



Type: Book Chapter

1 Nephi Chapter 8 (8:1-9:1)

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Chapter 8

{Original 1830 Chapter II – continued}

[Note: Verse 1 of Chapter 8 is a continuation of the theme of Chapter 7 so it has been placed at the end of Chapter 7.]

~~~Lehi's Group Tarries in the Valley of Lemuel  
Lehi's Dream concerning His Family and the Tree of Life

2 And **it came to pass**

that **while** my father *tarried* *in the wilderness*  
he [my father] **spake** unto us  
**saying**

**Behold** I [Lehi] have dreamed a dream

>or in other words

I [Lehi] have seen \_\_\_\_ a vision

01

aa

bb

3 **And behold** because of the thing which

I [Lehi] have seen

I [Lehi] have reason to rejoice in the Lord

because of **Nephi**

**and also** [because] of **Sam**

For [behold] I [Lehi] have reason to suppose

that they \_\_\_\_\_ [will be saved]

**and also** [that] **MANY** of their **seed** will be saved

4

**But behold** **Laman and Lemuel**

I [Lehi] fear exceedingly because of you

For **behold** me thought

[that] I [Lehi] saw in my dream [inserted in 1837] {AG}

a dark

**and** [a] dreary *wilderness*

5 And **it came to pass**

that I [Lehi] saw **A Man**  
and **He** was dressed in a **white robe**  
and **He** came  
and [**He**] **stood** before me

6 And **it came to pass**

that **He** **spake** unto me  
and [**He**] **bade** \_\_\_\_\_ me follow **Him** [*bade = asked, invited*] {AL}

[Heb. 01 – Verb and noun with the same root “dream”]

[Par. bb – Circular repetition “I Lehi”]

[Par. aa – Line of clarification]

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7 And **it came to pass**

that **as** I [Lehi] \_\_\_\_\_ followed Him  
[and after I [Lehi] \_\_\_\_\_ followed Him] [deleted in 1837]  
I [Lehi] **beheld myself**

that I [Lehi] was in a **dark**  
and [a] dreary **waste**

8 And **after\*** I [Lehi] had traveled **for the space of MANY hours** [\*O= that] 02  
in **darkness**

[A] I [Lehi] **began to pray** unto **the Lord** \*\*  
[B] that **He [the Lord]**  
would have **mercy on me**  
[B] according to the multitude  
of **His [the Lord's]** tender **mercies** [Quote – Psalm 51:1]

9 And **it came to pass**

[A] [that] **after** I [Lehi] had **prayed** unto **the Lord** [deleted in 1837]  
I [Lehi] **beheld** a large  
and [a] spacious field

10 And **it came to pass**

that I [Lehi] **beheld A Tree** 03  
**Whose Fruit Was Desirable To Make One Happy**

11 And **it came to pass**

that I [Lehi] **did go forth** (AG)  
and [I [Lehi] did] **partake** of **the Fruit** thereof cc  
and I [Lehi] **beheld** that it [the Fruit] thereof] was  
**MOST Sweet**  
**Above ALL** [\*O= had]  
**that I EVER\* Before Tasted**

Yea and I [Lehi] **beheld** that **the Fruit** thereof] was  
**White**  
**to Exceed ALL the Whiteness**  
**that I Had EVER Seen**

[see Psalm 51:7-8]

12 And **as** I [Lehi] **partook** of **the Fruit** thereof  
it [the Fruit] filled my soul  
with **exceedingly GREAT joy** [1981]

[Note: The word "thereof" refers to the antecedent noun (the tree).]

[Heb. 02 – Separated compound preposition "for the space of" ]  
[Par. \*\* -- Simple chiasmic parallelism]

[Heb. 03 – Metonymy/symbolism "A Tree"]  
[Par. cc – Circular repetition "the Fruit"]

**Wherefore** I [Lehi] \*began to be \_\_\_\_\_ **desirous** that my family  
 should **partake**  
 of it [the Fruit] also  
**for** I [Lehi] knew that it [the Fruit] was **Desirous /** [^P / 1837]  
**Desirable Above ALL Other Fruit**

[Note: According to Greg Wright (1976:6) and Donald Parry (2007:15), verses 10-12 can be viewed as a **chiastic parallelism**. A basic outline of parallel elements is as follows:

10 And it came to pass that I beheld a tree,  
 [A] desirable  
 [B] happy  
 11 [C] partake of the fruit thereof  
 [D] it was most sweet . . . above all . . . I ever before tasted  
 [D] [it] was white . . . to exceed all . . . I had ever seen  
 [C] I partook of the fruit thereof  
 12 [B] joy  
 [A] desirable

13 **And as** I [Lehi] cast my eyes round about  
**that** perhaps I [Lehi] might discover my family also  
 [and] I [Lehi] **beheld** \_\_\_\_\_ a river of water [deleted in P] {AG} \*\*  
 and it [the river of water] ran along aa  
 and it [the river of water] was near **the Tree** of which

I [Lehi] was **partaking** **the Fruit**

14 **And** I [Lehi] **looked** to behold  
