

***Apocalypse of Nephi 1b: (1 Nephi 11:8-11)***  
**Nephi's Vision of the Tree**

8 And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me: **Look!**  
 And I looked and beheld a tree; 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.

white tree (11:8) ≈ white fruit (←8.11)

**white** as symbol; there are no “real” white trees

→ white robe (8:5, 14:19); white fruit (8:11); white virgin (11:13); garments washed white in blood (12:10-11); white Gentiles (13:15)  
 ≠ literal color, but symbolic color (≠ skin color)

**Tree** is white and beautiful (11:8) → Virgin is white and beautiful (11:13, 15)

9 And it came to pass after I had seen the tree, I said unto the Spirit: I behold thou hast shown unto me the **tree** which is [most] **precious above all**.

“**most** precious above all” in original manuscript  
 “precious above all” (1830)

**precious** → fruit is “desirable” 11:22

scriptures “plain and *precious*” 13:26-40 = scriptures are “*desirable*” (5:21);  
 fruit *desirable* (8:10, 12, 15; 11:22; 15:36)

10 And he said unto me: **What desirest thou?**

11 And I said unto him: To **know the interpretation thereof**—for I spake unto him as a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless, I knew that it was the **Spirit of the Lord**; and he **spake unto me as a man speaketh with another**.

“know the interpretation **thereof**” = the Tree ←11:8-9; →11:21b

Note: Lehi did not ask to know the interpretation

“Spirit of the Lord” (11:11)

= Spirit of Yahweh?

= Holy Ghost (BMRC 736)? or premortal Christ? (≈ Eth. 3:6-16)

“**spake unto me as a man speaketh with another**”

= **Ex. 33:11**, Num. 12:8, Dt. 34:10 = Nephi as new Moses

*the being who spoke to Moses “as a man speaketh unto his friend” is the same being who is speaks to Nephi “as a man speaketh with another” = Yahweh*

***Apocalypse of Nephi 1c: (1 Nephi 11:12-23)***  
**Vision of the Virgin and Birth of Christ**

12 And it came to pass that he said unto me: [Look!](#)  
 And I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not; for **he had gone** from before my presence.

Why does the Spirit of the Lord depart?

Because he is Jesus in subsequent visions? (←11:10)

13 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of **Jerusalem**, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of **Nazareth**; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a **virgin**, and she was exceedingly **fair** and **white**.

14 And it came to pass that I saw **the heavens open**; and an **angel** came down and stood before me; and he said unto me: [Nephi, what beholdest thou?](#)

15 And I said unto him: A virgin, most **beautiful** and **fair** above all other virgins.

“fair and white” + “beautiful and fair” ≈ Mary (Lk 1.26-27)

**Tree** is white and beautiful (11:8) → **Virgin** is white and beautiful (11:13, 15)  
 implication that the Tree ≈ the Virgin

“Spirit of the Lord” gone (11:12); **angel** descends from open heavens

16 And he said unto me: [Knowest thou the \*\*condescension\*\* of God?](#)

17 And I said unto him: I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.

18 And he said unto me: [Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of ~~the~~ \*\*Son of God\*\*, after the manner of the flesh.](#)

“mother of God” (1830) → “mother of **the Son of God**” (1837)

Mary as *Theotokos* (Θεοτοκος) = “God-bearer” (see “Mary Bibliography”)

Mary as the New Eve, offering mankind the fruit of Tree of Life instead of Tree of Knowledge/Death

condescension = “descending with” = *incarnation* of Christ;  
 ≠ stooping beneath dignity (BMRC)