

Nephi as Chief Judge

Years 53–62 of the Reign of the Judges

REFERENCES	YEAR	
Helaman 3:37	53	Nephi becomes chief judge
4:1–2	54	Dissensions within the church lead to bloodshed, civil war, and banishment of rebels, who go over to the Lamanites
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4:4	56	Dissenters stir up the Lamanites, who prepare for war
4:5	57	Dissenters and Lamanites attack Nephites
4:5	58	Zarahemla and much Nephite territory fall to the Lamanites and dissenters
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4:9	60	Nephites regain many cities
4:10 4:18–26	61	Nephites regain half of their original lands Weakened by transgression and unbelief, Nephites fail to regain more lands
5:1–4	62	Nephi resigns judgeship to preach the gospel with his brother Lehi, first to the Nephites in the land of Zarahemla and then to the Lamanites in Nephi

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Key Scripture Helaman 3:37–5:1

Explanation Nephi₂, the son of Helaman₃, served as chief judge for ten years, from the fifty-third to the sixty-second years of the reign of the judges (39–30 B.C.). His time was disastrous for the Nephites. Civil war, pride, wickedness, and weakness led to the loss of the city of Zarahemla and many other lands, even half of all the Nephites' possessions (see Helaman 4:5–10). Like Alma the Younger, his great-grandfather, Nephi₂ resigned the judgeship to attempt to improve this situation by preaching the word of God.