

“For a Wise Purpose in Him:” Small Plates of Nephi Conference

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Day 1: Friday, May 29, 2026

Time	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations
8am-9am	<u>Conference check-in</u> Kimball Building Auditorium (KMBL 250)		
9am-9:10am	<u>Welcome:</u> Daniel C. Peterson Kimball Building Auditorium (KMBL 250)		
9:10am-9:50am	<u>Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Lane</u> “Knowing Our Redeemer: Christ as Kinsman-Redeemer in the Small Plates” Kimball Building Auditorium (KMBL 250)		
10am-12pm <u>Session #1</u>	Jerusalem, Wilderness, Departure and Journey to the Promised Land <i>(MARB 206)</i>	Conflict, Conflict Resolution, and Peace in the Small Plates <i>(MARB 207)</i>	Topical Explorations in the Small Plates <i>(MARB 222)</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Parker Joseph Stone</p> “Nephi’s Ark Temple: Cosmic Kingship and the Sacred Voyage”	<p style="text-align: center;">Maclaine Day</p> “The Potential for Peace in a Fallen World: A Framework for Peacemaking through Constructive Conflict Engagement from 1 Nephi through Words of Mormon”	<p style="text-align: center;">Jeff Waldvogel</p> “Righteousness as Covenant Entrance and Communal Order in the Small Plates of Nephi”
	<p style="text-align: center;">Jess Jones</p> “I, Nephi, (1 Nephi 1:1): Reading the Small Plates of Nephi as Identity development”	<p style="text-align: center;">Jaenna Sanchez & Princess Gundaya</p> “A Reservoir of Living Water: Christ-Centered Peacebuilding Patterns in the Small Plates of Nephi”	<p style="text-align: center;">‘Alisi Langi</p> “Throwing Greater Views Upon Jesus Christ and His Gospel Through Named & Unnamed Women in the Small Plates of Nephi”
	<p style="text-align: center;">Neal Rappleye</p> “‘In the Borders Near the Red Sea’: Glimpses of Lehi’s Trail in Contemporary Sources – Part I: From Jerusalem to Shazer”	<p style="text-align: center;">Yna Belches</p> “Peacebuilding Across Dimensions: Nephi’s Narrative as a Model for Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, and Intercultural Peace”	<p style="text-align: center;">Val Larsen</p> “Rejection and Triumph of the Greater Apostacy in the Small Plates”
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)		
1:10pm-1:50pm	<u>Keynote Speaker: Noel Reynolds</u> “Putting it all together” Kimball Building Auditorium (KMBL 250)		

	Brass Plates and Plate-keeping (MARB 206)	Literary Approaches to the Small Plates (MARB 207)	Sociocultural Approaches to the Small Plates (MARB 222)
2:00pm-4:00pm <u>Session #2</u>	<p>Jonathon Riley "Kingship, Imprisonment, and Salvation: The Value of LXX Jeremiah for the Study of the Small Plates"</p> <p>Justin Bates "Remember How Merciful the Lord Hath Been': Assessing the Impact of Early Nephite Record-Keeping Theology"</p> <p>Jeff Lindsay "The Influence of the Brass Plates Version of Genesis (Possible Precursor to the Book of Moses) on the Authors of the Small Plates"</p>	<p>Nathan Arp "Mind the Gap: Nephi Emphasized Christ by First Omitting Him"</p> <p>Ryan Dahle & Neal Rappleye "Nahom and Repentance: A Chiastic Wordplay"</p> <p>Dennis Newton "Text Mining the Words of Nephi"</p>	<p>Edwin Jr Abache "For a Wise Purpose: The Small Plates of Nephi as a Political Theology of Nations"</p> <p>Mark Johnson "Contesting the Birthright: Honor, Challenge, and the Legitimation of Nephi's Rule"</p> <p>Matthew Roper "A Mighty Nation Among the Gentiles': Imperial Spain as a Precursor to the Restoration"</p>
4:10pm-4:50pm	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> John Gee "The Reality of the Small Plates" <i>Kimball Building Auditorium (KMBL 250)</i></p>		
5:00pm-5:40pm	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> Juanita L. Denninghoff & Jerusha N. Wallace "Multicultural Education and Makawalu: How multilingual learners 'liken' the scriptures unto themselves" <i>Kimball Building Auditorium (KMBL 250)</i></p>		
5:40pm	Dismissed for the day		

