

## 1 Ne. 8

**1** And it came to pass that we had gathered together all manner of seeds of every kind, both of grain of every kind, and also of the seeds of fruit of every kind. [Preparedness... a highly useful aspect of Mormon tradition.](#)

**2** And it came to pass that while my father tarried in the wilderness he spake unto us, saying: Behold, I have dreamed a dream; or, in other words, I have seen a vision. [\(Again, God speaking to Lehi according to his spiritual language\)](#)

**3** And behold, because of the thing which I have seen, I have reason to rejoice in the Lord because of Nephi and also of Sam; for I have reason to suppose that they, and also many of their seed, will be saved.

**4** But behold, Laman and Lemuel, I fear exceedingly because of you; for behold, methought I saw in my dream, a dark and dreary wilderness. [\(Note that Lehi is addressing Laman and Lemuel directly\)](#)

**5** And it came to pass that I saw a man, and he was dressed in a white robe; and he came and stood before me. [\(Is this also the “Spirit of the Lord” as in chapter 11? I really like the idea that we have here a description of the Holy Ghost\).](#)

**6** And it came to pass that he spake unto me, and bade me follow him.

**7** And it came to pass that as I followed him I beheld myself that I was in a dark and dreary waste.

**8** And after I had traveled for the space of many hours in darkness, I began to pray unto the Lord that he would have mercy on me, according to the multitude of his tender mercies. [Note the touching and instructive detail that even though Lehi was following a heavenly being, he was in dreary darkness for hours before “getting to the point”. And he pushed through that darkness, and reached what we can assume was a limit before pleading to the Lord. Important life application.](#)

**9** And it came to pass after I had prayed unto the Lord I beheld a large and spacious field.

**10** And it came to pass that I beheld a **tree**, whose **fruit was desirable to make one happy**. [There is such rich mythology about Trees, including the Tree of Life. I cherish the simplicity of this summary. What is the Tree of Life? The tree whose fruit makes us happy.](#)

**11** And it came to pass that I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof; and I beheld that it was **most sweet**, above all that I ever before tasted. Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was **white**, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen. [The gospel is \\*experiential\\*. It should “taste good”. If living the gospel is not making you daily a](#)

better person, if living the gospel does not “taste good” and satisfy even when hard, you aren’t doing it right (there are factors such as depression that need to be taken into account, but I think most often there is a satisfaction that comes with proper alignment with correct principles, even in the midst of pain)

**12** And as I partook of the fruit thereof it **filled my soul with exceedingly great joy**; wherefore, I began to be **desirous that my family should partake of it also**; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit. When we experience joy and well-being we want our loved ones to “also partake”. I define “salvation” (the fruit of the Tree of Life) as the maximization of Love, Joy, Peace, Freedom, and Growth.

**13** And as I cast my eyes round about, **that perhaps I might discover my family also**, I beheld a river of water; and it ran along, and it was **near the tree of which I was partaking the fruit**. There is more to this verse than is appreciated at first glance. From 1 Nephi 15:27 we learn that the water was “filthiness” and “so much was his mind swallowed up in other things that he beheld not the filthiness of the water.” Lehi was focusing on his family and the Tree/love of God, and so passed right by the filthiness. Vital life application.

**14** And I looked to behold from whence it came; and I saw the head thereof a little way off; and at the head thereof I beheld your mother Sariah, and Sam, and Nephi; and they stood as if they knew not whither they should go. (Still talking to Laman and Lemuel)

**15** And it came to pass that I beckoned unto them; and I also did say unto them with a loud voice that they should come unto me, and partake of the fruit, which was desirable above all other fruit.

**16** And it came to pass that they did come unto me and partake of the fruit also. (It looks like Laman and Lemuel left at precisely this point—they leave the telling of the dream at the exact point their dream counterparts reject the tree).

**17** And it came to pass that I was desirous that Laman and Lemuel should come and partake of the fruit also; wherefore, I cast mine eyes towards the head of the river, that perhaps I might see them.

**18** And it came to pass that I saw them, but **they would not come** unto me and partake of the fruit.

**19** And I beheld a **rod of iron**, and it extended along the bank of the river, and led to the tree by which I stood.

**20** And I also beheld a strait and narrow path (strait does not mean “lacking turns”, or “straight”. It is a synonym of narrow, thus the word “strait” referring to a narrow body of water), which came along by the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood; and it also led by the head of the fountain, unto a large and spacious field, as if it had been a world.

**21** And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were **pressing forward**, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood.

