

Chapter 2

{Original 1830 Chapter I – continued}

- 1 **And** **it came to pass** [see Chapter 1, verse 18 for the matching 1st half] aa
[A] that **after Mosiah had done** as **his father had commanded him**
[B] and **had made a proclamation** *throughout ALL the land* [Epistle] E
[C] that the people **gathered themselves together** *throughout ALL the land*
[D] that they might **go up to the temple**
[E] to **hear the words**
[F] which **king Benjamin** should **speak** unto **them**
- 2 **And** there were a GREAT number 01
even so MANY
that **they** did NOT number them bb

for **they** had multiplied exceedingly
and [**they** had] waxed GREAT _____ *in* the land
- 3 **And** **they** also took of the firstlings of their flocks
that **they** might **offer** **sacrifice**
and **burnt offerings** 02
according to the **law of Moses**
- 4 **And** also
that **they** might give thanks to **The Lord Their God** cc 03
Who Brought Them **Out of the Land of Jerusalem** 04
and **Who Had Delivered Them** **Out of the Hands of Their Enemies**
and [**Who**] **Had Appointed** **Just Men** to Be Their Teachers
and also a **Just Man** to Be Their King

[a **king**] **who** had **established** **peace** *in* the land of Zarahemla
and [a **king**] **who** had **taught** them to **keep** the **commandments of God**

that * **they** might **rejoice** [* “thereby” deleted in 1830]
and **be filled** with **love** towards **God**
and [towards] ALL men

[Par. aa – Extended alternating]

[Heb. 01 – Noun and a verb with the same root]

[Par. bb – Like beginnings “they”]

[Heb. 02 – Noun and verb with the same root]

[Par. cc – Circular repetition “who”]

[Heb. 03 – Descriptive Metaphor]

[Heb. 04 – Compound separated prepositions]

5 And **it came to pass**

that **when** **they** came up _____ to the **temple** dd
 [A] **they** pitched their **tents** round about [the **temple**] ee
 [B] **EVERY** man according to his family ff
 [C] [his family] consisting of his **wife**
 and his **sons** 05
 and his **daughters**
 [C] and their **sons**
 and their **daughters**
 from the **eldest**
 down to the **youngest**
 [B] **EVERY** family being separate one from another

6 **And** [A] **they** pitched their **tents** round about the **temple**

EVERY man having his **tent**
 with the door thereof towards the **temple**
 that **thereby**
they might remain
 in their **tents**
 and **hear the words**
 which [**words**]
 [he] **king Benjamin** _____ should **speak unto them**

7 [A] **For** _____ the multitude being so GREAT gg

[B] that [he] **king Benjamin** could NOT **teach** them **ALL**
 within the walls of _____ the **temple**
therefore [C] he [**king Benjamin**] caused a **tower** to be erected
 [D] that **thereby** his people
 might **hear the words**
 [E] which he [**king Benjamin**] should **speak unto them**

8 And **it came to pass**

[E] that he [**king Benjamin**] began to **speak to his people**
 [C] from _____ the **tower**
 [B] and **they** _____ could NOT _____ **ALL**
 [D] _____ **hear his words**
 [A] because of the **GREATness** of the multitude

[Par. dd – Like endings “temple”]

[Heb. 05 – Repetition of a possessive]

[Par. ee – Chiasitic or Inverted]

[Par. gg – Imperfect chiasitic parallelism]

[Par. ff – Working out]

thereforehe [**king Benjamin**] **caused**

06

that the **words****which** he [**king Benjamin**] **spake**should be **written**and **sent forth** among those

[Epistle] E

that were NOT under the sound of **his voice****that** they might also receive **his words**9 **And** these are the **words****which** he [**king Benjamin**] **spake**and **caused**to be **written****saying***Benjamin's Farewell Address**He Has Served His Stewardship in Righteousness*[Sermon quoted from 1^o source - Mosiah 2:9—4:30]

[Note: John W. Welch describes Benjamin's speech (Mosiah chapters 2-5) as a "classic ancient farewell address" and claims it is the most complete example of the characteristics found in ancient farewell speeches (John W. Welch, "Benjamin's Speech: A Classic Ancient Farewell Address," in *Reexploring the Book of Mormon*, p. 120-123.)]