 from *whence* it [the river of water] came [from what place] {AL}  
**and** I [Lehi] **saw** the head [of the river of water] thereof a little way off  
**and** at the head [of the river of water] thereof  
 I [Lehi] **beheld**  
 your mother Sariah bb  
**and** Sam  
**and** Nephi  
**and** they stood  
**as if** they knew NOT *whither* [to what place] they should **go** {AL}

15 **And it came to pass**  
**that** I [Lehi] **beckoned** unto them  
**and** I [Lehi] also **did** say unto them with a loud **voice**

[Heb. 04 – Use of the phrase “began to be”]

[Heb. \*\* -- deleted construction = Hebraism]

[Par. aa – Circular repetition “the river of water”]

[Par. bb – enumeration]

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that they should come unto me  
and [that they should] partake of the Fruit

Which Was Desirable Above ALL Other Fruit

16 And it came to pass

that they did come unto me  
and [that they did] partake of the Fruit also

17 And it came to pass

that I [Lehi] was \_\_\_\_\_ desirous  
that [they] Laman and Lemuel  
should come [unto me ]  
  
and [that I [Lehi] was \_\_\_\_\_ desirous  
that they [Laman and Lemuel  
should] partake of the Fruit also

wherefore

that perhaps I [Lehi] cast mine eyes towards the head of the river  
I [Lehi] might see them

18 And it came to pass

that I [Lehi] \_\_\_\_\_ saw them  
But they [Laman and Lemuel]  
would NOT come unto me  
and partake of the Fruit

[^O / P -omitted]

[Note: The phrase "and partake of the fruit" was present in the Original Manuscript, but omitted in the Printers Manuscript.]

19 And I [Lehi] beheld a rod of iron  
and it [the rod of iron] extended along the bank of the river  
and led to The Tree by which dd  
I [Lehi] stood

20 And I [Lehi] also beheld a ^strait / straight and narrow path [^O / 1830]  
which [path]

came along  
by the rod of iron even to The Tree by which  
I [Lehi] stood  
  
and it [the strait \_\_\_\_\_ and narrow path]  
also led by the head of the fountain  
unto a large and spacious field  
as if it [the large and spacious field]  
had been a world

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Par. dd – Repetition "The Tree"]

21 And I [Lehi] saw numberless concourses of people [alliteration]  
 MANY of whom were pressing forward  
 that they [the people] might obtain the path [reach] {AL}  
 which path  
 led unto The Tree by which  
 I [Lehi] stood

22 And it came to pass

that they [the people]  
 did come forth  
 and [did] commence in the path  
 which led to The Tree

23 And it came to pass

that there arose a mist of darkness  
 yea even an exceedingly GREAT mist of darkness [added in 1981]  
 insomuch that they who had commenced in the path [O= which]  
 did lose their way  
 that they wandered off  
 and [they] were lost

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:16), verses 22-23 can be seen as a contrasting *chiasmatic parallelism*. A basic outline of the pertinent parallel elements is as follows:

- |    |     |                              |
|----|-----|------------------------------|
| 22 | [A] | <u>they did come</u>         |
|    | [B] | <u>commence in the path</u>  |
| 23 | [C] | <u>mist of darkness</u>      |
|    | [C] | <u>mist of darkness</u>      |
|    | [B] | <u>commenced in the path</u> |
|    | [A] | <u>they wandered off</u>     |

24 And it came to pass

that I [Lehi] beheld others pressing forward  
 and they came forth  
 and caught hold  
 of the end  
 of the rod of iron  
 and they did press forward  
 through the mist of darkness  
 clinging to the rod of iron

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- even **until** and they did \_\_\_\_\_ **come forth**  
[they did] **partake** of **the Fruit** \_\_\_\_\_ of **The Tree**
- 25 **And after** \* they had **partaken** of **the Fruit** \_\_\_\_\_ of **The Tree** [\*O= that]  
they did **cast their eyes** \_\_\_\_\_ **about**  
**as if** they were **ashamed**
- 26 **And** I [Lehi] also \_\_\_\_\_ **cast my eyes round about**  
**and** [I Lehi] **^beheld / behold** [^O / P]  
on the other side of the river **of water**  
a **GREAT** and spacious **building**
- and** it [the GREAT and spacious **building**] stood  
**as [if]** it were in the **air**  
high above the **earth**
- 27 **And** it [the GREAT and spacious **building**]  
was filled with **people**  