**22** And it came to pass that they did come forth, and **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, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

**24** And it came to pass that I 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, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree. I don't think it is reading too much into the narrative to contrast “clinging” with “holding fast” (v. 30). Those “clinging” to the rod seem to have been doing so too desperately and for the wrong reasons. Perhaps they both held to and let go of the rod because they were concerned what others thought, instead of being anchored in themselves.

**25** And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed.

**26** And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a **great and spacious building**; and it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth. Note that Lehi didn't notice the building until he followed the eyes of those who were ashamed. A focused guy, that Lehi.

**27** And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceedingly fine; and they were in the attitude of **mocking and pointing their fingers** towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit.

**28** And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

**29** And now I, Nephi, do not speak all the words of my father.

**30** But, to be short in writing, behold, he saw other multitudes **pressing forward**; and they came and **caught hold** of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, **continually holding fast** to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree. The precise parallelism between 1 Ne. 8 and 11 is powerful. Note how the multitudes “fall down” and worship Jesus in 11:24.

**31** And he also saw other multitudes **feeling their way** towards that great and spacious building. “feeling their way” such a perfect description of following unreflective desires and the opinions of others.

**32** And it came to pass that many were **drowned in the depths of the fountain**; 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 did enter into that building they did point the **finger of scorn at me** and those that were partaking of the fruit also; **but we heeded them not**. I feel electrified at the power of these simple words. Give attention to what merits attention.

**34** These are the words of my father: For **as many as heeded them, had fallen away.**

**35** And Laman and Lemuel partook not of the fruit, said my father. **So much understated sorrow.**

**36** And it came to pass after my father had spoken all the words of his dream or vision, which were many, he said unto us, because of these things which he saw in a vision, he exceedingly feared for Laman and Lemuel; yea, he feared lest they should be cast off from the presence of the Lord.

**37** And he did exhort them then with all the feeling of a tender parent, that they would hearken to his words, that perhaps the Lord would be merciful to them, and not cast them off; yea, my father did preach unto them. **(Even though Laman and Lemuel withdrew from Lehi, he went to them and did what he could)**

**38** And after he had preached unto them, and also prophesied unto them of many things, he bade them to keep the commandments of the Lord; and he did cease speaking unto them. **(Looks like Lehi and Nephi are both very wordy)**

## 1 Ne. 9

**1** And all these things did my father see, and hear, and speak, as he dwelt in a tent, in the valley of Lemuel, and also a great many more things, which cannot be written upon these plates.

**2** And now, as I have spoken concerning these plates, behold they are not the plates upon which I make a full account of the history of my people; for the plates upon which I make a full account of my people I have given the name of Nephi; wherefore, they are called the plates of Nephi, after mine own name; and these plates also are called the plates of Nephi. **(More illuminating focus on the mechanics of the plates. The Book of Mormon is an unusually self-aware and self-revealing book of scripture).**

**3** Nevertheless, I have received a commandment of the Lord that I should make these plates, for the special purpose that there should be an account engraven of the ministry of my people.

**4** Upon the other plates should be engraven an account of the reign of the kings, and the wars and contentions of my people; wherefore **these plates are for the more part of the ministry;** and the other plates are for the more part of the reign of the kings and the wars and contentions of my people.

**5** Wherefore, **the Lord hath commanded me to make these plates for a wise purpose in him, which purpose I know not.** **I think obedience + understanding is ideal, but there are times when we should act on promptings and trust in God.**

**6** But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning; wherefore, he prepareth a way to accomplish all his works among the children of men; for behold, he hath all power unto the fulfilling of all his words. And thus it is. Amen. **I don't believe God controls**

events, but I do believe that God can maximize the good that comes even from trial and tragedy.

### 1 Ne. 10

**1** And now I, Nephi, proceed to give an account upon these plates of my proceedings, and my reign and ministry; wherefore, to proceed with mine account, I must speak somewhat of the things of my father, and also of my brethren.

**2** For behold, it came to pass after my father had made an end of speaking the words of his dream, and also of exhorting them to all diligence, he spake unto them concerning the Jews—

**3** That after they should be destroyed, even that great city Jerusalem, and many be carried away captive into Babylon, according to the own due time of the Lord, they should return again, yea, even be brought back out of captivity; and after they should be brought back out of captivity they should possess again the land of their inheritance.

**4** Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews—even a Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior of the world. We don't usually think of Jesus as a “prophet” but others saw him that way too, especially Luke. It is fascinating that 23/26 instances of the term “Messiah” appear in 1 and 2 Nephi (and the other three all reference Moses).

**5** And he also spake concerning the prophets, how great a number had testified of these things, concerning this Messiah, of whom he had spoken, or this Redeemer of the world.

