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Lessons from the Life of Nephi VIII: The Arrival on the Promised Land

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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.

to those who have observed the conditions on which they were based? Have the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who have "remembered to keep and do these sayings" had better health, more strength and vigor, more wisdom and knowledge, and escaped more the power of the destroying angel, than those who have neglected to remember or to keep those sayings?

Naturally enough men and women who have taken this course would feel delicate about speaking in reference to the wisdom and knowledge they have received; but there are hundreds, and perhaps thousands, in this Church who have observed these counsels of the Lord, who would not hesitate to bear testimony that they have had good health, yes, better health, than they did have or would have had if they had violated these counsels; and they would doubtless testify that they had escaped the power of the destroyer on many occasions, and that when they called in the servants of the Lord to administer to themselves or to their sick, they had greater faith in the promise of God to be healed than they would have had if they had not observed His counsels contained in the Word of Wisdom.

If this be true—and we certainly think it is, and that it is amply sustained by evidence—then the Lord has fulfilled His promises, and the children in this Church should know this and be strict in observing this counsel that the Lord has given. They certainly ought not to be found among those who consume such large quantities of coffee as is reported concerning Utah.

FRIENDSHIP —With eloquent force Warwick said of friendship: "When I see leaves drop from their trees in the beginning of autumn, just such, think I, is the friendship of the world. Whilst the sap of maintenance lasts, my friends swarm in abundance; but in the winter of my need they leave me naked. He is happy who hath a true friend at his need, but he is more truly happy who hath no need of his friend."

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF NEPHI.

VIII.—The Arrival on the Promised Land.

I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed, the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm. (*1 Nephi 18: 21.*)

NO SOONER had all the company gone on board the ship, built under the direction of the Lord by His servant Nephi, than they put forth to sea. The vessel was then driven by the wind towards the promised land. After they had been sailing prosperously for a number of days, the hearts of Nephi's brothers and of the sons of Ishmael and others grew merry because of the quick progress they were making, and in their merriment they forgot the Lord. They danced and sang and became very boisterous and rude. This conduct pained Nephi exceedingly. He feared lest the Lord should be angry with them and smite them. Therefore he began to protest with much seriousness against the course they were taking; but they grew angry with him and inquired, Is our younger brother always to be a leader over us; are we to do nothing but what he permits us? And his two older brothers, Laman and Lemuel, took him and bound him. So furious were they that they treated him with great harshness, binding the cords so tightly around his limbs that they caused him much suffering.

Then the Liahona ceased to work. It had been directing the course of the ship thus far, but now that they had rebelled against the Lord it would no longer point the way that they should sail. They were in a dilemma, for not one of them knew which way the ship should be steered. To add to their trouble and perplexity there arose a great and terrible tempest, and the ship was driven back upon the waters for three days; and though they were afraid that the raging waters would engulf their little vessel, yet so hardened were they that they would not loose Nephi.

On the fourth day matters went still worse. There appeared to be no hope, but that they

would be swallowed up in the sea. Then, and not till then, did they seem to understand that the judgments of God were upon them, and that they must unavoidably perish without they repented. Then they reluctantly

against the Lord, but sought His face continually and praised Him all the day long.

During the time that Nephi had been thus bound, his father Lehi had begged most earnestly for the release of his son, but the



LEHI OFFERING SACRIFICE.

loosed the bands which bound Nephi's wrists and ankles, and let him go free. But his limbs, by reason of the way in which he had been bound, were swollen, and he tells us great was the soreness thereof. Nevertheless in all his afflictions he never murmured

rebels threatened everyone who sought Nephi's release; and his parents, who had now grown aged, were brought down to sick beds by reason of their afflictions and came very near to being cast into a watery grave.

When Nephi was loosed he took the com-

pass, and it commenced to work as before. He prayed to the Lord; after which the winds ceased to blow, the storm passed away, and there was a great calm. Then Nephi took charge of the ship and guided it in its course towards the promised land.

After many days (we know not how long) the vessel with its precious freight reached the shores of this continent, at a place, we are told by the Prophet Joseph Smith, near where the city of Valparaiso now stands. Then, with hearts full of rejoicing, they left the vessel that had carried them safely across the wide ocean, and went forth upon the land which God had given to them and to their generations after them. And they pitched their tents and began to make a new home. They put their seeds into the earth, which they had brought from Jerusalem. To their great joy these seeds grew exceedingly, and they were blessed with abundance. Upon the land they found many beasts of the forest, also cows, oxen, asses, horses and goats, and many other animals that are for the use of men; and in the earth they found precious ore of gold, silver and copper. Then they erected an altar, and, to show their thankfulness to God, they offered sacrifices and burnt offerings, according to the law of Moses, as was their wont under such circumstances.

The course taken by Lehi and his people has been revealed with some detail. We are told by the Prophet Joseph Smith that Lehi and his company traveled in nearly a south-southeast direction until they came to the nineteenth degree of north latitude; then, nearly east to the sea of Arabia; then sailed in a southeast direction, and landed on the continent of South America, in Chili, thirty degrees south latitude.

This voyage would take them across the Indian and South Pacific oceans.

Our lesson today presents many points for thought. Particularly is our attention drawn to the power of God's servants over the elements. At Nephi's prayer the storm was stilled; and Jacob, his brother, says: "We

truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea." No doubt Nephi prayed that the storm might cease in the name of Jesus. The Savior, on more than one occasion, when on earth, stilled the tempest; the winds and waves obeyed His voice, more readily than did the hearts of men.

George Reynolds.

A LIFE'S EXPERIENCE.

I HAVE been asked by some of my friends who are acquainted with my peculiar experience to have it appear in the JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR, for the information of our young people, and to show how the providences of God have been over me.

I was born May 1st, 1837, in a small village called Ostend, near Burnham, Essex, England, and was my parents' oldest child.

At a very early age I was sent to an infants' school, where we learned to sing the Alphabet and were instructed also that there was a Savior who died for all men. As I grew older I was sent to Sunday school. Some young ladies would come and take me, which both pleased and helped my mother, and I always respected them very much for their kind acts and the trouble they took to teach me that which was good. I remember the old church with much pleasure, and the divine influence that there seemed to penetrate my very soul.

It was here that a reverence was begotten in my young heart for divine things. My mother, being a most devoted church member, would take me by the hand and lead me to the old church on a Sabbath morning when it was sacrament day, which was always once a month. I can well remember the holy feeling that penetrated my very soul on such occasions. On returning home with my mother, the kind words, the good counsel that were given me by her I can never forget. Truly, in all my wanderings, the words of my mother were ever ringing in my ears.

At the age of ten years my father moved