

Chapter 15

{Original 1830 Chapter V - continued}

(The Prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite – continued)

Out of Love God Chastens a Chosen People Who Are in Iniquity

1 And **now** my beloved brethren

behold I [Samuel] declare unto you

aa

that **EXCEPT** ye shall repent

[Prophetic Promise] PP

your **houses**

[families]

bb

shall be left unto you **desolate**

2 **Yea** **EXCEPT** ye [shall] repent

your **women**

[wives]

01

shall have GREAT **cause**

to **mourn**

in the day

that they shall give suck

for ye **shall** attempt to **flee**

and there **shall** be **NO place**
for **refuge**

Yea and **wo** _____ unto them
[your **women**]

which are with child

for they shall be heavy
and can NOT flee

therefore they shall be trodden down
and shall be left to **perish**

[Par. aa – Like “paragraph” beginnings]

[Par. bb – Circular repetition “shall”]

[Heb. 01 – Idiom]

[Helaman 15]

[Note: Verse 2 can be viewed as an example of *extended alternating parallelism* as follows:

2 **Yea** EXCEPT ye repent your women shall have great cause to mourn
 [A] in the day that they [your women] shall give suck
 [B] for ye shall attempt to flee
 and [C] there shall be NO place for refuge
 yea and [A] **wo** unto them [your women] which are with child
 [B] for they shall be heavy
 and cannot **flee**
 therefore [C] they shall be trodden down
 and shall be left to perish

3 **Yea** wo _____ unto **this** **people**
 who are called **the** **people of Nephi** 02

EXCEPT they shall **repent**
 when they shall **see** ALL these **signs**
 and [these] **wonders**
 which shall be **showed**
 unto them

for **behold** they [the **people of Nephi**] [Scriptural Commentary] SC
have been **a chosen** **people of the Lord** cc

Yea [they] the **people of Nephi**
 [A] hath **He** loved dd
 [B] and also hath **He** chastened them
 [C] **Yea** in the days of their **iniquities**
 [B] hath **He** chastened them
 [A] because **He** loveth them [Adapted from Greg Wright (1976:73)]

4 **But behold** my [beloved] brethren

the **Lamanites**
hath **He** hated
 because their **deeds**
have been **evil continually**

and this
because of the **iniquity**
 of the **tradition**
 of their **fathers**

[Heb. 02 – Two nouns connected by “of” = adjective]

[Par. dd – Chiastic parallelism]

[Par. cc – Circular repetition “have/hath”]

[Note: According to David Bokovoy, scholars in recent decades have shown that although modern-day westerners attach intense emotional feelings to the words love and hate, in the ancient biblical world, the word “love” often represented more of a covenantal devotion to one’s superior, while “hate” represented the opposite. That is, they represented a political alliance (or lack thereof). (“Love vs. Hate: An Analysis of Helaman 15:1-4,” in FARMS Update, no. 153, in *Insights*, vol. 22, 2002, p. 2-3.)]

But **behold** **salvation**

hath **come** unto them
 [the **Lamanites**]
 through the **preaching**
 of the **Nephites**

and for this intent
hath **the Lord** prolonged their days [see v 10] [bookend #1]

The Converted Lamanites Are True to the Faith

5 **And** **I** [**Samuel**] **would** ee
that ye **should** **behold**

that the MORE part {AG}
 of them
 [the **Lamanites**]
 are in the **path** of their **duty**

[A] **and** **they** **do walk** **circumspectly** ff
 before **God**

[A] **and** **they** **do observe**
 to **keep**
His **commandments** gg
and **His** **statutes**
and **His** **judgments**
 according to the **law of** **Moses**

6 **Yea** **I** [**Samuel**] **say** unto you

that the MORE part
 of them
 are **do-ing** this

[Par. ee – Rhyming]

[Par. ff – Synonymous parallelism]

[Par. gg – Enumeration]

[Helaman 15]

and **they** are **striving** with **unwearied diligence**
that **they** may **bring** the remainder
of their brethren
to the **knowledge**
of the **truth**

therefore there are MANY
who **do add** to their numbers **daily**

7 And **behold** ye **do know**
of your selves
for ye have **witnessed** it

[A] that **as** MANY of them hh
[the **Lamanites**]

[B] **as** are **brought**

[C] to the **knowledge**
of the **truth**

[A]and [that **as** MANY of them

[B] **as** are **brought**]

[C] to **know** of the **wicked**
and [the] **abominable traditions**
of their **fathers**

[A]and [that **as** MANY of them

[B] **as**] are **led**

[C] to **believe**[in] the **holy scriptures**
yea the **prophecies**
of the **holy prophets**

which are **written**

which **leadeth** them *[see the note at end of chapter]*

to **faith** [F]

on **the Lord**

and [which **leadeth** them]

unto **repentance** [R]

which **faith**
and **repentance**

bringeth a change
of **heart**
unto them

[Par. hh – Extended alternating parallelism]

8 **Therefore** **as** _____ **MANY** [of the **Lamanites**]
as have **come**
to **[know]** **this**
ye are **know** of your selves
are **firm**
and **steadfast**
in the **faith**
and in the **things** [deleted in 1830]
wherewith **they** have been **made free** ii

9 **And** ye **know** also
that **they** have buried their **weapons of war**
and [that] **they** **fear** 03
to take **them** up
lest by ANY means [for fear that]
they should **sin**
Yea ye can **SEE**
that **they** **fear**
to **sin**
for behold **they** will **suffer** **them selves** {AG}
that **they** **be trodden down**
and [be] **slain** by their **enemies**
and **they]** will NOT lift their swords
against them
[their **enemies**]
and **this**
because of their **faith** in **Christ**

