

Book of Mormon Study Secrets (aka: Intro to Hebrew Parallelism)

For Class Notes:

Scan this code with your phone:

Or go here:

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/ClassNotes/Index.php>



Study to show thyself approved unto God..

-- 2 Timothy 2:15



Problem with Word Searches....

Fill in the blank from the Book of Mormon

There must needs be an _____ in all things.

What is the 'blank'???

Problem with Word Searches....

Fill in the blank from the Book of Mormon

There must needs be an OPPOSITION in all things.

Problem with Word Searches....

Fill in the blank from the Book of Mormon

There must needs be an OPPOSITION in all things.

But here is the real question:.....WHY??

Problem with Word Searches....

2 Nephi 1:81

"For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

Problem with Word Searches....

2 Nephi 1:81

81 "For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

82 **If not so**, my firstborn in the wilderness, **righteousness could not be brought to pass**- neither wickedness, neither holiness, nor misery, neither good, nor bad.

In this day of Technology.....

While technology can be helpful.....it tends to lead us to finding verses quickly, but doesn't always provide understanding.

Understanding grows by learning in context.

Reading the pages of the book is still (to me) the most effective way to gain understanding.

Understanding grows when.....

...scripture is more than just a collection of verses

Understanding grows by understanding verses in context.

Reading scripture with a book in hand, turning pages is still (to me) the most effective way to gain this understanding.

Quick Question.....

In the next slide

Count how many times the letter “F” appears in the sentence.

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?

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 information right in front of us.

Scripture can be that way

Poetry in our culture...

- What does it make you think of?

Poetry

...In Western Poetry, often words rhyme or use alliteration

Why?

To cause to remember.

Hebrew Poetry

- Eastern Minds thought (and wrote) differently.

Ancient Scripture came from the

'Learning of the Jews' as Nephi wrote.

Most scripture was Hebrew or came through the thinking of Hebrew writers.

Inspired Hebrew Authors wrote Hebrew 'Poetry'

In Hebrew poetry, it wasn't words that rhymed,
But rather ideas rhymed.

'Hebrew poetry' was not about writing 'love letters or whimsical thoughts.

Hebrew Poetry is about Parallel Ideas.

Hebrew 'Poetry'

'Parallelism' is a way to teach, it is how prophets and writers of scripture conveyed the ideas God spoke to them.

Ideas 'rhyming' is called 'parallelism.'

Why Discuss Parallelism???

‘Parallelism’ is a way to teach, it is how prophets and writers of scripture conveyed the ideas God spoke to them.

Bible uses Parallelism—recognizing it will help our understanding.

Parallelism is the #1 way the Book of Mormon writers conveyed their ideas to each other and to us.

Who said this?

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country?

Who said this?

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country?

--JFK

Who said this?

With malice toward none; with charity for all;

--Abraham Lincoln

But why do we remember these phrases?

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country?

With malice toward none; with charity for all;

These are written using Parallelism.

But why do we remember these phrases?

Ask not **what**
your country
can do
for you,
but
what you
can do
for your country.



Parallel words but more importantly parallel thoughts.

It is the (unspoken) Parallelism that makes it memorable and famous

But why do we remember these phrases?

Fondly do we hope

fervently do we pray

that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away.

Yet, if God wills that it continue,

until all the wealth piled by the bond-men's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk,

and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash,

shall be paid by another drawn by the sword,

as was said three thousand years ago,

so still it must be said

“the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.”

But why do we remember these phrases?

*With malice toward none;
with charity for all;
with firmness in the right,
as God gives us to see the right,
let us strive on to finish the work we are in;
to bind up the nation's wounds;
to care for him who shall have borne the battle,
and for his widow,
and his orphan—
to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace,
among ourselves,
and with all nations.*

So about Scripture...

6

PARALLELISM

6.1 *Introductory*

Parallelism

Parallelism is universally recognised as the characteristic feature of biblical Hebrew poetry although it is also used extensively in kindred Semitic verse (notably Akkadian) as well as elsewhere.¹ Most introductions to Hebrew poetry, for instance, Gray's *The Forms of Hebrew Poetry*, provide a brief description of parallelism and then proceed to give a detailed classification of its sub-types: synonymous, antithetic, synthetic² and so on. My presentation here will be very different from the standard not simply to avoid duplication or out of sheer love of novelty but because the study of parallelism has been affected, recently, on two levels, both related to theory. Accordingly, a few basic notions of theory with particular reference to parallelism

Isaiah

- Hard scripture to understand?

