

## **BOUNTIFUL BY THE SEA**

(1 Nephi 5:55-84)

**V55-67** They continue on in their journey and despite considerable hardship the population of the group increases (v. 55-56). The blessings of the Lord were great upon them so that the women were physically strong and able to prosper in the journey despite giving birth and nursing babies (v. 57). Nephi sees this as evidence of divine providence bestowed upon them for keeping the commandments (v. 58-60). He states they traveled in the wilderness for eight years (v. 61) and then came to a particularly productive location, which they name Bountiful (v. 62-64). And, notwithstanding their great trials they rejoice upon coming to the seashore and resting in this fertile spot (v. 65-67).

Nephi's primary intent in this section is to emphasize that when the group keeps the commandments then they are blessed and prosper despite all of the hardship.

**V68-84** After resting some considerable time in the place called Bountiful, Nephi is commanded to go up into a local mountain. He does so and calls upon the Lord (v. 68-69). The Lord responds and tells him to construct a ship and He will show him how to build it (v. 70). Nephi responds positively by asking the Lord where he should go to obtain ore to make tools with (v. 71), and the Lord tells him where to go (v. 72). Nephi then builds a hearth and bellows and makes a fire (v. 73-74). Nephi then explains (v. 75-83) why they had not previously made many fires (v. 75-76), the spiritual symbolism of this command (v. 77-82), and the need for Nephi to exhort his brothers to be faithful to it (v. 83). And, so, from this hearth Nephi makes metal tools (v. 84).

- 1. Why did Nephi go to the mountain?**
- 2. How will they reach the Promised Land?**
- 3. Was Nephi obedient to the Lord?**
- 4. How can you be like Nephi?**