

## BOM 019 – 1 Nephi 18

### *1 Nephi 18:*

*[1] And it came to pass that they did worship the Lord, and did go forth with me; and we did work timbers of curious workmanship....*

Remember the interpretation of the word curious is to be exceedingly fine and intricate, advanced workmanship.

*[1] ... And the Lord did show me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship.*

There is an estimate, by some LDS scholars, that this construction of the ship from the time they began up until the time when they actually set sail could be as much as 4 years. And there is good scriptural evidence and logic to support that. Some of the other thoughts are that if this construction is taking place, where scholars think that it did, there are no timbers of this size in that area to construct the ship. We sometimes get the feeling that in this area where the Lehi colony are; that they are absolutely isolated from everyone else. I believe this comes because of the way we have traditionally understood this book. Who is to say that they did not have interaction with other peoples; seafaring people who may have lived on the coast in or near the area where they were doing this construction. Who's to say that they were able to obtain timbers that may been shipped in from other areas for the building of ships by seafaring people who lived in this general environment. At any rate it is something to think about. The word to ponder in this verse is timbers. This is a sailing vessel because later on the word sails are used. How big do you think the ship was? It is also estimated that the journey that they make, as will talk about later, may have taken upwards to 15 months. Did they carry everything on board with them from the time they departed so that they have provisions enough without making landfall at any time along their journey or did they have to stop periodically and replenish their supplies at places the Lord indicated through the Liahona? At any rate, asking these kinds of questions in our study is very healthy and is referred to as pondering in the Scriptures. These kinds of ponderings; these kinds of questions and thoughts open up revelatory responses and make the book come alive. The Book of Mormon then becomes alive volume. Verse 2.

*[2] Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men,...*

This indicates that perhaps Nephi had some knowledge of how shipbuilders work the timbers of traditional ships at their time otherwise why would he make such a statement.

*[2] ... neither did I build the ship after the manner of men; ...*

Again, indicating some knowledge of ships and shipping and shipbuilding

*[2] ...but I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me; wherefore, it was not after the manner of men.*

Notices that 3 times in verse 2 Nephi makes emphasis that this construction *was not after the manner of men*. Why is he emphasizing this so much? This would harken back to the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter verse 13.

### *1 Nephi 17:13-14*

*[13] And I will also be your light in the wilderness; and I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments; wherefore, inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be led towards the promised land; and ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led.*

*[14] Yea, and the Lord said also that: After ye have arrived in the promised land, ye shall know that I, the Lord, am God; and that I, the Lord, did deliver you from destruction; yea, that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem.*

This whole emphasis from the Lord showing that we are instruments in his hands to bring to pass his great and marvelous purposes and that in no way can we assume that on our own we could bring anything up any eternal significance to pass. We need to trust in him and that anything that is mighty that comes to pass, as a result of our efforts, must always be attributed to his mercy and grace and his great goodness and knowledge. Being in that attitude at all times also acts as a protection and a shield against us. In my prayers I asked the Lord to help me stay humble, submissive, meek, and lowly in heart and remain in a state of grace; always have a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The results of that prayer is: I am continually protected, shielded and remain in a position thru humility to receive the will of the Lord for me and for those that I have stewardship for. Verse 3.

### ***1 Nephi 18:***

*[3] And I, Nephi, did go into the mount oft, and I did pray oft unto the Lord; wherefore the Lord showed unto me great things.*

This mount is the temple for Nephi and the aging patriarchs where there was no established building or some portable tabernacle of the congregation. Mountains, solitary places, desert places were always, notice what Nephi says, *I did go into the mount oft*. What is at the Pres. Nelson is asking us to do - attend the temple often.

