

Colbern Rd. Sunday School

January 10, 2021

Series: What Does The Book of Mormon Teach?

Class 1: The 'Language' and the 'Learning'.

Colbern Road Class Notes at:

<http://www.RestoredGospel.com/ClassNotes/Colbern2021/>



Recommended study

Ancient-Hebrew.org

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/learn/learn-the-ancient-pictographic-hebrew-script.htm>

Books: 'His Name is One', 'The Living Words' by Jeff Benner

(Links at class notes)

This Series:
What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?

Class 1: The 'language' and the 'Learning.'

Why???

On next slide,
How many times does the letter
“F” appear?

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of many years.

How Many F's?

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the Experience of many years.

How many found 3?

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the Experience of many years.

How many found 3?

Did anyone find more than 3??

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the Experience of many years.

Amusing yes, but what is the point?

We can be so used to thinking a certain way,
we miss facts right in front of us.

The Book of Mormon

We have English translation of an ancient language.

The first writers came from Jerusalem.

What language did people speak in Jerusalem?

Therefore what the commonly understood language the Book of Mormon?

First Verse of the Book of Mormon sets stage

1 Nephi 1:1

I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore, I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father.

And having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days,

Yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God,

Therefore, I make a record of my proceedings in my days.

Yea, I make a record in the language of my father,

which consists of the learning of the Jews,

and the language of the Egyptians;

When is the time period of 1 Nephi Chapter 1?

- Approximately 600 BC.
- What is the language (assumed) spoken in Jerusalem?
- What is the written language of the day?
- Hebrew?....or something else?

When is the language the Book of Mormon is being written in?

- Hebrew? (The Learning of the Jews, but the Language of....)
- (This is why we looked at how many F's were in the first slide...lol)

What might 'Language of the Egyptians' mean?

In the Days of Moses....

1:8

THEBES. INSCRIPTION ON STELE OF MERENPTAH.

XIV.

5 5

10 10

15 15

20 20

25 25

Ancient Hebrew was actually 'Pictograph' not 'letters' taken from Egypt.



Over 700 Egyptian hieroglyphics, Moses people determined to use 22 of these.

That is why eventually, the Hebrew modern language has 22 Hebrew characters. They all started from Egyptian hieroglyphics.

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/ancient-alphabet/ancient-pictographic-alphabet.htm>

The Characters Evolved over time

Early Hebrew

20th-12th Century BC (1900-1100 BC)

Selected Egyptian Pictographs



Middle Hebrew

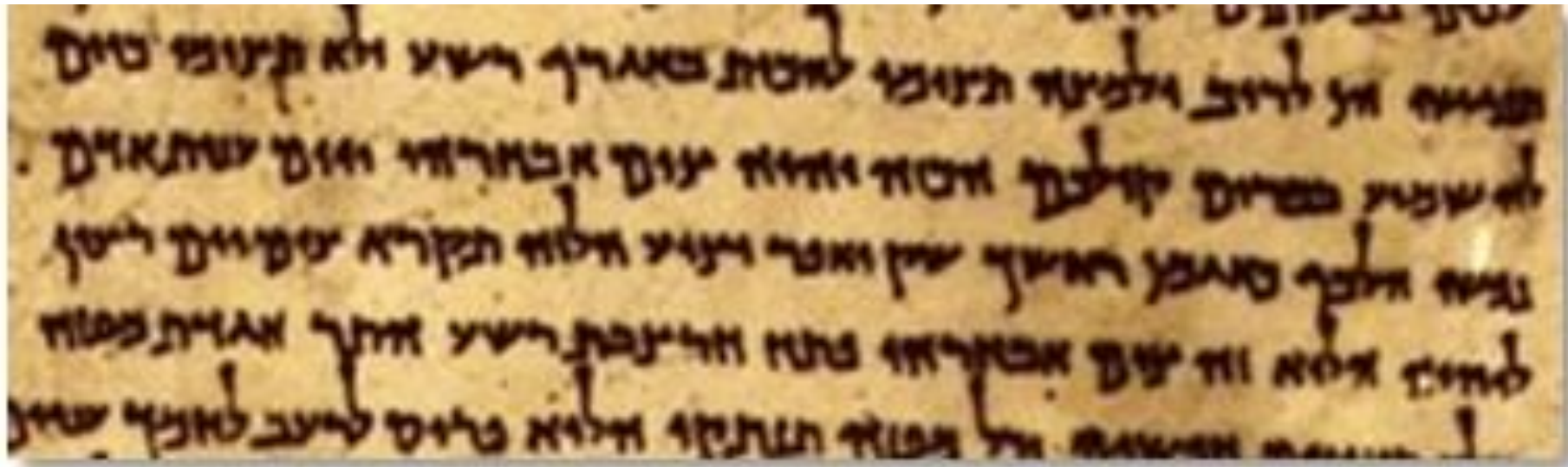
About the 12th Century BC-5th Century
Prior to Babylonian Conquest