Isaiah

Look for the parallelism and it begins to make sense

Isaiah's Concern

I don't know how to speak.....

In fact.....

God Transforms Isaiah's mind and understanding....

...Becomes one of the most beautiful 'writers' of the Bible, extending God's understanding to us.

The Key to Understanding Isaiah??

...Start by looking for the parallels.

Isaiah writes beautiful parallels.

Isaiah...Chapter 1:18-20

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord;
though **your sins be as scarlet,**
 they shall be as white as snow;
though **they be red like crimson,**
 they shall be as wool.

If ye be **willing and obedient,**
 ye shall **eat the good** of the land;

But if ye **refuse and rebel,**
ye shall **be devoured** with **the sword;**

Isaiah...

Thus saith the Lord God:

Behold, I will lift up

Mine hand to the Gentiles

and set up

My standard to the people;

And they shall

bring thy sons

in their arms,

And thy daughters

shall be carried

upon their shoulders;

And kings shall be

thy nursing fathers,

And their queens

thy nursing mothers;

Remember.... ..

Parallelism in Hebrew means **The IDEAS 'Rhyme'**

We may be familiar with a type of Parallelism

- Chiasm
- Ideas presented, then repeat in reverse order
- Chiasm is only one of perhaps 40 different types of Hebrew Poetry Scholars have identified in the Bible
- All these types exist in the Book of Mormon.

We may be familiar with a type of Parallelism

- Chiasm is one (only one) type of Hebrew Poetry.
- Modern Hebrew Scholars have classified at least 40 types of recurring Hebrew Poetic forms in the Bible.

We may be familiar with a type of Parallelism

- Chiasm is one (only one) type of Hebrew Poetry.
- Modern Hebrew Scholars have classified at least 40 types of recurring Hebrew Poetic forms in the Bible.
- Most Hebrew Poetry 'Research' began in 1970s through 1990s.
- **All these types exist in the Book of Mormon.**

Mosiah 8: 54-57

But behold, the bands of death shall be broken; And the Son reigneth and hath power over the dead; Therefore, He bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead.

And there cometh a resurrection, even a first resurrection; Yea, even a resurrection of those that have been, and which are, and which shall be, Even until the resurrection of Christ, for so shall He be called.

And now, the resurrection of all the prophets and all those that have believed in their words, or all those that have kept the commandments of God, These shall come forth in the first resurrection; Therefore, they are the first resurrection;

They are raised to dwell with God who hath redeemed them, Thus they have eternal life through Christ who hath broken the bands of death.

Mosiah 8: 54-57 is Good example of Chiasm

Mosiah 8: 54-57

A	But behold, the <u>bands of death</u>
B	<u>shall be broken,</u>
C	and the <u>Son reigneth,</u>
D	and hath <u>power over the dead;</u>
E	therefore, <u>he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead.</u>
F	And there <u>cometh a resurrection,</u>
G	even a <u>first resurrection;</u>
H	yea, even a resurrection of <u>those that have been, and who are, and who shall be,</u>
I	even <u>until the resurrection</u>
J	<u>of Christ—</u>
J	<u>for so shall he be called.</u>
I	And <u>now, the resurrection</u>
H	of all the prophets, <u>and all those that have believed in their words,</u> or all those that have kept the commandments of God,
G	shall come forth in the <u>first resurrection;</u>
F	therefore, they are the <u>first resurrection.</u>
E	They are raised to <u>dwell with God who has redeemed them;</u>
D	thus they have eternal life
C	<u>through Christ,</u>
B	<u>who has broken</u>
A	the <u>bands of death.</u> (chiasmus)

Parallel Ideas do not have to be Chiastic to be Parallel

Notice the Parallel comparison.

One to Many, Singular to Plural

And as one generation

hath been destroyed

Among the Jews

because of iniquity,

Even so have they

Been destroyed

from generation to generation

according to their iniquities;

Parallelism Exists Throughout Old and New Testament

Genesis 1:27

- A So God created man
- B in his own image,
- B in the image of God
- A created he him;
- C ==> male and female created he them.

Notice Pattern AB/BA then “C”. The “C” is often the writer’s main point, or the ‘punchline’ or climactic conclusion of the statement.

Proverbs are all Parallels

The 'B' is the point of 'A'

This is what 'Proverbs' are all about: A is stated, B expounds on A.