*and I did pray oft unto the Lord;* When you go to the temple and you pass through the veil and into the celestial room, in the past, many have referred to the celestial room as the forgotten room. I find it interesting that up until you enter into the celestial room you always have a guide, a presenter, somebody with you throughout the whole temple ceremony. And then once we enter into the celestial room where we are in the presence of God with no guides with no directors where we can go directly him and receive in a clear and distinct manner his will concerning us. Many times, we passed through the veil walk into the celestial room look around and notice how beautiful it is, look at the chandeliers, look at the architecture, look at the furnishings, turn around and walk out. It would be well for us to not let the celestial room in our holy temples be the forgotten room. Go in there as often as you attend the temple, have a prayer in your heart, have questions to ask and let that be a place of revelation; because as Nephi says and the end of verse 3, as he goes to the temple and prays there often, *the Lord showed unto him great things*. May also be so for us. I marvel again at the atonement symbols that can be found in this story in these beginning chapters of the Book of Mormon. Here the Lehi colony are in the wilderness. The wilderness could be a type of mortality, our 2<sup>nd</sup> estate in this world, that the telestial world. They come to the great waters. The great waters symbolically, in Scripture, represent societies and nations of evil people or can also represent the trials, temptations, adversities, and challenges of this world. In order to get through that and over these waters into the promised land, which could be symbolic of an eternally inheritance in the presence of the father and son; we met enter into a ship that can sail us over these waters. Is this ship that they're building also a great symbol of the sacrificial atonement of the Son of God; to deliver all men from the lost and fallen state and bring into a place of immortality and eternal life in the presence of the father and the son? Great symbols to think about. It is in thinking of these metaphors, these similes, these types and shadows that our minds can really be opened up to the deeper things of

God. Remember that Joseph Smith made this great comment. *The things of God or of deep import and time, experienced, careful, solemn, and ponderous thought can only find them out.* Do you see that formula of 5 things in order to find out the deep things of God? The first thing listed is time. I think that we sometimes are in too much of a rush and we want things when we want them, how we want them, and in a way that we can recognize it. But was specifically the Lord has said I will give these things to you *in my own way, in my own time, and according to my own will.* Verse 4.

*[4] And it came to pass that after I had finished the ship, according to the word of the Lord, my brethren beheld that it was good, and that the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine; (another word for curious workmanship) wherefore, they did humble themselves again before the Lord.*

One of the biggest challenges in building the ship was not the materials, not the ore to smelt to make tools, but one of the biggest challenges was to have the more constant enlistment of his older brethren to help in the task. Verse 5.

*[5] And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father, that we should arise and go down into the ship.*

Here you can see an example of the patriarchal order of the holy order that existed in those days. Nephi has had all of these wonderful experiences. He is now more perfected in the things of the spirit than as he was when we began the Book of Mormon and yet the voice of the Lord comes to father, the elderly patriarch, the high priest of the holy order, to receive the revelation as to the time that they should go down and enter into the ship. I think it's also interesting that they go down into the ship. If you were to take that literally, you can kind of get a feeling for that. Is the ship now floating in the water; has it been launched; so that they can determine whether it was watertight, so that they could determine that it was balanced correctly, so that they could determine that everything was in ship shape? Another question is, if this was built on land, how would they launch such a vessel? This must've weighed many, many tons. Some have estimated that this ship could be as long as 150 to 200 feet long. One thing for sure, in order to make the voyage that they're going to make, which takes in through the Indian Ocean and over the Pacific Ocean, it would have to be something more than the ships used by the Arabs at that time and in that vicinity which were more or less sewn together and made from light materials that certainly would not survive an ocean voyage that the Lehi colony is facing. I'm sure they didn't load their provisions into the ship until it was in the water. Why put the provisions and add the extra weight while it is still on land? If it's in the water, then is it moored again some kind of wharf that they built; and if so, do they need to cross from the wharf over a gang plank down into the ship? This is the way my mind works as I read these Scriptures. I trained myself, over the years, to go slow and look at every word. Verse 6.

*[6] And it came to pass that on the morrow, (the day after they had gone down into the ship) after we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, every one according to his age; wherefore, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children.*

Look at the provisions there; fruit, meat. There is not a lot of water in this area, so any hunting would have to be done by experienced hunters by sitting at waterholes and checking waterholes where the game would come frequently because of the general lack of water in these areas. Did they jerk the meat? Did they smoke the meat? I find it interesting they took honey. Did they, as the Jaredites, take

honey hives? Did they take whole beehives with them? Now what about the seed? Well they have been 8 years since they left Jerusalem; they certainly couldn't carry everything they needed from Jerusalem to sustain them in that period of time. Therefore, they have been agriculturists. They have planted seeds. They have grown plants; harvested them; preserve them and set them aside in store for time of need. Did they dry a lot of their foodstuffs? Did they take on board with them living plants in containers? Were there living animals on board? I don't think that there were. Were they able to fish along the way? Lots of questions, at any rate, at this point, the ships in the water. It's been launched, loaded and now we're ready to depart. Interesting little insert in verse 7.

