



Lifestyles of the Great and Spacious: Finding Your Path in Lehi's Dream

John Bytheway

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With every passing day, the unforgettable imagery in Lehi's dream becomes more real and more relevant. In our modern world, we can literally hear the taunts and see the pointing fingers of people like those in the great and spacious building. We find ourselves clinging with greater energy to the rod of iron as we work through the massive mists of darkness toward the tree of life. In *Lifestyles of the Great and Spacious*, John Bytheway looks at Lehi's dream, and with his characteristic humor, comments from Church leaders, scholarly insights, and personal experiences, he expands our understanding of these precious verses of scripture.

Lifestyles of the Great and Spacious: Finding Your Path in Lehi's Dream Details

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From Reader Review Lifestyles of the Great and Spacious: Finding Your Path in Lehi's Dream for online ebook

Shauna says

We are so blessed to have the scriptures!
But do we read them?

Do we heed them?
Do we sometimes struggle to understand them?

I know I struggle with understanding... that is why I am so grateful that authors like John Bytheway share their knowledge of the scriptures with us.

I LOVE how he starts the book...
"It's only thirty-two verses, or 982 words in length, but it's a life changer--and unforgettable and highly applicable metaphor. We call it Lehi's dream."

He then goes on to explain about each part of the vision:
the tree of life
the rod of iron
the mists of darkness
the ominous great and spacious building

He tells what each means in his Thoughts, Insights, and Observation section he has in each chapter.

And then my FAVORITE part...
Each chapter has an APPLYING THE DREAM TO OUR REALITY.

I LOVED LOVED LOVED this book and now have so much greater understanding...and I will try to seek more "Tree-of Life" moments!

Misty says

Great book to visit especially if your trying to liken the tree of life from the book of Mormon to your life!

Londi says

This was quite insightful. There was a lot of good insight that I had never thought about before. It put a whole new meaning to Lehi's dream for me.

I also read this book in about 5 hours. It was enlightening for me. I have already recommended it to several family members.

L_manning says

Lehi's dream in the Book of Mormon is a well-known parable for LDS members. This book works to further our understanding of this passage. By dissecting the scripture, John Bytheway is able to really provide interesting insights and thoughts into each little part. This book will provide fascinating information about Lehi's dream along with helpful and meaningful ways to apply it to your life.

This is a passage of scripture I think every LDS member is very familiar with. I know I've heard it tons of times. What I really likes about this book was it's ability to get past what I already know and add some new things in. It's really a great way to study this passage. There are quotes from Church leaders, connections to other scripture, and loads of interesting things to learn. Each chapter also has way to apply these things in your own life. Of course, it's all done in an entertaining and sometimes humorous manner that John Bytheway is known for. This book is a quick read just reading through, but I think you could also spend some time with your scriptures and dissect things even further on your own. It's also something that I think could entertain youth while helping them get a really good grasp on the scripture itself. Definitely check this book out to get a good perspective on Lehi's dream.

Book provided for review.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

I admit that I don't read many books that fall into the inspirational category. I like to be entertained and escape reality when I read. I like to escape motherhood and responsibilities. It is what I like to do, but not necessarily what I really need to do.

I fall into the traps that *Lifestyles of the Great & Spacious* is all about. There is a quote from page 104 that to me had great significance. "Not only does God care about what we do, he cares about us. What we do is what we become, and he wants us to become like him."

For a long time I have balked at having a study journal. I didn't want to do it. But I found some very noteworthy precepts in this book. I was writing study notes in the margins and decided that maybe it would be a good idea to have a central place where I put all the notes, instead of trying to remember what book I found an idea and then hunting it down again.

John Bytheway does an excellent job of explaining the gospel in a down to earth way. He is clear and concise. He shows how personal and individual the gospel is. Heavenly Father loves everyone, regardless of their feelings for Him. The scoffers and scorners of the Great and Spacious Building are also His children.

I enjoyed this book and know that I need to seek out more like it.

