

# Tree of Life, Rod of Iron - Text

## 01. A Tree - 1 Nephi 8:2-33

*Bass (Lehi), SATB Choir, and Piano*

Behold, I have dreamed a dream.

I saw in my dream, a dark and dreary wilderness.  
I beheld I was in a dark and dreary waste.  
I prayed to the Lord, "Have mercy,  
According to thy tender mercies."

I beheld a tree, a tree of life,  
Whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.  
It was sweet, above all that I'd tasted.  
It was white, to exceed all the whiteness I had ever seen  
And as I partook of the fruit, it filled my soul with joy, great joy!

I beheld a rod of iron – it led to the tree by which I stood.  
By the rod was a strait and narrow path, which came along to the tree.  
I saw numberless people, pressing forward to commence in the path.  
But there arose a mist of darkness, darkness;  
They did lose their way and were lost.

But I saw others pressing forward.  
They caught hold of the rod of iron,  
And clinging to the rod,  
They pressed forward through the darkness  
Until they came forth and partook of the fruit of

The Tree, the Tree of Life,  
Whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.  
It was sweet, above all that they'd tasted.  
It was white, to exceed all the whiteness they had ever seen.  
And as they partook of the fruit

They were ashamed. I beheld  
A great and spacious building,  
Filled with people who were mocking those partaking of the fruit.  
And those who tasted were ashamed, and they fell away and were lost.

But I saw others pressing forward.  
They caught hold of the rod of iron,  
And continually holding fast, and continually holding fast,  
Holding fast to the rod,  
They pressed forward through the darkness  
Until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.

And the multitude in that building  
Did point the finger of scorn at me  
And those partaking of the fruit.  
But we heeded them not, but we heeded them not, but we heeded them not!

For we had the Tree, the Tree of Life,  
Whose fruit was desirable to make us happy.  
It was sweet, above all we had tasted.  
It was white, to exceed all the whiteness we had ever seen.  
And as we partook of the fruit, it filled our souls with joy, great joy, great joy!

## 01.5. I Was Desirous - 1 Nephi 9:1, 10:4, 17

### *Soprano (Nephi) and Piano*

And all these things did my father Lehi see, and hear, and speak unto his family. And he spake of a prophet whom the Lord God would raise up among the Jews – even a Messiah, a Savior of the world.

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision – I, Nephi was desirous that I might see, and hear, and know of these things.

## 02. The Power of the Holy Ghost - 1 Nephi 10:17-19

*Soprano (Nephi), SATB Choir, and Piano*

I am desirous that I might see,  
That I might hear, and know of these things  
By the power of the Holy Ghost,  
Which is the gift, the gift of God.

For He is the same yesterday, today, and forever,  
And they that diligently seeketh shall find,  
And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them  
By the power of the Holy Ghost,  
By the power of the Holy Ghost.

And this power of the Holy Ghost,  
This gift of God, is received by faith,  
By faith on the Son of God,  
The Son of God, the Messiah who should come.

For He is the same yesterday, today, and forever,  
And they that diligently seeketh shall find,  
And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them  
By the power of the Holy Ghost,  
By the power of the Holy Ghost,  
By the power, the power of the Holy Ghost.

And the way is prepared for all  
From the foundation of the world,  
If it so be that they repent  
And come unto Him, and come unto Him!

For He is the same yesterday, today, and forever,  
And they that diligently seeketh shall find,  
And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them  
By the power of the Holy Ghost,  
By the power of the Holy Ghost,  
By the power, the power of the Holy Ghost,  
By the power, the power of the Holy Ghost.

## 02.5. Caught Away in the Spirit - 1 Nephi 11:1, 14

### *Soprano (Nephi) and Piano*

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. And the Spirit, and an angel of the Lord, came and spake unto me.

### 03. Hosanna to the Lord - 1 Nephi 11:2-25

*Soprano (Nephi), Alto (Spirit), Tenor (Angel), SATB Choir, and Piano*

Behold, what desirest thou?

I desire to behold the things which my father saw.

Behold, what desirest thou?

I desire to behold the things which my father saw.

Believest thou that thy father saw the tree?

Yea, thou knowest I believe.

Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God.

Hosanna, and blessed art thou,

Because thou believest in the Son of God.

Thou shalt behold the things thou hast desired.

Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord.

Look!

I behold a tree, a tree of life,

Whose beauty is far beyond, yea, exceeding of all beauty.

What desirest thou?

To know the interpretation thereof.

What desirest thou?

To know the interpretation thereof.

Believest thou that thy father saw the tree?

Yea, thou knowest I believe

Do you believe?

I believe.

Do you believe?

I believe!

Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God.

Hosanna, and blessed art thou,

Because thou believest in the Son of God.

Thou shalt behold the things thou hast desired.

Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord.

Look!

I behold Jerusalem, and I behold Nazareth.

What beholdest thou?

A virgin, most fair above all.

What beholdest thou?

A virgin, most fair above all.  
Knowest thou the condescension of God?  
I know that he loveth his children,  
I know that he loveth his children,  
Nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.

Look!  
I behold a child in her arms.  
Behold the Lamb of God, (the Son of God)  
Yea, the Son of the Eternal Father!  
Knowest thou the meaning of the tree? (The meaning of the tree?)

Yea, it is the love of God,  
Which sheddeth itself abroad.  
It is the most desirable above all things.  
Yea, and the most joyous to the soul! (Joyous to the soul!)

Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord, the Most High God!  
Hosanna, and blessed art thou.  
The tree of life is the Son of God!  
And I have (thou hast) beheld the things I have (thou hast) desired.  
Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God!  
Hosanna, Hosanna (Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord!)

### 03.5. The Condescension of God - 1 Nephi 11:26

*Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), and Piano*

And the angel said unto me,

Look and behold the condescension of God!



## 04. Behold the Lamb of God - 1 Nephi 11:24-33

*Soprano (Nephi), SATB Choir, and Piano*

I beheld the Lamb of God  
Going forth among them all.  
I saw many fall down at his feet  
And worship him.

The Lamb of God went forth,  
Went forth and was baptized.  
I beheld the heavens open,  
And the Holy Ghost come down  
Upon the Lamb of God.

I beheld that he went forth,  
Twelve others followed him.  
Ministering with power and glory  
The multitudes were gathered  
Together to hear him,  
And I beheld that they cast him out.

I beheld multitudes of people,  
People who were sick,  
Who were afflicted with all manner of diseases and devils.  
And the multitudes were healed,  
And the devils cast out,  
Healed by the power, the power of Lamb of God.

I beheld the Lamb of God,  
Was judged of the world  
I saw that he was lifted up  
Upon the cross.

The Lamb of God was slain  
For the sins of the world.  
Slain for the sins of the world –  
Behold, the Lamb of God.

Behold the condescension of God.  
Behold the Lamb of God.

04.5. Their Garments Were White - 1 Nephi 12:1, 6, 10-11  
*Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), and Piano*

And it came to pass that the angel said unto me,

Look, and behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren.

And I looked and beheld the land of promise, and I beheld multitudes of people. And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven: and he came down and showed himself unto them. And I beheld three generations pass away in righteousness, and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God.

05. White in the Blood of the Lamb - 1 Nephi 11:25, 12:10-11, 16

*SATB Choir and Piano*

White in the blood in the Lamb,  
Made white in the blood of the Lamb.  
Because of their faith in the Lamb of God,  
Their garments are white, made white in the blood,  
The blood of the Lamb.

White in the blood in the Lamb,  
Made white in the blood of the Lamb.  
Because of their faith in the Lamb of God,  
These are made white, white in the blood,  
The blood of the Lamb.

But there is a fountain of filthy water,  
The filthiness of hell.  
And no unclean thing can dwell with God,  
But it stays in the depths, the depths of hell.

So beware the fountain of filthy water,  
The filthiness of hell.  
But behold the fountain of living waters,  
The tree of life, the love of God,  
The Lamb of God, the Lamb!

We are white, all white!  
Because of our faith in the Lamb of God,  
Our garments are made white, made white in the blood,  
The blood of the Lamb.

## 05.5 Gathered Together to Fight - 1 Nephi 11:34-36, 12:15

*Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), and Piano*

And the angel said unto me,

Look!

And 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 who followed the Lamb called. And I beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes against the seed of my brethren; and they were gathered together to battle. 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 spake unto me.

06. The Great and Spacious Building  
1 Nephi 11:34-36, 12:15, 17-18, 13:5, 7-9, 25-27, 29

*Tenor (Angel), SATB Choir, and Piano*

Behold the world and the wisdom thereof;  
They fight against the apostles of the Lamb.  
And the mists of darkness  
Are temptations of the devil,  
Which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts,  
And leadeth the saints away

To the great and spacious building,  
To the pride of the world,  
To the vain imaginations  
Of the world.

Behold the gold, and the silver, and the silks,  
The scarlets and precious clothing are their desires.  
And they taketh away from the gospel many parts most plain and precious.  
They blindeth the eyes and hardeneth the hearts,  
And leadeth the saints away

To the great and spacious building,  
To the pride of the world,  
To the vain imaginations  
Of the world.

And because many cov'nants are taken away  
Out of the gospel of the Lamb,  
Satan hath great pow'r in the world.  
He slayeth and bindeth and causeth to stumble  
And leadeth away through the praise of the world

To the great and spacious building,  
To the pride of the world,  
To the vain imaginations  
Of the world.