Late Hebrew

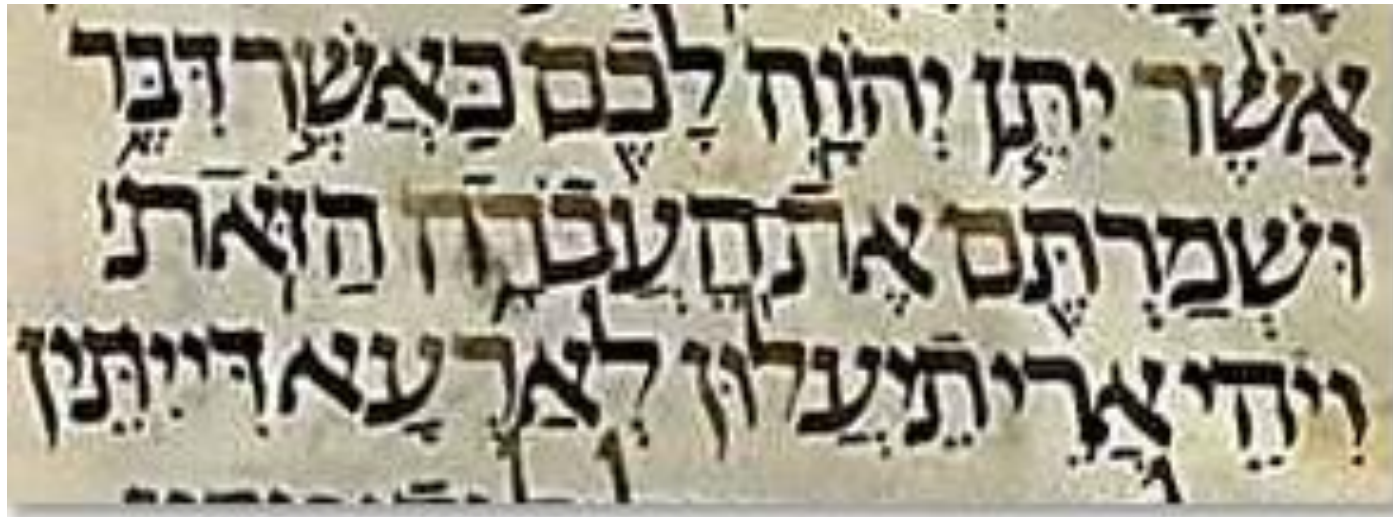
4th-1st Century BC

After Babylonian Conquest



Modern Hebrew

After 11 th Century AD



So what was used in Lehi's Day?

Closer to Egyptian Script

How would minimally educated
1800's rural New York state
teenager have known this?



What is this?



Bat Creek Stone...Paleo Hebrew

- 1889 Found in Tennessee



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bat_Creek_inscription

Bat Creek Stone...