Jinky says

This was my first taste of Mr. Bytheway's work and looks like it won't be my last! This latest in his series of

scripture commentaries was a treat. This one focused on Lehi's dream found in 1 Nephi 8:4-35 from the Book of Mormon. For those not familiar with this scripture, in summary it is about Lehi's (a prophet in the Americas, about 600 B.C.) vision of the tree of life where he partakes of its fruit and desires his family to do likewise. In this dream he sees a rod of iron, a strait and narrow path, the mists of darkness that enshroud men, and the ominous great and spacious building (see book cover for artist rendition). The author described the rod of iron as the guide/guard rail in the strait and narrow path that leads to the tree of life. Whereas the mists of darkness was blindness to the path but subject to the mocking of those in the great and spacious building who swayed travelers away from the strait and narrow.

Breaking the scriptures down to few verses at a time, we find the author's "thoughts, insights, and observations". This made for a concise and thoughtful presentation of the meaning that can be found in what the author pointed out about Lehi's dream as have been called the "parable of the paths", comparable to Jesus' "parable of the four kinds of soil" found in Matthew 13 from the Holy Bible. Hence, the dream was an illustration of ones choices to a path of life ... (1) Start the narrow path, overcome by the mists, get lost, (2) Start the narrow path, partake of the fruit, be ashamed, wander off, get lost, (3) Start the narrow path, hold fast, partake of the fruit, stay, or (4) No interest in the strait and narrow, move directly toward the building.

The last two chapters tipped the star rating to the top for me. Up to that point, the author went into laying out Lehi's dream and explanations. Now the author concludes with what the people in the great and spacious building could be saying to those in the path today (like, "You're an overzealous fanatic.", "Why are you trying to convert people?", or "You think you're better than us.") and how to "heed-not" to the scoffing and answer with the Savior in mind. Love it! Overall, I gained understanding from the wealth of information and wise counsels and felt the truthfulness in those words.

Excellent book! A great tool for ponder and study. I could also see myself using excerpts from this book should I ever give a "talk" (lesson speech) regarding "agency".

Jinky is Reading

Susan says

Love his books

Susan Hatch says

My friend, Jill, loaned me this little book and it was quite an easy read and some good things to ponder. I have been reading another book with another friend on Lehi's Dream/Nephi's Vision which is much more complex but that book helped me see things in this one.

As always BTW writes for the younger set but there are things to be gleaned by adults. The one part that grabbed my attention was the comments we make while we are in the Great and Spacious....that points out just how much IN we really are, no matter how much we think we aren't. And the comment about looking down on people, making judgements, etc. But there was this one quote about how we DO make judgements and how to do it correct was very much in my way of thinking. It's too easy to quote the "judge not" scripture and act like any judgement is wrong. When in fact, we make judgements all the time....important in that is

that we judge something, not some one. We are not to make eternal judgements...that is not our role. But we most certainly need to ascertain what is good and what is not good for us.

Cathy says

I've read Lehi's dream from the 8th chapter of 1st Nephi in the Book of Mormon countless times. But I've never thought about the story the way that this book helped me to think of it before. I love the way that John Bytheway is able to teach the things that he has learned from the scriptures in a way that is quick, easy and fun to read. It's easy to see why he's one of the most popular speakers and teachers of the youth. It's almost impossible not to learn something from him. I loved this book, I'm looking forward to reading more of his books teaching about scripture stories!

Marie says

Lifestyles of the Great and Spacious. I admit, it had me intrigued just from that. I knew I was going to want to see what this book was all about. And then the subtitle caught my eye: "Finding your Path in Lehi's Dream." Since one of my focuses this year is to really delve into the scriptures and into gospel study and find more ways to really wrap my life around being more, this book fit right into it.

I love symbolism and love exploring the deeper meanings of things. I'm a "there's always more to the story" kind of woman and I always have been. We know well that Lehi's dream was deeply symbolic and we learn quite a bit more about it from Nephi and the angel who visited him when he asked to know more. Since I haven't had any angelic messengers show up lately to interpret scripture for me, I clearly need to do my own studying. And this book was definitely enlightening.

