

An Outline of the Textual Structure of The Book of Mormon

by J. Max Wilson

jmaxwilson@sixteensmallstones.org

Explanation

I compiled the following outline as a way to help me understand the Book of Mormon better by identifying some of the organizational boundaries, voices, and structure of the text.

The chapter boundaries of the original 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon were different than our modern version and it was not divided into verses. Apostle Orson Pratt divided the book into new chapters and added the verse divisions in the 1838 Liverpool edition of the book. One objective of the outline was to easily see the different boundaries between the chapters both in the original translation and our modern version.

The Book of Mormon itself is translated from multiple different sets of records which create natural boundaries in the structure between source materials and authors. Some of these divisions and groups are identified by headings in the original text itself, which I have colored blue. The original translation did not identify the range of chapters over which the headings extended, but in the 1920 edition of the Book of Mormon, text was added to identify which chapters comprised each section identified by the headings.

In addition to the headings from the original record, based on my own reading I have added my own sections with their own headings and boundaries, colored green, whenever possible using words from the actual text. Many of the boundaries I have made organize chapters of the text where the primary voice changes from the principal author or editor of the plates (Nephi, Mormon, Moroni) to one of their sources for an extensive section, or when the editors (Mormon for the Large Plates of Nephi and Moroni for the Plates of Ether) interrupt their narrative to offer extensive editorial commentary. Additionally, I have marked a few sections where the author makes a significant shift in focus extending for multiple chapters, notably Nephi when he recounts his dream.

The outline is not comprehensive, and there are a few places where making the original chapter boundaries match up with the 1920 chapter ranges doesn't quite work out. Also there are numerous places where the editors voice is so intermixed with the speakers, for instance in Alma chapters 9 through 13, that I have not tried to group them under individual headings other than the original heading from the text.

This effort has certainly helped me understand and appreciate the Book of Mormon far more than I did previous to this effort, and building the outline has strengthened my testimony that the Book is true and was translated by the gift and power of the Holy Spirit.

Please feel free to copy and distribute it if you find it useful. A newer, revised version may also be available at www.SixteenSmallStones.org. The date of this revision is found in the footer of each page.

J. Max Wilson

An Overview Outline of the General Structure of The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon

Another Testament of Jesus Christ

- Title Page by Moroni
- The Small Plates of Nephi
 - The First Book of Nephi
 - The Second Book of Nephi
 - The Book of Jacob
 - The Book of Enos
 - The Book of Jarom
 - The Book of Omni
- Words of Mormon
- Mormon's Abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi
 - The Book of Mosiah
 - The Book of Alma
 - The Book of Helaman
 - The Third Book of Nephi
 - The Fourth Book of Nephi
- The Book of Mormon
- Moroni's Abridgment of the Plates of Ether
 - The Book of Ether
- The Book of Moroni

A Detailed Outline of the Structure of The Book Of Mormon

The Book of Mormon

Another Testament of Jesus Christ

- **Title Page by Moroni**
- **The Small Plates of Nephi**
 - **The First Book of Nephi**

His Reign and Ministry

An account of Lehi and his wife Sariah and his four sons, being called, (beginning at the eldest) Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. The Lord warns Lehi to depart out of the land of Jerusalem, because he prophesieth unto the people concerning their iniquity and they seek to destroy his life. He taketh three days' journey into the wilderness with his family. Nephi taketh his brethren and returneth to the land of Jerusalem after the record of the Jews. The account of their sufferings. They take the daughters of Ishmael to wife. They take their families and depart into the wilderness. Their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness. The course of their travels. They come to the large waters. Nephi's brethren rebel against him. He confoundeth them, and buildeth a ship. They call the name of the place Bountiful. They cross the large waters into the promised land, and so forth. This is according to the account of Nephi; or in other words, I, Nephi, wrote this record.

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 to 5 inclusive*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 4
 - Chapter 5
- *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapters 6 to 9 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7
 - **Nephi's Father Lehi recounts a dream of a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy** . Comprising Chapter 8.
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 9
- *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapters 10 to 14 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 10
 - **Nephi recounts his own vision of the same things which his father saw.** Comprising chapters 11 to 14 inclusive.
 - Chapter 11
 - Chapter 12

- Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14
- *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapter 15.*
 - Chapter 15
- *1830 Edition Chapter 5. Comprising chapter 16 to chapter 19 verse 21.*
 - Chapter 16
 - Chapter 17
 - Chapter 18
 - Chapter 19
- *1830 Edition Chapter 6. Comprising chapter 19 verse 22 to chapter 21 inclusive.*
 - **Nephi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Comprising chapters 20 and 21.
 - Chapter 20
 - Chapter 21
- *1830 Edition Chapter 7. Comprising chapter 22.*
 - Chapter 22
- **The Second Book of Nephi**

An account of the death of Lehi. Nephi's brethren rebel against him. The Lord warns Nephi to depart into the wilderness. His journeyings in the wilderness, and so forth.

