

BOM_011_1_Nephi_11

As we begin today's lesson in first Nephi 11 let go back and look at the verses in first Nephi 10. Starting in verse 17

1 Nephi 10:

*17 And it came to pass after I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision, and also the things which he spake by the power of the Holy Ghost, which power he received by faith on the Son of God—and the Son of God was the Messiah who should come— (right here) I, Nephi, was **desirous** also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men.*

Over the page, let's take a look at verses 19.

*19 **For he that diligently seeketh shall find;** and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of **old as in times to come;** (that's us) *wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round.**

Now, as we go into first Nephi chapter 11 notice the first words that are spoken in verse one,

1 Nephi 11:

1 For it came to pass after I had desired to know the things that my father had seen,...

See, there is no separation in the thoughts and verses in chapter 10 with the first few verses in chapter 11 they run right together in a continual stream of doctrine and principles. Take a look how many times the word *desire* is mentioned in the first few verses of first Nephi 11. Right there that we just referred to *desire to know*; that skip down to verse 2, the spirit who is attending him says *what desirous thou*; verse 3, *I desire*. So *desire* also, go down to the bottom of verse 6, *wherefore thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired*. So notice what an important part *desired* plays here. Let's go over to Alma chapter 32 for just a minute. If you go to verse 27 you will see that Alma says,

Alma 32:

*27 But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than (here we go) **desire to believe**, let this **desire** work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words.*

So *desire* is the beginning point and how do you get desire? Well you ask for it just like anything else. If you lack that desire to go anywhere spiritually, this is a starting place for you. Get on your knees, humble yourself and ask the Lord to bestow this desire, this starting place upon you so you can move forward and obtain what the Lord has in store for you. Desire is the starting point. Go over to section 4 let's look at verse 3 in the Doctrine and Covenants.

D&C 4:

3 Therefore, if ye have **desires** to serve God ye are called to the work;

Let's go to Doctrine and covenants section 11 and look at verse 8.

D&C 11:

8 Verily, verily, I say unto you, even as you **desire** of me so it shall be done unto you; and, if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation.

Skip on down to verse 10 section 11,

10 Behold, thou hast a gift, or thou shalt have a gift if thou wilt **desire** of me in faith, with an honest heart, believing in the power of Jesus Christ, or in my power which speaketh unto thee;

Look at verse 17

17 And then, behold, according to your **desires**, yea, even according to your faith shall it be done unto you.

And all the way over to verse 27

27 Behold, I speak unto all who have good **desires**, and have thrust in their sickle to reap.

So it is with Nephi everything begins with a *desire to know the things that my father had seen*. So the first step is: desire to know. Look the 2nd step in verse one chapter 11,

1 Nephi 11:

... and believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me,..

That's the 2nd step. This is such a crucial thing in the process of obtaining the mysteries of godliness and being able to rend the veil. You have to believe that you can. We talked many times about unbelief. Unbelief robs you of everything that the Lord has in store for you. So it's appropriate that following desire in Nephi's formula is to believe that the Lord was able to make them known unto me. Most of us have no problems with the Lord making these things known and others. The problem comes is when you look in the mirror and look at yourself staring back and you say, *no way*. We come to step 3,

...as I sat pondering in mine heart ...

There's your 3rd step. So look at that *desire to know; believe the Lord is able to make it known to you; and ponder it in your own heart*. Coming to this place where you can actually not only believe but see yourself obtaining these precious things is no small achievement. Everything in this world has a tendency to want to keep you down and rob you of the things that God wants to bestow. Now we come to a very critical part in obtaining the things of the Lord. The next words are

...I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, ..

This is a great key to be able to begin the process and understand what's happening to you as the veil begins to thin and you begin to see, hear and know the things of God. I pondered over the years and I really wonder just how many times our holy father actually comes into this world- physically comes into this world. I would not be a bit surprised if it's something that never happens. And you're going to say, *Wait a minute. We have records of where people have seen the Father and Son*. Exactly and I think this is what Nephi's teaching us here. I wonder if our father who was a glorified exalted perfected being that has all of the attributes of godliness in a perfected fullness I wonder how often if ever he comes physically into a Telestial fallen world. I also wonder that about the Savior. Now this is not to say that they can't, but I wonder how many times they do. Notice where the spirit of the Lord catches Nephi away to

...yea, into an exceedingly high mountain, which I never had before seen, and upon which I never had before set my foot.

