

LEHI WARNS JERUSALEM

(1 Nephi 1:1-6,18-23)

Lehi is a Hebrew prophet who led his followers to the land of promise in the western hemisphere. His wife's name was Sariah. They had four sons: Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi. Together, they lived in the wilderness where God had commanded Lehi to take his family that they might escape the wrath of the angry Jews who were plotting to kill them.

V1-3

In Jerusalem, during the reign of King Zedekiah, there lived a man named Lehi. He was a good man who tried to do good things, which were pleasing to God.

V4-5

Lehi, Nephi's father, believes the prophetic warnings of Jerusalem's destruction and so pleads with the Lord on behalf of the people (v. 4). While pleading with the Lord he sees a pillar of fire, a classic Old Testament figure of the presence of the Lord (see Exodus. 13:21-22), and has many things revealed to him. He is overcome by the experience, and so returns home exhausted (v.6).

Compare v.6 with Exodus 13:21-22

A pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire is a visible symbol of God's presence among his people. The effects of close interaction with the Spirit are frequently described as enervating. Joseph Smith was drained after his experience in the Grove, and Lehi was drained after his experience with the pillar of fire.

V18-20

Lehi goes and preaches to the people at Jerusalem, joining ranks with the other prophets warning against the alliance with Egypt and rebellion against Babylon (v. 18). He testifies of their wickedness, and for this they mock him. He tells them concerning the messiah, and presents him as a spiritual figure (v. 19-20). The people reject him, just as they rejected the other prophets, and they seek to have him disposed of as well. But, the Lord delivers Lehi because he is chosen (v. 21-23).

Compare v.21-23 with Exodus 3:6-8

- 1. Why did Lehi tell Jerusalem that they would be destroyed?**
- 2. Why were the people of Jerusalem angry?**
- 3. Would you listen to Lehi? Why?**
- 4. Do we have a prophet who warns us today?**