**6** Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be save they should rely on this Redeemer.

**7** And he spake also concerning a prophet who should come before the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord—

**8** Yea, even he should go forth and cry in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight; for there standeth one among you whom ye know not; and he is mightier than I, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. And much spake my father concerning this thing.

**9** And my father said he should baptize in Bethabara, beyond Jordan; and he also said he should baptize with water; even that he should baptize the Messiah with water. (This wording is strongly reminiscent of John 1)

**10** And after he had baptized the Messiah with water, he should behold and bear record that he had baptized the Lamb of God, who should take away the sins of the world. Jesus is called “Lamb of God” only in John and “Lamb” in Revelation.

**11** And it came to pass after my father had spoken these words he spake unto my brethren concerning the gospel which should be preached among the Jews, and also

concerning the dwindling of the Jews in unbelief. And after they had slain the Messiah, who should come, and after he had been slain he should rise from the dead, and should make himself manifest, by the Holy Ghost, unto the Gentiles.

**12** Yea, even my father spake much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the house of Israel, that they should be compared like unto an olive tree, whose branches should be broken off and should be scattered upon all the face of the earth.

**13** Wherefore, he said it must needs be that we should be led with one accord into the land of promise, unto the fulfilling of the word of the Lord, that we should be scattered upon all the face of the earth.

**14** And after the house of Israel should be scattered they should be gathered together again; or, in fine, after the Gentiles had received the fulness of the Gospel, the natural branches of the olive tree, or the remnants of the house of Israel, should be grafted in, or come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, their Lord and their Redeemer.

**15** And after this manner of language did my father prophesy and speak unto my brethren, and also many more things which I do not write in this book; for I have written as many of them as were expedient for me in mine other book.

**16** And all these things, of which I have spoken, were done as my father dwelt in a tent, in the valley of Lemuel.

**17** And it came to pass after I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision, and also the things which he spake by the power of the Holy Ghost, which power he received by faith on the Son of God—and the Son of God was the Messiah who should come—**I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things**, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men. **Nephi exercising his gift of proactive seeking of spiritual experiences and confirmation. I feel this is one of the more important scriptures in this reading.**

**18** For he is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Perhaps, though our understandings of God change radically...**); and the way is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him.

**19** For he that **diligently seeketh shall find**; and the **mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them**, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round.

**20** Therefore remember, O man, for all thy doings thou shalt be brought into judgment.

**21** Wherefore, if ye have **sought to do wickedly** in the days of your probation, then ye are found unclean before the judgment-seat of God; and no unclean thing can dwell with God; wherefore, ye must be cast off forever.

**22** And the Holy Ghost giveth authority that I should speak these things, and deny them not.

### 1 Ne. 11

**1** For it came to pass after I had **desired to know** the things that my father had seen, and **believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me**, as I sat **pondering in mine heart** I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, yea, into an exceedingly high mountain, which I never had before seen, and upon which I never had before set my foot. *Note the steps that led to Nephi’s vision: desire, belief, pondering.*

**2** And the Spirit said unto me: **Behold, what desirest thou?** *I feel that Life asks this of us every single day.*

**3** And I said: I desire to behold the things which my father saw.

**4** And the Spirit said unto me: Believest thou that thy father saw the tree of which he hath spoken? *(heavenly teaching technique 😊)*

**5** And I said: Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father.

**6** And when I had spoken these words, the Spirit cried with a loud voice, saying: Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God; for he is God over all the earth, yea, even above all. And **blessed** art thou, Nephi, because thou believest in the Son of the most high God; wherefore, **thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired.**

**7** And behold this thing shall be given unto thee for a sign, that after thou hast beheld the tree which bore the fruit which thy father tasted, thou shalt also behold a man descending out of heaven, and him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him ye shall bear record that it is the Son of God.

**8** And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me: Look! And I looked and beheld a **tree**; and it was like unto the tree which my father had seen; and the beauty thereof was far beyond, yea, exceeding of all beauty; and the whiteness thereof did exceed the whiteness of the driven snow.

**9** And it came to pass after I had seen the tree, I said unto the Spirit: I behold thou hast shown unto me the tree which is precious above all.

**10** And he said unto me: What desirest thou?

**11** And I said unto him: To know the **interpretation** thereof—for I spake unto him as a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord; and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another. *Is this the Holy Ghost, or Jesus in spirit form, as the brother of Jared saw? My personal opinion is the former, since Jesus is never elsewhere called “the Spirit”.*

**12** And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look! And I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not; for he had gone from before my presence. *This is how the Holy Spirit works—we look through him(?) as he testifies of the Father and Son.*

**13** And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a **virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white**. Listen for the discussion where Meredith makes the brilliant point that Mary is in exact parallel to the Tree, which explains the emphasis on whiteness. Still a problem from a reading perspective (since most will miss that connection), but an important parallel from an intention and teaching perspective.