My brethren**ALL** **ye**that have assembled _____ **your**selves together**you**that can **hear my words****which** **I** [**king Benjamin**] shall **speak** unto **you** **this day**

[Note: King Benjamin uses the phrase "this day" five times in his monumental speech, and each time it occurs at ritual and covenantal high points in the text, much as "this day," "today," or "this selfsame day" did in Hebrew. (Donald W. Parry, John W. Welch, and Stephen D. Ricks. "This Day," in *Reexploring the Book of Mormon*, p. 117-119.)]

for **I** [**king Benjamin**] have NOT **commanded** **you** to come up hitherto **trifle** with the **words**

[to lightly regard the meaning of]

which **I** [**king Benjamin**] shall **speak**but that **you** should **hearken** unto **me**

[Heb. 06 – Use of "caused that"]

[A] and open _____ your ears hh ii

[B] that ye may **hear**[my words]

[A] and [open] _____ your hearts

[B] that ye may **understand**

[A] and [open] _____ your minds

[B] that the mysteries of God
may be **unfolded to** your view

10 [For] I [king Benjamin] have NOT **commanded** you to come up hither jj

that ye should **fear** _____ me

>or that ye should **think** kk

that I [king Benjamin] of myself* am MORE than a mortal man [duplication]

11 But I [king Benjamin] am **like** as your selves

[I [king Benjamin] am] subject to ALL manner of infirmities

in **body**
and [in] **mind**

yet

[1] I [king Benjamin] have been **chosen** by this people

and

[2] [I king Benjamin have been] **consecrated** by my father ["was" deleted in 1837]

and

[3] [I king Benjamin] was _____ **suffered** ["have been" – see v. 12]

by the **hand** of the Lord {AL} 07

that I [king Benjamin] should be **a ruler**
and **a king** over this people

and

[4] [I king Benjamin] have been **kept**
and **preserved** by His matchless power

to **serve** you with ALL the **might**
[and with ALL the] **mind**
and [with ALL the] **strength**
which _____ the Lord hath granted
unto me

[Par. hh – Repeated alternating]

[Par. ii – Circular repetition "your"]

[Par. jj – Like beginnings "I king Benjamin"]

[Par. kk – Clarification]

[Heb. 07 – Metaphor]

12 I [king Benjamin] say unto you
 that as I [king Benjamin] have been **suffered** [sustained] {AL}
 [by the hand of the Lord]
 to spend **my days**
 in **your service** [see v. 16]
 even up to **this time**

and [I king Benjamin] have NOT sought gold LL
 NOR silver mm
 NOR ANY manner of riches ["NO" - P] [dbl. neg] {AG}
 of **you**

13 NEITHER have
 I [king Benjamin] _____ **suffered** [permitted] {AL}
 that **ye should** be confined in dungeons nn

NOR
 that **ye should** make slaves one of another

NOR [added in 1920]
 that **ye should** murder [see Alma 23:3; 30:10]
 OR plunder
 OR steal
 OR commit adultery

NOR even have [added in 1920]
 I [king Benjamin] _____ **suffered**
 that **ye should** commit ANY manner of wickedness

and [But] [I king Benjamin] have taught **you** 08
 that **ye should** keep the commandments of **the Lord**
 in ALL _____ **things**
 which He **[the Lord]**
 hath commanded **you**

14 And even I [king Benjamin] _____ [by] **my self** [see the note on Mos. 6:7]
 have **labored** with **mine** own hands
 that I [king Benjamin] might **serve** **you**

[Par. LL – Repetition of NOT, Nor, NEITHER, OR]
 [Par. mm – Working out]
 [Par. nn – Circular repetition “ye should”]

[Heb. 08 – Use of “and” meaning “but”]

and that **ye should** NOT be laden with taxes
and that there **should** NOTHING come
upon **you**
which was grievous to be borne

and of ALL these **things** oo
which I [king Benjamin] have **spoken**
ye _____ **yourselfs** **
are **witnesses** **this day**