***A--He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul,
B--But he who is careless of his ways will die"***

(Proverbs 19:16).

***A--A wise son gladdens his father,
B--But a foolish son grieves his mother***
(Proverbs 10:1)

Where is the parallel here??

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

We don't see the Parallel by reading only one verse, need to Read the Context

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 is part of one of the most beautiful and spiritually significant parallels—if we don't see the parallel, we miss the greater meaning.

John 3

Verse 13

I tell you,

(A) No man hath ascended up to heaven,

(B) but he who came down from heaven,

(C) ==>the Son of Man who is in heaven.

John 3

Verse 14

(A) And as Moses lifted up the **serpent** in the wilderness,

(B) even so must **the Son of Man** be lifted up;

Verse 15

(C) That whosoever **believeth on him** should not **perish**,
but have **eternal life**.

(A/B=>C)

John 3

Verse 14

(A) And as Moses lifted up the **serpent** in the wilderness,

(B) even so must **the Son of Man** be lifted up;

Verse 15

(C) That whosoever **believeth on him** should not **perish**,

but have **eternal life**.

Verse 16 For God so loved the world,

that he gave his **Only Begotten Son**,

that whosoever **believeth on him** **should not perish**;

but have **everlasting life**.

(By only seeing one verse (John 3:16) we don't see the important parallel that Jesus is compared to the famous story of the serpent. The one who brought punishment (justice, the flying serpent) could also bring healing (Mercy) by looking unto it)

2 Nephi 12:97

There is nothing which is **secret**,
save it shall be **revealed**;

There is no work of **darkness**,
save it shall be made **manifest** in the **light**;

And there is nothing which is **sealed** upon earth,
save it shall be **loosed**-

Parallel 'Amplification' of Thought.

Mosiah 8:82

"He is the **light** and **the life** of the world;
Yea, a **light** that **is endless**,
that **can never** be **darkened**;
Yea, and **also a life** which is **endless**,
that there **can be no** more **death**.

Look for Similar words, or Contrasting Words

Alma 3:12

Behold, they were **in the midst of darkness,**

Nevertheless, their **souls were illuminated** by the light of the everlasting word;

IMPORTANT

Understand that Parallel ideas are not limited to a verse.

They can (and usually do) span verses, chapters.

That is why reading in context is important. Often the Parallel ideas can not be recognized by reading single verses.

Parallel words

Alma 3:12

Behold, **they were**

in the midst of darkness,

Nevertheless, **their souls were**

illuminated by the light

of the everlasting word;

The 'B' is the point of 'A'

But if a 'C' exists, it will expound on A and B and explain in detail the A and B.

Some types of Hebrew Poetic Structure

TYPES OF PARALLELISM IN HEBREW POETRY

1. Synonymous Parallelism

The second line repeats the first line.

2. Antithetical Parallelism

The second line contrasts with the first line.

3. Synthetic Parallelism

The second line adds to the first line.

4. Climactic Parallelism

The successive lines build to a climax.

5. Emblematic Parallelism

The figure of speech is explained in the second line.

6. Alternate Parallelism

The 3rd line repeats the 1st and the 2nd the 4th - ABAB.

7. Chiastic Parallelism

The 1st and 2nd lines are reversed in 3rd and 4th - ABBA.

Remember, Poetry is about the Ideas

- Sometimes Poetry repeats exact words.
- But more powerful when it compares and contrasts words.
- This is done to expand our understanding.

1 Nephi 1:15-16

And now I, **Nephi,**

do not make a full account of the **things which my father hath written,**

for he hath written many things which he saw in visions and in dreams;

And he also **hath written many things which he** prophesied and spake
unto his children,

of which **I shall not make a full account;**

but I shall make an account of my **proceedings in my days.**

2 Nephi 12:97

There is nothing which is **secret**,
save it shall be **revealed**;

There is no work of **darkness**,
save it shall be made manifest in the **light**;

And there is nothing which is **sealed** upon earth,
save it shall be **loosed**-

1 Nephi 3:11-12 (Staircase Parallelism, Increasing)

And my father said he should **baptize in Bethabara**, beyond Jordan;

and he also said he **should baptize with water**;

even that he **should baptize the Messiah with water.**

And after he had **baptized the Messiah with water**,

he should behold and bear record that he had **baptized the Lamb of God**,

who **should take away the sins of the world.**

2 Nephi 1:98

Even the **forbidden fruit** in opposition to the **tree of life**,
the one being **sweet**
and the other **bitter**;

Mosiah 8:82

"He is the **light** and the life of the world;

Yea, a **light** that **is endless**,

that **can never** be **darkened**;

Yea, and also a **life** which is endless,

that there **can be no more** **death**.