## 06.5. Nevertheless - 1 Nephi 13:30-34

### *Tenor (Angel) and Piano*

Nevertheless, the Lord God will not suffer that the nations shall forever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back. Behold, thus saith the Lamb of God:

## 07. Plain and Precious - 1 Nephi 13:34-37, 40-41

*Alto (Spirit), Bass (Lamb of God), SATB Choir, and Piano*

I will be merciful, merciful in that day.  
I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power,  
Much of my gospel, which shall be  
Plain and precious, plain and precious,  
To come forth by the gift and power of the Lamb.

I will show myself, show myself to thy seed.  
They shall write many things which I shall teach them,  
My salvation and my rock:  
Plain and precious, plain and precious,  
To come forth by the gift and power of the Lamb.

And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth  
My Zion at that day.  
They shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost  
And shall be lifted up at that day.

These last records shall establish the truth  
Of the record of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.  
And the records of both shall be established in one,  
Making known the plain and precious, plain and precious  
Things that were taken away.  
They shall come back by the power of the Lamb.

They shall make known that the Lamb is the Son of God,  
The Savior of the world;  
For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.  
He will be merciful at that day.

I will be merciful, merciful in that day.  
I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power,  
Much of my gospel, which shall be  
Plain and precious, plain and precious,  
To come forth by the gift and power, By my (his) gift and power,  
By the gift and power of the Lamb, the Lamb!

## 07.5 The Devil and the Saints - 1 Nephi 14:11-13

### *Soprano (Nephi) and Piano*

And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the devil, and he had dominion over all the earth; nevertheless, I beheld that the saints of God were also upon all the face of the earth. And I beheld that the devil did gather together multitudes to fight against the Lamb of God.



08. The Power of God in Great Glory - 1 Nephi 14:7-14, 28-30

*Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), Bass (Lamb of God),*

*SATB Choir, and Piano*

There are two powers only,  
The pow'r of the Lamb of God, and the pow'r of the devil.  
There are two forces only,  
The light of the Lamb of God, and the darkness of the devil.

I beheld the devil.  
He had dominion over all the earth.  
He gathered together multitudes  
To fight against the Lamb of God.

But the power of the Lamb of God  
Descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb,  
And upon the covenant people of the Lord.  
And they were armed with righteousness,  
And with the power of God,  
The power of God in great glory!

For the time cometh that I will work  
A great and a marvelous work.  
I will remember the covenant  
Which the Father hath made to gather His people.

There are two powers only,  
The pow'r of the Lamb of God, and the pow'r of the devil.  
There are two forces only,  
The light of the Lamb of God, and the darkness of the devil.

I beheld the devil.  
He had dominion over all the earth.  
He gathered together multitudes  
To fight against the Lamb of God.

But the power of the Lamb of God  
Descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb,  
And upon the covenant people of the Lord.  
And they were armed with righteousness,  
And with the power of God,  
The power of God in great glory!

And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard; but if all the things which I saw are not written, the things which I have written are true.

## 08.5. What Meaneth the Rod of Iron

1 Nephi 15:1-2, 8-11, 21-23, 26-28

*Soprano (Nephi), Alto (Laman, Spirit), Tenor (Lemuel, Angel),  
Bass (Lamb of God), and Piano*

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. And I beheld my brethren, that they were disputing one with another concerning the things which my father had spoken.

Have ye inquired of the Lord?

We have not, for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.

Do ye not remember what the Lord hath said?

If ye will not harden your hearts,  
And ask in faith, believing ye'll receive,  
With diligence in keeping God's commandments,  
These things shall be made known to you,  
These things shall be made known to you.

What meaneth this thing which our father saw in a dream? What meaneth the tree which he saw?

It is a representation of the tree of life, the love of God.

And what meaneth the river of water, which our father saw?

It is filthiness and the awful gulf which separates the wicked from the tree of life and the saints of God.

And what meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?

09. Hold to the Rod - 1 Nephi 15:24, 36; "The Iron Rod" Hymn  
*Soprano (Nephi), Alto (Spirit), Tenor (Angel), Bass (Lamb of God),  
SATB Choir, and Piano*

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

The iron rod is the word of God,  
And whoso will hold fast  
Unto the word, the word of God,  
They shall never perish.

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.

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

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

Neither will the temptations  
And the fiery darts of Satan's pow'r  
Ever overpower them  
Or lead them away.

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.

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

Afar we see the golden rest

To which the rod will guide,  
Where, with the angels bright and blest,  
Forever we'll abide

At the tree, the tree of life,  
Whose fruit is most precious above all others.  
It is the greatest, the greatest of all the gifts of God.  
Partake of the fruit, and fill your soul with joy, great joy!

So 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.

The Iron Rod is the Word of God,  
Our Christ, the Tree of Life!