We had examples with Lehi thus far in our lessons where he was caught away and saw God the Eternal Father surrounded with numberless concourses and angels singing and praising his name. He saw the Son of God descending out of heaven. He saw 12 others following them. He sees this book. And all these things he sees well his body is laying on his bed in Jerusalem in his house. I think that Lehi -like Nephi here *was caught away in the spirit of the Lord into this sacred place an exceeding high mountain upon which I had never before set my foot*. And I would add upon which probably no other human had set their foot. This fits in with the doctrine that we discussed that all things take place spiritually before physically. If you're going to encounter heaven you're going to do it in the spirit before you do it physically. If you're going to encounter angels and translated beings or other heavenly messengers you're going to encounter them spiritually before you actually encounter them physically. If you're going to see God you're going to see him in the spirit before you see him in the flesh. That seems to be the heavenly pattern not that these gods and angels can do things the way they want but the pattern seems to fit spiritually before physically. at any rate this is been a great key in helping me be able to understand things to such a degree that I can formulate the right questions based upon a correct knowledge in order to have the veil open and obtain the desires of my heart. Neal a Maxwell in his book increase Our Faith

on page 78 has this interesting statement, "According to the prophet Joseph Smith the crucial holy endowment was administered to Moses on the mountain." The Words of Joseph Smith page 120. Pres. Joseph Fielding Smith expressed the belief that Peter James and John also received the holy endowment on a mountain- the Mount of Transfiguration. That's in Doctrines of Salvation, volume 2 page 165. Then Maxwell goes on to say, "*Nephi too was caught up to an exceeding high mountain and was instructed not to write or speak some of the things he experienced there.*" You can see that in verse Nephi 14 verse 25. Did something similar occur to him at this time as it did to Moses and Peter, James and John? Another statement by Brigham Young, the Journal of Discourses, volume 10, page 252, he said, "*the Lord appears on the tops of high mountains because they are places where sinful man has never marked the soil with his polluted feet.*" And of course we know that in the Old Testament in the writings of the patriarch's mountains and mountaintops always referred to sacred Temple places. Where there was no building or edifice, mountains and mountaintops were the temples of their day. I have had experience of communing with God on mountaintops and in high places and can testify there's something very very spiritual and holy about communicating with our Father in the name of Jesus Christ above the crowds of the Telestial world.

Now, this spirit of the Lord in verse one that catches Nephi away to the high mountain ask him question in verse 2

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

I found out from my own experience that there is hardly an answer given from the heavenly realm that isn't preceded by a well thought out question. Our questions that we lay before our father in large measure will determine the response that comes from him. It's not a bad habit to get into and become perfected in learning how to formulate and ask good questions of the heavenly realm. I know of some people who pray and received no answer and they make the assumption that nobody's listening or they're not worthy to receive anything from the person you're addressing; only to find out that if they will reformulate their question that an answer is immediate. so there is some importance in spending a little time pondering, and that may be part 2 up there in verse one where he's pondering in his heart perhaps part of that was formulating what kind of questions what he was going to do any actual ask seek and knock formula as he approaches the Lord in this high place. Who is this person the spirit of the Lord? Because it is a person as we can see in a later verse that he speaks to Nephi as one man speaketh with another. Go over to verse 11 and take a look at this.

11 And I said unto him: (so we know that the spirit is male) To know the interpretation thereof—(this part right here) 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.

Herein is a great mystery. many people have wondered if this person is the Holy Ghost; others have wondered if it is the pre-mortal spirit body of Jesus Christ; others an angel or a messenger from the heavenly realm; there is no end to speculation all that. some of the early brethren especially Marion G. Ronnie intimated that this is the Holy Ghost and yet the only real way to find out for ourselves after studying the musings of everybody else is to go to the father in the name of Jesus Christ and seek for revelation yourself concerning this great mystery. Once you receive that revelation you may be instructed not to teach it to anybody else. Heber C Kimball said this in the Journal of Discourses. Volume 5, page 179, “*well let me tell you the Holy Ghost is a man. he is one of the sons of our father and our God and he is that man that stood next to Jesus Christ, just as I stand next to Brother Brigham.*” this man in spirit form and now has a conversation with Nephi and after asking Nephi what desirous thou? Nephi answers and said, *I desire to behold the things which my father saw.* That what desirous thou has a hauntingly familiar feel to something asked at sacred places in the temples of the most high. Verse 4

