

tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.

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

And as I partook of the fruit thereof, it filled my soul with exceeding great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit.

And as I cast my eyes round about, that perhaps I might discover my family also, I beheld a river of water; and it ran along, and it was near the tree of which I was partaking the fruit.

And I looked to behold from whence it came; and I saw the head thereof a little way off; and at the head thereof, I beheld your mother Sariah, and Sam, and Nephi; and they stood as if they knew not whither they should go.

And it came to pass that I beckoned unto them; and I also did say unto them with a loud voice, That they should come unto me, and partake of the fruit, which was desirable above all other fruit.

And it came to pass that they did come unto me, and partake of the fruit also.

And it came to pass that I was desirous that Laman and Lemuel should come and partake of the fruit also; wherefore, I cast mine eyes towards the head of the river that perhaps I might see them.

And it came to pass that I saw them, but they would not come to me.

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.

And I also beheld a straight and narrow path, which came along by the rod or iron, even to the tree by which I stood, and it also led by the head of the fountain, unto a large and spacious field, as if it had been a world;

And I saw numberless concourses of people; many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood.

And it came to pass that they did come forth, and commence in the path which led to the tree.

And it came to pass that there arose a mist of darkness; yea, even an exceeding great mist of darkness, inasmuch that they who had commenced in the path, did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

And it came to pass that I 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 partake of the fruit of the tree.

And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree, they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed.

And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a great and spacious building; and it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth;

And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceeding fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at, and were partaking of the fruit.

And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

And now, I Nephi, do not speak all the words of my father.

But, to be short in writing, behold, he saw other multitudes pressing forward; and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.

And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards the great and spacious building.

And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain and many were lost from his view, wandering in strange roads.

And great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building. And after they did enter into that building, they did point the finger of scorn at me, and those that were partaking of the fruit also; but we heeded them not.

These are the words of my father: For as many as heeded them, had fallen away.

And Laman and Lemuel partook not of the fruit, said my father.

And it came to pass after my father had spoken all the words of his dream or vision, which were many, he said unto us, 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 that, perhaps the Lord would be merciful to them, and not cast them off; yea, my father did preach unto them.

And after he had preached unto them, and also prophesied unto them of many things, he bade them to keep the commandments of the Lord; and he did cease speaking unto them."

Nephi, the Prophet, testified that the Lord also gave him a vision, which was the interpretation of the vision which his father had. (See Book of Mormon, chapter 15.) Today we see the Lamanites wandering forth as a dark and loathsome people upon the North and South American continent, and also upon some of the Pacific Islands. The curse of God has been upon that people, as it was upon the land they inhabited, as referred to by President Smith today. As the result of their disobedience to the commandments of God.

Now my brethren and sisters, what I wish to refer to is this: What are your sons and daughters doing? Are they fully employed in some useful labor? If they are carrying out the counsels upon this subject that were given by Presidents Cannon and Smith they would not be wandering away from the path of virtue into mist and darkness, in sin and corruption, as many of the Nephites have done. No, no. They would be as their fathers, following the lessons of patient labor and industry; they will be full of the spirit of virtue and energy. I want to say unto you, my brethren and sisters and friends, God will bless this people if they will be pure; and if we are not pure, He will withdraw His Spirit from us. The Spirit of God cannot—it is impossible that it will dwell in an unholy tabernacle. You might just as well put a bottle of ink into a jug of pure water, and expect to drink it and relish it, as to expect the Spirit of God to dwell in an unholy tabernacle. The Spirit of God is pure. The glory of God is intelligence; it is refined and sensitive, and it will not abide with a man unless he keeps clean and pure. Whatsoever is light is truth; and I want to say unto the sons and daughters of Zion: keep yourselves pure and unspotted from the sins of

this wicked and adulterous generation. Remember the counsels of Jesus Christ: "If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out. If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off; for it is better for you to go maimed through life than to have your soul and body destroyed in hell." I speak unto you that if any of you have sinned you might repent, for Jesus has said: "Come unto me all ye ends of the earth and I will give you succor. Come one and come all and partake of the waters of life freely." And I say unto you, my friends, if any have sinned they should do as Isaiah, the prophet, said: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord and He will have mercy upon him and to our God for He will abundantly pardon." I say unto you if there are any under the sound of my voice that are seeking a way to be cleansed of their sins, repent with all your heart, and God will forgive you, if you will come unto Him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and covenant that you will serve Him. He will wash away your sins, for this is the Gospel of repentance, and I say unto the sons and daughters of Zion: Woe unto you when the time shall come when you disregard the principles of virtue; the Spirit of God will be taken from you and you will be left in darkness. Christ says: "The light of the body is the eye," speaking of the source from which the light is received into the body, "and when the light which is in thee becomes dark, how great is that darkness." There are those amongst us, I am sorry to say, that have become so absolutely dark, and calloused in their minds as to look upon sin with some degree of allowance, and can tolerate and associate with it. But I say unto you, when any man has made covenants with God, the Eternal Father, to keep His commandments, he cannot tolerate sin. Jesus says that unless a man is born of the water and the spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God; and I say that no man who has been born of the water and of the spirit can see sin and corruption and look upon it and sanction it and let it go by unnoticed. What will be the result upon the officers of the Church in the district to which I have referred, should this report prove to be true. I will tell you. They will be held responsible for not raising up their voices against these things, for not carrying out the Gospel of Christ regarding these questions. What will become of presidents of Stakes? I will tell you. If they allow these things to go unchecked, the curse of God will rest upon them, as they have lost the Spirit of God, and will be barren and unfruitful in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. I speak to the Elders of Israel, and to those that hold the Priesthood, They should magnify it and work for the Kingdom of God; should separate the sheep from the goats, as it were; and when you see the sheep in the land of Zion (the Saints were often referred to as being the sheep of Christ, and He as their shepherd), when you see one with the scab, go and get some quicksilver and tobacco an rub it into their backs. I speak of these things that our people may become pure in the land. Why, Nephi would never have become pure if he had not kept the commandments of God. Who will be prepared for the coming of the Lord? Who will ascend into the hill of the Lord? The choir in their beautiful strains of music remind us that it will be those with clean hands and pure hearts and hath not sworn deceitfully. We are looking for the coming of Christ and He will come as a refining fire to purify the sons of Levi, as gold is purified. Who will come with Him? It is said 144,000, by the Prophet John, those who have not defiled themselves with women, and who will be prepared to meet Him when