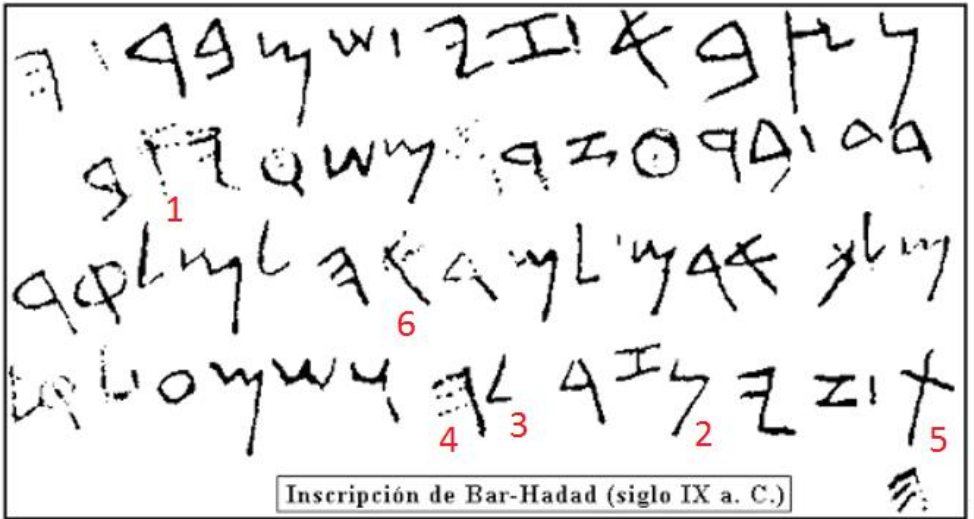
- Don't worry if 'Smithsonian disputes' ...will have class on that





































https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bat_Creek_inscription

Bat Creek Stone...

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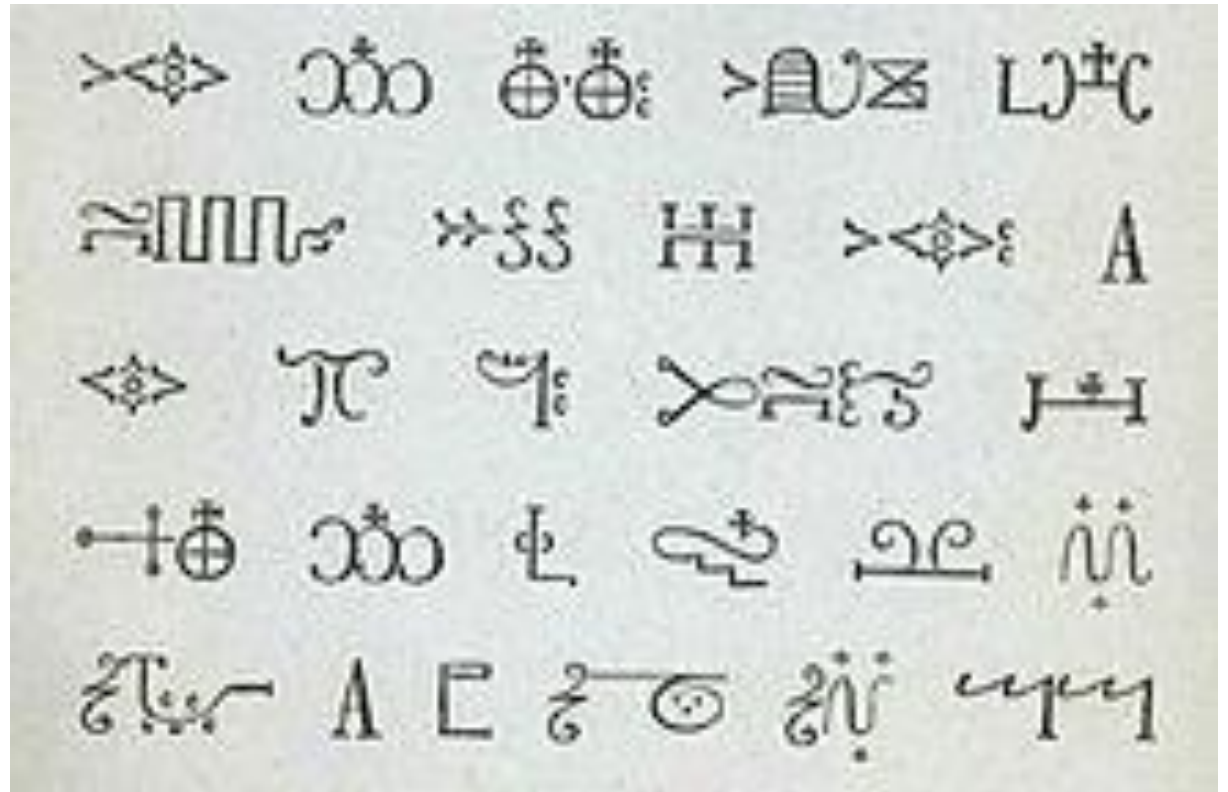


