

NEPHI AND HIS BROTHERS RETURN TO JERUSALEM

(1 Nephi 1:59-67)

V59-67

When Nephi returns from speaking with the Lord, he goes into Lehi's tent (v. 59) and Lehi tells him he has had a dream. In the dream the Lord tells Lehi that the sons need to go back (v. 60) to get some brass plates, on which was written a record of the Jews and their forefathers, from Laban (v. 61), and so, it is a command from the Lord (v. 62). Lehi relates that Nephi's brothers have complained about his request, but Lehi insists again that it is the Lord who has commanded it and not himself (v. 63). So, Lehi tells Nephi to go and do as the Lord commands, because the others apparently won't (v. 64). Nephi accepts what his father tells him and knows that it can be accomplished if the Lord commands it (v. 65). Lehi is pleased with Nephi's response and perceives that Nephi is spiritually discerning (v. 66).

LAMAN AND LEMUEL

Laman and Lemuel did not want to go because it would be a dangerous journey. They also did not want to live in the wilderness. They preferred to live in their nice home in Jerusalem, surrounded by wealth and luxuries, where they could have good times with their friends. Lehi's two elder sons were not interested in obeying God. They did not understand about Him, nor did they care to learn. They were, in essence, like the Jews in Jerusalem.

LABAN

Laban must have been a prominent, well-known character in Jerusalem. They know who he is without any additional explanation, and when the sons do return to Jerusalem Lemuel finds him without any problems. Laban's association with the elders of the Jews (1:125) and apparent command over military forces (1:98,135) place him high in the religio-political hierarchy. As Lehi refers to him as "Laban" when speaking to Nephi, and not "a man by the name of Laban" or "the chief of the city named Laban", this suggests Nephi already knows who he is.

- 1. What did Nephi and his brothers need to get from Jerusalem?**
- 2. Why were the plates so important?**
- 3. Are our scriptures as important to us as the Brass plates were to Lehi's family?**
- 4. Will the Lord always provide a way to fulfill all of His commandments?**