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1 Nephi Chapter 21

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Chapter 21

{Original 1830 Chapter VI – continued}

(Compare Isaiah 49)

[Added in 1920]

*The Lord continues to speak to the covenant house of Israel scattered abroad.
The Lord's Covenant Servant Was Preordained*

1 And again **HARKEN**

O **ye** **house of Israel**

[A] ALL ye that are broken off

[B] _____ and are ***driven out*** [or are part of the dispersion]
because of the **wickedness**

of the **pastors** [or the leaders]
of **My people**

aa

[A] **yea** **[LISTEN]**

ALL ye that are broken off

[B] _____ that are ***scattered*** abroad

[C] _____ **who** are of **My people** [*P= which*]

O **[ye] house of Israel**

[A] **[LISTEN]**

[B] O **[ye]** _____ ***isles***

[C] _____ unto **me** [*the Lord's servant*]

[A] **and** **HARKEN**

[B] **[O] ye [covenant] people** _____ ***from far*** [*like Lehi's family in the Americas*]

[C] _____ [unto **me**]

[See the note at the end of the chapter about this first part of verse 1]

[A] **[He] the Lord hath called me**

[B] _____ ***from the womb*** [*or foreordained me*] [*see v. 5*]

[B] _____ ***From the bowels of my mother***

[A] _____ **hath**

He [the Lord] _____ **made mention**
of **my** name

bb

cc

2 [A] **And** **He [the Lord] hath made my mouth like** a sharp **sword**

[simile]

dd

[B] _____ In the shadow [*protection*] of **His [the Lord's] hand** [*metaphor*]

[C] _____ **hath**

He [the Lord] _____ hid **me**

[A] **and** **[He the Lord] hath made me** _____ a polished **shaft** [*metaphor*]

[B] _____ in [the protection of] **His [the Lord's] quiver** [*metaphor*]

[C] _____ **hath**

He [the Lord] _____ hid **me**

[That is, the Lord has made me an effective weapon against falsehood, and held me for the appropriate time.]

[Par. aa -- Extended alternating parallelism]

[Par. cc -- Simple chiasmatic or inverted parallelism]

[Par. bb -- Extended alternating parallelism]

[Par. dd -- Extended alternating parallelism with simile & metaphor]

[1 Nephi 21]

3 And **He the Lord** said unto me
Thou art **My** servant O Israel
[My servant] in whom
I **the Lord** will be glorified [because you will yet fulfill your covenant calling]

The Suffering Covenant Servant

4 Then **I** [His servant] said
[A] I have labored _____ in vain ee
[A] I have spent **my strength** for **naught** [nothing]
and in vain

[That is, though I have performed my labors, all God's covenant promises in his Plan of Salvation have not been fulfilled.]

[A] Surely _____ **my judgment**
is with **the Lord** ff
[A] and [surely] _____ **my work**
[is] with **My God**

[That is, I will look to the Lord for his judgement about the work.]

5 And now **saith**
[He] the Lord
That Formed **Me from the Womb**
that I should **be His servant** gg
to bring **Jacob again**
to **Him**
though Israel **be** NOT gathered [yet]
yet
shall
I [His servant] **be glorious** in the **eyes** of **the Lord** 01
and **My God**
shall be my strength

[In essence, Don't worry! Your part in the whole Plan of Salvation was preordained. When the covenant promises are all fulfilled it will be in power and glory.]

The Covenant House of Israel Will Be Restored

6 And **He [the Lord]** said[unto me]

[Par. ee – Simple synonymous parallelism] [Heb. 01 – Metaphor / Idiom]
[Par. ff – Simple synonymous parallelism]
[Par. gg – Circular repetition “be”]

It is a **light thing** [It is not enough, even though it is great]
 [A] **that thou shouldst be My servant** hh
 to **raise up** the tribes of **Jacob**

[A] **and [thou shouldst be My servant]**
 to **restore** the **preserved** of **Israel** [the remnant]

[Note: See the covenant oath account of the “preserved” remnant of Joseph’s coat (Alma 46:23-24).]

[Duality—“the Servant” has the meaning of Christ, but it also means the covenant leaders of the house of Israel—Joseph, Ephraim . . . Nephi, Mormon, Moroni . . . Joseph Smith, etc.]

