



BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

<http://bookofmormoncentral.org/>

Type: Manual Lesson

Lesson 46 - Ishmael and His Daughters

Author(s): Deseret Sunday School Union

Manual: *Deseret Sunday School Union Leaflets*

Published: Salt Lake City; George Q. Cannon & Sons Company, 1898

Deseret Sunday School Union Leaflets.

LESSON 46.—ISAMAEL AND HIS DAUGHTERS.

PLACE.—*The wilderness, near the Red Sea.* TIME.—*600 B. C.*

TEXT.—*I. Nephi 7: 1-5, 22.*

1. And now I would that ye might know, that after my father, Lehi, had made an end of prophesying¹ concerning his seed, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto him again, saying, That it was not meet for him, Lehi, that he should take his family into the wilderness alone; but that his sons should ²take daughters to wife, that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise.³

2. And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that I, Nephi, and my brethren, should again return unto the land of Jerusalem, and bring down ⁴Ishmael and his family into the wilderness.

3. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did again, with my brethren, go forth into the wilderness to go up to Jerusalem.

4. And it came to pass that we went up unto the house of Ishmael, and we did gain favor in the sight of Ishmael, insomuch that we did speak unto him the words of the Lord.

5. And it came to pass that the Lord did soften the heart of Ishmael, and also his household, insomuch that they took their journey with us down into the wilderness to the tent of our father. * * * * *

22. And it came to pass that we did come down unto the tent of our father. And after I and my brethren, and all the house of Ishmael, had come down unto the tent of my father, they did give thanks unto the Lord their God; and they did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto Him.⁵

¹I. Nephi 1: 16. II. Nephi, chap. 1, 2, 3. ²I. Nephi 16: 7. ³I. Nephi 2: 20; 18: 22, 23. II. Nephi 1: 5-8. Ether 2: 7. ⁴I. Nephi 7: 6, 19; 16: 34, 35. ⁵I. Nephi 5: 9, 10. Mosiah 2: 3. Alma 34: 13, 14.

LESSON STATEMENT.

Soon after the return of the sons of Lehi with the plates of brass to the tent of their father, on the borders of the Red Sea, they were commanded of the Lord to return once more to Jerusalem. The cause of this command was that

God intended to make of the seed of Lehi a great people; but his sons were all unmarried, and there were no young women in the company who would do for wives for them. So, to fulfill the purposes of the Lord, they were sent to a man of the tribe of Ephraim, named Ishmael who had several marriageable daughters. We do not read that any of the sons of Lehi murmured at this command, but they immediately returned to Jerusalem. There they went to the house of Ishmael and made known their errand. And the Lord gave them favor in the eyes of Ishmael and his family, who left their home and went with the sons of Lehi into the wilderness. On the way they had considerable trouble, for Laman and others were very rebellious and quarrelsome; but, at last, they reached the tent of Lehi in safety, and in thankfulness to the Lord they thereupon offered sacrifice and burnt offerings unto Him. In a very little while four of the daughters of Ishmael married the four sons of Lehi, and the eldest daughter became the wife of Zoram, formerly the servant of Laban.

NOTES.

BURNT OFFERINGS.—During the whole of their wanderings in the wilderness the people of Lehi observed the law of Moses, and the Nephites continued so to do until the time of the sacrifice of the Redeemer on Mount Calvary.

ISHMAEL.—A faithful man of the house of Ephraim, whose home was in Jerusalem. He had a large family of sons and daughters, several of the latter were unmarried. By the command of God he joined Lehi's little company, while the latter was camped in the wilderness, near the Red Sea. Here five of his daughters were married. Ishmael did not live to reach the Land of Promise, but died at a place called Nahom, in the Arabian desert.

LAND OF PROMISE.—In the Book of Mormon the Land of Promise is the American Continent. It was first promised by the Lord to the Jaredites, when he led them from the tower of Babel (Ether 1: 42, 43), and when they became utterly unworthy of so goodly a heritage, it was given to the seed of Joseph, the son of Jacob, in the person of Lehi and his descendants after him. (See II. Nephi 1: 5-7.) The remnants of the seed of Lehi, the Lamanites, still inhabit the land.

ZORAM.—The confidential servant of Laban, who had charge of the treasury where Laban kept the plates of brass. After the death of his master he covenanted with the sons of Lehi to go with them into the wilderness. He was a true and faithful friend to Nephi ever after, and his descendants were numbered among the Nephites.

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That God uses natural means to accomplish His purposes. 2. That, in this case, wives being needed for the sons of Lehi, and that the house of that patriarch might be built up, God sent these sons to a man of the house of Israel, who had a number of mar-

riageable daughters, and furthermore, He softened their hearts so that they fulfilled His wishes, and went into the wilderness with the sons of Lehi. 3. That these daughters afterwards married Zoram, Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi, and thus became the mothers of the Nephite and Lamanite races.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. Why did Lehi's sons have to return once more to Jerusalem? 2. Who commanded them to do so? 3. What need was there for this journey? 4. Where is Jerusalem? 5. What was the name of the man to whom they were sent? 6. How did he receive them? 7. What then happened? 8. Where did they all go? 9. What did they offer to the Lord on their return to the tent of Lehi? 10. To whom were the daughters of Ishmael married? 11. What became of Ishmael? 12. Who were the descendants of the daughters of Ishmael? 13. Who was Zoram? 14. Tell what you have learned about America as a Land of Promise?