Alma 14:95

Yea, they were

encircled about with

everlasting **darkness and destruction**;

but behold, he has brought them **into his everlasting light**,

yea, into **everlasting salvation**;

and they are **encircled about** with

the matchless bounty of his love:

Alma 15:55

I ought not to harrow up in my desires,

the firm decree of a just God,

for I know that **he granteth unto men**

according to their desire,

whether it be unto **death**

or unto **life**;

yea, I know that he **allotteth unto men,**

yea, **decreeth** unto them

decrees which are unalterable,

according to their wills;

whether they be unto **salvation**

or unto **destruction**;

Alma 16:235

And this I know because the Lord hath said

He dwelleth not

in **unholy temples,**

But in the **hearts of the righteous**

doth He dwell;

Moroni 7:10-11

Wherefore, **all things which are good cometh of God;**

And that **which is evil cometh of the devil;**

For the devil is **an enemy unto God**

and fighteth against Him continually,

And inviteth and **enticeth** to sin and to do that which is evil continually.

But behold, **that which is of God**

inviteth and enticeth to do good continually;

Wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth to do good and to love God and to serve Him is inspired of God;

Moroni 7:9

For behold, a **bitter fountain**

cannot bring forth **good water;**

Neither can a **good fountain**

bring forth **bitter water;**

Wherefore, a man being the **servant of the devil**

cannot follow Christ;

And if he follow Christ,

he **cannot be a servant of the devil.**

This A/B/C pattern where 'C' is the conclusion appears thousands of times in the book of Mormon. (may begin with 'Yea' or 'Even so')

Alma 3:

(A)

O, ye workers of iniquity,

Ye that are puffed up in the **vain things** of the world.

Ye that have professed to have known the ways **of righteousness**, (Contrasting vain things and righteousness)

(B)

Nevertheless, ye have gone astray as sheep having **no shepherd**. (Astray with no shepherd)

Notwithstanding a Shepherd hath called after you and art still calling after you, (A shepherd calls, will not listen)

but ye will not **hearken unto His voice**.

(C)

==>Behold, I say unto you that the Good Shepherd doth call you, (The Good Shepherd Calling is Jesus)

Yea, and in His own name He doth call you, which is the name of Christ.

(Notice the parallels within the verses, but how the Verses build

to the main point that **(His name is) Christ and He is Calling after you.**)

Hebrew Parallelisms are throughout the Book of Mormon

- Especially Nephi
- Nephi's Brother Jacob (2 Nephi 5.6.7)
- Alma
- King Benjamin
- Mormon
- ...but look at what (they) did with Jesus words.

Hebrew Parallelisms are throughout the Book of Mormon

- Jesus words in the Book of Mormon 3 Nephi are all Chiastic/Parallel, spanning Chapters.

The Chiasms of Jesus' Message

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Jesus is the Creator | 1. 3 Nephi 7:10-11 |
| 2. The Prophets Testify, Covenant of Joseph's Land | 2. 3 Nephi 7:12-14 |
| 3. Scattered Sheep | 3. 3 Nephi 7:15-27 |
| A. Israel/Remnant Regathered/Brought To Christ | A. 3 Nephi 7:28-29 |
| B. Judgement Upon the Gentiles | B. 3 Nephi 7:30-35 |
| C. Covenant with Israel Will remember/fulfill | C. 3 Nephi 7:36 |
| D. Adversaries will have no Power over God's People | D. 3 Nephi 7:37-38 |
| E. Joseph as Lion among Gentiles | E. 3 Nephi 7:39 |
| F. Gentiles Sin and Judgement | F. 3 Nephi 7:40-41 |
| G. This Land is Joseph's Inheritance | G. 3 Nephi 7:42 |
| H. Covenant Fulfilled | H. 3 Nephi 7:43 |
| I. Isaiah Quoted | I. 3 Nephi 7:44-45 |
|
 | |
| >>(Center of Chiasm A-I) Living in the Presence of Jesus | 3 Nephi 8:10-9:44 |
|
 | |
| I'. Isaiah Quoted | I. 3 Nephi 9:47 |
| H'. Covenant Fulfilled | H. 3 Nephi 9:48-49 |
| G'. This Land is Joseph's Inheritance | G. 3 Nephi 9:50 |
| F'. Gentiles Sin and Judgement | F. 3 Nephi 9:51 |
| E'. Joseph as Lion among Gentiles | E. 3 Nephi 9:52 |
| D'. Adversaries will have no Power over God's People | D. 3 Nephi 9:53 |
| C'. Covenant with Israel to Re-Gather Them | C. 3 Nephi 9:54 |
| B'. Judgement Upon the Gentiles | B. 3 Nephi 9:55-56 |
| A'. Scattered Sheep Gathered--Israel/Remnant Brought To Knowledge of Christ | A. 3 Nephi 9:57 |

