5 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

8. Write!

Wherefore,
The fruit of thy loins shall write;
The fruit of the loins of Judah shall write;
That which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins,
And that which shall be written
By the fruit of the loins of Judah,
Shall grow together,
Establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins,
Bringing them to the knowledge
Of my covenants,
Saith the Lord.

(2 Nephi 3: 12 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*; Ezekiel 37: 17 Stick of Judah—*Old Testament*)

III. Nativitate

1. A Sign

Behold, I give unto you a sign;
When He comes there shall be
Great bright lights in the heav'n,
There shall be one day and a night and a day,
As if it were day and there were no night;
For ye shall know when the sun doth rise;
And ye shall also know when the sun doth go down.
But the hours of night time will never be dark;
And this on the night when the Lord is born.
Behold, then cometh the Son of God
To redeem all of those who believe on His name.
And believers all in the Son of our God,
These are who shall have everlasting life.

(Helaman 14: 2-4, 8 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

2. A New Star

There shall a new star arise.
A light in the heav'n.
Such an one as ye have never seen.
This shall also be a sign to you.
And this is not all.
Wonders, amazements,
Signs shall appear in the heavens.
Ye shall wonder insomuch
That ye shall fall to the earth.

(Helaman 14: 5-7 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

3. Unbelievers

The more part of the people harden hearts.
Satan, great hold on hearts of the people
In all the face of the land.
The people made a great uproar
And vowed to destroy the believers.
Believers praying; believers in prophecy;
Believers with faith
In the tradition of their fathers.
Believers bowing to the earth;
Believers crying mightily to God!
And the voice of the Lord came, saying:

(Helaman 16: 6, 15, 23; 3 Nephi 1: 7, 11-13, 22 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

4. I Come

Behold, I come into the world
That I will fulfill all that I have caused
To be spoken by the mouth
Of my holy prophets.
Behold, I come unto my own,
To fulfill all things which I have made known
Unto you, the children of men
From the foundation of the world.

(3 Nephi 1: 13-14 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

5. Lift Up Your Head

Lift up your head and be of good cheer,
For behold, the time is at hand.
And on this night shall the sign be given.
On the morrow come I into the world.

(3 Nephi 1: 13 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

6. Light!

Light! Light! It was a light as midday!
There was no darkness.
At the going down of the sun there was no darkness.
In all that night there was no darkness
And they knew it was the day
That the Lord should be born.

(3 Nephi 1: 19 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

IV. Crucifixionis et Resurrectionen

1. A Great Storm

There arose a great storm,
Such as never had been known in all the land.
There was also a great and terrible tempest.
And there were exceeding sharp lightnings,
And there was terrible thunder,
Insomuch that it did shake the whole earth,
As if it was about to divide asunder.
Then behold, when the thunders, and the lightnings,
And the storm, and the tempest, and the quaking of the earth did cease
There was darkness upon the face of the land.
Thick darkness, vapor of darkness,

No light; Neither candles;
Neither torches; Neither fire;
Neither the sun, nor the moon, nor the stars.
There was great mourning, howling, weeping, groaning,
Because of the darkness
And the great destruction!

(3 Nephi 8: 5-7, 19-23 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

2. **Wo, Wo!**

Wo unto this people!
For the devil laugheth!
Except they shall repent.

(3 Nephi 9: 2 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

3. **Whoso Repenteth**

Whoso repenteth
And cometh unto me
As a little child,
Him will I receive,
For of such is the Kingdom of God.
For such I have laid down my life,
And have taken it up again;
Therefore, repent,
And come unto me
Ye ends of the earth,
And be saved.

(3 Nephi 9: 22 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

4. **After These Sayings**

And after these sayings
There was silence in the land
For the space of many hours;
They heard a voice
As if it came out of heav'n;
It was not a harsh voice,
Neither was it a loud voice;
Notwithstanding it being a small voice
It did pierce them to the center,
It did pierce them to the very soul,
And they did look steadfastly toward heaven,
From whence the sound came.

(3 Nephi 10: 1; 3 Nephi 11: 3,5 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

5. **Beloved Son**

Behold, my Beloved Son,
In whom I am well-pleased,
In whom I have glorified my name —
Hear ye Him.

(3 Nephi 11: 7 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

6. **I AM**

Behold, I am Jesus Christ,
Whom the prophets testified
Shall come into the world.

Behold, I am the light
And the life of the world;
I have glorified the Father
In taking upon me
The sins of the world.

(3 Nephi 11: 10-11 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

7. **Hosanna!**

Hosanna!
Blessed be the name
Of the most high God!

(3 Nephi 11: 17 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

V. Cauda

1. **Great and Marvelous!**

Great and marvelous are thy works
O Lord, God Almighty!
O that we might be like unto this river
Continually running into the fountain
Of all righteousness;
O that we might be like unto this valley,
Firm and steadfast
And immovable in keeping
The commandments of the Lord.
Great and marvelous are Thy works!
For whoso seeketh shall find.
And the mysteries of God
Shall be unfolded unto him
As well in these times as in times of old
And as well in times of old
As in times to come.
Wherefore the course of the Lord
Is one eternal round.
Great and marvelous!
For He is the same
Yesterday today and forever;
And the way is prepared for all men
From the foundation of the world.
If it so be that they repent
And come unto Him.
Great and marvelous are Thy works,
O Lord!
Thy throne is high in the heavens
And Thy power and goodness and mercy
Are over all the inhabitants of the earth
And because Thou art merciful
Thou wilt not suffer those who come unto Thee
That they should perish.
Great are Thy works,
O God Almighty!

(1 Nephi 1: 14; 1 Nephi 2: 9-10; 1 Nephi 4: 1; 1 Nephi 10: 19 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

2. I, Moroni

Behold I, Moroni,
Do finish the record of my father, Mormon.
And I am the same
who hideth up this record unto the Lord;
This record shall come forth in the latter days
By way of the Gentiles,
To the descendants of this people
And to the convincing of the Jews
That Jesus is the Christ.
For behold, this is written for the intent
that ye may believe
In Jesus Christ, that he is the son of God,
and that he hath gained the victory over the grave;
and he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead,
And the redemption of the world
whereby he that is found guiltless before him
hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom,
to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above,
unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost,
in a state of happiness which hath no end.

(Mormon 5: 13-15; Mormon 7: 5-7, 9; Mormon 8: 1, 14 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)

3. Another Angel

And I saw
Another angel
Fly in the midst of heaven,
Having the everlasting gospel
To preach unto them that dwell on the earth,
And to every nation,
To all kindred,
Every tongue,
And to all people,
Saying with a loud voice,
“Fear God,
And give glory to him.”

(Revelation 14: 6-7 Stick of Judah—*New Testament*)

4. Whoso Repenteth - Reprise

Whoso repenteth
And cometh unto me
As a little child,
Him will I receive,
For of such is the Kingdom of God.
For such I have laid down my life,
And have taken it up again.
Therefore, repent,
And come unto me
Ye ends of the earth,
And be saved.

(3 Nephi 9: 22 Stick of Ephraim/Joseph—*Book of Mormon*)