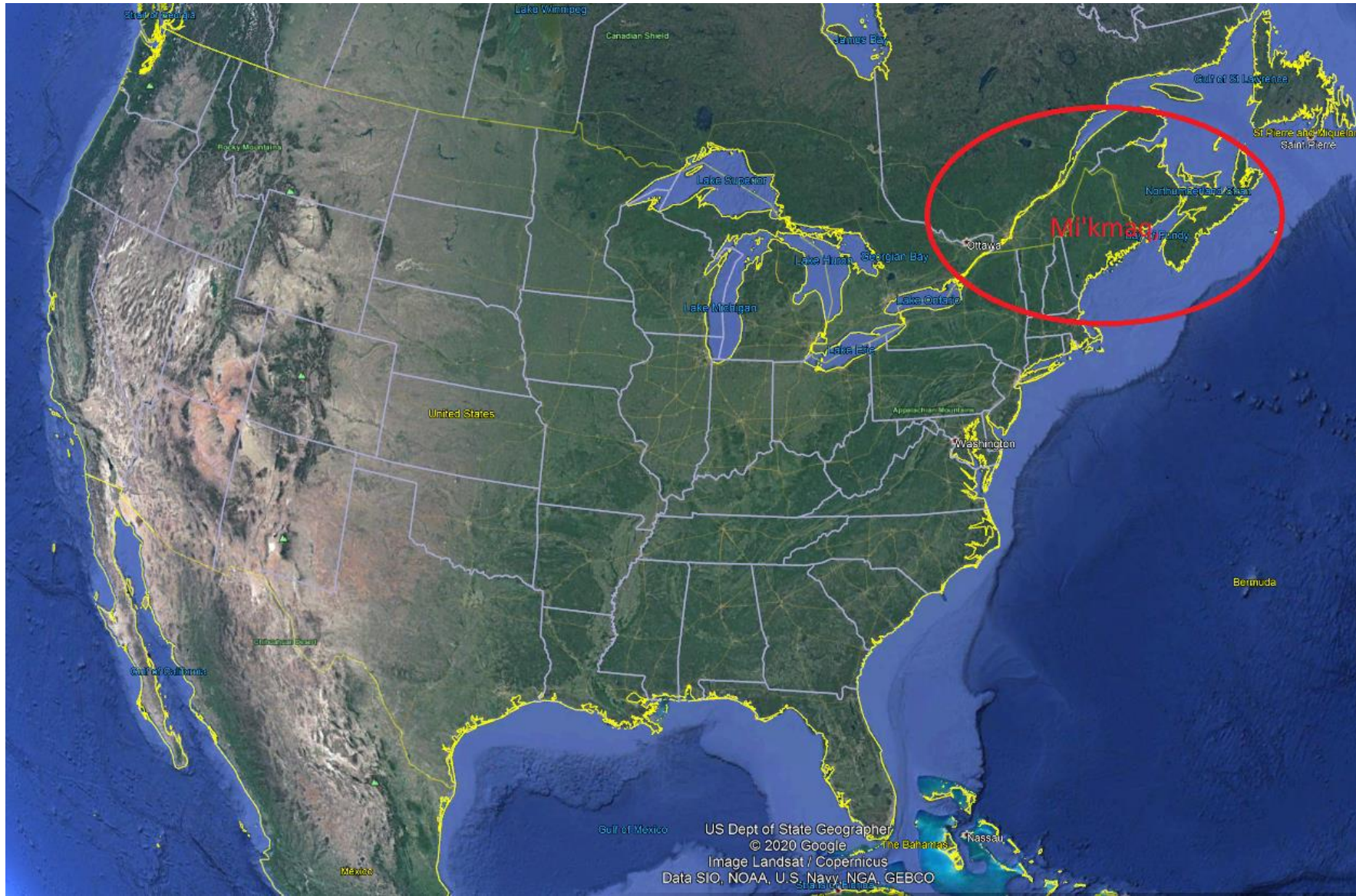
Aleph Image: Ox Head Meaning: Strong, Power, Leader					Lamed Image: Shepherd Staff Meaning: Teach, Yoke, Bind, Toward				
Boyt Image: Tent Meaning: Family, House, In					Mem Image: Water Meaning: Chaos, Mighty, Blood				
Gimel Image: Foot Meaning: Gather, Walk					Nun Image: Sprout Meaning: Continue, Weir				
Dalet Image: Door Meaning: Move, Hang, Entrance					Samekh, Sin Image: Thorn Meaning: Grab, Hate, Protect				
Hey Image: Man with arms raised Meaning: Look, Reveal, Breath					Ayin Image: Eye Meaning: Watch, Know, Shade				
Vav Image: Tent Peg Meaning: Add, Secure, Hook					Pey Image: Mouth Meaning: Blow, Scatter, Edge				
Zayin Image: Mattock (Hoe) Meaning: Food, Cut, Nourish					Tsadey Image: Man on his side (Trail?) Meaning: Wait, Chase, Snare, Hunt				
Hhet Image: Wall Meaning: Outside, Divide, Half					Quph Image: Sun at the horizon Meaning: Condense, Circle, Time				
Tet Image: Basket Meaning: Surround, Contain, Mud/Clay					Resh Image: Head of a man Meaning: First, Top, Beginning				
Yud Image: Arm and closed hand Meaning: Work, Throw					Shin, Sin Image: Two front teeth Meaning: Sharp, Press, Eat, Two				
Kaph Image: Open palm Meaning: Bend, Open, Allow, Tame					Tav Image: Crossed Sticks Meaning: Mark, Sign, Monument				

