

# LESSON 3 / The Vision of the Tree of Life

1 Nephi 8-11; 12:16-18; 15

(members understand the application of symbols from the Tree of Life vision)

## Welcome

Special ward experiences?  
Previous symbolic dreams and visions

Outlined by  
Dennis Roberts

### 1- The symbols in the vision of the tree of life

1Nephi 8:2           Lehi tells family about vision  
*Supplement #1      Tree of Life Vision*  
 1Nephi 10:17;11:6   Nephi wants to see same vision  
 1Nephi 11:8-11      Nephi asks to know interpretation  
*Supplement #2      Tree of Life symbols & interpretations*  
 1Nephi 11:21-25     What does Tree represent?  
 1Nephi 15:36        What does Fruit represent?  
 1Nephi 8:10-12;11:8-9,23;15:36   How was fruit described?  
 1Nephi 8:12         What did Lehi desire after tasting fruit?  
 1Nephi 11:25; 15:23-24   What did Rod of Iron represent?  
 1Nephi 12:16;15:26-29   What does Filthy Water represent?  
 1Nephi 12:17        What does Mist of Darkness represent?  
 1Nephi 8:23; 12:17    What are effects of mist of darkness?  
 1Nephi 8:24,30       How can word of God help us?  
 1Nephi 11:34-36      What does Spacious Building represent?  
 1Nephi 8:26         Why is significant about building in air?  
*Supplement #3      Jeffrey R. Holland*

### 2- People in the vision of the Tree of Life

1Nephi 8:21-23      1<sup>st</sup> Group did what? .....  
 1Nephi 8:24-28      2<sup>nd</sup> Group did what? .....  
 1Nephi 8:30         3<sup>rd</sup> Group did what? .....  
 1Nephi 8:31-33     4<sup>th</sup> Group did what? .....  
 1Nephi 8:28,32; 12:17   What roads led away from Iron Rod?

### How does this apply to me?

We must:       **Commence in** the straight & narrow path,  
                  **Catch hold** of the iron rod,  
                  **Cling to** it, and  
                  **Continue moving** toward the Tree of Life.

### Next Lesson

1 Nephi 12-14

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 1Nephi 8:28,32; 12:17   What roads led away from Iron Rod?

### How does this apply to me?

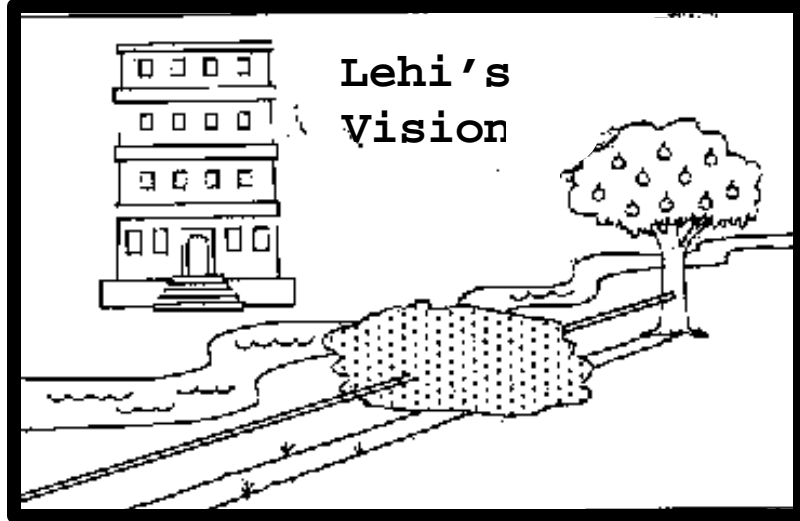
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## LESSON 3

### Supplement #1



### Supplement #2

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Dark & Dreary Waste (8:4)	? Life without God?
Spacious Field (8:9, 20)	The World (8:20)
Tree of Life (8:10; 11:25)	Love of God (11:21-22)
Fruit of Tree (8:11-12)	Greatest Gift (15:36; D&C 14:7)
Straight & Narrow Path (8:20)	? The way back to God?
Rod of Iron (8:19)	Word of God (11:25; 15:23-25)
River of Filthy Water (8:13; 12:16)	Hell, Filth, Gulf (12:16; 15:26-29)
Mist of Darkness (8:23)	Temptations of Devil (12:17)
Great & Spacious Building (8:26)	Pride of World (11:35-36; 12:18)

