1 Nephi Chapter 11

Author(s): Alan C. Miner
Source: Step by Step Through the Book of Mormon, Volume 1: Through the Wilderness to the Promised Land
Published: Springville, UT; Book of Mormon Central/Cedar Fort, Inc., 2017
Pages: 79-88
Chapter 11
(Original 1830 Chapter III – continued)

Nephi Desires to Know the Things of His Father
The Lord Makes Things Known
(Chapters 11-14)

1 For it came to pass aa
[that] after I [Nephi] had desired to KNOW the things [O = that] bb cc
that [he] my father had seen

and [I Nephi] believing
that the Lord was able to make them KNOWN unto me

[Wherefore] [deleted]
as I [Nephi] sat pondering in mine heart
I [Nephi] was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord [Bookend #1:part A]
Yea I [Nephi] was caught away into an exceedingly high mountain [1981]
a mountain [^O / deleted in P ]
which I [Nephi] NEVER had before seen
and upon
which I [Nephi] NEVER had before set my foot [O = sat]

Christ Is the Tree of Life

2 And the Spirit said unto me [O = saith] dd
Behold What desirest thou ? [ee]

3 And I [Nephi] said unto the Spirit [O = saith] ff
I [Nephi] desire to behold the things [Bookend #1:part B]
which [he] my father saw [See 1 Nephi 14:30]

4 And the Spirit said unto me [O = saith]
Believeth thou

that thy father saw The Tree of (AG)
which he [thy father] hath spoken ?

5 And I [Nephi] said unto the Spirit [note: “said” = inconsistent usage]
Yea

[Par. aa --- Like “paragraph” beginnings “it came to pass”]
[Par. bb – Like line beginnings “I Nephi”]
Par. cc – Irregular circular repetition “things”
[Par. dd – Like “paragraph” beginnings]
[1 Nephi 11]

Thou KNOWEST that I believe ALL the words of my father.

6 And when I had spoken these words, the Spirit cried with a loud voice saying:

Hosanna to The Lord The MOST High God (AL)
for He is God Over ALL The Earth
Yea He is God Even Above ALL

[Note: In the Bible the word “Hosanna” originally appears in the book of Psalms as an appeal for deliverance (Heb. hosia na, Please save Psalm 118:25). The word came into liturgical usage to serve as an expression of joy and praise for deliverance granted or anticipated, and interestingly was only associated with Passover. When Jesus came to Jerusalem for his final presentation of himself to Israel, the expression came readily to the lips of the Passover crowds. Matthew and Mark conclude the people’s cries with “Hosanna in the highest” (apparently an echo of Psalm 148:1), which John omits. In Jesus Christ the age-old cry, “Lord, save us,” has become the glad doxology, “Hosanna,” which equals: “Praise God and his Messiah, we are saved.” (biblestudytools.com)]

And blessed art thou because thou believest in The Son of The MOST High God.

Wherefore thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired.

7 And behold this thing shall be given unto thee for a sign that after thou hast beheld The Tree Which Bore the Fruit Which Thy Father Tasted

thou shalt also behold A Man Descending Out of Heaven

And Him shall ye witness

and after ye have witnessed Him ye shall bear record that it is The Son of God

[Note: The Lord first addresses Nephi in the singular (“thou”) about his seeing the Tree, but then when talking about bearing witness of the experience, the Lord uses the plural (“ye”) to include both Nephi and his father Lehi.—see Kevin L. Barney, “Enallage in the Book of Mormon,” Journal of Book of Mormon Studies 3/1 (Spring 1994): 115-118 ]

[Heb. 01 – Use of “Above ALL” for comparison] [Heb. 03 – Enallage “thou / ye”]
[Par. gg – Circular repetition “behold/beheld”] [Heb. 02 – Metaphorical Symbolism “The Tree”]
8 And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me, Look! And I looked, and it was like unto the Tree which my father had seen, and the beauty thereof was far beyond yea exceeding of all beauty and the whiteness thereof did exceed the whiteness of the driven snow.