Mikmak Indian tribe

Of over 500 Indian cultures in Americas only 3 had any kind of written language (according to modern historians).

Interesting is NE America/Canada Mikmaq tribe was one.





https://www.studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/ahl_alphabet.html

The Reconstructed Alphabet

Early
2,000 BC



Middle
1,000 BC



Late
400 BC



Modern
Today



Early
2,000 BC



Middle
1,000 BC




Late
400 BC



Modern
Today



Shin

The Ancient picture for this letter is , a picture of the two front teeth. This letter has the meanings of teeth, sharp and (from the function of the teeth when chewing). It also has the meaning of two, again, both or second from the two teeth.

The modern Hebrew name for this letter is shin, a Hebrew word meaning tooth. Hebrew and Arabic agree that the sound of this letter is "sh".



Describing a Pencil to 'Westerners'

We love adjectives.

Long, round, yellow, skinny, eraser is pink.



‘Westerners’ see object



If asked 'Eastern' (Hebrew thinking) People:

Hebrews would say:

It writes and erases words.



Western Mind:

- Sees as object first

Eastern Mind:

- Sees as purpose first

To be Angry....in Hebrew

Pictograph of anger was a Nose.

Why?

Because when angry (really angry) the nose flares.

English translators scramble to translate...have to connect to your culture.

Few Adjectives

Describing life in action vs appearance.

Therefore HEBREW HAS FEW ADJECTIVES.

Describing as What things DO vs what they look like.

- One time sprained ankle, described it like a black & blue grapefruit.

How did Nephi describe his ankles?

Nephi is steeped in Hebrew thinking.

1 Nephi 5:198

Wherefore, they came unto me and loosed the bands which were upon my wrists; And behold, they had **much swollen exceedingly,**

And also **mine ankles were much swollen,**

and **great was the soreness thereof;**

What did he say?

Hebrew doesn't use many adjectives.

So what do they use?

A word you may have seen and not realized....

The Hebrew Adjective of Choice?

“Exceeding”

Examples of Nephi's extensive use of 'Adjectives'...(lol)

[1 Nephi 1:5](#) And it came to pass as he prayed unto the Lord there came a pillar of fire and dwelt upon a rock before him, And he saw and heard much; And because of the things which he saw and heard, he did quake and **tremble exceedingly**.

[1 Nephi 1:47](#) And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being **exceeding young**, nevertheless, being large in stature

[1 Nephi 1:66](#) And it came to pass that when my father had heard these words, he was **exceeding glad**,

[1 Nephi 1:74](#) And we began to be **exceeding sorrowful**; And my brethren were about to return unto my father in the wilderness,

[1 Nephi 1:88](#) And it came to pass that when Laban saw our property, that it was **exceeding great**, He did lust after it

[1 Nephi 1:109](#) And I beheld his sword, And I drew it forth from the sheath thereof and the hilt thereof was of pure gold, And the workmanship thereof was **exceeding fine**,

