

1 Nephi 11

Apocalypse of Nephi 1: The Ministry of Christ and the Apostles

Apocalypse of Nephi 1a: 1 Nephi 11:1-7
Nephi's Interview with "the Spirit"

1 For it came to pass after I had **desired to know the things** [←10:17] that my father had seen, and believing that the **Lord was able to make them known** unto me [←10:19], as I sat **pondering in mine heart** I was **caught away in the Spirit of the Lord**, yea, into an **exceedingly high mountain**, which I never had before seen, and upon which I never had before set my foot.

Nephi actively seeks revelation and confirmation of Lehi's dream.
 Not specifically seeking expanded understanding of the Messiah.

“**ponder heart**” biblical idiom (Prov. 21:2, 24:12; Lk. 2:19);

heart as center of cognition in Hebrew thought

Hebrew: *pālās* “dig through, open up, observe” (HALOT 935); *tākān* “examine, check, measure, assess, order” (HALOT 1733-4)

Greek: *sumballō* (συμβάλλω) “throw together” “consider, ponder, compare” (BDAG 956); cognate with our term “symbol” = ponder means “consider/compare symbols”

“**caught away in the Spirit of the Lord**” = 1 Ne. 1:8, 14:30; Moses 6:64

Greek: *harpazō* (ἁρπάζω) “grab, snatch, seize, remove” by God in vision (Acts 8:39; 2 Cor. 12:2, 12:4; 1 Thes. 4:17; Rev. 12:5)

1 Ne. 11:1- I was **caught away** in the **Spirit** of the Lord, yea, into an **exceedingly high mountain** (→1 Ne. 14:18-27)

Rev. 21:10- he **carried me away** in the **spirit** to a **great and high mountain**

Nephi says his vision is related to John's revelation (14:18-27)

“**high mountain**” never seen before = *mountain theophany*; Ex. 3 (Sinai);

Rev. 21:10 (John's vision); Mt. 4:8 (temptation); Mt. 17:1 (transfiguration)
 mythos of cosmic mountain where God dwells = Ezek. 28:14, 16 (11-24)

Nephi's high mountain ≈ Moses on Sinai = Nephi as Moses

Eden on mountain (Ezek. 28:11-19); God dwells on mountain (Ps. 48:1-4)

Four Israelite Cosmic Mountains: Eden, Sinai, Zion, “East” (Jubilees 4:26)

Bibliography: Clifford, R. *The Cosmic Mountain in Canaan and the Old Testament*. (1972); Clifford, R. “The Temple and the Holy Mountain” in T. Madsen (ed.) *The Temple in Antiquity*, (RSC, 1984) 107-124; DBI 572-4; Levenson, J. *Sinai and Zion*, (1987)

2 And the Spirit said unto me: **Behold, what desirest thou?**

3 And I said: I desire to **behold the things which my father saw.**

Nephi desires his own vision of the “things which my father saw” in 1 Ne. 1:8-14 (Fall of Jerusalem), 1 Ne. 8 (Tree of Life) and 1 Ne. 10 (Messiah); those chapters form the foundation of the pattern of Nephi’s Apocalypse

4 And the Spirit said unto me: **Believest thou that thy father saw the tree of which he hath spoken?**

5 And I said: Yea, thou knowest that **I believe all the words of my father.**

Tree (←1 Ne. 8:10, 13, 19-25, 30)

“believe *all* the words” = believe Lehi’s prophecy of the Messiah/Son (10:7-11)

6 And when I had spoken these words, the Spirit cried with a loud voice, saying: **Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God; for he is God over all the earth, yea, even above all. And blessed art thou, Nephi, because thou believest in the Son of the most high God; wherefore, thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired.**

Hosanna (Mt. 21:9, 15; Mk. 11:9; Jn. 12:13)

Ps. 118:25, “save us” *hōšī‘āh nā’* (הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא); liturgical cry of rejoicing

Lord = LORD in KJV = YHWH = Yahweh (יהוה)

BOM does not distinguish between “Lord” (Adonai) and LORD, YHWH

most high God = *’el ‘elyôn* (אֱלֹהֵי עֶלְיוֹן), “Exalted El/God”

Melchizedek is priest of *’el ‘elyôn* (Gen 14:18-22, Heb. 7:1)

“Most High” = *’elyôn* (אֱלֹהֵי עֶלְיוֹן), Dt. 38:2; Is. 14:14; Ps. 78:17, 83:19, 97:9

“God over all the earth, yea, even above all” = God of Heaven and Earth

“**Son of the most high God**”

Jesus is “Son of the most high God” *theos hupsistos* (θεός ὑψιστος), (Mk. 5:7)

Son of the Highest = *huios hupsistou* (υἱὸς ὑψίστου) (Lk. 1:32, 35; 8:24)

Ps. 82:6 “I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are **sons of the most High.**”

Concept of the Most High having sons existed in ancient Israel

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**.

sign = 'ôṭ (אוֹת) = sign, mark, token, (of prophecy or covenant) (HALOT 26)
prophetic sign = Josh. 4:6; Is. 7:14; Jer. 44:29; Ezek. 24:24; Lk 2:12

“man descending out of heaven” 1 Ne. ←1:9, →12:6; **3 Ne. 11:9** (→Jn. 1:51)

bear record →Nephi’s future testimony of Jesus throughout 1 & 2 Nephi