To Serve One Another Is to Serve God

15 Yet my brethren
I [king Benjamin] have NOT done these **things**
that I [king Benjamin] might _____ **boast**

NEITHER do
I [king Benjamin] **tell** _____ these **things**
that **thereby**
I [king Benjamin] might accuse **you**

but I [king Benjamin] **tell** _____ **you**
these **things**

that **ye** may know
that I [king Benjamin] can answer a clear conscience
before **God**
this day [as a **witness**]

16 **Behold**
I [king Benjamin] **say** unto _____ **you**
that because
I [king Benjamin] **said** unto _____ **you**
that I [king Benjamin] had spent **my days** in **your service** [see v. 12, 19]

I [king Benjamin] **do** NOT desire to **boast** [see v. 24] [did ?]
for I [king Benjamin] have ONLY been in the **service**
of **God**

[Par. oo – Like endings “things”]
[Heb. ** -- Duplication “ye yourselves”]

17 And **behold**

I [king Benjamin] **tell** _____ **you** [Poetic Language] PL
 these **things**
 that **ye** may **learn wisdom** pp
 that **ye** may **learn**
 that **when** [A] **ye** are in the **service** qq
 [B] of **your** fellow beings
 [A] **ye** are **ONLY** in the **service** [singularly, above all]
 [B] of **Your** _____ **God**

God Is Our King

18 **Behold** **ye** have **called** **me**
your _____ **king**
 [A] **and if** I [king Benjamin] rr
 whom **ye** **call** _____ **your** _____ **king**
 do **labor to serve** **you**
 [B] **then** Ought NOT **ye** to **labor to serve** **one another** ? [“NOT” used for emphasis]

19 And **behold**

[A] **also if** I [king Benjamin]
 whom **ye** **call** **your** _____ **king** [Typology] T
 who has spent **his days** in **your service** [see v. 12, 16]
and yet has been in the **service** of **God**
 do merit ANY **thanks**
 from **you**
 [B] [then] O how **you** ought to **thank Your Heavenly King**

We Are at Best Unprofitable Servants

20 **I** [king Benjamin] **say** unto **you**
my brethren
 [A] **that if** **you** should render
ALL the thanks
and **[ALL the] praise**
 which **your whole** soul has power to possess
 to **That God**

[Par. pp – Circular repetition “ye/you”]
 [Par. qq – Simple alternating]

[Par. rr – Repeated alternating]

Who Has Created You
and [Who] Has Kept
and Preserved You

and [Who] Has Caused
That Ye Should Rejoice

and [Who] Has Granted
That Ye Should Live in Peace One
with Another

21 I [king Benjamin] say unto you

[A] that if ye should serve Him [Reasoning] R

Who Has Created You
From the Beginning
and [Who] Is Preserving You
From Day
To Day
By Lending You Breath

That Ye May Live
and Move
and Do according to Your Own Will

and Even [By] Supporting You
From One Moment
To Another [Moment]

I [king Benjamin] say [unto you]

[A] [that]if ye should serve Him with ALL your whole souls [Reasoning] R

[B] yet ye would be unprofitable servants [nevertheless] {AL}

22 And **behold**

[A] ALL that He [the Lord] requires of you
is to keep His commandments

and He [the Lord] has promised you [Prophetic Promise] PP

[A] that if ye would keep His commandments

[B] [then] ye should prosper *in the land*

[Par. ss – Circular repetition “who”]

And He [the Lord] NEVER doth vary tt
from that
which He [the Lord] hath said

therefore

[A] if ye do keep His commandments
[B] [then] He [the Lord] doth bless you uu vv
and prosper you

23 And **now**

in the first place He [the Lord] hath created you
and [He] hath granted unto you
your lives
for which [lives]

[C] ye are indebted unto Him

24 And **secondly** He [the Lord] doth require

that ye should do
as He hath commanded you

For which

[A] if ye do
[as He hath commanded you]

[B] [then] He doth immediately bless you

And **therefore** He hath immediately paid you

[C] And **therefore** ye are still indebted unto Him

and [ye] are [indebted to Him]

and [ye] will be [indebted to Him]

forever

and ever

Therefore

of what have ye _____ to boast?