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

See here’s a test, brothers and sisters. Before the desired results that Nephi has are obtained he’s going to have to go through a little testing period. He knows that believing these things as a part of the formula, but here the spirit, this spirit man test him directly by saying, *do you believe the things your father saw?* And Nephi pass the test in verse 5

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

What an interesting statement. Instead of just saying, *yes I believe*, he looks to this person and says *you know that I believe all of these words of my father.* What’s behind that statement? What does Nephi understand and know about this spirit holy heavenly being that he’s speaking with that he can make such a declaration? *You know I believe all the words of my father;* and then very interesting thing happens in verse 6

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.

See this harkens back at verse one. Remember the first key is *the desire to know* and number 2 is *believing*. You can see those 2 in verse 6, blessed *art thou, Nephi, because thou believest* and the bottom verse *because thou believest in the Son of the most high God; wherefore, thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired.*

You see that little chiasmus statement there? Up in verse one, *desire to know* is the first thing mentioned. In verse 6 *desire to know* is the last thing mentioned; and in between in an hourglass type shape we see this chiasm which is typical of ancient inspired Hebrew Semitic writings and scripture. Why you think this jubilation in verse 6? What's the big deal that the spirit man with a loud voice, doesn't just say cries out, says with a loud voice *hosanna to the Lord the most high God* what that all about? I pondered that as to why this eruption of jubilation when Nephi simply says *I believe all the words of my father*. Why would that elicits such a jubilous eruption of joy? My feeling is this. there are so few people who can believe these kinds of things in simplicity and as a little child for verily this believing and being as a little child and asking these questions and doubting not in having this deep desire are the keys that open up all the mysteries of God rend the veil and place within our grasp everything that our father and his son have for us there. To find somebody on the earth at any given time that has this kind of childlike innocence and belief and faith is so rare that when the heavenly realm encounters one there is an interruption of jubilation and joy. Are you one of those that the heavens cried hosanna to the most high God for when they observe your faith your innocence your desire to believe is a little child? Do the heavens rejoice when your name is mentioned? Something to be sought for; verse 7.

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 (this part here) him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him ye shall bear record that it is the Son of God.

This is the classic scriptural reference teaching us that when we have these kinds of experiences that we are to testify to others as directed by the spirit. They are not so sacred that they must never be spoken of. if that were the case that these men never spoke of these things you and I would not have the Scriptures in front of us reading of their experiences and have any kind of confidence of obtaining the same thing for us. In our day it is critical and we are now in that day that when you and I have these experiences; where we encounter angels and spirits of just men and women made perfect; when we see God when we receive these holy revelations under the direction and prudence of the spirit; we need testify of these things. as long as I believe that these kinds of experiences are restricted only to the 3 men in the first presidency and 12 in the quorum of the 12 and other general authorities, mission presidents, temple presidents or priesthood leaders if they're the only ones that I have anything faith that these kinds of things are even happening to even if they don't speak of it what kind of confidence can I have that I can obtain anything similar? **(20:10)**

We have to know that there are common ordinary Latter-Day Saints men and women and not only members of the church but others who love the Lord who are having these kinds of experiences. And the only way we can know that is that they share them with us and testify that is taken place. Again, it's not a question of casting your pearls. The Lord doesn't say you shouldn't cast your pearls. He says he shouldn't cast them before swine lest they turn and rend you. One of the things is happening in our day, right now, is that more and more of our brothers

and sisters are having these experiences and testifying to them; and it's electrifying. I listened to his sister in our sacrament meeting this last Sunday that talked about spending private sacred time with the Lord Jesus Christ and how he had spoken to her; and he testified of the words that he'd spoken to her; and she said that she knew it was his voice and she knew that she heard the voice of God in direct answer to her inquiry. It was electrifying to hear this sister testify those of us in sacrament meeting of this grand experience. Notice in verse 7, *after you have seen these things you shall bear record and you shall bear witness that you have seen and heard and know these things*. Don't you find also in verse 7 it's interesting that the first thing that Nephi sees the tree and the next thing he sees is a man and this man is the son of God. Do you think that there is any coincidence the next sequence or is there divine formula. I believe that he sees the tree and then afterwards sees the son of God because the tree is a symbol of the son of God. The tree is Jesus Christ. Now that doesn't mean that there isn't a tree. There is a tree. Don't you find it also interesting that the parts of the tree that we label our limbs and trunk? Those are the same words we use to describe parts of the human body limbs in the trunk. Verse 8,

8 And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me: Look! ...

Anytime if you have anyone from the heavenly realm tell you to look that seems to signify that you're about to have a significant spiritual experience and behold a vision that he had not seen before

...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.