[1 Nephi 1:131](#) And it came to pass that when Laman saw me, he was **exceedingly frightened**, and also Lemuel and Sam,

Examples of Nephi's extensive use of 'Adjectives'...(lol)

[1 Nephi 1:146](#) And it came to pass that after we had come down into the wilderness unto our father, behold, he was filled with joy; And also my mother Sariah was **exceeding glad**,

[1 Nephi 1:157](#) And it came to pass that they did **rejoice exceedingly** and did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings unto the Lord

[1 Nephi 2:27](#) And it came to pass that they did lay their hands upon me, for behold, they were **exceeding wroth**;

[1 Nephi 2:51](#) "Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white to **exceed all the whiteness** that I had ever seen; And as I partook of the fruit thereof, it filled my soul with **exceeding great joy**;

[1 Nephi 3:46](#) 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**.

[Alma 22:18](#) And they did prosper **exceedingly** and they became **exceeding** rich, Yea, and they did multiply and wax strong in the land.

[Alma 27:30](#) "And now behold, I say unto you, I fear exceedingly that the judgments of God will come upon this people because of their exceeding slothfulness, Yea, even the slothfulness of our government and their exceeding great neglect toward their brethren, yea, toward those which have been slain.

In fact, the word 'exceed' 'exceeding' 'exceedingly' occur over 300 times in the Book of Mormon

Why?

Because Hebrew uses few adjectives because it is more about function.

Because that is their culture, their mindset.

Describe To be Good or Evil??

—Westerners use abstract understanding. This came from the Greek.

--Easterners (Hebrews) used concrete meaning.

TO UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE WE MUST
UNDERSTAND HOW THE EASTERN MIND THINKS.

LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE CAN'T BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT
UNDERSTANDING THE CULTURE.

Early
2,000 BC



Middle
1,000 BC



Late
400 BC



Modern
Today



Means Path or Trail

Below is a list of parents roots which begin with the letter tsade.

- צ to go out, as in to follow a trail or path.
- בצ a wagon, as following a trail or path.
- צו directions, as in to point out the way.
- חצ dry, in the sense of the desert, the place of the nomads who follow the trails.
- צי a desert, the place of the nomads who follow the trails.
- צד a burden, as carried when traveling.
- צל a shadow, as an outline/path of the original.
- צם thirst, in the sense of searching for water.
- צן a flock, as herded by the nomad.
- צע wander, as one searching for the trail.
- צף keep watch, as in keeping an eye on the destination.
- צר narrow, in the sense of following a canyon trail with high sides.

In addition, the concept of a trail can be seen in other Hebrew roots.

צדק to be on the correct path.

Means the 'Correct way' is a 'Straight and Narrow' path

צף keep watch, as in keeping an eye on the destination.

צר narrow, in the sense of following a canyon trail with high sides.

In addition, the concept of a trail can be seen in other Hebrew roots.

צדק to be on the correct path.

Means the 'Correct way' is a 'Straight and Narrow' path


https://www.studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/ahl_alphabet.html

The Strait Path is Narrow

[2 Nephi 13:11](#) And again, it (baptism) showeth unto the children of men the **straitness** of the **path** and the **narrowness of the gate** by which they should enter, He having set the example before them;

[2 Nephi 13:25](#) And then are ye in this **strait** and **narrow path** which leads to eternal life;

Narrow Path



to be on the correct path.

Iniquity

By Jeff A. Benner

עון

עוה

Ah.W.H



In Genesis 19:15 we find the word “iniquity.”

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters that are here, lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. (ASV, Genesis 19:15)

Our modern Greco-Roman languages commonly use abstract terms, like iniquity. But as Hebrew is a concrete language, rarely using abstracts, we must understand the word “iniquity” from its Hebraic concrete meaning. The Hebrew word for “iniquity” is עוון (*ah-von*, Strong's #5771), which is derived from the verbal root עוה (*Ah.W.H*, Strong's #5753). This verbal root is found in the following passages.