Day 2: Saturday, May 30, 2026

Time	Presentations		Presentations		Presentations	
8am-8:50am	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> Stephen O. Smoot “The Combat Myth in Jacob’s Christological Reading of Isaiah” <i>Joseph Smith Building Auditorium (JSB 140)</i></p>					
9:00am-9:50am	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> Jeffrey M. Bradshaw “The Small Plates of Nephi and Jacob as Temple Texts” <i>Joseph Smith Building Auditorium (JSB 140)</i></p>					
10:00am-12:00pm <u>Session #1</u>	The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Family in the Small Plates (MARB 206)	Covenant and Intertextuality (MARB 207)	Isaiah in the Small Plates (MARB 222)			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Talia Tanuvasa “The Path to Peace: Insights About Lessons Taught in the Tree of Life and the Path to a Zion Community”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aaron Shumway “‘This commandment they observe to keep’: The Generational Promises of Lamanite Obedience to God’s Laws of Marriage and Sexual Purity”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kevin Christensen “Plain, Precious, Lost, Restored”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scott Stenson “‘I Am Sure of This Thing’: A Small Plates’ Promise with Bigger-Than Expected-Implications”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">David Calabro “To ‘Prosper in the Land’: A Book of Mormon Concept and Its Old World Roots”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">David J. Larsen “‘The Things Which Were Written Concerning David’: The Theology of the Small Plates through the Lens of Their Intertextual Use of the Psalms”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew Bowen “‘I Did Rehearse unto Them the Words of Isaiah’: The Purposes and Functions of Nephi’s and Jacob’s Quotations from Isaiah on the Small Plates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spencer Kraus & Neal Rappleye “‘That Which was Written by the Prophet Isaiah’: A Pre-Exilic Setting for the Isaiah Passages in the Small Plates and Beyond”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kevin Tolley “Temple Texts and Rituals: Exploring Jacob’s Sermon and Isaiah in Second Nephi”</p>			
12:10pm – 1:10pm	Lunch (on your own)					
1:20pm-4:00pm <u>Session #2</u>	Studies in late 1 Nephi and 2 Nephi 1-5 (MARB 206)	Christology and the Doctrine of Christ in the Small Plates (MARB 207)	Jacob through Words of Mormon (Post-Nephi) (MARB 222)			
	<p style="text-align: center;">James E. Smith & Jonathon Riley “Reading Nephi with Jacob and Mormon: A Text Foundation for Interpreting Lamanite Skin Color in the Book of Mormon”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Loren Spendlove “Enduring to the End”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lauren Hastings “A Synchronic Semantic Analysis of the Book of Mormon: Early Modern English Word Senses in 1 and 2 Nephi”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jared Riddick “...this small account of the prophets’: Amaleki, the Testator of the Small Plates”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Allen Hansen & Neal Rappleye “‘And Their Skill Was in the Bow’: Enos, Hunting, and the Lamanite Curse”</p>			

	<p>Craig Nelson “An Exegesis of 2 Nephi 2: Lehi’s Recitation of the Grand Council in Heaven”</p> <p>Michael R. Harris “Murmuring in 1 Nephi: A Plain and Precious Warning for Latter-day Readers”</p> <p>Christopher Blythe “‘One Mighty Among Them’: Interpreting 2 Nephi 3 in Latter-day Saint Sectarianism”</p>	<p>Lara Buckwalter “1 Nephi, And What’s More, 2 Nephi: Macro-Parallelism of Nephi’s Diptych”</p> <p>Jared Marcum “The Slaying of Laban: Nephi as a Redeemer (<i>Gō’ēl</i>) and Type of Christ”</p>	<p>Thora Florence Shannon & Avram R. Shannon “The Loss of the Knowledge of Jesus Christ among the Nephites in the Small Plates”</p>
<p>4:10pm-5:00</p>	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> Brant Gardner “‘My Eyes Water my Pillow by Night’: Illuminating the Unwritten History Behind the Small Plates” <i>Joseph Smith Building Auditorium (JSB 140)</i></p>		
<p>5:10-6:00pm</p>	<p><u>Closing Keynote:</u> Daniel C. Peterson “A Reflection on the Doctrine that Joy is the Purpose of Life” <i>Joseph Smith Building Auditorium (JSB 140)</i></p>		
<p>6:00pm</p>	<p>Thank you and dismissal</p>		