He actually sees a tree that is planted in the celestial realms. This is a tree that is in the presence of God the Father. Even though there is symbolism to these trees I testify that they are actual trees. And there are trees of life that are planted in various places throughout eternities. I know that there's one in the city of Enoch. I had heard from a mentor friend of mine that there was such a tree planted there and I asked to see that and was able to see that tree at least the base of it. It was interesting as I viewed the tree of life in the city of Enoch I could only see up about 30 feet up the trunk and I could not for some reason still unknown to me at this type could not observe anything higher. This is a very large tree. It reminded me of some of the great redwoods and the sequoias that we see up in Northern California. Very large tree at the base and the interesting thing was is that there was water coming out from among the roots of this tree. I've since learned that all trees of life wherever there planted have living water that flowed forth from among the roots. You know verses one through 11 in verse Nephi 11 seemed to be a test of Nephi's faith. The questions at the veil in the temple; want to know what Nephi knows and understands in order to build on that and give him further. Verse 9,

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 precious above all.

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.

As I read the word precious in verse 9 my thoughts go to a hymn that I've heard. On hymn number 103 it this says this:

Precious Savior, dear Redeemer,
Thy sweet message now impart.
May thy Spirit, pure and fervid,
Enter ev'ry timid heart;
Carry there the swift conviction,
Turning back the sinful tide.
Precious Savior, dear Redeemer,
May each soul in thee abide.

So when I see the word precious describing the tree that Lehi and Nephi saw that again provides evidence that the tree is the Lord Jesus Christ our precious Savior and dear Redeemer. Verse 12

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.

So this first messenger. Whoever this is now leaves after having performed this portion. Then in this vision verse 13,

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.

This of course is Mary the mother of Jesus Christ. Verse 14,

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?

Now this is the 2nd messenger. This is not the same person as the first one. The first person was referred to as the *Spirit of the Lord in the form of a man that you're able to speak to face-to-face as one man speaks with another*. This now is the 2nd heavenly messenger, an angel who comes down from the heavens, to continue this great vision that Nephi's having. Can we talk for just a few minutes about these angels? I have found out that there are varying levels and degrees, if you will, a hierarchy of angels that perform their missions and work for our father and his son Jesus Christ under the direction of the Holy Ghost. There is a hierarchy here. Angels minister to man

and their director is the Holy Ghost for angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost. Nephi says in 2nd Nephi 32 verse 3

2 Nephi 32:

3 Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

These angels can be spirits. They can be translated beings. They can be resurrected beings. Or they can be morals in this world who have a commission, keys and authority to fulfill the works of the Father and his Son in this world. I know of missionaries who have loved the people to such a degree that when they left the people literal referred to them as *our angels*. that's not just an endearing form of affection but they realize that these men and women who gave their lives to go all throughout the world and minister to their brothers and sisters were functioning in the office and ministry of an angel true messengers from the Lord Jesus Christ even though they were morals and living in the Telestial world. most of the angels that minister to us, according to my experience, have been family members either those who have lived on the earth before that are my ancestry and have passed through the veil of death and find themselves in another dimension or they are men and women who have not yet been born in my family but that will at some future date and will either refer to me as father, grandfather, or great-grandfather. And so we have root and branch, ancestry and posterity that minister to us as angels – messengers. Those that I have met that I have not known I have asked them a question. Are you part of my family? And they've answered and said, *yes*. One person I talked to and I asking the question have we known each other before? And he said, *Oh, yes we know each other very well*. He didn't explain where that relationship lie, but it was enough for me to know that he was familiar with me and I'd forgotten that relationship because I was at that point behind a veil. Most of these messengers are very friendly, very open, they are joyous, they very happy to be involved in helping and blessing you and they literally rejoice to be able to serve and minister to you. These messengers are involved in our lives pretty much continually behind the veil. The day will come when **(30:36)** will see and understand just how much they were involved in the details of our life - even in the minutest details. They have an interest in us, especially those of her family members, because we are currently in the great battlefield of life and they've either been here or are about to come here and are very interested in what you are able to accomplish and understand during your time in mortality.

