

Twelve Requirements for the Land of Bountiful

Key Scripture 1 Nephi 17–18

Explanation Because the Lehites “exceedingly rejoiced when [they] came to the seashore” at Bountiful (1 Nephi 17:6), Bountiful must have been a fertile area—especially for arid southern Arabia, where they are thought to have journeyed from Jerusalem. Twelve required characteristics of Bountiful, identified by Warren and Michaela Aston, narrow the location of Bountiful to six spots along the Arabian coast. The current-day Wadi Sayq (more specifically Khor Kharfot, a portion of Wadi Sayq, located in Oman) is the most probable location of Bountiful because it is the most fertile coastal location on the Arabian Peninsula. Unless the wadi is reached by traveling through the Arabian interior, as Lehi would have done, Wadi Sayq remains almost completely hidden. Wadi Sayq lies “nearly eastward” of Nehem, Yemen (assumed to be “Nahom”; 1 Nephi 16:34; 17:1), and is the only area in which fruit grows without being cultivated. It also contains the largest freshwater source on the Arabian coast. The twelve required characteristics for the land of Bountiful are listed in this chart.

Source Warren P. Aston and Michaela Knoth Aston, *In the Footsteps of Lehi: New Evidence for Lehi’s Journey across Arabia to Bountiful* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1994), 28–29.

Twelve Requirements for the Land of Bountiful

1. Fresh water available year-round
2. Contain “much fruit” and honey (1 Nephi 17:5, 6; 18:6)
3. Both general area (17:5, 8) and specific location where the Lehités camped were fertile (17:6)
4. Permit reasonable access from the interior desert to the coast
5. A mountain prominent enough to justify Nephi’s reference to “the mount” (17:7, 18:3) and close enough that he could go there to “pray off” (18:3)
6. Cliffs from which Nephi’s brothers could have thrown him into the depths of the sea (17:48)
7. Shoreline (17:5) suitable for the construction and launching of a ship (18:8)
8. Ore and flint for Nephi’s tools (17:9–11, 16)
9. Enough large timber to build a seaworthy ship with (18:1, 2, 6)
10. Suitable winds and ocean currents to take the ship out into the ocean (18:8, 9)
11. No population residing in the area
12. “Nearly eastward of Nahom” (1 Nephi 17:1)

