

## A Comparison of Lehi's Dream and Nephi's Vision

**Key Scripture** 1 Nephi 8; 11–14

**Explanation** Though Nephi and Lehi both experienced the vision of the tree of life, they explained it and possibly perceived it somewhat differently. They saw the same vision, for Nephi “saw the things which [his] father saw, and the angel of the Lord did make them known unto [him]” (1 Nephi 14:29). But Lehi’s vision is recorded as being completely allegorical, while Nephi’s vision of the tree of life expanded further into a view of the future of the world and Nephi’s posterity, including specific historical occurrences like the birth of Jesus Christ and the latter-day restoration of the gospel to Lehi’s seed. On this chart the elements in these visions are compared and contrasted. Viewing these two texts together may yield new insights concerning both of these visions of the tree of life.

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| Reference | Lehi's Dream: 1 Nephi 8         | Nephi's Vision: 1 Nephi 11–14                                    | Reference          |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8:4       | Dark and dreary wilderness      | High mountain                                                    | 11:1               |
| 8:5       | Man dressed in white robe       | Spirit speaks                                                    | 11:2, 11           |
| 8:6       | Man leads the way               | Spirit's introductory questions                                  | 11:2               |
| 8:7–8     | Man leaves (implied)            | Spirit departs                                                   | 11:12              |
| 8:7–8     | Dark and dreary waste           | Jerusalem                                                        | 11:13              |
| 8:8       | Prayer for mercy                |                                                                  |                    |
| 8:9       | Large and spacious field        |                                                                  | 11:7, 13–18, 20–25 |
| 8:10      | Tree                            | Tree                                                             |                    |
| 8:10      | Fruit desirable to make happy   | Love of God most desirable                                       | 11:22              |
| 8:11      | Fruit sweet and white above all | Virgin most beautiful and fair                                   | 11:15              |
| 8:12      | Soul filled with joy            | Carried away in the spirit                                       | 11:19              |
| 8:12      | Desire to share with family     |                                                                  |                    |
| 8:14      | Head of river near the tree     | Fountain of living waters                                        | 11:25              |
| 8:15      | Call with loud voice            | Christ, John, apostles preach                                    | 11:24–31           |
| 8:15–16   | Come partake of fruit           |                                                                  |                    |
| 8:17–18   | Laman, Lemuel do not partake    | People reject Christ                                             | 11:32–33           |
| 8:19      | Rod of iron                     | Rod of iron                                                      | 11:25              |
| 8:20      | Straight and narrow path        | The apostles preach                                              | 11:34              |
| 8:20      | Large and spacious field        | Large and spacious building                                      | 11:35              |
| 8:21      | Numberless concourses coming    | Multitudes like sand                                             | 12:1               |
| 8:23      | Mist of darkness                | Mists of darkness                                                | 12:17              |
| 8:23      | Lose their way and are lost     | Broad roads and are lost                                         | 12:17              |
| 8:24      | Others come to tree and partake | Four generations                                                 | 12:10–12           |
| 8:26      | River is a divider              | Great gulf divideth them                                         | 12:18              |
| 8:26      | Great and spacious building     | Large and spacious building                                      | 12:18              |
| 8:27      | Fine dress, mocking             | Pride and vain imaginations                                      | 12:18              |
| 8:28      | They fell away                  | The good are overpowered                                         | 12:19              |
| 8:29      | [Break in Nephi's recitation]   | War between seed                                                 | 12:20–23           |
| 8:30      | Other multitudes partake        | Gentile nations                                                  | 13:3               |
| 8:31      | Great and spacious building     | Great and abominable church                                      | 13:4–9             |
|           |                                 | Restoration of Lehi's seed through<br>a great and marvelous work | 13:10–14:7         |
| 8:32      | Many drowned in the depths      | Whore upon the waters                                            | 14:11              |
| 8:32      | Many are lost in strange roads  | Wars and chaos                                                   | 14:16              |