On March 30, 2018 at 4:10 AM I asked the Lord if he would send me a messenger to bathe me in the light to cleanse, purify and sanctify me in order to approach the heavenly realm. I was full of faith and desire and knew that this prayer would be answered. See all of this is given to you in the spirit. You're very desire to utter such a prayer is revelatory. You would not be given the desire to have that kind of an experienced if the spirit hadn't impressive upon you in the first place. I found out that these kinds of things don't originate within me. There usually placed there

by my father and his son because I'm at a point in my progression where I need to have this experience. If the thought weren't there I probably would've never asked the question. My confidence was high and my intent pure. At once I sensed the person standing in front of me just to my right. He was a large man perhaps 6 foot 4 dressed in a beautiful white robe. The robe was shimmering in his light. I could observe that the garment he wore had no seams that I could see and appeared to be alive upon his body. It came down to his ankles and wrists. He wore no shoes and I could see his bare feet. I took the time to notice all that I could about his appearance and kept my focus upon his presence. He had nothing in his hands and when I first observed him his hands were at his side. The top of his robe was open at the neck with no collar and had a slip that went vertically down about 6 inches under his chin. The head opening of this garment was embroidered with some kind of decorations. He had hair down below his ears but not shoulder length. His hair and beard were perfectly white. I could see his face clearly now but not at first. That's an interesting thing about my experiences with a heavenly realm; when they begin to unfold the usually begin somewhat vague or obscure; and I need to press forward through that with faith and then things began to clear up. So it was with this experience. I found myself needing to continually ask the Lord let me see with more clarity because he seemed to fade in and out of my vision. He was sober and did not smile- very businesslike. A side note here: other messengers that I've had the privilege of meeting were all very happy; were all very pleasant; were not as sober as this and this was a different experience than I have before. some of these other messengers had beards that were colored brown or dark brown almost black. Their hair lengths seemed very. There's no 2 of them are the same. They are as individual in their realm as true messengers as any of us are different and varied in our lives. I asking if I knew him and he said, *yes*. I asked him if he was a member of my family and again he said, *yes*. I asking to further identify himself and he remained silent. I asked for his name and he told me that was not necessary for me to know at this time. This man was very sober. He had a mission to perform and was about the task. So, brothers and sisters, I share this experience with you for one reason and one reason only and I hope you can feel that in your spirits. I desire absolutely in no way to take any light unto myself. I desire absolutely cannot taken to me in an honors of men. I heard talk in church this Sunday and the man had this great one-liner. I memorize this and this is a good place for me to use this one-liner. He said, *we are not here to impress anybody, but we are here to inspire everybody*. And so it is here, brothers and sisters, I share this experience and have been instructed by the Lord through his Spirit to do so also that you may have confidence that you can obtain the same thing. Going back to chapter 10 verse 17, go down to the middle of the 17th verse

1 Nephi 10:

*17 ...I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto **all** those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men.*

18 For he is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and the way is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him.

If anything Nephi is teaching us through his experience and is written this record now to give us the confidence to be able to go and obtain the same things. I have not asked, as of yet, to see the tree of life. it's just not something that I have felt impressed asked for. But I know others who have and have seen this very same vision that Nephi and Lehi saw. if it were not available for them then God is not a God of truth because he said that if you will believe and have faith in my Son, Jesus Christ, that you can see here and know for yourself all of these things that are written in the holy Scriptures and in the records of holy men and women. So my intent is to share this with you for one reason and one reason only to let you know and give you confidence that I can do this you can. and if it's the will of the Lord and is in his mind to bless you with these experiences in his timing know this, my friends, he will and know also that it is your right and privilege according to his word to obtain all of these things.