9 And it came to pass that after I had seen the Tree I said unto the Spirit, O most precious above all...

10 And He said unto me, What desirest thou?

11 And I said unto Him, For me to know the interpretation thereof.

[A] for I spake unto Him as a man [duality] speaketh

[B] for I beheld that He was in the form of a man [duality]

yet nevertheless

[B] I KNEW that it was the Spirit of the Lord

[A] And He spake unto me as a man speaketh with another

[Par. hh -- Irregular circular repetition “The Tree”]
[Par. ** -- Simple inverted or chiastic parallelism]
And it came to pass that He [the Spirit] said unto me, Look. And I [Nephi] looked as if to look upon Him, and I [Nephi] saw Him NOT for He had gone from before my presence.

And it came to pass that I [Nephi] looked and I [Nephi] beheld the GREAT city of Jerusalem and I [Nephi] also beheld other cities. And I [Nephi] beheld the city of Nazareth and in the city of Nazareth I [Nephi] beheld a virgin and she [the virgin] was exceedingly fair and white.

And it came to pass that I [Nephi] saw the heavens open and an angel came down and stood before me. And he [the angel] said unto me O = saith Nephi what beholdest thou?

And I [Nephi] said unto Him O = saith A virgin MOST beautiful and [MOST] fair above ALL other virgins.
And he [the angel] said unto me, KNOWEST thou the condescension of God? [O = saith] [v = condescension]


And he [the angel] said unto me, Behold the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of God / ^the Son of God [O / ^1837] after the manner of the flesh.

And it came to pass that I [Nephi] beheld that she [the virgin] was carried away in the Spirit and after* she [the virgin] had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time.

[he]the angel spake unto me saying, Look

And I [Nephi] looked and [I Nephi] beheld the virgin again. [and I Nephi] beheld the virgin bearing a child in her arms.

And he [the angel] said unto me, Behold The Lamb of God [O / ^1837] 08 Yea even The Eternal Father / ^The Son of the Eternal Father.

KNOWEST thou the meaning of The Tree which thy father saw? [O = saith] [v = condescension]

And I [Nephi] answered Him saying, Yea it [The Tree] is the Love of God which [Tree] sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men

Wherefore it [The Tree] is the MOST Desirable Above ALL Things.

[Par. jj – Circular repetition “virgin”]
[Heb. 08 – Metaphor symbolism “The Lamb of God”]
[1 Nephi 11]

23 And **he [the angel] spake unto me** saying:

Yea and **[The Tree is] the MOST Joyous [Thing] to the Soul**

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:21) verses 16-22 represent an example of chiastic parallelism. My basic outline of parallel elements in Parry's structure is as follows:]

16 [A]1 he said unto me Knowest thou the condescension of God
17 2 I said unto him . . . he loveth his children
18 [B] Behold the virgin
19 [C] she was carried away in the Spirit
19 [C] she had been carried away in the Spirit
20 [B] beheld the virgin
21 [A]1 the angel said unto me Knowest thou the meaning of the tree
22 2 I answered him . . . the love of God . . . children of men

__________

*The Son of God Confirms God's Covenant Way among Men*

24 **And after he had said these words**

he [the angel] said unto me

Look

And I [Nephi] looked

and I [Nephi] beheld The Son of God going forth among the children of men

and I [Nephi] saw MANY fall down at His feet

and worship Him

25 **And it came to pass**

that I [Nephi] beheld that the rod of iron which [rod of iron]

my father had seen

was the word of God which [word of God] led

> or to The Fountain of Living Waters

> or to The Tree of Life

which [Living] Waters are a representation of the Love of God

__________

[Heb. 09 – Two nouns connected by "of" = adjective]
and I [Nephi] also beheld that The Tree of Life was a representation of the Love of God

The Condescension of God the Son
The Lamb of God Redeems to World

26 And [he] the angel said unto me again Look and behold the condescension of God

27 And I [Nephi] looked and I [Nephi] beheld The Redeemer of the World of Whom* my father had spoken and I [Nephi] also beheld the prophet who should prepare the way before Him

And The Lamb of God went forth and was baptized of him [the prophet] and after* He [The Lamb of God] was baptized

I [Nephi] beheld the Heavens did open and The Holy Ghost did come down out of heaven and [The Holy Ghost] did abide upon Him in the form of a dove

