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Lesson 58 - The Arrival at the Land Bountiful

Author(s): Deseret Sunday School Union

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LESSON 58.—THE ARRIVAL AT THE LAND BOUNTIFUL.

PLACE.—*Coast of the Arabian Sea.* TIME.—*About 590 B. C.*

TEXT.—*I. Nephi 17 : 4-11. 16.*

And we did sojourn for the space of many years, yea, even eight years in the wilderness.

And we did come to the land which we called Bountiful, because of its much fruit, and also wild honey; and all these things were prepared of the Lord, that we might not perish. And we beheld the sea, which we called Irreantum, which being interpreted, is, many waters.

And it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the sea-shore; and notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions and much difficulty, yea, even so much that we cannot write them all, we were exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the sea-shore; and we called the place Bountiful, because of its much fruit.

And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been in the land of Bountiful for the space of many days, the voice of the Lord came unto me, saying, Arise, and get thee into the mountain. And it came to pass that I arose and went up into the mountain, and cried unto the Lord.

And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying, Thou shalt construct a ship, after the manner which I shall show thee, that I may carry thy people across these waters.

And I said, Lord, whither shall I go that I may find ore to molten, that I may make tools to construct the ship after the manner which thou hast shown unto me?

And it came to pass that the Lord told me whither I should go to find ore, that I might make tools.

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make a bellows wherewith to blow the fire, of the skins of beasts; and after I had made a bellows, that I might have wherewith to blow the fire, I did smite two stones together, that I might make fire.

* * * * *

And it came to pass that I did make tools of the ore which I did molten out of the rock.

I. Jeremiah 6: 29.

LESSON STATEMENT.

When the people of Lehi reached the sea shore they rejoiced greatly that their tedious wanderings were over; for they had not traveled in a straight line from coast to coast, but had wandered

around and about as the Liahona directed them, which worked according to their faith and faithfulness. Eight years had been spent in taking a journey which, had they been as faithful as they should have been, would only have occupied a few weeks or months.

They pitched their tents by the sea shore, and after many days, the voice of the Lord came unto Nephi, saying, "Arise, and get thee into the mountain." As ever, Nephi obeyed the heavenly word. He went up into the mountain, and there cried unto the Lord. Then the Lord commanded him to build a ship, after a manner and pattern that He would show him, that the colony might be carried across the great waters that lay before them.

Here a difficulty presented itself to the mind of Nephi. He had no tools, and how was it possible to build a ship without them? So he laid the matter before the Lord, who, in answer to his prayers, told him where he could find ore with which he might make the tools he needed.

Nephi at once proceeded to carry out the commands of the Lord. With the skins of beasts he made a bellows to blow the fire, but fire as yet he had none, as the Lord had not permitted fires to be lighted in the wilderness. So he smote two stones together, and a fire was lighted. When his forge was made and his fire was lit, Nephi began to melt

the ore that he had obtained to make the tools which he needed.

NOTES.

BOUNTIFUL, LAND OF (in Arabia).—This must not be confounded with the Bountiful in the northern part of South America, where the Savior appeared and taught the Nephites. It was a portion of Arabia Felix, or Arabia the happy, so called in contradistinction to Arabia the stony, and Arabia the desert, on account of its abundant productiveness and great fertility.

Modern travelers corroborate Nephi's account of the fruitfulness of this region. One writes:

"As we crossed these [open fields] with lofty almond, citron, and orange trees, yielding a delicious fragrance on either hand, exclamations of astonishment and admiration burst from us. Is this Arabia? we said: this the country we had looked on heretofore as a desert? Verdant fields of grain and sugar cane, stretching along for miles, are before us; streams of water flowing in all directions intersect our path, and the happy and contented appearance of the peasants, agreeable helps to fill up the smiling picture. The atmosphere was delightfully clear and pure; and as we trotted joyously along, giving or returning the salutation of peace or welcome, I could almost fancy I had reached that 'Araby the blest,' which I had been accustomed to regard as existing only in the fictions of our poets."

Palgrave, in speaking of the province of Batinah, in the district of Oman, says:

"Those lands lying between the sea and Jebel-Akhdar, are especially rich in produce, except where the rocky coast-line interferes."

He describes the trees of that region as the cocoanut, the date palms, the mango tree, and other fruit-bearing trees, and says, "it is indeed the garden of the Peninsula." Speaking of a district adjoining this, he describes fertile vallcys, full of rich vegetation and considerable produce; vines, whose wine is said to be good, abound in the slopes. "Becs abound in the mountain, and furnish excellent honey of a whitish color."

IRREANTUM.—The name given by Lehi's colony to an arm of the Indian Ocean, on the eastern coast of Arabia. On its shore Nephi and his brethren built the ship that carried them to this continent. It was either the Persian Gulf or the Gulf of Oman, but which of the two does not clearly appear from the records. Nephi informs us that the meaning of the word Irreantum is many waters.

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That Lehi's company traveled eight years in the Arabian wilderness. 2. That they then came to a very productive land on the eastern coast of that peninsula.* 3. That because of the much fruit and wild honey they found

there they called it Bountiful. 4. That after Nephi had been in Bountiful for a considerable time the Lord called him up into a mountain. 5. That the Lord there commanded him to build a ship to carry the colony across the waters which lay before them. 6. That the Lord gave him the pattern of the ship. 7. He also told Nephi where he could find ore with which to make tools to build the ship. 8. Nephi found the ore, and made the tools, he also made a bellows of the skins of beasts. 9. Having no fire, he smote two stones together and thus lit one. 10. That in all these things Nephi was faithful to the word of the Lord.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. How many years was Lehi's party in the Arabian wilderness? 2. Why did the journey take them so long? 3. What name did they give to the land on the borders of the sea? 4. Why did they so call it? 5. What name did they give to the sea? 6. What is the meaning of that name? 7. What name is given to those waters in these days? 8. To what place did the Lord call Nephi? 9. What command did he give him? 10. What did Nephi do for tools? 11. After what pattern did he build the ship? 12. How did he obtain fire? 13. What can you tell of another land Bountiful mentioned in the book of Mormon? 14. How did Nephi act with regard to the commandments which God gave him? 15. How did this obedience affect Nephi's character? 16. Name some of the results that follow men's obedience to the word of God? 17. What results flow from disobedience?

* PENINSULA.—A division of the land, or a region of country nearly surrounded by water.