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Lesson 43 - The Prophet Lehi

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LESSON 43.—THE PROPHET LEHI.

PLACE.—*Jerusalem.* TEXT.—*I. Nephi 1: 4-13; 18-20. TIME.—600 B. C.*

4. For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, King of Judah, (my father Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year there came ²many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed.

5. Wherefore it came to pass that my father, Lehi, as he went forth, prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart, in behalf of his people.

6. And it came to pass, as he prayed unto the Lord, there came a pillar of fire and dwelt upon a rock before him; and he saw and heard much; and because of the things which he saw and heard, he did quake and tremble exceedingly.

7. And it came to pass that he returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed, being overcome with the Spirit and the things which he had seen;

8. And being thus overcome with the Spirit, he was carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God.

9. And it came to pass that he saw one descending out of the midst of heaven, and he beheld that his lustre was above that of the sun at noon-day;

10. And he also saw twelve others following him, and their brightness did exceed that of the stars in the firmament;

11. And they came down and went forth upon the face of the earth; and the first came and stood before my father, and gave unto him a book, and bade him that he should read.

12. And it came to pass that as he read, he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord,

13. And he read, saying, Wo, wo unto Jerusalem! for I have seen thine abominations;³ yea, and many things did my father read concerning Jerusalem ⁴that it should be destroyed, and the inhabitants thereof, many should perish by the sword, and many should be carried away captive into Babylon. * * * *

18. Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shown so many marvellous things unto my father, Lehi, yea, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, behold he went forth among the people, and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard.

19. And it came to pass that the Jews did mock him, because of the things which he testified of them; for he truly testified of their wickedness and their abominations; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the redemption of the world.

20. And when the Jews heard these things, they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; ⁵and they also sought his life, that they might take it away.

¹Kings 24: 18-20. ²Chron. 36: 11-13. ³II. Chron. 36: 15, 16. ⁴II. Chron. 36: 14. ⁵II. Chron. 36: 17-20. ⁶Helaman 8: 19. Hebrews 11: 35-38. ⁷II. Chron. 24: 20, 21

LESSON STATEMENT.

At the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, there lived in Jerusalem a worthy, prayerful man named Lehi. At that time many prophets of God came to the Jews, calling upon them to repent of their sins, or the great city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. Lehi, hearing these prophecies, prayed to the Lord with all his heart in behalf of his people. As he prayed a pillar of fire came and dwelt on a rock before him, and many things were then shown him by the Lord which caused him much sorrow and fear. When he returned to his home in Jerusalem he was carried away in a vision. The heavens were opened to his view, and he saw God sitting upon His throne, surrounded by vast hosts of angels who in songs, were praising the Lord. Then he saw a bright and holy Being who was followed by twelve others, come down out of heaven on to this earth. These were Jesus Christ, our Lord, and His Apostles. Then in the vision, Jesus came to Lehi and gave him a book, which he bade him read. When Lehi did so he found it contained the word of the Lord against Jerusalem; that because of its great wickedness it should be destroyed, many of its people should be slain and many should be carried away captive into Babylon. When Lehi

learned these terrible truths he went forth among the people, pleading with them to repent and reform, lest these judgments come upon them. But the inhabitants of Jerusalem, at that time, would not give heed to the warnings of the servants of God, and they mocked at Lehi, and sought to take away his life, as they had the prophets of earlier times, whom they had cast out, and stoned and slain. Elijah they had cast out. Zenos they had slain. Zechariah they had stoned. Isaiah they had sown asunder, and Jeremiah, who prophesied at the same time as Lehi, they imprisoned and otherwise abused.

NOTES.

BABYLON.—A great city on the banks of the River Euphrates, the capital of a country of the same name sometimes called Babylonia. To this land the Jews were carried, when Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. After seventy years' exile the Jews returned and commenced to rebuild the city and temple. The capture of Jerusalem took place about eleven years after the date of Lehi's prophecy.

ZEDEKIAH.—The last King of Judah. He was placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar when 21 years old; but in a few years rebelled, when the King of Babylon sent a great army against Judea, and finally captured Jerusalem. Zedekiah was taken in flight, his sons (except Mulek) were killed in his presence and his eyes were thrust out. He was afterwards taken to Babylon where he died.

JERUSALEM.—The chief city in Palestine, and long the capital of the Jewish nation. It was founded by David, and greatly enlarged and beautified by Solomon. During its long history it has sustained fourteen sieges, and been more than once destroyed.

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That in the time of Zedekiah (B.C. 600) the people of Jerusalem were very wicked.
2. That God sent many prophets to them to warn them of His judgments if they did not repent.
3. That these prophets foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of the Jews in Babylon.
4. That among these prophets was a righteous man named Lehi.
5. That Lehi had a vision in which he saw God, seated on His throne, surrounded by hosts of angels, who were singing the praises of the Lord.
6. That to Lehi was also

shown that the Savior would come from heaven and dwell on the earth.

7. That He would have twelve apostles, who would attend Him.
8. That the Savior gave Lehi a book containing many prophecies from which he learned of the destruction of Jerusalem and also of the coming of the Messiah and the redemption of the world.
9. That Lehi went and prophesied to the Jews of the things that had been shown him.
10. That the Jews treated him as they had the other servants of God. They mocked him and sought to take his life.
11. That the words of these prophets were all fulfilled, for Jerusalem was destroyed, and most of her people who were not slain were carried into captivity.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. What is the subject of this lesson?
2. Who was Lehi?
3. Where did he live?
4. Who the king in that land?
5. When did he commence to reign?
6. What was the character of Lehi?
7. To whom did he pray?
8. What rested on a rock before him?
9. What did he hear?
10. Where did he go?
11. With what was he overcome?
12. What did he see in his vision?
13. On what was God seated?
14. By whom was He surrounded?
15. What were they doing?
16. What else did Lehi see?
17. Who was it came to earth?
18. Who were the twelve that followed Him?
19. How long after this vision did these things come to pass?
20. Who is Jesus Christ?
21. What did Christ give to Lehi?
22. What did it contain?
23. To whom did Lehi proclaim these things?
24. How did they receive his message?
25. What did they seek to do to him?
26. Why did they act in this way?
27. What other prophets had they in like manner persecuted?
28. In what way were the prophecies of Lehi fulfilled?
29. Who carried the Jews into captivity?
30. Where were they taken?
31. Where is Babylon?
32. How long were they in captivity?
33. What truths may we learn regarding the word of God's servants, from this lesson?