*[7] And now, my father had begat two sons in the wilderness; the elder was called Jacob and the younger Joseph.*

Looking at the chronology and the things that we can gather from the Book of Mormon accounts it would appear that these 2 sons were begotten by Lehi and Sariah in their later years. In another place he refers to these 2 as begotten in his old age. Named after the 2 great patriarchs and their family line, hoping as we see later in the Book of Mormon, that the naming of these children with their great patriarchal progenitors will be a catalyst to help them act like the Scriptures teach that their fathers acted and be like them, a reminder in their names. Verse 8.

*[8] And it came to pass after we had all gone down into the ship, and had taken with us our provisions and things which had been commanded us, we did put forth into the sea and were driven forth before the wind towards the promised land.*

Just stop right here, close your eyes, try to imagine what it must've been like to finally enter that ship. It's been years since I left Jerusalem. Think about all of the dynamics that have taken place in his family in that time. Think about the joys, the harmony, the highlights, the wonderful revelations, inspiration; think about the conversations it must've taken place when there was harmony in the family around campfires at night. We only think that there was constant bickering and contention here, but there were times when Laman's and Lemuel's hearts was softened; when they were in a state of humility what must the discussions have been like when those times were present. Verse 9.

*[9] And after we had been driven forth before the wind for the space of many days, behold, my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to make themselves merry, insomuch that they began to dance, and to sing, and to speak with **much rudeness**, (that's the part I would emphasize) *yea, even that they did forget by what power they had been brought thither; yea, they were lifted up unto exceeding rudeness.**

The word is rudeness there. Rudeness is a sign of the loss of the spirit. Even subtle rudeness and saying things about people, where when they are checked in it, will make a statement like, *I was only kidding. I was only joking.* And yet the words spoken have a tendency to degrade rather than lift and edify. Another thought about this singing and dancing and making merry; there must've been a deck on this ship for them to have such activities. Again, how large is this vessel? Was there more than one mast? Was this a multi-sailed vessel? I'm reminded of this rudeness found in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah; in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 13; verse 5.

***2 Nephi 13:5***

*[5] And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, (this part) and every one by his neighbor; the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable.*

Pretty good Isaiah language describing rudeness. I think of a statement John Wayne made in the movie *The Shootist* concerning how he dealt with rude people. *"I won't be wronged. I won't be insulted. I won't be laid a hand on. I don't do these things to other people and I require the same from them."* A statement of the rudeness that exists in this world, a symptom of a decaying society. Verse 10.

### ***1 Nephi 18:***

*[10] And I, Nephi, began to fear exceedingly lest the Lord should be angry with us, and smite us because of our iniquity, that we should be swallowed up in the depths of the sea; wherefore, I, Nephi, began to speak to them with much soberness; but behold they were angry with me, saying: We will not that our younger brother shall be a ruler over us.*

There is that emphasis again to younger and older brothers harkening to the right of the firstborn; not taking into any account that those rights belong to any born as long as you're willing to follow God and keep his commandments. Birth order in God's eyes doesn't account for much if there is no accompanying righteousness. Verse 11.

*[11] And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel did take me and bind me with cords, and they did treat me with much harshness; nevertheless, the Lord did suffer it that he might show forth his power, unto the fulfilling of his word which he had spoken concerning the wicked.*

And what was that covenant? And what was that word? It's the great Book of Mormon promise, *inasmuch as you keep my commandments you shall prosper in the land; and inasmuch as you do not keep my commandments you shall be cut off from my presence.* That's the word that he's talking about in this verse. The Lord gives us room, and 2<sup>nd</sup> chances, and 3<sup>rd</sup> chances, blessings and the opposite cursed, things are really a matter of our own choice. All blessings and the absence of blessings, which is a curse, are determined by divine law. Here the Lord is allowing the actions of his sons and daughters to play out so that in a future day none of them will be able to say at the time when they remain filthy still, because the desired filthiness, that the condition is unfair and unjust. Notice the words in verse 11 where it says *nevertheless, the Lord did suffer it.* That is a key to this Scripture. When you wonder why some adversity and some trial seems to be never ending in your life; there's more to it than you learning the lessons of that trial being polished by their effects. As the Lord revealed to Joseph in the rough Stone rolling quote, the other side of that is those who heap these adversities upon you, whether in the flesh or in the spirit world, are simply using their agency to act out in a way that will forever rob them of the blessings and privileges of the Lord. The next time we feel that we are up to our eyeballs in alligators it would be good for us to remember those 2 things; this effect, this polishing adversity is having upon us and the fact that it's also playing out in the justice and mercy of others who are involved. Verse 12.

