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Lessons from the Life of Nephi IX: Lehi Blesses His Posterity

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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.

does this should be made to feel that in telling the truth he has done that which offsets the mischief, if he repents of it.

An instance came to our knowledge not long ago which illustrates this principle. Two boys were out in their father's field, shooting with a 22-calibre rifle. The bullets were very small. They saw at a considerable distance some cows that had been trespassing more than once on their father's lucerne, and thinking the animals too far to be injured seriously with the shot, they fired at the cows, expecting merely to sting them and have them run off. A day or two afterwards they heard that two cows of one of the neighbors had been shot; that one had died, and another was lamed. The neighbor did not know who shot the cows; for they had gone some distance from where the shooting had occurred; but the boys, hearing of it, had gone and confessed to the neighbor that they had shot his cows, and told their father of it. The father satisfied himself that their guilt would not have been known had they themselves not confessed what they had done. He said to his sons, "I care nothing for the value of the cows; if my boys are only brave enough to tell the truth when they commit an act of this kind. I will pay our neighbor the value of the cows."

Their conduct in shooting the cows was very wrong; but they were little boys and had but little experience. The father set before them the serious consequences of such conduct, and they felt very badly at what they had done; but they were encouraged to tell the truth, no matter how serious the wrong might be which they had committed.

Had the father whipped his boys for doing this, instead of talking to them and warning them, it is more than likely that he would have driven them, whenever they committed an offense of a serious character thereafter, to conceal it by lying about and disowning it.

If you would merit the conqueror's laurel wreath, conquer yourself.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF NEPHI.

IX.—Lehi Blesses His Posterity.

TEXT. And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together and hear, ye sons of Jacob, and hearken unto Israel your father.—*Genesis 49: 1, 2.*

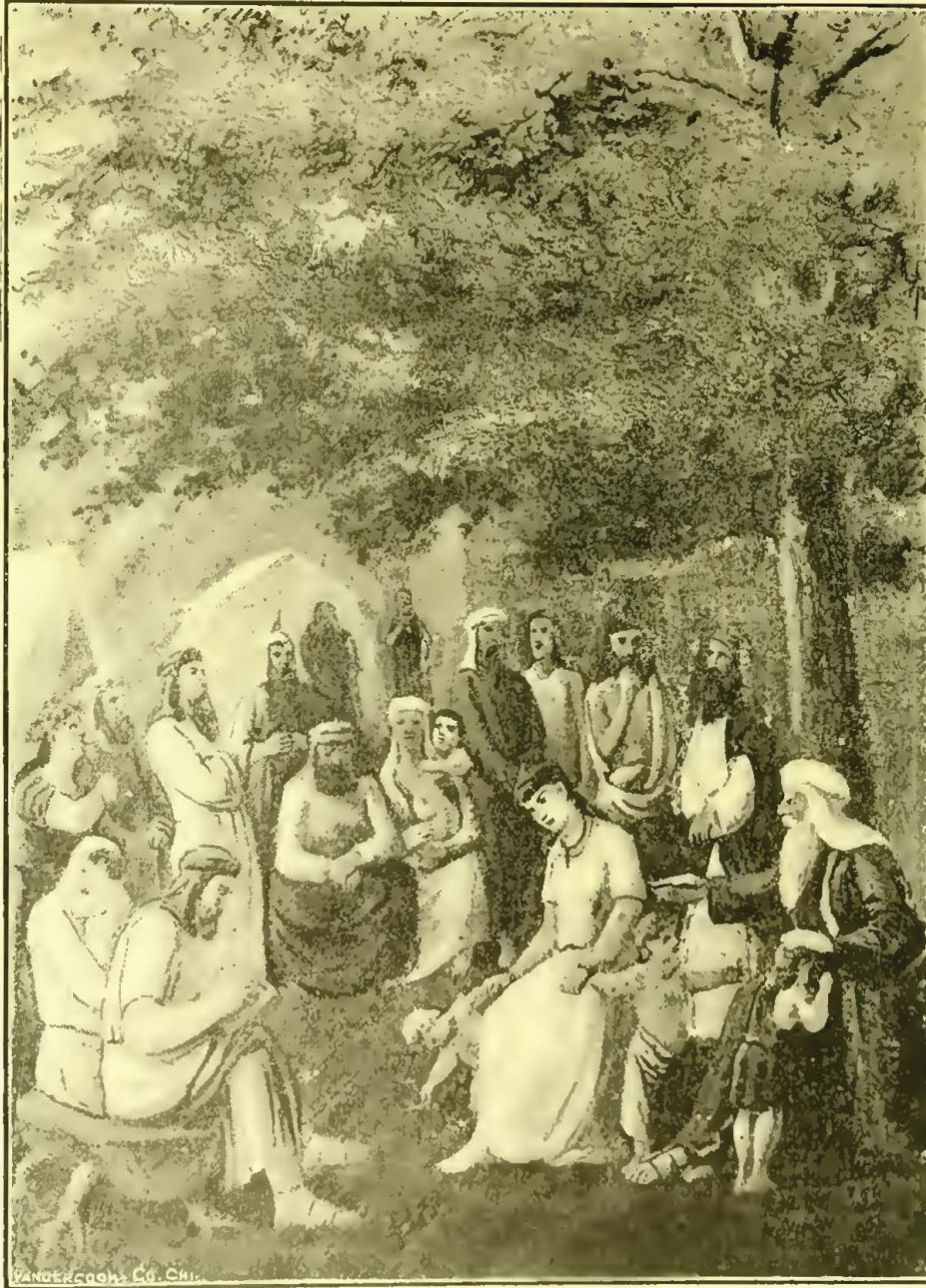
WE have now reached a time when Lehi was well stricken with years. Believing that his end was approaching, he gathered his children together as did his forefathers before him, and being inspired by the spirit of prophecy, he blessed them. It is remarkable how clearly the Lord showed unto him what would befall his children and his children's children for many generations. First, however, he recalled to their minds the many rebellions of Laman and others during their journey, and how great had been the goodness of the Lord in bringing them in safety to this most precious land of promise, which was of all lands the most choice on the face of the earth. He also told them that he had had a vision in which it was shown to him that Jerusalem had already been destroyed, and her people carried captive into a strange land, and if those that were now listening to him had remained in Jerusalem, they would, most certainly have perished also.