I [the Lord] will **also give thee** [I will also give you the assignment to be]
 for **A Light to the Gentiles**
that thou mayest be My Salvation Unto the Ends of the Earth

[That is, the work of the redemption of the house of Israel and the light of the gospel shall reach to all men.]

7 [A] **Thus saith The Lord** 02
 [A] **The Redeemer of Israel**
 [A] **His [Israel’s] Holy One**

[B] to **him whom** man [or the wicked man] **despiseth**
 [B] to **him whom** the [wicked] nation **abhorreth**
 [B] to **[the] servant** of **rulers**

[That is, to the prophet servant of a people who are looked down on by the wicked nations of the world]

[A] **Kings shall see [your works]** [or rulers of nations] ii
 [B] **and [shall] arise** [out of respect for Israel]
 [A] **Princes shall see your works] also**
 [B] **[and] shall worship** [or bow down] [duality-covenant]
because of The Lord That Is Faithful jj

8 **Thus saith The Lord**
 [A] **In an acceptable time** [especially in the latter-days] kk
 [B] **have I [the Lord] heard thee**
 O **isles of the sea**
 [or distant continents, especially the Americas]

[Par. hh – Simple synonymous parallelism]

[Heb. 02 – Multiple metaphorical names]

[Par. ii -- Simple synonymous parallelism]

[Par. jj -- Circular repetition “the Lord”]

[Par. kk -- Simple synonymous parallelism]

[1 Nephi 21]

[A] and in a day of salvation
 [B] have I [the Lord] helped thee
 [C] and I [the Lord] will preserve thee LL
 [C] and I [the Lord] will give thee
 My servant for a covenant of the people
 [D] to establish the earth
 [D] to cause to inherit the desolate heritages [that is, to establish Zion]

9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners [that sit in spiritual darkness] mm
 Go forth [out of darkness into the light]

[That thou mayest say] to them that sit in _____ darkness
 * Show yourselves [to the light] [*P= shew]

and They shall feed in the [high] ways nn
 and their pastures shall be in ALL high places

[They will be nourished by the covenant way. They will partake of the covenant ordinances.]

10 They shall NOT hunger oo
 NOR thirst [They shall not hunger or thirst for the word of God] **
 NEITHER
 shall the heat
 NOR the sun smite them [The Lord will now bless rather than punish] 01

For He That Hath Mercy on Them / shall lead them pp
 even by the springs of water / shall He guide them

11 And I [the Lord] will make _____ ALL My mountains a way 03
 and [ALL] My high _____ ways
 shall be exalted

[In other words, the Lord will facilitate this gathering. The terms "mountains" and "exalted" allude to the temple.]

[Par. LL – Duplicate alternating]

[Par. mm -- Simple synonymous parallelism]

[Par. nn -- Simple synonymous parallelism]

[Par. oo -- "NOT" "NOR" "NEITHER"]

[Par.. ** -- Word Pairs (hunger-thirst, heat-sun)]

[Par. pp -- Simple alternating parallelism]

[Heb. 03 – Metaphor "mountains" / temples]

- 12 **And then**
 [in the days _____ of this gathering] O house of Israel
- Behold** these [gathering children of Israel] shall come qq
from far
- and** **Lo** [look, see, **behold**] {AL}
- these from the north _____ [shall come]
 * [**and** these from the east] _____ [shall come] [omission] rr
and [these] from the west _____ [shall come]
and these from the land of Sinim [the south] [shall come]
- 13 **Sing** ss
 O heavens
and **Be joyful**
 O earth
- for** **the feet** of **those who are in the east** [gathered Israel] [P= them which] tt
shall be [**joyfully**] **established** [in Zion] [?]
 [on the earth] [?]
- and** break forth into **singing**
 O mountains [which reach _____ into the heavens] [?]

[Note* The phrase “from the east” is omitted in verse 12, and then supplied in verse 13. Because verse 13 begins with a “distribution” line parallelism (heavens/earth), I have taken the liberty to finish the verse in the same manner.]

for **they** shall be **smitten** NO more
for [**He**] the Lord **hath** comforted **His** people
and [**He** the Lord] will have mercy upon **His** afflicted

[Thus, the Lord will eventually redeem Israel.]