*[12] And it came to pass that after they had bound me insomuch that I could not move, the compass, which had been prepared of the Lord, did cease to work.*

In our own personal lives when this compass, the light of Christ becomes dimmed through our personal choices, in reality our own personal Liahona ceases to work. You have been, as I have been, in the flow of the spirit and know how that works. We've also been where that flow has been

retarded or stopped and we remember what that was like. In a sailing vessel, there's one other thing that is feared by sailor men and that is called the doldrums. That's when the wind ceases, the seas become calm, and there's no movement of the vessel except through what currents in the ocean would do. And sometimes those currents taking exactly in the opposite direction that you intend. In this case as the compass ceases to operate and they lose the aid of direction and instruction a storm comes up. Verse 13.

*[13] Wherefore, they knew not whither they should steer the ship, (that tells us that they still have winds, but they lost the direction on how to steer the sailing vessel) insomuch that there arose a great storm, yea, a great and terrible tempest, and we were driven back upon the waters for the space of three days; ...*

There is that 3 days again. You may ask yourself, why were they driven back for the space of 3 days? Why not two? Why not 4? Why 3? This is the way we train ourselves to search the word of God. You don't just read; the commandment is search. And the word search implies a significant effort to find something that is hidden. Back to verse 13.

*[13] ... and they began to be frightened exceedingly lest they should be drowned in the sea; nevertheless they did not loose me.*

You see this hardheartedness here? Do you think they realized, at this point, that the storm has something to do with the ill-treatment they are giving their younger brother? Do you think they put 2 and 2 together here? Verse 14.

*[14] And on the fourth day, which we had been driven back, the tempest began to be exceedingly sore.*

All of this is designed to help God's children come to a point where they turn around from the incorrect direction face the Lord Jesus Christ and come to him. Are you able, as you read the Book of Mormon and look at these things that are taking place, are you able to see a loving God, and loving Savior, who in the midst of all of this rejection of his loving kindness, still loves and his arms are outstretched still? Do you see this not so much as retribution; as is a physical pleading from our father in ways that these can only understand at this time to get them to turn and repent and be healed? Verse 15.

*[15] And it came to pass that we were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea. And after we had been driven back upon the waters for the space of four days, my brethren began to see that the judgments of God were upon them, and that they must perish save that they should repent of their iniquities; ...*

Finally dawning on them. But it is only at the point of death; and the Scriptures are replete of many instances of people who not at the point but pass through death without having turn to the Lord and die in their sins; hardhearted, stiffnecked and unredeemed. We just read about many of those Israelites who died in that condition because they refuse to look at the serpent upon the pole. Now keep in mind that Nephi has been tied; I don't know if it's to a mast, it says *they bound me with cords*, perhaps not, but the picture in my mind is that he's tied to one of these masts. They got his hands tied behind him. They got his feet tied. I can just picture in my mind, in the midst of the storm, Nephi with his body lashed to that mast the waves beating up on the edge. He's soaking wet. His

head is down; the waters dripping off his hair and beard. This is the image that I have. Back to the middle of verse 15.

*[15] ...wherefore, they came unto me, and loosed the bands which were upon my wrists, and behold they had swollen exceedingly; ...*

Well I guess so; you're in the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Also, the pitching of the ship back and forth, transferring the weight of his body from one side of the other with each tossed wave, would put extra pressure on his wrists and feet

*[15] ...and also mine ankles were much swollen, and great was the soreness thereof.*

I can see a picture that my mind. When he was trussed up they were gentle with him. These people have murder in their hearts. The only reason they don't throw him overboard again is probably because the tempering influence of the spirit and the pleadings of others on the boat, his wife and children, and his mother and father. Verse 16.

*[16] Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions.*

How do we get to that point? Do you think that's something that you can just summon up from somewhere inside you? This is the extra oil in the vessels of the 10 virgins. All of them had oil, but 5 had extra oil. That extra oil is the amount that gets them from the door into the presence Lord. That extra oil is a change in your very nature. Nephi cannot go into the presence of the Lord; cannot hear his voice; cannot be caught away into visions upon exceeding high mountains; cannot receive the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost and be in the continual flow of the Holy Spirit and not have all of that be changing his very nature. At this point that Nephi is bound and lashed to this mast of the ship; he is not the same Nephi that stood in the street looking down at Laban. His nature, at this point, is godly. His natural man nature has been stripped away as he's encountered the heavenly realm and is now able to say, in the midst of all this, *I did look on my God and praise him all day long I did not murmur against the Lord because of my afflictions.* This, brothers and sisters, is where we want to go. The purpose of the Book of Mormon is to give you the doctrine, the knowledge, the wisdom, and the understanding of these ancients so that we can seek after the same blessings in the same way that they did and experience the same marvelous holy results. You spending time with the Lord every day is designed to bring you to this place where you too can say, *I did look unto my God and did praise him all the day long; I did not murmur against the Lord or against anyone else because of mine afflictions.* Verse 17.