The Chiasms of Jesus' Message

4. >>Chiastic Center of 1-3 The Covenant Fulfilled In the New Jerusalem

K. Power of Heaven Shall Come Down to Gather His People

L. Jesus Reveals Himself

M. Repentance of Iniquity, Turning to Jesus

N. Judgement on Gentiles

O. Promise of The Covenant Remembered

P. The Gospel to Go Forth to Remnant—it is a Sign unto Them

Q. House of Israel to Inhabit Jerusalem Again

R. Father Makes His Power Known to the World

S. Isaiah's Words Fulfilled

>>Center of Chiasm (K-S) Israel Will Know Jesus

S'. Isaiah's Words Fulfilled

R'. Father Makes His Power Known to the World

Q'. House of Israel to Inhabit Jerusalem Again

P'. The Gospel to Go Forth to Remnant—it is a Sign unto Them

O'. Rebellious Cut off from The Covenant

N'. Judgement on Gentiles

M'. If Gentiles Repent, Numbered Among House of Israel, Turning to Jesus

4'. The Covenant Fulfilled In the New Jerusalem,

L'. Jesus Reveals, Will Be in Midst

K'. Power of Heaven Shall Come Down

3'. The Gathered Sheep

2'. The Prophets Testify

1'. Jesus is the Creator, Will be Known to the World, Words of Prophets.

4. 3 Nephi 9:58

K. 3 Nephi 9:59

L. 3 Nephi 9:60-63

M. 3 Nephi 9:64-65

N. 3 Nephi 9:66

O. 3 Nephi 9:67-68

P. 3 Nephi 9:69-70

Q. 3 Nephi 9:71-72

R. 3 Nephi 9:73

S. 3 Nephi 9:74-76

3 Nephi 9:77

S. 3 Nephi 9:78-82

R. 3 Nephi 9:83-84

Q. 3 Nephi 9:85-91

P. 3 Nephi 9:92-97

O. 3 Nephi 9:98

N. 3 Nephi 9:99-106

M. 3 Nephi 10:1

4. 3 Nephi 10:2-3

L. 3 Nephi 10:4

K. 3 Nephi 10:4

3. 3 Nephi 10:5-8

2. 3 Nephi 10:9-12

1. 3 Nephi 10:13-27

The Chiasms of Jesus' Message

T. Work to Go Forth to Gentiles, Commands Gentiles to Come to Baptism

U. Commandment To Write Jesus' Words

V. The Works of Jesus

W. Wicked Cast Away from His Rest

X. Has Given His Word to Us-- His Gospel

Y. He Was Lifted Up and Judged by the World

>>Center of Chiasm (T-Y) We Will be Lifted up and Judged by Him of our Works

Y'. He Was Lifted Up, Will Draw All Men Unto Him

X'. His Gospel (His Word)

W'. Righteous Gathered TO His Rest

V'. The Works of Jesus Required of us

U'. Commandment To Write Jesus Words

T'. Message to Gentiles (to Whom Work Goes Forth), Commands Baptism

T. 3 Nephi 10:28-31

U. 3 Nephi 10:32-40

V. 3 Nephi 12:22

W. 3 Nephi 12:23-24

X. 3 Nephi 12:25

Y. 3 Nephi 12:26

3 Nephi 12:26

Y. 3 Nephi 12:27-30

X. 3 Nephi 12:31

W. 3 Nephi 12:32-33

V. 3 Nephi 12:34-35

U. 3 Nephi 13:1-7

T. 3 Nephi 14:1-3

Assignment

Read two Book of Mormon Chapters, begin to look for Parallels

- 2 Nephi 6
- Alma 3

Why study all this?

Because if we can see God's word is true on the microscopic level,
We can know it is true through out.

Other Reading on Hebrew Parallelism

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/ClassNotes/Interns2020.php>