[see v. 16]

[compare Romans 3 & 4]

ww

_____ [Par. tt – Circular repetition “He the Lord”]

[Par. ww – Questions to make a point]

[Par. uu – Circular repetition “ye”]

[Par. vv – Like endings “you”]

All Mankind Is Subject to Mortality

25 And **now**

[A] I [king Benjamin] ask xx
 [B] can ye _____ say aught of yourselves? [anything] {AL}

[A] I [king Benjamin] answer you
 [B] Nay [ye canNOT say aught of yourselves] [the smallest part] {AL}

Ye canNOT say
 that ye are even as much as the dust of the earth yy
 yet ye were created of the dust of the earth

but behold it [the dust of the earth]
 belongeth to Him Who Created You

26 And I [king Benjamin]
 even I whom ye call your _____ king
 am NO better
 than ye
 yourselves are 09

For I [king Benjamin] am also of the dust [of the earth]

And ye behold
 that I [king Benjamin] am old

and
 [that I king Benjamin] am about to yield up
 this mortal frame to its mother earth

Benjamin's Covenant Responsibility to Teach His People

27 **Therefore**

as I [king Benjamin] said unto you
 that I [king Benjamin] had served _____ you
 walking with a clear conscience before **God** [Poetic Language] PL

[Par. xx – Simple alternating parallelism]

[Par. yy – Like endings]

[Heb. 09 – Duplication]

Even so
 I [king Benjamin] at this time
 have caused
 that ye should assemble yourselves together
 that I [king Benjamin] might be found blameless
 and that your blood
 should NOT come upon me
 when I [king Benjamin] shall stand to be judged of God
 of the things whereof
 He hath commanded me
 concerning you

28 I [king Benjamin] say unto you
 that I [king Benjamin] have caused
 that ye should assemble yourselves together
 that I [king Benjamin] might rid my garments
 of your blood
 at this period of time
 when I [king Benjamin] am about to go down to my grave
 that I [king Benjamin] might go down [to my grave]
 in peace

and [that] my immortal spirit may join the choirs above [might?]
 in singing the praises
 of A Just God

Obedience to the King and His Father Brings Prosperity

29 And moreover

I [king Benjamin] say unto you
 that I [king Benjamin] have caused
 that ye should assemble yourselves together
 that I [king Benjamin] might declare unto you
 that I [king Benjamin] can NO longer be your teacher
 NOR your king

[Heb. 10 – Use of “caused that”]

[Heb. 11 – Repeated three times = superlative]

30

For even at this _____ time

my whole frame doth tremble exceedingly [see v. 21]
while attempting to speak unto you

but the Lord God doth support _____ me
and [the Lord God] hath suffered _____ me [sustained] {AL}
that I [king Benjamin] should speak unto you

and [the Lord God] hath commanded me
that I [king Benjamin] should declare unto you
this day

that my son Mosiah
is a king
and a ruler over you

[and that God's Son The Messiah
IS The King
and The Ruler over you]

31 And now my brethren

I [king Benjamin] would
that ye should do zz
as ye have hitherto done ["hath" - P] [AG] aaa

[A] As ye have kept my commandments bbb

[B] and also [as ye have kept] the commandments ccc
of my father [Mosiah₁]

[C] and [as ye] have prospered

[D] and [as ye] have been kept from falling into the hands
of your enemies

[A] even so if ye shall keep the commandments ddd
of my son

[B] > or [if ye shall keep] the commandments eee
of God [the Father]

[Par. zz – Circular repetition “ye”]

[Par. aaa – Circular repetition “have”]

[Par. bbb – Extended alternating]

[Par. ccc – Circular repetition “kept”]

[Par. ddd – Circular repetition “commandments”]

[Par. eee – Clarification]

which [commandments]
 shall be delivered unto you
 by him [my son]
 [>or by [Him the Son] [duality] fff

[C] [then] ye shall prosper in the land
 [D] and your enemies
 shall have NO power
 over you

The Covenant Curse for Those Who Rebel Against God

32 But O my people beware
 lest there shall arise contentions [for fear that] {AL}
 among you
 and ye list to obey the Evil Spirit [are inclined] {AL}
 which [Evil Spirit] was spoken of
 by my father Mosiah₁ [WHERE?]

