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Lesson 57 - Nephi Breaks His Bow

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LESSON 57.—NEPHI BREAKS HIS BOW.

PLACE.—*The Arabian Desert.* DATE.—*About 600 B. C.*

TEXTS.—*I. Nephi 16 : 18-27, 30-32.*

And it came to pass that as I, Nephi, went forth to slay food, behold, I did break my bow, which was made of fine steel: and after I did break my bow, behold, my brethren were angry with me, because of the loss of my bow, for we did obtain no food.

And it came to pass that we did return without food to our families. And being much fatigued, because of their journeying, they did suffer much for the want of food.

And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael, did begin to murmur exceedingly, because of their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness, and also my father began to murmur against the Lord his God; yea, and they were all exceeding sorrowful, even that they did murmur against the Lord.

Now it came to pass that I, Nephi, having been afflicted with my brethren because of the loss of my bow; and their bows having lost their springs, it began to be exceeding difficult, yea, insomuch that we could obtain no food.

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did speak much unto my brethren, because they had hardened their hearts again, even unto complaining against the Lord their God.

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make out of wood a bow, and out of a straight stick, an arrow: wherefore, I did arm myself with a bow and an arrow, with a sling and with stones. And I said unto my father Whither shall I go to obtain food?

And it came to pass that he did inquire of the Lord, for they had humbled themselves because of my word; for I did say many things unto them in the energy of my soul.

And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father; and he was truly chastened because of his murmuring against the Lord, insomuch that he was brought down into the depths of sorrow.

And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord said unto him, Look upon the ball,² and behold the things which are written.

And it came to pass that when my father beheld the things which were written upon the ball, he did fear and tremble exceedingly; and also my brethren, and the sons of Ishmael and our wives.

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And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did go forth up into the top of the mountain, according to the directions which were given upon the ball.

And it came to pass that I did slay wild beasts, insomuch that I did obtain food for our families.

And it came to pass that I did return to our tents, bearing the beasts which I had slain; and now when they beheld that I had obtained food, how great was their joy. And it came to pass that they did humble themselves before the Lord, and did give thanks unto him.

1. II. Samuel 22 : 35. Job 20 : 24. Psalms 18 : 34.
2. I. Nephi 16 : 10; 18 : 12-21. II. Nephi 5 : 12. Alma 37 : 38-47.

LESSON STATEMENT.

While Lehi and his company were traveling in the Arabian desert a slight accident occurred which gave cause for much trouble and discontent. It would appear that Nephi was the chief hunter of the company. Going out one day to slay beasts for food, he broke his bow, which was made of very fine steel. This made his brothers very angry, for they obtained no food, as their bows had lost their spring. Hungry, angry and dejected, they returned to their tents. They were very much fatigued, and, like most men when hungry and tired, they were in a bad humor. Even Lehi so far forgot himself that he also murmured against the Lord. But Nephi, in this trying hour, retained his trust in God. He did not murmur nor complain, but, after having reasoned with the rest of

the family, he went to work, and out of suitable wood he made a bow, and out of a straight stick he cut an arrow. When he had done this he went to his father, who had now humbled himself before the Lord and sought forgiveness, and asked him where he should go to obtain food.

Then the voice of the Lord came to Lehi and he was truly chastened because of his murmuring. The voice said, "Look upon the ball." When he looked he was seized with fear because of the things which were written thereon, and the rest of the family also feared and trembled exceedingly when they read the writing.

The writing on the ball also directed Nephi to go to the top of a certain high mountain, and there slay game for food. This he did, and brought it with joy to the tents of his people, who humbled themselves and gave thanks unto God. Then they resumed their journey.

NOTES.

"LOOK UPON THE BALL."—The Liahona. See Lesson 47.

THE ARABIAN DESERT.—After Lehi found the Liahona, he followed its directions as to the course his company should travel. It led them through the more fertile parts of the land; first near the borders of the Red Sea, and later nearly due east across the Arabian Peninsula. Owing to the lack of faith in the members of the company and the frequent outbreaks of Laman and his sympathizers, the Liahona sometimes ceased to work, and as a result, they were eight years making the journey, which, if they had been faithful and obedient, they might have traveled in a few months.

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That Lehi's company largely depended for their food on the animals killed in the chase.
2. That Nephi appears to have been their chief hunter.
3. That on one occasion he broke his bow, which was made of fine steel.
4. That, as a consequence, the company had no food, which caused them much suffering.
5. That all, except Nephi,

murmured against the Lord because of their afflictions in the wilderness. 6. That on this occasion even Lehi complained. 7. That the condition of the company was very precarious, because Nephi had broken his bow and the bows of his brethren had lost their spring; hence they could obtain no food. 8. That in this dilemma Nephi made a wooden bow and arrow and then went to his father and asked, "Whither shall I go to obtain food?" 9. That Lehi inquired of the Lord, and was commanded to "look upon the ball and behold the things which are written." 10. That the things written upon the ball caused them all to tremble exceedingly. 11. That the writings further directed Nephi where to go to obtain food. 12. That Nephi, in obedience to these directions, went to the top of a neighboring mountain and slew sufficient wild beasts for their food. 13. That when Nephi returned with the beasts the company humbled themselves before the Lord and gave thanks.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. On what did Lehi's company largely depend for food?
2. Who was their chief hunter?
3. What happened to his bow?
4. What was the matter with the bows of his brethren?
5. What was the result of this accident?
6. How did the members of the company act under these circumstances?
7. What did Lehi do?
8. What did Nephi make?
9. What did he ask his father?
10. What did the voice of the Lord say to Lehi?
11. What was the ball?
12. What appeared thereon?
13. What results had this writing?
14. Where did Nephi go?
15. What did he kill?
16. How did his companions feel when he returned?
17. Where did this happen?
18. What moral can you draw from this narrative?