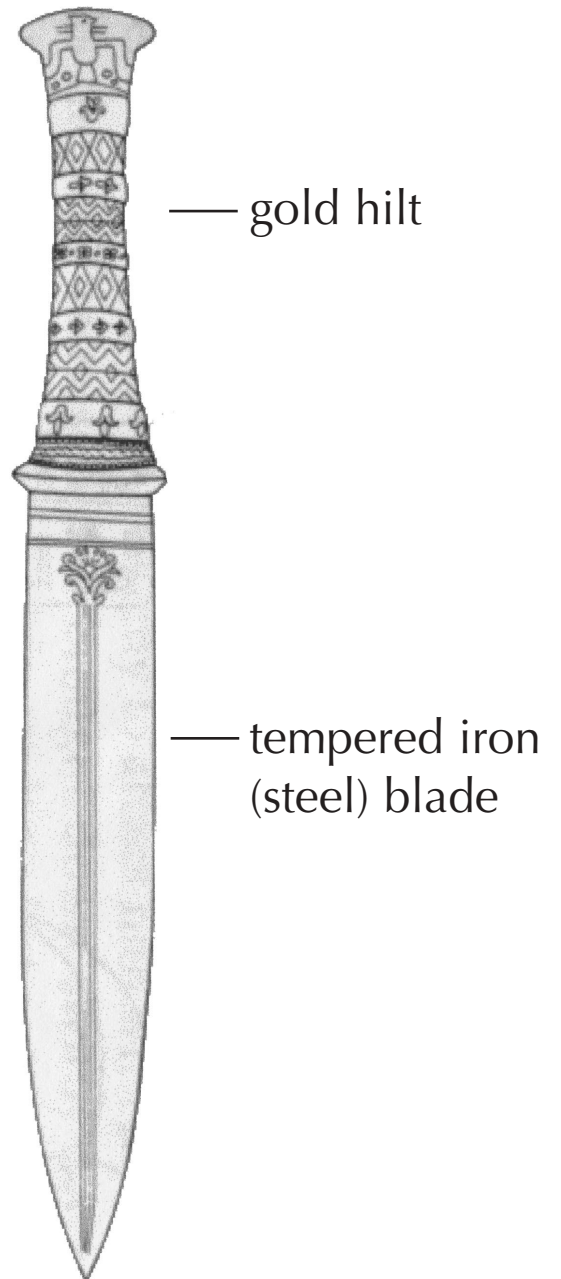


Ancient Steel Weapons

Nephi's Description of the Sword of Laban

“And I beheld his sword, and I drew it forth from the sheath thereof; and the hilt thereof was of pure gold, and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine, and I saw that the blade thereof was of the most precious steel.”
—1 Nephi 4:9

Dagger from King Tutankhamen's Tomb



Ancient Steel Weapons

Key Scripture 1 Nephi 4:9

Explanation This chart compares a dagger of Hittite origin found in King Tutankhamen's tomb with Nephi's description of Laban's sword. The high-quality Middle Eastern sword found in the tomb compares with the description in 1 Nephi surprisingly well. Although not related to each other, these two swords both come from the ancient Near East before Lehi's departure from Jerusalem. Laban's sword, which lasted for thousands of years while the Nephite record keepers safeguarded it and used it ceremonially and in wars from generation to generation (see Words of Mormon 1:13), was reproduced "many" times by the Nephites as they prepared to defend themselves from the Lamanites (see 2 Nephi 5:14).

Source William J. Hamblin and A. Brent Merrill, "Swords in the Book of Mormon," in *Warfare in the Book of Mormon*, ed. Stephen D. Ricks and William J. Hamblin (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and FARMS, 1990), 334–35.