[Note: This speech on the Evil Spirit was apparently part of the lost "116" pages.]

33 For behold there is a wo pronounced upon him who listeth to obey That Spirit

For if he listeth to obey him [That Spirit]
 and [if he] remaineth
 and dieth in his sins

[then] the same drinketh damnation to his own soul
 for he receiveth for his wages
 an everlasting punishment

having transgressed the law of God
 [and having gone] contrary to his own knowledge

34 I [king Benjamin] say unto you
 that there are NOT ANY among you
 EXCEPT it be your little children
 that have NOT been taught
 concerning these things

[Par. fff – Clarification]

[Mosiah 2]

but **what knoweth** [who knows (hypothetical)] {AL}
that **ye** are **eternally indebted** to **Your Heavenly Father**
to render to **Him**

ALL that **you** have
and **[ALL** that **you]** are

And **[ye]** also
have been **taught**
concerning the **records**
which **[records]** contain the **prophecies**

which **[prophecies]**
have been **spoken** by the **holy prophets** ["hath" – P] {AG}
even **down**
to the time our **father Lehi**
left Jerusalem

35

And **[ye]** also
[have been taught]
ALL that has been **spoken** by our **fathers**
until now

And **behold** also they **[the holy prophets**
and **our fathers]**

spake
that which was **commanded them**
of **[by]** the **Lord**

12

Therefore _____ they **[the holy prophets**
the **fathers**
and their **words]**
are just
and **true**

36 And **now** **I [king Benjamin]** say unto **you**
my brethren

[Heb. 12 – Use of “of” meaning “by”]

A that after ye have known [Downward Gradation]
 and [that after ye] have been taught ALL these things [Scriptural Commentary] SC

B if ye should transgress
 and [if ye should] go contrary to
 that which has been spoken

C [then]that- ye do withdraw yourselves ["that" should be deleted]
 from the Spirit of the Lord
 that it [the Spirit of the Lord]
 may have NO place in you
 to guide you in wisdom's paths
 that ye may be blessed
 [and] prospered
 and preserved

37 **I** [king Benjamin] say unto you

D that the man that doeth this
 the same cometh out
 in open rebellion
 against God

E Therefore _____ he listeth to obey the Evil Spirit
 and he becometh an enemy
 to ALL righteousness

F therefore
[He] the Lord has NO place
 in him
 for He [the Lord] dwelleth NOT
 in unholy temples

38 **Therefore**

G if that man repenteth NOT
 and remaineth
 and dieth an enemy to God

[Mosiah 2]

H [then] the demands of **divine justice**
do awaken **his immortal soul** ["doth" – P] {AG}
to a lively sense
of **his own guilt**

I which **doth cause** **him to shrink**
from the **presence** of **the Lord**

J [which] **doth fill** **his breast** with **guilt** ggg
and [with] **pain** hhh
and [with] **anguish**

K which is **like an unquenchable fire** 13
whose flames ascendeth up ["s" deleted in 1852] {AG}
forever
and ever

39 And **now** **I** [king Benjamin] **say** unto **you**
that mercy hath NO claim
on **that man**
therefore **his final doom**
is to **endure**
a **NEVER ending torment**

*Those Who Keep the Commandments of God
Are Blessed In All Things*

40 **O** ALL **ye** old men iii
and also [ALL] **ye** young men
and [also] ALL **you** little children
who can **understand** **my words**

for **I** [king Benjamin] have **spoken plainly**
unto **you**
that **ye** might **understand** [my words]

[Par. ggg – Enumeration]

[Par. iii – Rhyming]

[Par. hhh – No “with”s]

[Heb. 13 – Simile “like”]

I [king Benjamin] pray 14
 that ye should awake to a REMEMBRANCE
 of the awful situation
 of those that have fallen into transgression

41 And moreover

I [king Benjamin] would desire
 that ye should consider
 on the blessed
 and [the] happy state
 of those that keep the commandments
 of God

For behold _____ they are blessed in ALL things
 both temporal
 and spiritual

and if they hold out faithful
 to the end

[then] they are received into heaven
 that thereby they may dwell with God
 in a state
 of NEVER ending happiness [opposites – see v 39]

O REMEMBER REMEMBER that these things are true 15
 for the Lord God hath spoken it

[Note: The word “thereby” is found 24 times in the book of Mosiah. It is NOT FOUND in ANY of the books comprising the Small Plates (1 Nephi, 2 Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni) !]