28 And I [Nephi] beheld that He [The Lamb of God] went forth ministering unto the people in power and in GREAT glory

and I [Nephi] beheld [that they] the multitudes were gathered together to hear Him

and I [Nephi] beheld that they [the multitudes] cast Him out from among them

29 And I [Nephi] also beheld twelve others following Him

And it came to pass that they [He and the twelve] were carried away in the Spirit from before my face

that/and I [Nephi] saw them NOT [v/ 1837]

[Heb. 10 – Plurals amplification “multitudes”]
[Heb. 11 – Compound preposition “from before my face”]
[Heb. 12 – Metaphor “face”]
And it came to pass that he the angel spake unto me again saying: Look

And I looked

And I beheld the Heavens open again

And I saw angels descending upon the children of men and they did minister unto them

And he spake unto me again saying: Look

And I looked

And I beheld The Lamb of God going forth among the children of men

And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick and multitudes of people who were afflicted with ALL manner of diseases and with devils and with unclean spirits

And he spake unto me

And he showed ALL these things unto me

And they were healed by the power of The Lamb of God

And by the power of The Lamb of God the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out

And it came to pass that he the angel spake unto me again saying:

And I looked
and [I Nephi] beheld The Lamb of God that He [The Lamb of God] was taken by the people [O / 1837] yea [He] The Everlasting God / ^The Son of the Everlasting God was judged of the world

and [I Nephi] saw
and [I Nephi] bare/ bear record [edited in 1837]

33 And [I] Nephi saw that He [The Lamb of God] was lifted up upon the cross

and [that] [He] The Lamb of God was slain for the sins of the world

[Note: In this discussion of The Tree of Life, it is worth noting that the cross is a stylized symbol of a tree. In Acts 5:30 we read: “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.” (see also Acts 10:39). Donna Nielsen also writes that anciently the Passover Lamb was roasted while hung in an upright position on pomegranate tree branches lashed together in the shape of the Hebrew letter Tav ( + ). (Beloved Bridegroom, Finding Christ, p. 116)]

The Pride of the World (People under Satan's Influence)
Will Fight Against God's Covenant Plan of Salvation
All Who Do So Will Be Destroyed

34 And after [that] He [The Lamb of God] was slain [O = that]

[I] Nephi saw the multitude of the earth that they [the multitude of the earth] were gathered together to fight against the Apostles of The Lamb for thus were the Twelve called by the angel of the Lord

35 And the multitude of the earth was gathered together [?] 14

and [I] Nephi beheld that they [the multitude of the earth] were in a large and spacious building like unto the building which my father saw

[Heb. 13 – Metaphor symbolism “cross” = “tree”]
[Par. kk – Circular repetition “multitudes of the earth”]
[Heb. 14 – Plurals changed to singular “multitude”]
And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again saying

Behold the world and the wisdom thereof

yea behold the house of Israel hath gathered together [with the world]
to fight against the Twelve Apostles of The Lamb

36 And it came to pass that I saw and I bare/bear record that the GREAT and spacious building was the pride of the world

^and it the GREAT and spacious building fell and the fall thereof was exceedingly GREAT

And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again saying*

Thus shall be the destruction of ALL nations
[of ALL] kindreds [AG]
[of ALL] tongues
and [of ALL] people

that shall fight against the Twelve Apostles of The Lamb

[Note* In this chapter I have highlighted a number of ways in which direct speech is introduced. The phrase “the Spirit said unto me” or “the angel spake unto me” is repeated about 20 times. The phrase “I Nephi said unto him” or something similar is repeated about 8 times. The word “saying” as in “spake/saying” appears about 9 times. According to David E. Bokovoy and John A. Tvedtnes, the word “saying” appears over 200 times in the text of the Book of Mormon as an introduction to direct speech. This parallels its use in the biblical Hebrew of the Old Testament. (David E. Bokovoy and John A. Tvedtnes, Testaments: Links between the Book of Mormon and the Hebrew Bible, 2003, p. 226-229)]

[Heb. 15 – Prophetic perfect tense “was”]
[Par. LL – Distribution list]