

THE WILD PARTY

(1 Nephi 5:181-210)

The Lord caused the winds to blow Nephi's ship across the waters toward the Promised Land. The sea was calm and the brass ball, or compass, pointed the way for them to go (v. 181,190).

All went well until, after traveling many days, Nephi's brothers and some of the others aboard began to make merry. They danced, sing, and became very rude (v. 182-184). They forgot about the power of God, which had brought them there. Nephi began to worry for fear that God would be angry with them and cause them to be swallowed up by the sea (v.185). He talked with them, reminding them that they must remember their Lord, but they were angry with him (v. 186).

"We will not that our younger brother shall be a ruler over us," they said (v. 187). Laman and Lemuel bound Nephi with strong cords so tightly that he could not move, and they treated him very harshly (v. 188). It was again necessary for God to show his power to cause the wicked ones to repent of their evil ways (v. 189).

After Nephi was tied, the compass refused to work (v. 190). It no longer pointed the way. They did not know where to steer the ship, and a great storm approached. For three days, terrible winds tossed their ship and drove them back on the waters, and they became very frightened lest they would be drowned at sea (v. 191-194).

On the fourth day, the storm raged worse and worse, and it seemed that their ship would surely sink (v. 195-196). The brothers then saw that the wrath of God was upon them and they must either repent of their sins or they would surely die (v.197). Nephi, though bound so tightly that he could not move, did not complain (v. 198). Though his wrists and ankles were swollen and very sore, he continued to praise God (v. 199).

Nephi's parents, Lehi and Sariah, were growing very old and were suffering because of the trouble of their elder sons were causing Nephi. They became ill, so ill it seemed they were about to die of grief and sorrow (v. 200-205). The illness of their parents did not cause Laman and Lemuel to repent nor did the tears and prayers of Nephi's wife (v. 206). There was nothing which could soften their hearts and make them repent except the power of God threatening their own lives (v. 207).

When they saw that they were about to be swallowed up by the sea, the brothers repented, and untied Nephi (v. 208). He then took the compass, and, behold, it worked for him, pointing the way to steep the ship (v. 209). Nephi then prayed that the winds might cease, and the storm died away and the sea was calm (v. 210). With Nephi guiding the ship, they sailed again towards the promised land (v. 211).

- 1. Why did the Liahona stop working?**
- 2. What does it mean to "speak with much soberness?"**
- 3. Does anyone ever "speak with much soberness" to you? Why?**
- 4. What happened when Nephi was freed?**