He hath walled up my ways with hewn stone; he hath made my paths crooked. (*ASV*, Lamentations 3:9)

Behold, the LORD will lay waste the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants. (*RSV*, Isaiah 24:1)

Already we are beginning to see the “concrete” meaning in the Hebrew word that lies behind the English word “iniquity,” it is something crooked or twisted. The first letter in this word is the letter ע (ayin). This single letter was originally two different letters when Hebrew was written with a pictographic alphabet; the  (ayin) and the  (ghayin). The ghayin is a picture of a twisted cord and is clearly the original letter in this word (for more on this subject of the ayin and ghayin see the AHRC article titled **Letters missing from the Hebrew Alphabet**).

As we have demonstrated, the verb עוה (Ah.W.H) means “to be crooked” or “to be twisted,” therefore the noun עוון (ah-von), derived from this verb, then means “crookedness” or “twistedness.” Let’s return to our original passage and read this from a more concrete perspective.

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters that are here, lest thou be consumed in the twistedness of the city. (ASV, Genesis 19:15)

Ancient Hebrew Definition of 'Correct' =

- Means to be on the **Straight and Narrow Path**

Ancient Hebrew Definition of 'Iniquity' =

- **Means to be Crooked or Twisted.**

Hebrew: To Be Righteous

Righteous

*The fear of the **wicked** (rasha), it shall come upon him; And the desire of the **righteous** (tsadiyq) shall be granted. When the whirlwind passeth, the **wicked** (rasha) is no more; But the **righteous** (tsadiyq) is an everlasting foundation.*

Proverbs 10:24,25 (ASV)

In contrast to *rasha*, צַדִּיק *tsadiyq* ^[H:6662], usually translated as righteous, is one who pays attention to and remains on the trail. A related word, צֶדֶקָה *tsedeqah* ^[H:6666], is usually translated as righteousness, but concretely this word means “the trail one walks.”

Hebrew: To Be Righteous

Is to remain on the trail, the trail one walks

1 Nephi 5:5

(Nephi speaking of his rebellious brothers)

And it came to pass that they did humble themselves before the Lord insomuch that I had joy and great hopes of them, that they **would walk in the paths of righteousness;**

Look what the Book of Mormon says...(AND
HOW it says it)

Alma 5:34

Yea, I perceive that **ye are making
His paths strait;**

I perceive that it hath been made known unto you
by the testimony of His word
that He **cannot walk in crooked paths,**

Strong's concordance Didn't Exist

- Not first published until 1890
- Hebrew (Greek) meaning of words in English.
- Strong was not a fan of King James Bible—wanted to write new version
- Book of Mormon first published 1830

Strait

This is the original Hebrew word. 1908 thought to 'fix' it with 'straight.'
Hebrew writers in RCE use 'strait' with 'path' in all cases.

RCE put it back with original spelling, which exactly matches the Ancient Hebrew word for correct (narrow) path.

2 Nephi 3:58

1908

Wilt thou make my path
straight before me?

Verse Differences

Wilt thou make my path
straight before me

RCE

Wilt Thou make my path
strait before me?

Wilt Thou make my path strait
before me

RCE uses word 'Strait' not 'Straight'
A 'strait' is a narrowness. (Strait of Gibraltar)



2 Nephi 13:11

1908

And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them.

Verse Differences

And again It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path and the narrowness of the gate by which they should enter he having set the example before them

RCE

And again, it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path and the narrowness of the gate by which they should enter, He having set the example before them;

And again it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path and the narrowness of the gate by which they should enter He having set the example before them

To be in the 'Strait' path is the Narrow Path.

To be in Iniquity is Crooked Path.

Only Book of Mormon ties all this together with exact meanings of original Hebrew words.

1908

Yea, I perceive that ye are making his paths straight, I perceive that it has been made known unto you by the testimony of his word, that he can not walk in **crooked** paths;

Verse Differences

Yea I perceive that ye are making his paths **straight** I perceive that it **has** been made known unto you by the testimony of his word that he **can not** walk in crooked paths

RCE

Yea, I perceive that ye are making His paths strait; I perceive that it hath been made known unto you by the testimony of His word that He cannot walk in **crooked** paths,

Yea I perceive that ye are making His paths **strait** I perceive that it **hath** been made known unto you by the testimony of His word that He **cannot** [^] walk in crooked paths

Strait implies narrow which is the original ancient Hebrew word

2 Nephi 15:10

But behold, for none of these I cannot hope except they shall be reconciled unto Christ.

And enter into the narrow gate

And walk in the strait path which leads to life.

And continue in the path

until the end of the day of probation.