*[17] Now my father, Lehi, had said many things unto them, and also unto the sons of Ishmael; ...*

Stop right there. Put yourself in that situation. Imagine what it was Lehi, Sariah must've said at this point in the midst of these circumstances to their rebellious sons and daughters in behalf of their actions against Nephi and in behalf of their unbelief and stiffneckedness concerning the Lord and his commandments. But in spite of that. Verse 17.

*[17] ... but, behold, they did breathe out much threatenings against **anyone** that should speak for me; and my parents being stricken in years, and having suffered much grief because of their children, they were brought down, yea, even upon their sick-beds. (30:37)*

I assume that the sleeping quarters were below the main deck and that because of their sickness and their advanced age that much of what is happening up on the main deck is not immediately known to these older parents who are below. Now we're going to see an interesting statement in verse 18.

*[18] Because of their grief and much sorrow, and the iniquity of my brethren, (this right here) they were brought near even to be carried out of this time to meet their God; yea, their grey hairs were about to be brought down to lie low in the dust; yea, even they were near to be cast with sorrow into a watery grave.*

This is ancient Hebrew Middle East syntax. Joseph Smith who in the translation of 1 Nephi 4, while his wife was acting as a scribe, did not know that there were walls around Jerusalem and had asked Emma. *Emma, I didn't know there were walls around Jerusalem were there?* And she said, *yes Joseph there were*, and he said, *Oh, I thought I was being deceived*. Now how could Joseph know anything about Middle Eastern syntax because what you have in verse 18 is a classic example of that? This is also the literary style of Isaiah. Look at that again. *They were brought near even to be carried out of this time to meet their God*. Think in the various ways we can say the same thing, and in our civilization and in our culture, how we word that. Will it wouldn't be like that. *Yea, gray hairs were about to be brought down to lie low in the dust*. You can see a similar statement in Genesis 42:38. This takes place as Ruben has returned to his father, Jacob, under the direction of Pharaoh to retrieve Benjamin and bring him to Egypt in order to free Simeon who is being held as hostage. Verse 37 Genesis 42.

#### **Genesis 42:37-38**

*[37] And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.*

*[38] And he (Jacob) said, My son shall not go down with you; (Jacob speaking of Benjamin) for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.*

Now others can say that Joseph Smith copied that from Genesis 42. But remember that the Book of Mormon translation was completed in 60 days and all of 1 Nephi, all 22 chapters, were completed in about one week. Not a lot of time for extracurricular research into the Old Testament. Verse 19.

#### **1 Nephi 18:**

*[19] And Jacob and Joseph also, being young, having need of much nourishment, were grieved because of the afflictions of their mother; and also my wife with her tears and prayers, and also my children, did not soften the hearts of my brethren that they would loose me.*

We don't hear much about the children of Nephi in his record at least in the small plates. It would be interesting to know how many children he had, sons and daughters, and what kind of men and women they grew up to be. Verse 20.

*[20] And there was nothing save it were the power of God, which threatened them with destruction, could soften their hearts; ...*

This is a disaster course for Lehman and Lemuel and those rebellious sons of Israel and for any of us. The power of God threatening them with destruction is not the way you want to have your

heart softened. If it brings you to a place of humility where you can accept the Lord and be counseled of him then wonderful. But all too often this type of approach to repentance is short-lived, reverses itself quickly, and the state of the person is worse off after the experience than it was before. I of think Pres. Benson statement in his great talk, *Pride*. He said, *God will have humble people. Either we can choose humility, or we can be compelled to humility*. I think the members of those who are compelled to humility that actually follow through and obtain the promises of the Lord are much, much fewer than those who choose to be humble. I don't know how many of the people who are compelled to humility actually stood in the presence of the Lord on that day at the Temple in Bountiful and were witnesses, one on one, of his resurrected body. My feeling was these were people who had followed a course to choose humility in the midst of adversity and ridicule, that truly were broken hearts and contrite spirits, truly did have a lowliness of heart, meekness. These are the ones I feel that obtaining the blessings of the Lord in their fullness. Middle of verse 20.

