Appendix 3: Isaiah Edited

Note: This appendix puts Nephi’s editorial expansion of Isaiah 29 on display by (1) presenting as a base text the KJV rendering of Isaiah 29 and then (2) inserting into that text modern editorial markings in order (3) to show in detail how Nephi has “edited” the text of Isaiah.

Deletions are marked by strikeout (e.g., like this). Insertions are marked with angle brackets (e.g., <like this>). Bracketed ellipses (i.e., [...] ) mark points where Nephi inserts a very large amount of material, enough to make it inconvenient to place the full insertion here.

1 Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.
2 Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

(2 Nephi 26:15–18)

3 And I will <yea, after the Lord God shall have> camp<ed> against thee <them> round about, and will <shall have> lay<id> siege against thee <them> with a mount, and I will raise<d> forts against thee <them>.
4 And thou shalt be brought down low in the dust, even that they are not, yet the words of the righteous shall be written, and the prayers of the faithful shall be heard, and all those who have dwindled in unbelief shall not be forgotten, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, for the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

5 For thus saith the Lord God: They shall write the things which shall be done among them, and they shall be written and sealed up in a book, and those who have dwindled in unbelief shall not have them, for they seek to destroy the things of God. Wherefore, as those who have been destroyed have been destroyed speedily. Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, thus saith the Lord God it shall be at an instant suddenly.

(2 Nephi 27:2–5)

6 And when that day shall come thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.

7 And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.

8 Yea It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.
9 <for behold, all ye that do iniquity> Stay yourselves, and wonder; <for ye shall> cry ye out, and cry: <yea> they are <ye shall be> drunken, but not with wine; they <ye shall> stagger, but not with strong drink.

10 For <behold> the LORd hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, <for behold> and hath <ye have> closed your eyes: <and ye have rejected> the prophets and your rulers, <and> the seers hath he covered <because of your iniquity>.

(2 Nephi 27:6–23)

11 And the vision of all is become unto you as <and it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you> the words of a book <and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered> that is <and behold the book shall be> sealed, [. . .] which men <take these words which are not sealed and> deliver <them> to one <another, that he may show them unto the> that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith <the learned shall say: bring hither the book, and I will read them. and now, because of the glory of the world and to get gain will they say this, and not for the glory of God. and the man shall say>, I cannot <bring the book>; for it is sealed: <then shall the learned say: I cannot read it>.

12 And <wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will deliver again> the book is delivered <and the words thereof> to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, <the man that is not learned shall say> I am not learned. <then shall the Lord God say unto him> [. . .]

(2 Nephi 27:24–35)

13 Wherefore <and again it shall come to pass that> the Lord <shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him>, Forasmuch as this people draw near <unto> me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward<s> me is taught by the precept of men:
14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, <yea> even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men <and learned> shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

15 <and> Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

16 <and they also say> Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: <but behold, I will show unto them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that I know all their works> for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

17 <but behold, saith the Lord of Hosts: I will show unto the children of men that> Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?

18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

19 The meek also shall increase <and> their joy <shall be> in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

20 For <assuredly as the Lord liveth they shall see that> the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorners is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

21 <and they> That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

22 Therefore thus saith the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine <my> hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.

24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.