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## Lessons from the Life of Nephi V: Nephi's Wonderful Visions

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**Abstract:** A narrative of Nephi's life and lessons that may be learned from the life of Nephi. At times it is better to suffer wrongs than to demand one's rights, and the purposes of God will not be thwarted.

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of the mother cried out in anguish to her guardian angel that had so silently attended her during all these painful hours.

“Ah, that I could have a few years more of life to rectify some of my grievous mistakes! I see, I know that Eunice is in the right, but oh, she does not feel the love I do for my dear children, and she does right from a sense of duty. If I had only enforced the same laws of reason and self-control with all the love I had for them, how much easier it would have been for them and how much better!”

The week that followed worked the beginning of a grand reform in that household. The children's stomachs had been too cruelly abused by years of bad feeding to respond at once to the wiser methods of eating inculcated by sturdy Eunice; but at last, the absence of tea and coffee, and with little meat and plenty of life-giving brown bread and milk soon showed that their systems though in the past they had filled full every hour or so, had been insufficiently nourished and were starving for nutriment. There was an immediate improvement in the temper and feelings of every child. Yet, as she herself admitted, Eunice was not possessed of the gift of good government, and she often sighed for the lack of it. She was cross and fretful when the strain of evening came, and it was by the utmost effort that she resisted the temptation to give way to the children's constant teasing for that which she knew too well was not good for them. But she did resist, and even if not able to set the example of steady, quiet, continuous self-control, she was at least impressing upon the family life the precept of one constant struggle to do and to be, the best and highest possible to her or to them. How keenly her efforts effected the spirit mother who constantly saw where she herself had so signally failed can never be told in words.

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

PERFECTION is not attained by one effort, but by means of repeated struggles.

## LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF NEPHI.

### V.—Nephi's Wonderful Visions.

“Where there is no vision the people perish.”—*Proverbs 29: 18.*

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 latest generation.

Nephi longed with ardent desire to be blessed in like manner as was his father. He desired to have these same things unfolded to his view, and his longings were gratified, for they were righteous ones. One day as he sat wondering in his heart, the Spirit of the Lord carried him away into a very high mountain where he had never before been, and there Nephi was shown many things that were yet in the future; indeed, there is scarcely an event that has left an imperishable mark on the history of the human race between his days and ours but was revealed to him with more or less detail and clearness.

When Nephi gazed at the Spirit of the Lord, he saw that he was in the form of a man, and he spake to Nephi as one man speaks to another. The Spirit first asked Nephi, “What desirest thou?” Nephi replied by telling him that he desired to see the things which his father had seen. Upon which the Spirit asked him if he believed his father's testimony. Nephi answered, “Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father.”

When Nephi had thus answered the Spirit cried with a loud voice, “Hosannah to the Lord, the Most High God, for He is God over all the earth, yea, even above all.” And having thus testified to the greatness and glory of God, the Spirit blessed Nephi because of his faith and promised him that he should be-

hold the things that he had desired. After a little the Spirit of the Lord passed out of Nephi's sight and an angel took his place and showed Nephi the things that had been promised.

Among other things, Nephi was shown the condescension of God in that He would take upon Him flesh; that is, He would leave the courts of glory on high and come down on earth and be born as a babe like the rest of us; and though He was God, yet would He be man also. There would be no difference in the manner of His birth, of His ways in infancy, of His growth in childhood or in later life to distinguish Him from the usual race of mankind. He was to be in every respect a man, suffering the pains, the infirmities, the temptations of humanity, yet never committing sin. In that alone He would differ from all others.

And it was shown to Nephi that this Holy One should be born in the land of Jerusalem, of a virgin beautiful and fair, of the city of Nazareth, whom God honored by selecting as His earthly mother—she whom we call the Virgin Mary. And then Nephi further saw that when the Son of God grew up to manhood, He went forth in the midst of the people teaching them what they should do to be saved, instructing them in the laws of His Father's kingdom. And to his sorrow and shame, Nephi beheld that the Jews rejected their Lord and their King. They persecuted Him, and, at last, brought about His death.

Again, to Nephi was revealed the future of his father's posterity. He saw that at the time the Savior was crucified there would be great darkness over the face of all the land that had been promised to them. He saw lightnings and heard thunders and all manner of tumultuous noises. The earth was rent by earthquakes, the mountains fell in fragments, and the plains were broken up. Many cities were sunk in the bowels of the earth or in the depths of the sea, while others were burned with fire. And then it was shown him that the Son of God came upon this land

and taught the descendants of Lehi the great truths of His gospel.