The Lord Will Not Forget Israel--His Covenant Children

- 14 **But behold** Zion [or Israel] **hath** **said** uu
 [A] The Lord **hath** forsaken me [abandoned]
 [A] **and** My Lord **hath** forgotten me [wicked Israel's complaint]
- but**[**behold**] **He** [the Lord] will _____ *show [you] [*P= shew]
 [A] **that** **He** [the Lord] **hath** NOT [forsaken you]
 [A] **or** [forgotten you]

[Par. qq -- Distribution – also working out]

[Par. rr -- Omission ? “these from the east”]

[Par. ss – Alternating parallelism with Distribution “heaven/earth”]

[Par. tt – Alternating parallelism]

[Par. uu – Repeated simple synonymous parallelism]

[1 Nephi 21]

15 [A] For can a woman forget her sucking child [Idiom—mother]
[A] that she should NOT have compassion on the son of her womb?

Yea they may _____ forget [Me] [Zion may break their covenants with the Lord] vv
yet will I [the Lord] NOT forget _____ thee O house of Israel ww

16 Behold I [the Lord] have graven thee
upon the palms of My hands [a covenant sign]
Thy [temple] walls are continually
before Me [the temple = a place of sacrificial covenants]

[That is, the Lord will keep His covenant promises to Israel - and to Joseph. The Lord is continually reminded of His covenant sacrifice to fulfill the work of the Father.]

17 Thy _____ children shall make haste against thy destroyers xx
and they that made thee waste yy
shall go forth of thee

[In other words, Israel will overcome their enemies and Israel's enemies will flee from them.]

18 Lift up thine eyes round about zz
and behold [the future perspective]

[In essence, the Lord will show you Israel, especially the complainers, what will happen in the future.]

and ALL these [shall] gather themselves together aaa
and they [thy descendants]
shall come to thee [Zion will be restored despite the naysayers]

And as I [the Lord] live saith [a covenant simile oath] 04
the Lord

thou [Israel] shalt surely clothe thee with them ALL bbb
as with an ornament

and [thou [Israel] shalt surely] bind _____ them on
even as [with] a bride

[That is, as a bride puts on her finest clothing for the occasion of the marriage covenant, Israel will have her finest descendants covenant with the Lord in the last days.]

[Par. vv – Contrasting parallelism]

[Par. ww – Circular repetition “thee”]

[Par. xx – Contrasting parallelism]

[Par. yy – Circular repetition “shall”]

[Par. zz – Simple synonymous parallelism]

[Par. aaa – Simple synonymous parallelism]

[Heb. 04 – Simile covenant oath]

[Par. bbb – Simple alternating simile parallelism]

Gathered Israel Will Fill the Lands of Their Inheritance

19 For thy waste [places] ccc
 and thy desolate places
 and the land of
thy destruction [symbols of broken covenants]

and they [former enemies] shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants
 that swallowed thee up
 shall be _____ far away

[In other words, the promised land that was once destroyed will now be rebuilt, and will have so many people of Israel gathering to it that there seemingly won't be room. The inhabitants of the promised land will once again live in peace, and will prosper in the land.]

20 [A] The children [or these latter-day converts to the true gospel] ddd
 [B] whom thou shalt have [P= which]
 [B] after thou hast lost
 [A] the other [children] / ^ the first children [^O / 1837]

[C] [Thou Israel] shall again in thine ears eee 05
say

[D] The place is too strait* for me [*P= straight] [too restrictive] {AL}
 [D] Give place to me
 that I [Israel] may dwelt [Give us a place to gather]

21 [C] Then _____ shalt
thou [Israel] _____ say in thine heart

[E] Who hath begotten me these [or Where in the world did all these Israelites come from!] fff
 [F] seeing
 [that] I [Israel] have lost my children
 and [that] I [Israel] am desolate
 [G] a captive
 and [but] removing to and fro ? [wandering forward and backward = scattered] 06 07
 {AL}

And [E] Who hath brought up these ? [these children of Israel]
 [F] Behold
 I [Israel] was left alone [I had lost all my covenant children]
 [G] These [these returning latter-day covenant children]
where have they been?