*[20] ... wherefore, when they saw that they were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea they repented of the thing which they had done, insomuch that they loosed me.*

I think again of that scripture that will probably quote over and over in our Book of Mormon lessons in Helaman chapter 12 verse 3; the scripture beloved by Pres. Henry B. Eyring, insomuch that he is committed to memory, and can quote it and does in general conference addresses.

### ***Helaman 12:3***

*[3] And thus we see that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death and with terror, and with famine and with all manner of pestilence, they will not remember him.*

Verse 21.

### ***1 Nephi 18:***

*[21] And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm.*

Again, elements of the power of the holy order and of the God of nature working with his faithful sons and daughters, the elect who trust him in all places under all conditions even unto death. And he rewards this faithfulness by great manifestations of his power in their lives. This is the kind of power that we will have in the coming day. It is associated with events of the latter days, the establishment of Zion, the return of the 10 lost tribes, and the building of the New Jerusalem. You and I are being prepared, if we will, to come into this higher order of priesthood and doctrine and join in the companionship of the Lord Jesus Christ, personally, one on one face-to-face to bring about the marvelous purposes of these days. Verse 22.

*[22] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship, that we sailed again towards the promised land.*

*[23] And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days (that tells you right there that this was a sailing vessel, probably multi mast) we did arrive at the promised land; (symbolic about entering into our exaltation in obtaining eternal life with the Father and Son) and we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land.*

Over the years there has been a lot of discussion about where the Lehi colony landed in the promised land. Because of early statements, supposedly made by the prophet Joseph Smith, it has been accepted that they landed off the west coast of Chili. Other theories, closer to the Isthmus of Darien, and another, the west coast of Mexico. These early statements by the prophet Joseph Smith, because of new found evidence have become suspect. There has been, over the last few years, immersing evidence from early journals, the Joseph Smith Papers Project, and current archeological research and evidence, that point to an Atlantic crossing and the landing of the Lehi colony upon the eastern coast of the United States of America. It is important, at this time in the history of the church and the unfolding of prophesied events, to remain open and teachable. We are living at a time when the Lord is bring forth new knowledge through open heavenly portals, that challenge existing beliefs and traditions concerning all aspects of our knowledge and understanding of the Book of Mormon and the early inhabitants of the Americas. Perhaps the best way to find out infinitive proof on this and other areas of study is to go to the Lord himself and ask to be instructed by heavenly beings, and even those characters themselves, that we are reading about in the book of Mormon. This is what Joseph Smith did. Perhaps, this is what we should do. I have.

This was a mighty voyage and could only be accomplished successfully without the loss of life under the continual direction of the Lord Jesus Christ; as it is with us, if we are to arrive in the promised land. It will only be done thus. Verse 24.

*[24] And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seeds; yea, we did put all our seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore, we were blessed in abundance.*

What kind of seeds did they plant there? Did they have some kind of a wheat? Did they have some kind of a corn? Verse 25.

*[25] And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forests of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, and the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. ...*

The mention of the horse in this verse is been a bone of contention for people who tried to use this verse to show that the Book of Mormon is false, and that Joseph is a fraud. Based upon the knowledge existing at that time that the horse was not brought the Americas except by the Spanish. They now found out that that's incorrect and that the horses been here for many millennia. Are some of these that they're finding, animals that were cultivated for domestic use by the Jaredites? Probably not if they landed on the southern coast of South America or in Central America. It's been pretty well established the Jaredites were in and around the northeastern part of the United States at least that is according to what I've studied. The rest of verse 25.

*[25] ...And we did find all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper.*

And I bet they were happy to find that, because as we've learned they are experienced in metallurgy and in making plates and a working metal not only for tools but will find out that they become expert in making mental ornaments to adorn their bodies and coins to use in their financial systems. Well, brothers and sisters, I hope that that's been interesting, and I hope that you have learned to look at the Scriptures differently. I hope you learn that each time we study together and that you are

beginning to put into practice new ideas, concepts, and practices that will further open this marvelous book up to us. May the Lord bless you and your families. May his face shine upon you and you be guided daily by the holy light of Christ. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**References:**

1 Nephi 18

1 Nephi 17:13-14

2 Nephi 13:5

Genesis 42:37-38

Helaman 12:3