After this three generations passed away in righteousness, and many of the fourth in like manner passed to their eternal reward. But then a sad change came over this bright scene. Iniquity again exalted itself, and the children of Nephi and of his brothers fought until millions were slain. Nearly all of Nephi's children were destroyed, while those who were not slain of the seed of his elder brothers passed generation after generation in wars and rumors of wars, and became a dark, degraded and benighted people.

Nephi was also shown that after many years the Lord moved upon a man (whom we call Columbus) so that he crossed the wide ocean, landed on this continent and returned and made known to the nations of the Gentiles in Europe the existence of the land of promise. Then thousands of the Gentiles came and filled the land. They abused, ill-treated and slew many of the remnants of Lehi's seed. But at last he saw that the record of their fathers (which we must recollect was not then written) was brought to them, and many accepted its truths. He was also shown many of the events that occurred among the Gentiles on this blessed land, especially the war of independence, by which the Gentile peoples on this continent threw off the yoke of their mother Gentiles who lived across the ocean.

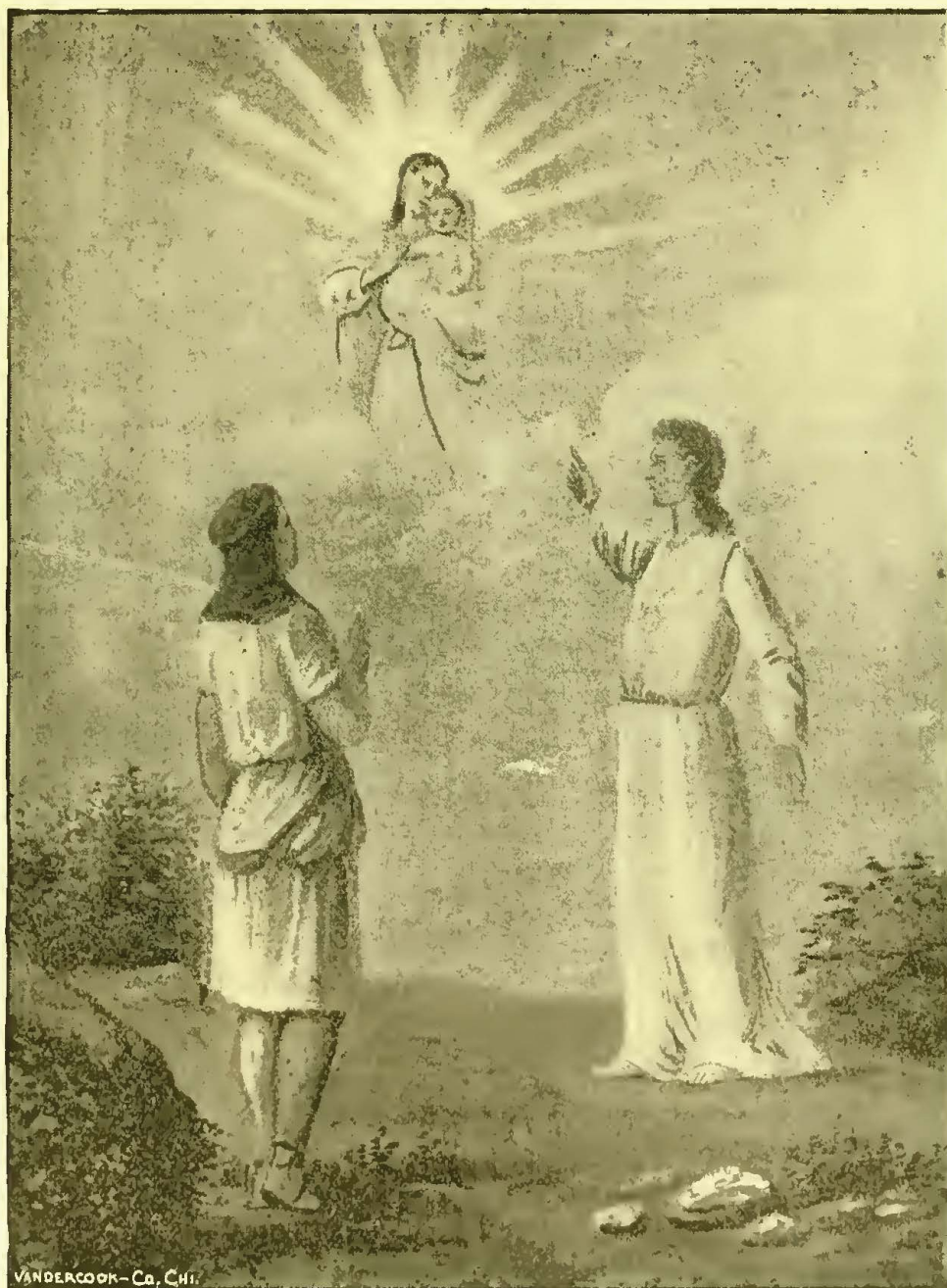
Nephi had further made manifest to him what would occur on the other continents, in the midst of the nations of the Gentiles, after the death of the Redeemer. He was shown that there should arise a great and abominable church that was called the mother of harlots. This unholy church would make war upon the Saints of God and wear them out; that uncounted numbers of the faithful would be tortured and slain, till for many generations the Church of God would have no place upon the earth. And the power of this abominable church would be so great that the kings and rulers of the earth and the peoples thereof would bow before it in abject sub-



