Step by Step through The Book of Mormon

A Covenant Record of Christ's People

Volume 4a
Introduction

Alan C. Miner

Book of Mormon Central
and
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Foreword

The publication of *A Covenant Record of Christ's People* represents a bold next step into our search for understanding of the literary structure of the Book of Mormon text. This release comes on the tenth anniversary of Donald Parry's *Poetic Parallelisms in the Book of Mormon* (2007, first edition 1999). It also comes on the fiftieth anniversary of my discovery of chiasmus in the Book of Mormon as I was serving as a missionary in Germany.

To my delight, that discovery heralded a new literary consciousness among readers of the Book of Mormon, and the concept of scriptural parallelisms has captured the imagination of both scholars and general readers alike. It has been a joy to watch what has taken place as this painstakingly measured literary analysis has progressed in several quarters.

Donald Parry's book was a great advance in its time, but it only addressed parallelisms and was written without the help of colored fonts. Alan Miner has now developed a much more engaging style, innovatively using colors, alignments, spacings, and additional points of literary identification. It also makes use of recent advances in our understanding of the original dictation and earliest manuscripts of the Book of Mormon. His work has been years in development, and in my position as Chairman of Book of Mormon Central, I have been privileged to observe his steady progress. His work is worthy to be viewed by a wide-ranging field of thoughtful readers.

Our team at Book of Mormon Central consists of archivists, researchers, writers, editors, reviewers, illustrators, narrators, audio engineers, video engineers, web designers, web and mobile developers, graphic artists, and social media publishers, in addition to support personnel. Alan Miner admirably works alongside many of these operations, and this book has benefited from a growing body of talented and dedicated people.

Our mission is to communicate the wonders of the inspired masterpiece called the Book of Mormon. Our objectives are to build faith in Jesus Christ, to learn and cherish pure doctrine, "to remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon" (D&C 84:57), and to organize scholarly information and data to answer all kinds of questions about the Book of Mormon—so that people worldwide "may know the truth of all things" (Moroni 10:5). I am pleased how this book promotes those purposes.

I am thrilled with all the progress that continues to be made as we come to know and appreciate the Book of Mormon better and better. I hope you will be equally excited. I stand optimistically in awe as we contemplate what the next ten years, let alone the next fifty years, will bring.

John W. Welch

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