If you look up the definition description of the word condescension you will find something like this: to descend voluntarily to a less formal or dignified level; descent in rank or dignity. A mentor of mine said this about this verse, *when you descend below where you are at present. You find the Lord for he is condescending whenever he is seen.* Isn't that a great quote? Paul speaking of this great condescension, the condescension of God, said this, Hebrews chapter 2 verse 9,

Hebrews 2:

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

And again in 2nd Corinthians chapter 8 verse 9 Paul said this:

2 Corinthians 8:

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

The great scriptures that are describing this process of condescension that Nephi's writing about. The holy ones in eternity progress by condescending. They ascend and condescend. There's this movement in eternity by the fathers and mothers of rising and descending. The other moment is they enter and leave. If you were to draw lines representing these movements of ascending and descending and entering and leaving you would see in the first vertical line and in the 2nd horizontal line and where you cross those to you have a symbol of the cross. A coincidence? Well in answer the question, *do you understand or know the condescension of God?* Nephi answers,

1 Nephi 11:

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.

What Nephi doesn't know is that he's given the answer for why God condescends. Right there in his answer to the angel *I know that he loveth his children*. There is only one reason why those who are exalted beings would choose to condescend and that is out of the love for lesser progressed beings. **(40:00)** There is no other reason. even though the side effects of such condescension and then ascending is glory and honor; and power; increased priesthood; its Majesty and yet none of those are the main purpose for condescending and as the definition says to descend voluntarily or less formal or dignified level. The only purpose why these holy ones condescend is out of love for their children; for their brothers and sisters; and for lesser progressed beings. It is to bring them up to where they're at; for it's their work and their glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. Verse 18,

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.

Verse 19

*19 And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away **in the Spirit**; and after she had been carried away **in the Spirit** for the space of a time the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!*

Now this is one of the great mysteries of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's referred to as the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. There been many who have spoken of how this took place even some general authorities and some prophets. I believe this is such a sacred mystery that can only be revealed personally to those persons of the Lord favors with that information and then I believe is kept under strict confidence and not revealed. This is one of those things that I believe cannot nor will be spoken of in the Telestial world. I know some who have seen what took place there and they refer to it as such secret information that it cannot be written nor spoken nor revealed while in this world. Verse 20,

20 And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

21 And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?

Now notice of the original question that began this whole experience with these messengers goes back to verse 3 when the spirit asked, *what do you desire?* Nephi said *I desire to behold the things which my father saw*. He just wants to see these things. Not only does he see them but he has the interpretation given and beholds much more. I believe he's seeing more here than his father saw. These details that we're seeing in Nephi's vision we don't see recorded in Lehi's

vision of the tree of life. Perhaps they were upon Lehi's own personal place but we don't see them. We see the various elements of the tree of life unfolding, but here Nephi is seeing in detail the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; his mother; the place where that's to take place in Nazareth. Now we come to the question, *do you know the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?* And here's Nephi's answer in verse 22,

22 And I answered him, saying: Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things.

Now there are 2 words in that verse that triggered me to look at other scriptures. When Nephi says, *it is the love of God*. My mind went to John chapter 3 verse 16 perhaps the most beloved verse of Scripture in all of Christendom.

John 3:

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The love of God is in the giving of his only begotten Son to redeem fallen man. The next word that I see in verse 22 is the word *sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men*; I'm reminded that the word shed is not a word that's used in too many places but used consistently with the term shedding blood. So this would tie in with John chapter 3 that the father's love for his children is manifest in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to redeem man from the lost and fallen state. *Wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things*. In verse 23,

1 Nephi 11:

23 And he spake unto me, saying: Yea, and the most joyous to the soul.

Here a couple of podcasts ago I had the experience of feeling that love. Verse 24,

24 And after he had said these words, he said unto me: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him.

25 And it came to pass that I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God; and I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God.

Notice that in Lehi's dream there's no mention of the fountain of living waters, but Nephi's found out that wherever that tree of life is there is a fountain of living waters. And I testify from my own experience that is verily so. I'm reminded of John chapter 4 with the woman at the well in Samaria and in verse 10 Lord speaking to her said,

John 4:

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

These verses right here, brothers and sisters,

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water (Jacob's well) shall thirst again:

*14 But whosoever drinketh of the water **that I shall give him** shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

The well at Jacob's place was a well where you had to draw the water up. The well of water that the Lord speaking up here he uses the word *springing up* which is either an artesian well or what they call a siphon spring which are very unique and rare throughout the world. You're not required to draw from deep. It is something that springs up in you continually without ending. Verse 26,