*Latter-day Lamanites Will Receive a Knowledge of Christ
Because They Have Been Misled by False Traditions
Yet for the Covenant Nephites—Judgment is Now*

10 **And** **now** **because of** their **steadfastness**

[Par. ii – Like beginnings “they”]

[Heb. 03 – Verb and noun with the same root “fear”]

[Helaman 15]

when they do believe in that thing

which they do believe

when they are for once because of their firmness enlightened

behold [He] the Lord shall bless them

and [He] the Lord [shall] prolong their days [bookend #2]

notwithstanding their iniquity

11 Yea even if they should dwindle in unbelief

[He] the Lord shall prolong their days [Resumptive repetition]

until the shall time come

which [time] hath been spoken of by our fathers and also by the prophet Zenos and [also] [by] MANY other prophets

[which time hath been spoken of] concerning the restoration of our brethren the Lamanites again to the knowledge of the truth

12 Yea I [Samuel] say unto you [Prophetic Promise] PP

that in the latter times the [covenant] promises of the Lord have been extended to our brethren the Lamanites ["hath" in Q] {AG}

and notwithstanding which they shall the MANY afflictions have

jj

and notwithstanding they shall be driven to and fro upon the face of the earth and shall be hunted and shall be smitten and shall be scattered abroad

having NO place for refuge

[He] the Lord shall be merciful unto them

13 And this is according to the prophecy that they shall again* [* "again" restored in 1981] kk

[B] be brought to the true knowledge [C] which is the knowledge [D] of Their Redeemer [E]

[A]and [that they shall again be brought to the true knowledge [B] [which is the knowledge [C] [of] Their GREAT [D] and Their True Shepherd [E] ["Their" deleted in 1837]

and [that they shall again] be numbered among His sheep

14 Therefore I [Samuel] say unto you

it shall be better for them than for you

EXCEPT ye repent

[Par. jj – Circular repetition "shall"] [Par. kk – Extended alternating parallelism]

[Helaman 15]

15 For **behold**

had the **mighty works**
been **shown** unto **them**
which **[mighty works]**
have been **shown** unto **you**

Yea _____ unto **them**
who have **dwindled**
in **unbelief**
because of the **traditions**
of their **fathers**

ye can **see** of **your selves**
that **they** NEVER would **again**
have **dwindled**
in **unbelief**

16 **Therefore** _____ **saith**
the Lord

LL

I **[the Lord]**
will NOT utterly **destroy** _____ **them**

but I **[the Lord]**
will **cause**
that **in the days** of **My** wisdom **["s" deleted in 1830]**
they shall **return again**
unto **Me**
saith
the Lord

04

17 And **now**
behold _____ **saith**

[Prophetic Promise] PP

the Lord
concerning the people of **the Nephites**

If they will NOT **repent**
and [if they will NOT] **observe**
to **do** **My** will

[Par. LL – Circular repetition “the Lord”]

[Heb. 04 – Use of “cause that”]

[then] I [the Lord]
 will utterly destroy them
saith

the Lord

[and] [I [the Lord]
 will destroy them]
because of their unbelief

notwithstanding the MANY mighty works
 which I [the Lord]
 have done among them

and as surely
 as the Lord liveth [covenant oath]
 shall these things be
saith
the Lord

[Note: Noel Reynolds writes that when understood as a formula composed of multiple ordered elements, the gospel (or “Doctrine of Christ”) presented in the Book of Mormon lends itself well to the rhetorical device called Merismus [“Two or More Parts = Whole”]. By mention of two or more of six elements, and by frequently including the sixth element—salvation or eternal life—a writer can immediately invoke all six components of the formula in the minds of readers. The six elements that define the gospel or doctrine of Jesus Christ in the Book of Mormon are:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>Synonymous Language</u>
[1]	[F]	faith or belief in Jesus Christ	Look unto Me, believe in words of prophets Rely wholly upon the merits of Him
[2]	[R]	repentance	Humble oneself before the Father Be in the depths of humility
[3]	[B]	baptism of water	Covenant witness to obedience to the commandments
[4]	[H]	Receiving the Holy Ghost	The gate Baptism of fire
[5]	[E]	enduring to the end	Pressing forward with a steadfastness in Christ A perfect brightness of hope and love of God & man
[6]	[S]	gaining salvation or eternal life.	Inherit the kingdom of God

Examples of the Doctrine of Christ Elements in Volume 5 of the Book of Mormon (**Helaman—3 Nephi 10**)

Helaman

3:28	[1] [6]	[F] [S]
5:11	[2] [6]	[R] [S]
5:41	[1] [2]	[F] [R]
5:47	[1]	[F]
7:28	[2] [6]	[R] [S]
9:22	[2] [6]	[R] [S]
10:14	[2] [6]	[R] [S]
13:6	[1] [2] [6]	[F] [R] [S]
13:8	[1] [2] [4]	[F] [R] [H]
13:11	[1] [2]	[F] [R]
13:13	[2] [6]	[R] [S]
14:13	[1] [2]	[F] [R]
14:29	[1] [6]	[F] [S]
15:7	[1] [2]	[F] [R]

3 Nephi 1—10

7:16	[1] [2]	[F] [R]
7:25	[2] [3]	[R] [B]
9:14	[6]	[S]
9:17	[1] [6]	[F] [S]
9:22	[2] [6]	[R] [S]

Example: Helaman 15:7

- ... **that** [F] as many of them as . . . are led to believe the holy scriptures . . . which are written, which leadeth them to faith on the Lord
- and** [R] [which leadeth them] unto repentance—which faith and repentance bringeth a change of heart unto them . . .