[Note: The rhyming words “would”/“should” or “should”/“should” appear repeatedly in the first five chapters of Mosiah.]

[Heb. 14 – A Wish or a Prayer]

[Heb. 15 – Duplication]

[*Mosiah 2*]

[Note: in **Mosiah 2:30**, King Benjamin declares: "I should declare unto you this day, that my son Mosiah is a King." According to Matthew Brown, a striking parallel that exists between the Book of Mormon and the Bible is the royal coronation pattern found mainly in the book of Mosiah (see Stephen D. Ricks, "Kingship, Coronation, and Covenant in Mosiah 1—6," in Welch and Ricks, eds., King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom," p. 244-254.) The reader should notice that even though the elements of the pattern are scattered throughout the texts of the Bible, they are all mentioned in Book of Mormon texts, especially in the sermon of King Benjamin.

<u>CORONATION</u>	<u>OLD TESTAMENT / BOOK OF MORMON</u>
Temple setting	2 Kings 11:14 / Mosiah 1:18
Platform	2 Chronicles 6:13 / Mosiah 2:7
Insignia	2 Kings 11:12 / Mosiah 1:15-16
Anointing	1 Kings 1:39 / Mosiah 6:3; Jacob 1:9
Presentation	1 Kings 1:34, 39 / Mosiah 2:30
Throne name	2 Kings 24:17 / Jacob 1:10-11
Divine adoption	2 Samuel 7:14 / Mosiah 5:6-12

According to Matthew Brown, parallels can also be detected between the Jubilee year celebration in ancient Israel and some of the material that is recorded in the book of Mosiah, especially concerning King Benjamin's sermon (see John Tvedtnes, "King Benjamin and the Feast of Tabernacles," in Welch and Ricks, eds., King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom, p. 226.)

<u>JUBILEE</u>	<u>OLD TESTAMENT</u>	<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>
Return of possessions	Leviticus 25:10	Mosiah 4:28
No injury to one another	Leviticus 25:14, 17	Mosiah 4:13
Render what is due	Leviticus 25:15-16, 50	Mosiah 4:13, 28
Prosperity follows obedience	Leviticus 25:18-19	Mosiah 2:22
Help the poor	Leviticus 25:35	Mosiah 4:16, 26
Use of riches	Leviticus 25:35-37	Mosiah 4:21
Peace in the land	Leviticus 26:6	Mosiah 2:31
Covenant with God	Leviticus 26:9	Mosiah 5:5-6
The Lord's dwelling	Leviticus 26:11	Mosiah 2:37
Lord with His people	Leviticus 26:11-12	Mosiah 2:36
Disobedient cursed	Leviticus 26:14-33	Mosiah 2:38, 3:25-27
Walk/Go contrary	Leviticus 26:21, 27	Mosiah 2:33, 36

(Matthew B. Brown, All Things Restored: Confirming the Authenticity of LDS Beliefs, p. 224-225.)]

[Note: According to H. Clay Gorton, **Mosiah 2:29-30** can be viewed as a conceptual **chiastic parallelism**. A brief outline of the pertinent elements is as follows:

- 29 And moreover, I say unto you that I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together,
- A **that I might declare unto you that I can no longer be your teacher, nor your king;**
- 30 B For even at this time, **my whole frame doth tremble exceedingly while attempting to speak unto you;**
- C **but the Lord God doth support me,**
- B and **hath suffered me that I should speak unto you,**
- A and hath commanded me **that I should declare unto you this day, that my son Mosiah is a king and a ruler over you**

(H. Clay Gorton, *A New Witness for Christ: Chiastic Structures in the Book of Mormon*, 1997, p. 71.)]

[Mosiah 2]