

# “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
9am-9:10am	<p><u>Welcome:</u> Daniel C. Peterson Kimball Building Auditorium 250 (KMBL 250)</p>		
9:10am-9:50am	<p><u>Keynote Speaker:</u> <b>Jennifer Lane</b> “Knowing Our Redeemer: Christ as Kinsman-Redeemer in the Small Plates” (KMBL 250)</p>		
10am-12pm <u>Session #1</u>	<p>Jerusalem, Wilderness, Departure and Journey to the Promised Land (MARB 206)</p>	<p>Conflict, Conflict Resolution, and Peace in the Small Plates (MARB 207)</p>	<p>Small Plates (MARB 222)</p>
	<p><b>Parker Joseph Stone</b> “Nephi’s Ark Temple: Cosmic Kingship and the Sacred Voyage”</p> <p><b>Jess Jones</b> “I, Nephi, (1 Nephi 1:1): Reading the Small Plates of Nephi as Identity development”</p> <p><b>Neal Rappleye</b> “In the Borders Near the Red Sea’: Glimpses of Lehi’s Trail in Contemporary Sources – Part I: From Jerusalem to Shazer”</p>	<p><b>Maclaine Day</b> “The potential for peace in a fallen world: peacemaking principles taught in 1 Nephi through Words of Mormon in the Book of Mormon”</p> <p><b>Jaeanna Sanchez &amp; Princess Gundaya</b> “A Reservoir of Living Water: Christ’s Peacebuilding Patterns in the Small Plates of Nephi”</p> <p><b>Yna Belches</b> “Peacebuilding Across Dimensions: Nephi’s Narrative as a Model for Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, and Intercultural Peace”</p>	<p><b>Jeff Waldvogel</b> “Exploring the Concept of Righteousness in the Small Plates of Nephi”</p> <p><b>‘Alisi Langi</b> “Throwing Greater Views Upon Jesus Christ and His Gospel Through Named &amp; Unnamed Women in the Small Plates of Nephi”</p> <p><b>Val Larsen</b> “Rejection and Triumph of the Greater Apostacy in the Small Plates”</p>
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)		
1:10pm-1:50pm	<p><u>Keynote Speaker:</u> <b>Noel Reynolds</b> “Putting it all together” (KMBL 250)</p>		
2:00pm-4:00pm <u>Session #2</u>	<p>Brass Plates and Plate-keeping (MARB 206)</p>	<p>Literary Approaches to the Small Plates (MARB 207)</p>	<p>Socio-cultural (MARB 222)</p>
	<p><b>Jonathon Riley</b> “Kingship, Imprisonment, and Salvation: The Value of LXX Jeremiah for the Study of the Small Plates”</p>	<p><b>Nathan Arp</b> “Looking [for] the Mark’ (Jacob 4:14): Nephi’s Usage of Gaps to Help His Readers Look for Christ”</p>	<p><b>Edwin Jr Abache</b> “For a Wise Purpose: The Small Plates of Nephi as a Political Theology of Nations”</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Justin Bates</b></p> <p>“Remember How Merciful the Lord Hath Been’: Assessing the Impact of Early Nephite Record-Keeping Theology”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jeff Lindsay</b></p> <p>“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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Ryan Dahle &amp; Neal Rappleye</b></p> <p>“Nahom, Repentance, and Chiastic Wordplay”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dennis Newton</b></p> <p>“Text Mining the Words of Nephi”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark Johnson</b></p> <p>“Honor and Shame: A Socio-cultural Approach to Nephi’s Political Testament”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Matthew Roper</b></p> <p>“A Mighty Nation Among the Gentiles’: Imperial Spain as a Precursor to the Restoration”</p>
<b>4:10pm-4:50pm</b>	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> <b>John Gee</b></p> <p>“The Reality of the Small Plates”</p> <p><i>(KMBL 250)</i></p>		
<b>5:00pm-5:40pm</b>	<p><u>Plenary session:</u> <b>Juanita L. Denninghoff &amp; Jerusha N. Wallace</b></p> <p>“Multicultural Education and Makawalu: How multilingual learners ‘liken’ the scriptures unto themselves”</p> <p><i>(KMBL 250)</i></p>		
<b>5:40pm</b>	Dismissed for the day		

Day 2: Saturday, May 30, 2026

Time	Presentations		Presentations		Presentations	
8am-8:50am	<p><u>Plenary session</u>: <b>Stephen O. Smoot</b>                      “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>: <b>Jeffrey M. Bradshaw</b>                      “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 (MARB 222)			
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Talia Tanuvasa</b>                      “The Path to Peace: Building Confidence in Personal and Communal Peace Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aaron Shumway</b>                      “‘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;"><b>Kevin Christensen</b>                      “Plain, Precious, Lost, Restored”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scott Stenson</b>                      “‘I Am Sure of This Thing’: A Small Plates’ Promise with Bigger-Than Expected-Implications”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>David Calabro</b>                      “To ‘Prosper in the Land’: A Book of Mormon Concept and Its Old World Roots”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>David J. Larsen</b>                      “‘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;"><b>Matthew Bowen</b>                      “‘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;"><b>Spencer Kraus &amp; Neal Rappleye</b>                      “‘That Which was Written by the Prophet Isaiah’: A Pre-Exilic Setting for the Isaiah Passages in the Small Plates”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kevin Tolley</b>                      “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;"><b>James E. Smith &amp; Jonathon Riley</b>                      “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;"><b>Loren Spendlove</b>                      “Enduring to the End”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lauren Hastings</b>                      “Layered Language: Recovering Early Modern English Senses in the Book of Mormon”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jared Riddick</b>                      “...this small account of the prophets’: Amaleki, the Testator of the Small Plates”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Allen Hansen</b>                      “‘And Their Skill Was in the Bow’: Enos, Hunting, and the Lamanite Curse”</p>			

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