### Supplement #3

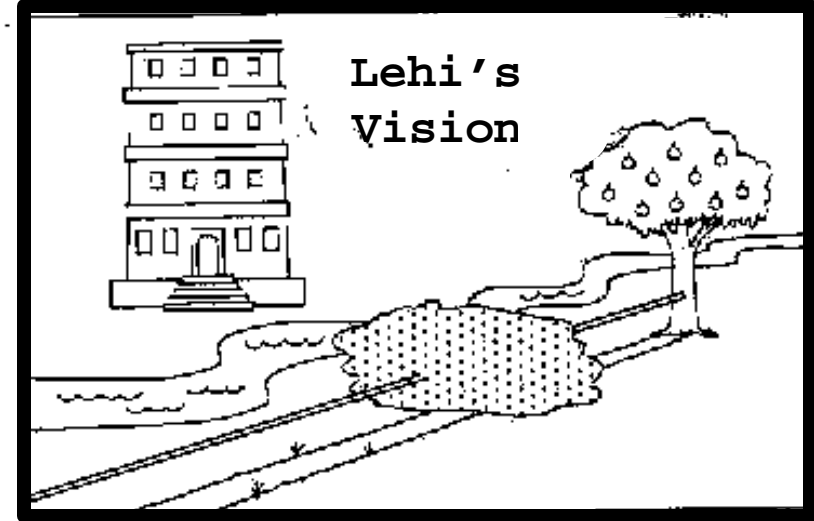
#### *Jeffrey R. Holland*

"The images of Christ and the tree of life are inextricably linked...at the very outset of the Book of Mormon... Christ is portrayed as the source of eternal life and joy, the living evidence of divine love, and the means whereby God will fulfill his covenant with the house of Israel and indeed the entire family of man, returning them all to their eternal parents."

Christ and the New Covenant (1997), 160,162

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King Nebuchadnezzar = rolling stone that filled earth  
Pharaoh = seven fat and seven skinny cows  
Apostle Peter = unclean animals lowered from heaven  
Joseph = eleven bowing sheaves of corn  
Lehi = an iron rod and tree of life

### 1- The symbols in the vision of the tree of life

1Nephi 8:2	What did Lehi see in his vision? .....	What was Lehi's concern as he begins to tell about dream?
<i>Supplement #1</i>	<i>Tree of Life Vision</i> .....	Where was Lehi when dream began?
1Nephi 10:17;11:6	Nephi wants to see same vision.....	10:17 plus 11:6 = ask for right reason / bore testimony of Christ
1Nephi 11:8-11	Nephi asks to know interpretation .....	What else was Nephi shown? (JC's birth, ministry, atonement)
<i>Supplement #2</i>	<i>Tree of Life symbols &amp; interpretations</i>	
1Nephi 11:21-25	What does Tree represent? .....	
1Nephi 15:36	What does Fruit represent? .....	
1Nephi 8:10-12;11:8-9,23;15:36	How was fruit described? .....	
1Nephi 8:12	What did Lehi desire after tasting fruit? .....	Cord through wall / Any better examples?
1Nephi 11:25; 15:23-24	What did Rod of Iron represent? .....	Where can we find word of God? (scriptures, Ensign, promptings)
1Nephi 12:16;15:26-29	What does Filthy Water represent? .....	Where was the Rod of Iron? between us and river
1Nephi 12:17	What does Mist of Darkness represent? .....	What events might trigger a midst of darkness?
1Nephi 8:23; 12:17	What are effects of mist of darkness? .....	Why would Satan want a mist?
1Nephi 8:24,30	How can word of God help us? .....	How can we impart this to those who have strayed?
1Nephi 11:34-36	What does Spacious Building represent? .....	How does pride keep us from eternal life?
1Nephi 8:26	Why is significant about building in air? .....	No foundation? What happens to building? 11:36)
<i>Supplement #3</i>	<i>Jeffrey R. Holland</i> .....	Is it significant that this vision is at beginning of BofM?

Most sweet above all ever tasted	Precious above all
White, to exceed all whiteness	Most joyous to the soul
Desirable above all other fruit	greatest of all gifts of God
Having beauty, exceeding all beauty	

### 2- People in the vision of the Tree of Life

1Nephi 8:21-23	1 <sup>st</sup> Group did what? .....	Start of path become lost
1Nephi 8:24-28	2 <sup>nd</sup> Group did what? .....	Reach tree, partake and become ashamed
1Nephi 8:30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Group did what? .....	Reach tree, partake, and remain faithful
1Nephi 8:31-33	4 <sup>th</sup> Group did what? .....	Never get on path and go directly to building
1Nephi 8:28,32; 12:17	What roads led away from Iron Rod? .....	8:28-forbidden paths, 8:32-strange roads, 12:17-broad roads

### How does this apply to me?

We must :      **Commence** in the straight & narrow path  
                       **Catch hold** of the iron rod  
                       **Cling to** it, and  
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