1 Nephi 11:

26 And the angel said unto me again: Look and behold the condescension of God!

I believe that there are a couple of condescension here. On the father's part is the condescension in sending his son into this world to be a ransom and a sacrifice for the sins of his children. The 2nd condescension is the Savior coming in and allowing himself to descend from a place of honor and glory and exaltation; to take upon him mortality; to allow himself to be spit upon, smitten and slain for the sins of the world. All the while holding within him because of who he is the power over death and the reviling's of wicked men. Go with me to first Nephi chapter 19 and let's look at a verse that describes this condescension. Look at verse 9,

1 Nephi 19:

9 And the world, because of their iniquity, shall judge him to be a thing of naught; wherefore they scourge him, and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men.

NAUGHT which means worthless, no value. Why all this? Because of his loving-kindness and his long-suffering toward the children of men. We know from other scriptures and from the doctrine and we understand that at any time Jesus had the power and priesthood within him to stop any and all of this. Because of his love for us he chose to go through this and not use his power to stop the abuse and the ultimate death that was a part of his atoning sacrifice. Praise his holy name for his great love and to such as I. we see the beginnings of the whole ministry of Jesus Christ in verse 27

1 Nephi 11:

27 And I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world, of whom my father had spoken; and I also beheld the prophet who should prepare the way before him. And the Lamb of God went forth and was baptized of him; and after he was baptized, I beheld the heavens open, and the Holy Ghost come down out of heaven and abide upon him in the form of a dove.

We see him baptized by John the Baptist; we see the gift of the Holy Ghost come upon him. We see the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost and the witness of that ordinance come upon him in the form of the dove; a sign that was foreordained before the foundations of the world which Lucifer cannot duplicate. Verse 28(50:02)

28 And I beheld that he went forth ministering unto the people, in power and great glory; ...

A lot of people teach that Jesus while he was on the earth in his mortal ministry did not come in glory but that is glorious time will be when he returns as the Messiah. Not according to the book of Mormon. And verse 28,

... and the multitudes were gathered together to hear him; and I beheld that they cast him out from among them.

*29 And I also beheld twelve others following him. And it came to pass that **they were carried away in the Spirit from before my face, and I saw them not.***

Verse 29, you see the 12 that were following but you only get a glimpse of them because Nephi sees them but then *they were carried away in the spirit from before my face and I saw them not.* Interesting. Need to ask yourself the question, why was he only allowed to catch a glimpse of the 12 before they were carried away? And here it is again *in the spirit.* Verse 30,

30 And it came to pass that 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.

I testify to you that that same thing is happening in our day that angels are again descending and ministering to men and women on the earth, verse 31,

31 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 who were afflicted with all manner of diseases, and with devils and unclean spirits; and the angel spake and showed all these things unto me. And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God; and the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out.

As we taught in other places except in one place that I can find the casting out of devils and unclean spirits always precede the healing of the sick. The reason for that is taught by the early brethren at the restoration is that the sicknesses and diseases that afflict mankind are caused by devils and unclean spirits. And that once you cast them out you already taken the first step a mighty step towards the healing of their diseases and afflictions. Pres. Brigham Young taught this in the Journal of Discourses, volume 4, page 133 he said, *there was a direct connection between evil and illness. He never felt the pain in a heartfelt disagreeable or uncomfortable in your bodies and minds but what an evil spirit was present causing it. Do you realize that the ague, the fever, the chills, the severe pains in the head, the pleurisy or any pain in the system from the crown of the head of the souls of the feet is put there by the devil? Do you not realize this? But I say little about this matter because I do not want you to realize it? When you have the rheumatism, do you realize the devil put that upon you? But you say, I got wet. I got cold and thereby got the rheumatism. the spirits that afflict us and plan diseases in our bodies; pain in the system and finally death have a control over us so far as the flesh is concerned, but when the spirit is unlocked from body it is free from the power of death and Satan. And when nobody comes up again it also with the spirit will gain the victory over death hell and the grave. Verse 32,*

32 And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Son of the everlasting God was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record.

33 And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world.

When a God is slain for the sins of the world is always through the medium of crucifixion. It is important that the person being executed be lifted up and slain. Go with me to 3rd Nephi 27; let's go to verse 13,

3 Nephi 27:

13 Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and this is the gospel which I have given unto you — that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me.

