

## **THE LIAHONA**

(1 Nephi 5:1-15)

Nephi's brothers are stung with what he has said to them and complain against him (v.1). Nephi admits his words are hard against those who are wicked because the wicked cannot withstand the truth of their situation (v.2). Had they been faithful to the Lord, then his words would have lifted them rather than caused them to murmur (v.3), and so Nephi encourages them to repent and be faithful to the Lord (v.4). His brothers do humble themselves for a time, so much so that Nephi has hopes of them making a permanent change for the better (v.5).

**V6-8** The group is still a base camp outside of Jerusalem (v. 6). The sons of Lehi pair up and marry the daughters of Ishmael (v. 7), and thus all of the commands of the Lord had so far been fulfilled (v. 8). The group is in a waiting mode, although that wait appears to have been relatively short. Since they have fled Jerusalem, obtained the plates, and received wives as commanded, they are now waiting to be told where to go and what to do.

**V9** "I, Nephi, had been blessed of the Lord exceedingly", Nephi is probably commenting upon having obtained a good wife as he mentions in the preceding verse.

**V10-15** Having done everything commanded to date, the traveling party is now ready for additional instruction. Lehi, the patriarch, receives a vision by night instructing him to depart into the wilderness the next day (v. 10). When he wakes up in morning there is an odd device outside his tent door, a round brass ball, which has two spindles in it, one of which tells them which direction to travel (v. 11-12). Now with a command to depart and a direction to travel, they strike camp and move out (v. 13-15).

**V13** "all the remainder of our provisions", this suggests they had spent some time, probably at least a few months, at the base camp by the river Lemuel. It also sets the stage for the next major story of their having to hunt to obtain sufficient food. They were running low on packed provisions.

**V15** "we took our tents" suggests that the party were probably traveling on camels. The contemporary tents employed were nothing like our present lightweight backpacking tents. They were very large, cumbersome, and heavy, requiring pack animals to carry them.

- 1. Why were Nephi and Lehi blessed?**
- 2. What was the Liahona?**
- 3. How do we know what way to go?**
- 4. Can we use the Scriptures to guide us like the Liahona?**