

## **LEHI DEPARTS TO THE WILDERNESS**

(1 Nephi 1:24-46)

This study presents two groups with two different reactions to the present situation: Lehi (v. 24-35), and Laman and Lemuel (v. 36-45). The next study will focus on Nephi and Sam (v. 47-58).

The distance from Jerusalem to the Red Sea is about 150 miles, or about 10-12 days journey. They traveled out once, and then two round trips were made (once for the plates and once for the wives). Nephi is measuring time in days (1 Nephi. 1:33 and later, 1 Nephi 5:16) suggests that things are happening at the pace of days, as opposed to months. Later, Nephi starts glossing over time, and he skips entire years (see 1 Nephi. 5:19 and 1 Nephi 5:61).

One would assume that once they had what they needed from Jerusalem they would have left on short order and kept moving so as to discourage Laman & Lemuel from turning tails and heading back. However, once traveling started in earnest there would have been interruptions for the Sabbath, Sabbath festivals, various ritual impurities as well as childbearing.

### **V24-37**

Lehi has another vision wherein the Lord blesses him for his faithfulness, and warns him there are people out to kill him for it (v. 25). The Lord instructs him to move out into the wilderness (v. 26). Lehi does so (v. 27-28), abandoning all of his considerable wealth (v. 29), heading into the wilderness by the shores of the Red sea (v. 30-32). After three days of traveling they set up camp by a river (v. 33), and Lehi builds an altar and offers sacrifices (v. 7). He names the river "Laman" (v. 35-36) and the valley "Lemuel" (v. 37).

### **Compare verse 29 with Exodus 12:35-36**

Unlike the ancient Exodus, Lehi abandons all of his wealth when he leaves for the wilderness. This sets the stage for the later attempted purchase of the plates.

Lehi foresaw their traveling to a destination where things such as this had no value, as is subsequently revealed to Nephi, and so he left it behind in favor of "provisions" (1 Nephi 1:76-81). This abandonment of material wealth becomes a point of contention with Laman and Lemuel in v. 38, and therefore serves to differentiate Lehi's spiritual view with their material view.

### **Compare verse 33-34 with Genesis 12:8**

Lehi pitches the tent and then sacrifices on an altar, as did Abraham

### **V36-45**

Laman and Lemuel's less than enthusiastic response to abandoning the family estate is made manifest. Lehi exhorts them to be strong and firm in keeping the commandments (v. 36-37), because they are stiff-necked and murmuring against him (v. 38). Laman, being the eldest, would inherit a double portion of the wealth, and take over as family patriarch, and so he is particularly displeased (v. 40-41). Neither of them are particularly religious, and do not believe the prophecies spoken by Lehi and the other prophets concerning Jerusalem's destruction (v. 42-23). The situation deteriorates to the point that Lehi must confound them by the Spirit in order to silence their complaining and get them to go along with the plan (v. 44-45).

- 1. Where did Lehi take his family?**
- 2. Why did Lehi take his family into the wilderness?**
- 3. Would you go with Lehi? Why?**