**14** And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me: Nephi, what beholdest thou?

**15** And I said unto him: A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.

**16** And he said unto me: **Knowest thou the condescension of God? The condescension of God is such a profound and powerful doctrine...**

**17** And I said unto him: **I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things**. Perfect place to start as far as gospel knowledge goes.

**18** And he said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.

**19** And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!

**20** And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

**21** And the angel said unto me: Behold the **Lamb of God**, yea, even the **Son of the Eternal Father!** Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?

**22** And I answered him, saying: Yea, it is the **love of God**, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the **most desirable** above all things.

**23** And he spake unto me, saying: Yea, and the most **joyous** to the soul.

**24** And after he had said these words, he said unto me: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him.

**25** And it came to pass that I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the **word of God**, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God; and I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God.

**26** And the angel said unto me again: Look and behold the condescension of God! (Thus answering his question in verse 16)

**27** And I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world, of whom my father had spoken; and I also beheld the prophet who should prepare the way before him. And the Lamb of God went forth and was baptized of him; and after he was baptized, I

beheld the heavens open, and the Holy Ghost come down out of heaven and abide upon him in the form of a dove.

**28** And I beheld that he went forth **ministering unto the people**, in power and great glory (*only according to John...*); and the multitudes were gathered together to hear him; and I beheld that they cast him out from among them.

**29** And I also beheld twelve others following him. And it came to pass that they were carried away in the Spirit from before my face, and I saw them not.

**30** And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the heavens open again, and I saw angels descending upon the children of men; and they did minister unto them.

**31** And he spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Lamb of God going forth among the children of men. And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted with all manner of diseases, and with devils and unclean spirits; and the angel spake and showed all these things unto me. And they were **healed by the power of the Lamb of God**; and the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out.

**32** And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Son of the everlasting God was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record.

**33** And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up upon the cross and **slain for the sins of the world**.

**34** And after he was slain I saw the multitudes of the earth, that they were gathered together to fight against the apostles of the Lamb; for thus were the twelve called by the angel of the Lord.

**35** And the multitude of the earth was gathered together; and I beheld that they were in a **large and spacious building**, like unto the building which my father saw. And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Behold the world and the wisdom thereof; yea, behold the house of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**36** And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world; and it fell, and the fall thereof was exceedingly great. And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

### **1 Ne. 12:16-18**

**16** And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the fountain of filthy water which thy father saw; yea, even the river of which he spake; and the depths thereof are the depths of hell.

**17** And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they perish and are lost.

**18** And the large and spacious building, which thy father saw, is vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men. And a great and a terrible gulf divideth them; yea, even the word of the justice of the Eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God, of whom the Holy Ghost beareth record, from the beginning of the world until this time, and from this time henceforth and forever.

### **1 Ne. 15**

**1** And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the Spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father.

**2** And it came to pass that I beheld my brethren, and they were disputing one with another concerning the things which my father had spoken unto them.

**3** For he truly spake many great things unto them, which were hard to be understood, save a man should inquire of the Lord; and they being hard in their hearts, therefore they did not look unto the Lord as they ought.

**4** And now I, Nephi, was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, and also, because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men.

**5** And it came to pass that I was overcome because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine afflictions were great above all, because of the destruction of my people, for I had beheld their fall. (Empathy)

**6** And it came to pass that **after I had received strength** I spake unto my brethren, desiring to know of them the cause of their disputations.

**7** And they said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

**8** And I said unto them: Have ye inquired of the Lord?

**9** And they said unto me: We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us. (Proactive vs. Responsive at best)

**10** Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish, because of the hardness of your hearts? (Again, Nephi is not diplomatic)

**11** Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said?—If ye will not harden your hearts, and ask me in faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you.

**12** Behold, I say unto you, that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father; and behold are we not broken off from the house of Israel, and are we not a branch of the house of Israel?

**13** And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fulness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed—

**14** And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; and then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved.

**15** And then at that day will they not rejoice and give praise unto their everlasting God, their rock and their salvation? Yea, at that day, will they not receive the strength and nourishment from the true vine? Yea, will they not come unto the true fold of God?

**16** Behold, I say unto you, Yea; they shall be remembered again among the house of Israel; they shall be grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive tree, into the true olive tree.