[Par. ccc -- Repetition – emphasizing “places”] [Par. fff – Extended alternating parallelism]

[Par. ddd – Simple chiasitic or inverse parallelism] [Heb. 06 – Use of “and” meaning “but”]

[Par. eee -- Chiasitic or inverse parallelism] [Heb. 07 – Idiom “to and fro”]

[Heb.. 05 – Metaphor “ears”]

God Will Preserve Covenant Israel

- [Question]
- 24 [A] **for** shall the prey [Israel] kkk
 [B] be taken from the **mighty**? [their enemies]
- [A'] **or** [shall] the lawful captives
 [B'] be delivered?

[That is, will the Lord's covenant people - the House of Israel be delivered?]

- [Answer]
- 25 [C] **But** thus **saith**
the Lord
- [A'] **even** the captives of the **mighty**
 [B'] shall be taken away
- [A] **and** the prey of the **terrible** [tyrannical regimes]
 [B] shall be delivered [or set free]
- [A] **for** I [the Lord] will **contend** LLL
 [B] with **him** that **contendeth** with thee [Israel]
- [A] **and** I [the Lord] will **save** **thy children**
 [B] [from him that saveth them NOT] [?]
- 26 [A] **And** I [the Lord] will feed them that **oppress thee** [Israel's enemies] mmm
 [B] with their own flesh
- [A] [and] **They** shall be drunken
 [B] with their own blood
as with sweet wine 09

[In other words, Israel's enemies will turn against each other and not be satisfied until every drop of blood is shed.]

and ALL flesh shall KNOW [the evidence and power will be without dispute]
that I The Lord Am Thy Savior 10
and Thy Redeemer
The Mighty One of Jacob

{Original 1830 Chapter Break—end of Chapter VI}

[Par. kkk – Chiastic or inverse parallelism]

[Heb. 09 – Simile]

[Par. LLL – Alternating parallelism]

[Heb. 10 – Metaphorical names/ Epithets]

[Par. mmm – Alternating parallelism]

[1 Nephi 21]

[Note: What follows below (especially the first part of verse 1) is not contained in the KJV Bible. It is possibly a legitimate part of the Brass Plates that was purposefully deleted by the Jewish scribes attempting to coverup the wickedness of the religious leaders of Israel; or it is possibly an addition made by the Book of Mormon abridgers, writing to the people in modern times, to clarify Isaiah's message. As with many parallelistic writings, if we take the liberty of supplying omitted phrases, the whole passage can be seen in multiple different parallelistic ways.

For example, 1 Nephi 21:1 can be seen as a series of four **extended alternating forms** (which are marked accordingly in orange brackets).

The words "Hearken / Listen / Listen / Hearken" (highlighted in yellow) can also be viewed as a **simple inverse parallelism**.

By taking just the first three elements highlighted in gray ([A] [B] [C]) and coupling them with the matching reverse three elements ([C] [B] [A]) we can see a **chiastic structure**.

1 [A] **And again** [B] **Hearken**
 [C] O ye house of Israel
 [D] ALL ye that are broken off
 [E] and are **driven out** [or are part of the dispersion]
 [F] because of the **wickedness** of the pastors [leaders]
 of **My people** [duality – my]

[C] ALL ye that are broken off
 [D] that are **scattered** abroad
 [E] [because of **wickedness**]
 [F] who are of **My people** [duality – my]

[B] O [ye] house of Israel

[A'] **[Listen]**

[A'] **Listen**
 [B] O [ye house of Israel]
 [D] [on the] **isles**
 [F] unto **me** [the Lord's servant]

[A] **and** **Hearken**
 [B] [O] ye people
 [D] **from far**
 [F] [unto **me**] [the Lord's servant]

(Adapted from the ideas of H Clay Gorton, *The Legacy of the Brass Plates of Laban*, p. 60-61)

[Note: According to John Tvedtnes, the ideas contained in the first verse of Isaiah 49 (1 Nephi 21:1) are also found in Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-4; and Ezekiel 34:5-8. (John A. Tvedtnes, "The Isaiah Variants in the Book of Mormon," FARMS, p. 73)]