both **old** and **young**  
both **male** and **female** ee  
**and** their [the **people's**] manner of dress was exceedingly **ly** fine [1981]  
**and** they [the **people**] were in the attitude  
of **mocking**  
**and** [of] **pointing** their fingers towards
- and** those **who** had **came/come** **^up / at** [P= which] [O, P/1830] [^O / P] {AG}  
**and** [those **who**] were **partaking** of **the Fruit**
- 28 **And after** \* they [the **people**] [\*O= that]  
had **tasted** of **the Fruit**  
they [the **people**] were **ashamed**  
because of those that were **scoffing** at them
- and** they [the **people**] **fell away** into **forbidden paths**  
[because of those that were **scoffing** at them]  
**and** were **lost**
- 29 **And now**
- 30 **but** I **Nephi** \_\_\_\_\_ do NOT **speak** ALL the **words** of my **father**  
[I **Nephi**] **to be short in writing** [the **words** of my **father**] [or to summarize] {AL}

[Par. ee – Distribution list]

[A] **behold** he [my **father**] **saw** other **multitudes** pressing \_\_\_\_\_ **forward** ff  
 and they [the **multitudes**] **came** \_\_\_\_\_ [**forward**]  
 [B] \_\_\_\_\_ and **caught hold**  
 of the end  
 of the rod **of** iron

[A] \_\_\_\_\_ and they [the **multitudes**] did **press** their way **forward**  
 [B] **continually** \_\_\_\_\_ **holding fast**  
 to the rod **of** iron

**until** they [the **multitudes**]  
 and **came forth**  
**fell down**

and **partook** of **the Fruit** \_\_\_\_\_ of **The Tree**

31 **And** he [my **father**] also **saw** other **multitudes** ^pressing / feeling their way [^O / P]  
 towards that GREAT and spacious **building**

32 **And** **it came to pass**

**that** MANY were **drowned**  
 and MANY were **lost** from his view  
 wandering in **strange roads**

33 **And** GREAT was **the multitude**  
 that did **enter** into that **strange** **building**

**And after** \* they [**the multitude**]  
 did **enter** into that **building** [\*O= that]

they [**the multitude**]  
 did point the **finger of scorn**

at **me**  
**and** [at] those that were **partaking** of **the Fruit** also

34 **but** we heeded **them NOT**  
 Thus is/Thus are /^These are the **words** of my father [O\*/Os2 /^ P]

**For** as MANY as heeded **them**  
 had **fallen away**

\_\_\_\_\_ [Par. ff- Circular repetition "Multitude(s)"]



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35 **And** Laman and Lemuel  
partook NOT of **the Fruit**  
[thus had **fallen away**]  
**said** **my father** [O= saith]

*Because of the Dream, Lehi Exhorts, Preaches, and Prophecies  
to Laman and Lemuel*

36 **And it came to pass**  
[that] **after** [he] **my father** had **spoken ALL** the **words** [deleted in 1837] gg  
of his **dream**  
**or** [of his] **vision**  
which [words] were MANY

he [my father] **said** unto us  
[that] because of these **things** which  
he [my father] **saw** \_\_\_\_\_ in a **vision**

yea he [my father] exceedingly **feared** for Laman and Lemuel  
he [my father] \_\_\_\_\_ **feared** lest **they** should be **cast off**  
from the **presence** of **the Lord**

37 **And** he [my father] did **exhort** **them**  
**then** with ALL the feeling of a tender parent  
**that** **they** would **hearken** to his **words**  
[in] **that** perhaps **the Lord** would be **merciful** to **them** [P= in - deleted]  
**and** [that] perhaps **the Lord** would] \_\_\_\_\_ NOT **cast** **them off**

yea [he] **my father** did **preach** unto **them**

38 **And after\*** he [my father] had **preached** unto **them** [\*O= that]  
**and also** [after\* he **my father** had] **prophesied** unto **them**  
of MANY **things**

he [my father] **bade** **them** [asked, invited] {AL}  
to **keep** the **commandments**  
of **the Lord**

**and** he [my father] did **CEASE speaking**  
unto **them**

\_\_\_\_\_ [Par. gg – like beginnings “he my father]

[Ending]

9:1 **And** ALL these things did

my father see  
**and** hear  
**and** speak

as he [my father] dwelt in a tent *in the valley of Lemuel*

**And also** a GREAT MANY MORE things [did

my father see  
**and** hear  
**and** speak]

as he [my father] dwelt in a tent *in the valley of Lemuel*

which [things] can NOT be **written**  
upon these [small] **plates**

\* \* \*

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