**17** And this is what our father meaneth; and he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after they are scattered by the Gentiles; and he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may show his power unto the Gentiles, for the very cause that he shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel.

**18** Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

**19** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake much unto them concerning these things; yea, I spake unto them concerning the restoration of the Jews in the latter days.

**20** And I did rehearse unto them the words of Isaiah, who spake concerning the restoration of the Jews, or of the house of Israel; and after they were restored they should no more be confounded, neither should they be scattered again. And it came to pass that I did speak many words unto my brethren, that they were pacified and did humble themselves before the Lord.

**21** And it came to pass that they did speak unto me again, saying: What meaneth this thing which our father saw in a dream? What meaneth the tree which he saw?

**22** And I said unto them: It was a representation of the **tree of life**.

**23** And they said unto me: What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?

**24** And I said unto them that it was the **word of God**; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.

**25** Wherefore, I, Nephi, did exhort them to give heed unto the word of the Lord; yea, I did exhort them **with all the energies of my soul**, and **with all the faculty which I possessed**, that they would give heed to the word of God and remember to keep his commandments always in all things. **But he does care about them passionately. Unfortunately this was likely a turnoff since he isn't very sensitive to how and when he shares.**

**26** And they said unto me: What meaneth the river of water which our father saw?

**27** And I said unto them that the water which my father saw was filthiness; and **so much was his mind swallowed up in other things that he beheld not the filthiness of the water.** **This is an incredibly important gospel principle! THIS is how we avoid wickedness—we embrace and fill our lives with good.**

**28** And I said unto them that it was an awful gulf, which separated the wicked from the tree of life, and also from the saints of God.

**29** And I said unto them that it was a representation of that awful hell, which the angel said unto me was prepared for the wicked.

**30** And I said unto them that our father also saw that the justice of God did also divide the wicked from the righteous; and the brightness thereof was like unto the brightness of a flaming fire, which ascendeth up unto God forever and ever, and hath no end.

**31** And they said unto me: Doth this thing mean the torment of the body in the days of probation, or doth it mean the final state of the soul after the death of the temporal body, or doth it speak of the things which are temporal?

**32** And it came to pass that I said unto them that it was a representation of things both temporal and spiritual; for the day should come that they must be judged of their works, yea, even the works which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation.

**33** Wherefore, if they should die in their wickedness they must be cast off also, as to the things which are spiritual, which are pertaining to righteousness; wherefore, they must be brought to stand before God, to be judged of their works; and if their works have been filthiness they must needs be filthy; and if they be filthy it must needs be that they cannot dwell in the kingdom of God; if so, the kingdom of God must be filthy also.

**34** But behold, I say unto you, the kingdom of God is not filthy, and there cannot any unclean thing enter into the kingdom of God; wherefore there must needs be a place of filthiness prepared for that which is filthy.

**35** And there is a place prepared, yea, even that awful hell of which I have spoken, and the devil is the preparator of it; wherefore the final state of the souls of men is to dwell in the kingdom of God, or to be cast out because of that justice of which I have spoken.

**36** Wherefore, the wicked are rejected from the righteous, and also from that tree of life, whose fruit is most precious and most desirable above all other fruits; yea, and it is the greatest of all the gifts of God. And thus I spake unto my brethren. Amen.

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### **Additional Teaching Ideas:**

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- “He that diligently seeketh shall find” (1 Nephi 10:19)
- “Knowest thou the condescension of God?” (1 Nephi 11:16)
- “And they were in the attitude of mocking” (1 Nephi 8:27)

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- The Iron Rod (#274)

1. To Nephi, seer of olden time,  
A vision came from God,  
Wherein the holy word sublime  
Was shown an iron rod.

[Chorus]

Hold to the rod, the iron rod;  
'Tis strong, and bright, and true.  
The iron rod is the word of God;  
'Twill safely guide us through.

2. While on our journey here below,  
Beneath temptation's pow'r,  
Through mists of darkness we must go,  
In peril ev'ry hour.

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BoM Lesson 3: “The Vision of the Tree of Life”

3. And when temptation's pow'r is nigh,  
Our pathway clouded o'er,  
Upon the rod we can rely,  
And heaven's aid implore.

4. And, hand o'er hand, the rod along,  
Through each succeeding day,  
With earnest prayer and hopeful song,  
We'll still pursue our way.

5. Afar we see the golden rest  
To which the rod will guide,  
Where, with the angels bright and blest,  
Forever we'll abide.

*Text:* Joseph L. Townsend, 1849-1942

*Music:* William Clayson, 1840-1887

[1 Nephi 15:23-25](#)

[1 Nephi 8](#)

[1 Nephi 12:17](#)