14 And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; ...

See there are various ways to kill human beings without lifting them up. A cross is a way for a person to be executed and be lifted up and viewed by those who kill them. Back to verse 14,

...and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me,...

In what direction horizontally, downward or upward?

*...that as I have been **lifted up** by men even so should **men be lifted up** by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil—*

*That I might draw all men word **up** to me and that as I have been **lifted up** by men even so should men be lifted up by the father. Do you see the great symbolism and how to cross and crucifixion and death by the cross fulfills the state symbolism of lifting people up. Even so should men be lifted up by the father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil— and last verse,*

15 And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works.

Something for you to think about. Cross is a great eternal symbol; represents much more than a Roman form of execution and torture. Look at verse 34,

1 Nephi 11:

34 And after he was slain I saw the multitudes of the earth, that they were gathered together to fight against the apostles of the Lamb; for thus were the twelve called by the angel of the Lord.

Multitudes of the earth; we want him back than just a minute. Verse 35,

35 And the multitude of the earth (the singular) was gathered together; and I beheld that they were in a large and spacious building, like unto the building which my father saw. And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Behold the world and the wisdom thereof; (this part right here) yea, behold the house of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Here we're not just talking about the general multitudes of the earth here; we're talking about a traitorous bunch within these multitudes. There is a multitude within the multitudes. Multitudes

plural in verse 34, multitudes singular in verse 35. And the multitudes, singular, is the house of Israel gathered to fight against the 12 apostles of the Lamb. So it has always been and will always be and is today; the traders are not on the outside. Those who betray the Lord and his elect are found within the inner circles. It's the house of Israel, the chosen people who turn and fight, persecute God in his lack which persecution resulted in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and will in the future day be the cause of the misery suffering and death of God's elect. It's the inner circle. It is the traders amongst us. Verse 36,

36 And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world; and it 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, kindreds, tongues, and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

It's not the external populations that stone and murder and execute the Lord's prophets in his holy ones. It is always those who've made covenants with the Lord and lost the spirit of the Lord and turn and fight against the Lord and his message and his chosen ones. Go with me over the section 112 in the Doctrine and Covenants for just a moment and we'll end our lesson here.

This revelation was given to Thomas B. Marsh in July 1837. You know the history of that. Thomas B Marsh became the president of the quorum of the 12 apostles, but because of the dispute over some milk stripping's between his wife and some other sisters, he eventually left the church was excommunicated. Thomas B. Marsh was also responsible for the death and destruction, lost property of the saints at Far West and in some of the Missouri persecutions of the place because he turned state's evidence against Latter Day Saints and became one of the main witnesses that they were able to form the extermination order and violate the Far West Latter Day Saints. Now it's in this section of the Lord gives an interesting instruction starting in verse 23,

D&C 112:

23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.

In speaking of the day that's coming,

24 Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, (1:00:00) a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

This part right here:

25 And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;

This Latter-day cleansing is going to begin with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints verse 26,

26 First among those among you, (see, it's the inner circle not the outsiders) saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.

Blasphemy always has been, anciently, as sin punishable by death. Do we have blasphemers and traders in our midst to this day? Is that why the Lord is going to begin cleansing the whole Earth with his own people, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the coming day.

Well, brothers and sisters, I love you. I don't profess to know all of these things. There are people who are so talented; have so much more knowledge in the details of the book of Mormon story. There are so many talented Latter-Day Saints men and women who give insight into beautiful things. All I can do is give you the benefit of what I've learned and my own personal experiences. There is so much that's available to us through the Internet; and through BYU; and education week; various conferences and seminars; so many talented people out there. I glory when I learned from them and have new insight. My purpose on these podcasts is to help us come to a place we can access the power of the atonement of Jesus Christ to change our very natures. I don't profess to know all there is about the historical aspects of the book of Mormon. All I seek to understand is the principles and the doctrine of this wonderful gospel and to see these played out in my own life as I practice them in real time. And see their fruits manifested in my life and the lives of those that I love.

May the Lord bless us all to obtain the marvelous promises; the wonderful gifts of the spirit; and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while here in the Telestial world. I pray humbly in the name of Jesus Christ, our master and friend. Amen.