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Lesson 62 - Lehi's Colony Reach The Promised Land

Author(s): Deseret Sunday School Union

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LESSON 62 —LEHI'S COLONY REACH THE PROMISED LAND.

PLACE.—The Coast of Chili. TEXT.—I. Nephi 18: 23 25.

23. And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days, we did arrive to the ¹promised land; and we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land.

24. And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seeds; yea, we did put all our ²seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore we were blessed in abundance.

25. And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were ³beasts in the forests of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, and the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. And we did find all manner of ⁴ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper.

1. I Nephi 2: 20; II Nephi 1: 5-11; Ether 1: 42, 43; 2: 7-12. 2. I Nephi 8: 1; 16: 11; 18: 6. 3. Enos 1: 21; Alma 18: 9; 20: 6; III Nephi 3: 22; 4: 4; 6: 1; Ether 9: 18, 19 31-34; 10: 19-21. 4. I Nephi 19: 1; II Nephi 5: 14-16; Jacob 2: 12, 13; Hela. 6: 9 11; Ether 9: 17; 10: 7, 12, 23.

LESSON STATEMENT.

When Lehi and his people reached the promised land they landed and pitched their tents, they acknowledged that the Lord had indeed fulfilled His promises unto them. He had guided them through the wilderness, had enabled them to construct a vessel in which He had brought them safely across the mighty breadth of ocean which extended from Arabia to the coast of what is now called South America. The prophet Joseph, in speaking of their place of landing, said it was on the coast of the country now known as Chili—a country which possesses a genial, temperate and healthful climate. They then prepared the ground and put in all the seeds which

they had brought with them from the land of Jerusalem. They found the soil admirably adapted for agriculture. Their seeds grew and yielded good crops, and they were blessed with abundance.

In exploring the wilderness after their arrival they found animals of every kind—the cow, the ox, the ass and the horse, the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals which were for the use of man; they also found ores of all kinds, particularly of gold, silver and copper. The animals they tamed for their use, and Nephi and his people raised large flocks and herds of animals of various kinds.

NOTES.

THE HORSE IN ANCIENT AMERICA.—The statement of Nephi that horses were found on this continent by Lehi's colony when they came here has been used as an argument against the divine origin of the Book of Mormon; for, objectors have asserted that the horse was not known upon this continent until it was brought here by the Spaniards. In this way they have tried to prove the record to be false. But recent researches by scientific men have demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt that America is the original home of the horse, and at certain periods it was occupied with horses of many and various forms. Remains of the true horse as we have it among us at the present time, have been found all over the land. Professor O. C. Marsh, whose patient and intelligent investigations have thrown a flood of light upon this subject, states that the true horse at one time roamed over the whole of North and South America. Nor do we believe that they had become extinct at the time of the coming of Columbus. It is asserted that the Spaniards found none of these animals in Mexico or Peru, but Sir Francis Drake, saw bands of wild horses as he coasted along the shores of California and Oregon, about 1579. Robert Dudley, earl of Northumberland, published in 1630, at Florence, in Italy, a book called "Arcano del Mare." In it he states Drake found that the savages of the country were very courteous and kind, and the land pretty fruitful, and the air temperate. He

saw rabbits in great numbers, but with tails as long as [those of] rats, and [saw] *many wild horses, with the more wonder because the Spaniards never saw horses in America.*

It is customary to account for the immense herds of American horses on the assumption that the Spaniards introduced them. But if Drake and his companions saw these horses as described by Dudley, they could not have been descendants of Spanish horses; for no Spaniards had penetrated that country or been within hundreds of miles of it at the time of its discovery by Drake, in 1579. Viceroy Mendoza, who succeeded Cortez, by appointment of the Emperor Charles, in the civil administration of the Spanish possessions, sent out Vasquez de Coronado to find the seven cities of Cibola, of the wealth of which the Spaniards had heard very wonderful stories. As early as 1540 he penetrated the country as far as the territory now known as New Mexico and probably into Arizona. He and his troop had horses; but even if they had lost or turned loose any, it is most improbable that in thirty-nine years they would have multiplied into large herds observed by Drake on the sea board, which as we know was at least five hundred miles away. Coronado had but few horses, would have had fewer brood mares, and would have been apt to mention any loss of a large number of auxiliaries so essential to his expedition.

DRAKE, SIR FRANCIS.—A celebrated English Admiral of Queen Elizabeth's time. He spent most of his life harrassing the Spaniards and pillaging their colonies; he also took a prominent part in the destruction of the "Invincible Armada." In 1577, he started on a voyage in which he circumnavigated (sailed around) the world. It was during this voyage that he saw the bands of horses mentioned above. The date of Drake's birth is uncertain (between 1539 and 1546.) He died Dec. 7, 1595.

CORONADO, FRANCISCO VASQUEZ DE.—A Spanish explorer who visited the regions now known as Arizona and New Mexico in 1540-2. He died in the neighborhood of the Rio Grande, on his way back to Mexico (1542).

CIBOLA, SEVEN CITIES OF.—Visited by Coronado in 1540. Now generally supposed to be the Moquis villages, in northern Arizona.

CORTEZ, HERNADO.—The conqueror of Mexico. Born in Spain in 1485; died 1547.

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That as soon as they arrived at the promised land, Lehi's colony pitched

their tents and began to till the ground. 2. That the seeds that they sowed brought forth abundantly. 3. That as they journeyed in the wilderness they found beasts of many kinds, including the horse, ox, ass, goat and many wild animals, which animals were undoubtedly the descendants of those brought to this continent by the Jaredites. 4. They also found gold, silver, and copper ore. 5. Thus did the promises of the Lord commence to be fulfilled, and Lehi's people were greatly prospered.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. Describe the first works performed by Lehi's colony after they landed on the promised land. 2. What results followed? 3. In what region did the Prophet Joseph say they landed? 4. What is the character of that region? 5. What animals did they find in the wilderness? 6. Why have some unbelievers in the Book of Mormon found fault with Nephi's statement regarding horses? 7. In what respects are these objections untenable? 8. Who saw horses on the Oregon coast shortly after the conquest of Mexico? 9. Who was Sir Francis Drake? 10. What was the name of the Spanish conqueror of Mexico? 11. Of what metals did the people of Lehi find the ores? 12. Who were the people who first brought animals to this land after the Deluge? (See Ether, Chap. 2). 13. What do we learn from this lesson with regard to the promises of the Lord?