Lesson 63 - The Death of Lehi

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And it came to pass after my father Lehi, had spoken unto all his household, according to the feelings of his heart, and the spirit of the Lord which was in him, he waxed old. And it came to pass that he died, and was buried.

NOTE.

Lehi.—A Hebrew prophet, of the tribe of Manasseh, whom the Lord called to warn the Jews of their coming captivity in Babylon. Lehi was a man of considerable means, and of good repute among the Jews. He had dwelt in Jerusalem all his life.

In the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah (B.C. 600), the Lord gave Lehi a number of prophetic dreams and visions, and, in compliance with the admonitions of those manifestations, he went forth among the Jews proclaiming the sorrows that would inevitably be theirs if they did not repent and return to the Lord. But the Jews treated Lehi just as they were treating all the rest of the prophets who came to them. They paid no heed to the message he bore. But he did not cease to labor in their midst until their anger grew so intense that they sought his life; and they would have slain him if the Lord had not protected him.3

When it became impossible for him to remain longer and minister unto the Jews he was instructed to gather up such things as he could carry and take them into the wilderness with his family, where the Lord would teach him what more He required at his hands.

Lehi's family consisted of his wife Sariah, and his four sons, Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi. Lehi had also daughters, but whether they were born at this time is not evident from the record. We have no account of the precise road which Lehi and his family took when they left Jerusalem. Undoubtedly they traveled through the wilderness of Judea southward till they reached the eastern arm of the Red Sea. They journeyed along the Arabian shore of that sea for some little distance, till they came to a valley through which a small stream flowed. Here they rested. While tarrying in this valley, Lehi, by Divine direction, twice sent his sons to Jerusalem: the first time to obtain certain most precious records, the second, to bring a family to join them in their journey. The head of this family was named Ishmael. In both undertakings the young men were successful, and the company was strengthened by the addition of Zoram; and Ishmael and his family.3 Soon after, five marriages took place: Zoram married Ishmael's eldest daughter, and the four sons of Lehi espoused four younger ones.

While Lehi and his party dwelt in the valley of Lemuel, he received many glorious manifestations from the Lord. Like Enoch, John the Revelator and others, the world's future history was mapped out before him, and he not only saw things that related to his own posterity, but the scene widened until he appears to have been shown all that would happen to the sons and daughters of mankind to the very last generation.

Before long, Lehi was directed to resume his journey; and a wonderful instrument, prepared by Divine condescension, called a Liahona, or compass,4 was given him to guide the wandering feet of the company in their travels.

To their next tarrying place, which they reached in four days, they gave the name of Shazer. After a short rest, during which time they killed game for food, they again took up their line of march, keeping in the most
WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That Lehi, before his death, gathered his posterity about him and blessed them. 2. That in doing this he was guided by the feelings of his heart, and by the Spirit of the Lord, which was in him. 3. That this Spirit was to him a spirit of revelation and prophecy. 4. By it he foretold many things that would happen to his posterity in future generations. 5. That after this he waxed old, died, and was buried.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. In what Land did Lehi, in his old age, dwell? 2. When he found age creeping on, whom did he gather around him? 3. What did he tell them? 4. By what Spirit was he inspired? 5. What other Patriarchs have acted in this same way? 6. What can you tell regarding Lehi’s death and burial?

[As many review questions from the life of Lehi (see Note) may be asked as the teacher deems desirable for the progress of the class.]