

*Step by Step
through
The Book of Mormon*

A Covenant Record of Christ's People

*Volume 3
Out of Bondage through Covenants
(Jarom, Omni, Words of Mormon, Mosiah)*

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*Book of Mormon Central
and
Cedar Fort, Inc.
Springville, Utah*

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Illustration: Cover: Title: Alma Baptizes in the Waters of Mormon
Artist: Arnold Friberg

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

The Value of Repetition in the Book of Mormon Text

Repetition

Repetition is a literary device that involves intentionally using a word or phrase for effect, two or more times. For repetition to be noticeable, the words or phrases should be repeated within close proximity of each other. Repeating the same words or phrases in a literary work of poetry or prose can bring clarity to an idea and/or make it memorable for the reader. Repeating information has also been scientifically shown to increase the likelihood of changing people's minds.

literarydevices.net/repetition

Repetition

Repetition is used by writers for all sorts of different reasons:

Emphasis: The repetition of a word or phrase naturally serves to highlight its importance within a text and as a thing or idea.

Persuasion: Scientific studies have shown that simply repeating something is one of the most effective ways to convince people of its truth.

Contrast: Sometimes by repeating the same thing in slightly different contexts it is possible to illuminate contrasts.

Rhythm: Repetition creates a natural rhythm, like beats of a drum, within a sentence. Repetition, then, is not just valuable for how it can allow a writer to control the meaning of sentences. It also can help a writer to affect the feel of those sentences.

litcharts.com/literary-devices

The Value of Color in the Book of Mormon Text

Color helps a person to memorize information.

Color helps a person to retain that information longer.

Color inspires creativity and new ideas.

Color helps a person to evaluate and solve questions.

Color can be symbolic.

Color can influence emotion.

[How does Color Affect Learning? \(classroom.synonym.com/color-affect-learning\)](http://classroom.synonym.com/color-affect-learning)

[The Psychology of Color: How Do Colors Influence Learning? \(shiftelearning.com\)](http://shiftelearning.com)

The Value of Order (or Alignment) in the Book of Mormon Text

Order facilitates the **Collecting**,
the **Connecting**,
and the **Collaborating** of information vital to learning.

Order facilitates learning because it can help **align the key ideas** of thought
it can help **connect these ideas**,
and thus, it can help us **see how these ideas work together**.

And thus,

Order helps us to **REMEMBER**, to **BELIEVE** and to **DO**.

O **REMEMBER** **REMEMBER** that these things are **true**, for **the Lord** hath spoken it . . .

Believe in **God**
believe that **He** is
and [believe] that **He** created ALL things
both in heaven
and in earth

Believe that **He** has ALL **wisdom**
and [believe that **He** has] ALL **power**
both in heaven
and in earth

Believe that man doth NOT comprehend
ALL the things
which the **Lord** CAN comprehend

And **again** believe that ye MUST **repent** . . .
and **humble** yourselves ____ before **God** . . .

And now

if _____ **you** **BELIEVE**
ALL these things
[**then**] **see** that ye **DO** **them**

(Mosiah 2:41, 4:9-10---
with Repetition, Color, & Order)

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Note: There is a separate 200-plus page Introduction for each Volume listed, which will explain my methods of structuring the text, and will give numerous examples from that volume. There is a short basic section to facilitate first-time readers, followed by some lengthier sections for scholarly use.