I have always enjoyed John Bytheway's writing style. It's very clear and straightforward with just enough humor to keep me engaged. Lifestyles of the Great and Spacious goes through Lehi's dream verse by verse, explaining and analyzing the dream to help us understand what Lehi was really seeing and what all of the elements meant, as well as putting them in context to Lehi's knowledge and culture and to gospel principles. And each analysis is followed up with helps for applying these teachings and principles in our own lives today.

I admit I read this book straight through—it's how I read most books the first time—but now that I've read it I will be going back through and re-reading more thoroughly and slowly, along with my scripture study, to really gain the maximum benefit. The book also contains an appendix with a quick commentary/summary of each verse. I think that will be helpful when I want to go back and study different principles. It also has a complete bibliography of sources cited in the book so you can study even more deeply should you desire.

Don't be fooled by the small size of this book. I was, having not read Brother Bytheway's previous commentaries. It is absolutely packed FULL of learning and insight. One of my favorite parts of the book comes at the end of the first chapter when he talks about how the Book of Mormon isn't the story of a perfect gospel family and how Nephi and his brothers might even be somewhat dysfunctional. He goes on to say, "We can only imagine how thrilled Sariah must be to have an account of her family's problems published among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples." Kind of makes my little family issues not seem like such a big deal. It was just what I needed to hear to press on.

Jodi says

This was a great little book about Lehi's dream of the Tree of Life. There were lots of interesting insights that made me look at the story differently with added depth and meaning. I love John Bytheway and how well he is able to apply scriptures to our personal lives.

Julie says

While this is a small book, it is full of great concepts and things to ponder. Bytheway goes over the thirty-two verses of Lehi's Dream in the Book of Mormon, offering insights into the metaphor and how it applies in our lives today.

At first I was thinking I would breeze through this small little book, but the more I read, the slower I went because there was a lot to think about. Bytheway presents things in a way I've never really thought of before, even though I've read that passage many times. I enjoyed the real-life application and the way he offered his insights and observations in a very conversational tone.

I liked that there were humorous moments and serious discussion, much like Bytheway's firesides---fun and serious at the same time. I think I will definitely read this one more than once just to really let it all sink in. I thought it was really well done and I felt inspired.

Kathy says

This is a great little book for anyone who wants to gain a better understanding of Lehi's Dream & learn how to apply to their life.

While reading it I missed John Bytheway's characteristic humor which is found in most of his books. This one had a much more serious, thoughtful feel to it than others I have read by him. Thankfully it wasn't completely missing and there were still glimpse of his humor occasionally through the book such as this:

As a bishop, I once announced that we moved the records of all the perfect people out of the ward, so it was just us imperfect folks who comprised the congregation.

I can't say I learned a whole lot new from reading this but there were some great reminders of things I already knew and need to focus more on in my daily life.

Anyone wishing to undertake a deeper study of the account found in 1 Nephi chapter 8 could surely benefit from this book.

Rating: 4 Stars - Great Book

Content: Clean

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Verona says

Brother Bytheway sure gave me a lot of new thoughts to ponder in this little book. I couldn't whip right through it because there would be a new concept that would grab me right off the page! I would stop and ponder that idea, and think, "Wow, I hadn't thought of it in that way before." I like the depth with which he examines every word and phrase of the scriptures. Nothing gets past him, and that adds extra meaning to that scripture. Brother Bytheway is a good organizer; I enjoy the structure and summaries that he provides in his writing. The scriptures become clearer to me with his "bullets" of summary. Besides all the above, I just love the scriptures and Lehi's dream, and welcomed this opportunity to glean more from that scriptural story. I did. And I really loved the feeling I had while reading this little, but wonderful book.

Emily says

Great insights as to our path in life. Living in the World but not of the World.