Lehi likewise gave them, in the name of the Lord, a rather peculiar promise. It was to the effect that no people should be brought to this land while his posterity remained faithful, who were not brought by the hand of the Lord, and that this land should be hid from all other peoples; for if it were not so it would be overrun by many nations. We know that this promise was fulfilled. If the nations of ancient Europe had in very remote times any knowledge of the continent of America, they entirely lost it; and from the time that Lehi landed on its shore till hundreds of years after the extinction of the Nephites, it was not known to the nations of Europe or Asia. They reached it neither by way of the Atlantic nor the Pacific ocean.

His words to his elder sons were very pa-

thetic. He perceived the course that they had taken in hardening their hearts against the word of God, and he rightly feared that this same spirit would be entailed upon their posterity; if so, he told them of the curses

heads, but if they would not hearken, that blessing should be withheld. Zoram received special words of approval because of the sincerity of his friendship to Nephi, and he was promised that his seed should be blessed with



LEHI BLESSING HIS POSTERITY.

that would most assuredly fall upon them for their disobedience and rebellion. And he advised them all, not only his own sons, but also Zoram and the sons of Ishmael, to give heed to the words of Nephi; and if they did this his first blessing should be upon their

Nephi's seed, and nothing, save it were iniquity should harm or disturb their prosperity.

To Jacob his first born in the wilderness, he promised many blessings, and declared that he should dwell safely with his brother Nephi, and his days should be spent in the

service of his God, which words were fulfilled after his death by Nephi consecrating Jacob to be one of the priests to minister before the Lord on behalf of the Nephites. To these blessings Lehi added many words of instruction and prophecy, and made plain the sayings of more ancient servants of God. Joseph's blessing was very much like that of his brother Jacob. He was to be joined unto Nephi, and his posterity were to be blessed or to suffer with Nephi's descendants. In blessing Joseph Lehi drew attention to the words of Joseph, the son of Jacob—words that are not recorded in the Bible, but from which we learn that Joseph, like other servants of God, was shown many things connected with the dealings of God towards His children upon the earth in various dispensations of His loving kindness. This ancient Joseph was shown the coming of Moses, the advent of our Savior and the work to be performed by Joseph Smith in this our day.

Soon after Lehi had uttered these blessings, the Lord took him from this earth to dwell with Him in eternity. Of the death of Sariah, his wife, we have no account.

The Lord honors those who honor him; He inspires their words, He fulfills their prophecies. He did so with Adam, Enoch, Abraham, Jacob and Moses and He did so with Lehi. He does so, also, with His servants today. The spirit of prophecy is given to the patriarchs, when they pronounce blessings on the heads of the people, and those blessings are sooner or later, but all in God's time, fulfilled. The end is not yet, though thousands of years have passed, of the events foretold by Enoch and Jacob, by Moses and Lehi.

George Reynolds.

THOU mayest be sure that he that will in private tell thee of thy faults, is thy friend, for he adventures thy dislike, and doth hazard thy hatred; for there are few men that can endure it, every man for the most part delighting in self-praise, which is one of the most universal follies that bewitcheth mankind.

A LIFE'S EXPERIENCE.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 478.]

ABOUT this time a youth by the name of John M. Bridge, who had been a school-mate of mine, and was now learning the harness-making trade, came to see me. He had joined the Mormons while I was living at Witham. He called just as I was closing the butcher shop in the evening. I began to laugh at him for being a Mormon, and for believing that revelation was needed in our day. He said to me, very seriously:

"William, I am interested in bringing you to a knowledge of the true gospel."

"Oh," I said, "you need not be so much interested in my future. My mother has already taught me to love the Savior and to ask Him for such things as I need, and I believe in Him; therefore, through His blessed atonement, I can be saved."

One thing brought up another, until he finally said: "Close the shop and come into my shop, which is already closed, and we will talk further upon this matter."

I went with him, and he began to question me as to what were the evidences I had concerning my religion, which I had been taught was true. I told him my mother had taught me it, and I could not believe such a good woman would teach me anything that was wrong. I even felt it was scarcely possible for her to be mistaken. I learned from my mother that I had been baptized, and I remembered when the Bishop of Canterbury laid his hands upon my head and confirmed me. Hence, I believed if I led a good, moral life, I would be saved. I thought these acts should be evidence enough.

My friend began to question me as to whether I understood I was still in my sins. I told him I believed I was. He asked me if I believed my sins could be remitted. I remembered the scripture, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," and I believed that the merits of the atonement through this faith would save me. He referred me to the scripture, "He that saith he