mission. He further saw the restoration of the gospel in the latter days.

And very many more events that are yet in the future passed before Nephi's eyes.

Nephi was forbidden to make public. These things carried the history of our earth down to the winding up scene—to the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world.



NEPHI'S VISION.

But he was commanded not to write them, for it has been decreed of God that another of his servants named John, the one whom we call John the Revelator, should write and make known to the world the things that

This lesson proves to us that known unto God are all His works from the foundation of the world to the end of time; and that when it pleases Him He reveals His designs to faithful ones among His servants and shows

them things that have not yet come to pass. One of the means He uses for this purpose is to grant these favored ones visions, by which they are shown the future, somewhat after the manner that we can look at pictures of the past. Lehi and Nephi were among those who were greatly blessed in this manner, as have also been many of the Priesthood and members of the Church in the present day.

*George Reynolds.*

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#### HOW TO GET RICH.

WHEN the Savior was speaking to His disciples of what they should eat, drink and wear, He admonished them to take no thought of such things, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This statement can be accepted, as the other testimonies of Jesus, in a literal way. No surer road to wealth, honor and blessing in this and the future life can be found than in following the simple admonition of One in whose hands the things of earth and heaven are held. Evidences are everywhere abundant among the Saints that the Lord has blessed temporally as well as spiritually such as have sought first His kingdom and righteousness, and in the future these examples will be greatly multiplied.

We therefore feel to admonish our young people to never hesitate in their choice between duty to God and passing pleasures, between the blessings of the heavens and earthly treasures.

The prospect of temporary benefit may lure one to accept the earthly bauble, but lasting reward only comes to those who close their eyes to present gain for those eternal and unchangeable riches which a Creator only can bestow.

The following incident may serve to illustrate the principle, though we would not desire young people to choose to do good in hope of being immediately rewarded for it, but to do right because it is right. The

merit of making a good choice is in not expecting to be paid for it:

A Quaker residing in Paris was waited on by four of his workmen, in order to make their compliments, and ask, according to the common custom, for their New Year's gifts.

"Well, my friends," said the Quaker, "here are your gifts; choose fifteen francs or this Bible."

"I don't know how to read," said the first, "so I take the fifteen francs."

"I can read," said the second, "but I have pressing wants."

He took the fifteen francs. The third also made the same choice. He now came to the fourth, a young boy of thirteen or fourteen. The Quaker looked at him with an air of goodness, saying, "Will you, too, take these three pieces, which you may gain at any time by your labor and industry?"

"As you say the book is good, I will take it and read from it to my mother," replied the boy.

He took the Bible, opened it, and found between the leaves a gold piece of forty francs. The others hung down their heads, while the Quaker quietly told them he was sorry they had not made a better choice. *Ajex.*

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#### REASON.

REASON is grand, yet, what if it shall fail  
To sense the grace that chides its erring will?  
Shall we give way, and say, let God prevail,  
Or trust the value of our judgment still?

Reason is safe, if wisdom sit beside it  
And living faith fit limits to its sway;  
But, God denied His proper right to guide it  
We sink and perish on life's stormy way.

Man's reason, at its best, is narrow, blind;  
It grasps the shadow, then rebukes its fate;  
It wades the distant mire to error find  
While truth stands ready by, in regal state.

Of what today can reason's sages boast,  
With all their aids of ancient classic lore!  
Amid the fogs of doubt the world is lost  
While cold agnostics prosper more and more.