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

3 And behold because of the thing which
    I [Lehi] have seen

    I [Lehi] have reason to rejoice in the Lord
    and also [because of Neph] [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

    For behold me thought [AG]
    [that] I [Lehi] saw in my dream [inserted in 1837]
    a dark 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]
7 And it came to pass that as I followed Him after 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.

[A] I began to pray unto the Lord that He would have mercy on me according to the multitude of His tender mercies.

[Quote – Psalm 51:1]

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

10 And it came to pass that I beheld A Tree Whose Fruit Was Desirable To Make One Happy.

11 And it came to pass that I did go forth and I did 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.

[see Psalm 51:7-8]

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

12 And as I partook of the Fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly GREAT joy.
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
   [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
11
12
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
   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  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
   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

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[Heb. 04 – Use of the phrase “began to be”]
[Par. aa – Circular repetition “the river of water”]
[Heb. ** – deleted construction = Hebraism]
[Par. bb – enumeration]
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 was desirous of [they] Laman and Lemuel
they should come unto me
and I was desirous of [they] Laman and Lemuel
should 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

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

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 straight and narrow path 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
also led unto a large and spacious field as if it had been a world

[Par. dd – Repetition “The Tree”]
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 led unto The Tree by which

I [Lehi] stood

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

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 chiastic parallelism. A basic outline of the pertinent parallel elements is as follows:

22 [A] they did come [B] commence in the path
23 [C] mist of darkness [C] mist of darkness
[O=which] commenced in the path

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:16), verses 24 can be seen as a contrasting chiastic parallelism. A basic outline of the pertinent parallel elements is as follows:

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]
even until they did come forth and they did partake of the Fruit of the Tree

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 I Lehi also beheld / behold 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 and their [the people's] manner of dress was exceedingly fine and they [the people] were in the attitude of mocking and [of] pointing their fingers towards those who had came / come up / at and those who were partaking of the Fruit

28 And after they [the people] 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 I Nephi do NOT speak ALL the words of my father

30 but I to be short in writing [the words of my father] [or to summarize] {AL}
A. behold he [my father] saw other multitudes pressing ______ forward 
and they [the multitudes] came ______ [forward] 
[B] and they [the multitudes] 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] came forth and 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 

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*/Ox2 /^P ] 
For as MANY as heeded them had fallen away 

[Par. ff– Circular repetition “Multitude(s)’”]
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 Prophesies to Laman and Lemuel

And it came to pass that after my father had spoken ALL the words of his dream or [of his]vision which [words] were MANY

he said unto us [that] 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

And he did exhort them then with ALL the feeling of a tender parent that they would hearken to his words

[O = in - deleted] and [that] perhaps the Lord would be merciful to them

And after he had preached unto them and also [after] he prophesied unto them of MANY things

he bade them [asked, invited] (AL) to keep the commandments of the Lord

and he did CEASE speaking unto them

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