 - **The words, blessings, and prophecies of Lehi to his posterity.** Comprising chapters 1 to 4 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 and 2.*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapter 3.*
 - **Lehi quotes from the writings of Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt.** Comprising chapter 3.
 - Chapter 3
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapter 4.*
 - Chapter 4
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapter 5.*
 - Chapter 5
 - **The words of Jacob, the brother of Nephi, which he spake unto the people of Nephi.** Comprising chapters 6 to 10 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 5. Comprising chapters 6 to 8 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 6
 - **Jacob excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Comprising chapters 7 and

- 8.
 - Chapter 7
 - Chapter 8
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 6. Comprising chapter 9.*
 - Chapter 9
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 7. Comprising chapter 10.*
 - Chapter 10
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 8. Comprising chapters 11 to 15 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 11
 - **Nephi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Comprising Chapters 12 to 15 inclusive.
 - Chapter 12
 - Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 15
 - **Nephi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Comprising Chapters 16 to 24 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 9. Comprising chapters 16 to 22 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 16
 - Chapter 17
 - Chapter 18
 - Chapter 19
 - Chapter 20
 - Chapter 21
 - Chapter 22
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 10. Comprising chapters 23 and 24.*
 - Chapter 23
 - Chapter 24
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 11. Comprising chapters 25 to 27 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 25
 - Chapter 26
 - Chapter 27
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 12. Comprising chapters 28 to 30 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 28
 - Chapter 29
 - Chapter 30

- *1830 Edition Chapter 13. Comprising chapter 31.*
 - Chapter 31
- *1830 Edition Chapter 14. Comprising chapter 32.*
 - Chapter 32
- *1830 Edition Chapter 15. Comprising chapter 33.*
 - Chapter 33

- **The Book of Jacob**

- *The Brother of Nephi*

- *The words of his preaching unto his brethren. He confoundeth a man who seeketh to overthrow the doctrine of Christ. A few words concerning the history of the people of Nephi.*

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapter 1.*
 - Chapter 1
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapters 2 and 3.*
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapters 4 and 5.*
 - Chapter 4
 - **Jacob excerpts the words of the prophet Zenos, which he spake unto the house of Israel.** Comprising chapter 5.
 - Chapter 5
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapter 6.*
 - Chapter 6
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 5. Comprising chapter 7.*
 - Chapter 7

- **The Book of Enos**

- Chapter 1

- **The Book of Jarom**

- Chapter 1

- **The Book of Omni**

- Chapter 1

- **Words of Mormon**

- Chapter 1

- **Mormon's Abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi**

- **The Book of Mosiah**

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 to 3 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 1
 - **The words which king Benjamin spake and caused to be written.** Comprising chapters 2 and 3.
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- **Additional words spoken by king Benjamin.** Comprising chapters 4 and 5.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapter 4.*
 - Chapter 4
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapter 5.*
 - Chapter 5
- *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapter 6.*
 - Chapter 6
- *1830 Edition Chapter 5. Comprising chapters 7 and 8.*
 - Chapter 7
 - Chapter 8
- **THE RECORD OF ZENIFF. –An account of his people, from the time they left the land of Zarahemla until the time that they were delivered out of the hands of the Lamanites.** Comprising chapters 9 to 22 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 6. Comprising chapters 9 and 10.*
 - **The writings of Zeniff.** Comprising chapters 9 and 10.
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
 - **The ministry and words of Abinidi.** Comprising chapter 11 through chapter 16 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 7. Comprising chapter 11 to chapter 13 verse 24.*
 - Chapter 11
 - Chapter 12
 - Chapter 13
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 8. Comprising chapter 13 verse 25 to chapter 16 inclusive.*
 - **Abinidi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Comprising chapter 14.
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 15

- Chapter 16
- *1830 Edition Chapter 9. Comprising chapters 17 to 21 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 17
 - Chapter 18
 - Chapter 19
 - Chapter 20
 - Chapter 21
- *1830 Edition Chapter 10. Comprising chapter 22.*
 - Chapter 22
- *1830 Edition Chapter 11. Comprising chapters 23 to 27 inclusive.*
 - **An account of Alma and the people of the Lord, who were driven into the wilderness by the people of king Noah.** Comprising chapters 23 and 24.
 - Chapter 23
 - Chapter 24
 - Chapter 25
 - Chapter 26
 - Chapter 27
- *1830 Edition Chapter 12. Comprising chapter 28 verse 1 to verse 19 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 28
- *1830 Edition Chapter 13. Comprising chapter 28 verse 20 to chapter 29 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 29

- **The Book of Alma**

The Son of Alma

The account of Alma, who was the son of Alma, the first and chief judge over the people of Nephi, and also the high priest over the Church. An account of the reign of the judges, and the wars and contentions among the people. And also an account of a war between the Nephites and the Lamanites, according to the record of Alma, the first and chief judge.

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 to 3 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapter 4.*
 - Chapter 4
- *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapter 5.*
 - **The words which Alma, the High Priest according to the holy order of God, delivered to the people in their cities and villages throughout the land.** Comprising chapter 5.

- Chapter 5
- *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapter 6.*
 - Chapter 6
- *1830 Edition Chapter 5. Comprising chapter 7.*
 - **The words of Alma which he delivered to the people in Gideon, according to his own record.** Comprising chapter 7.
 - Chapter 7
- *1830 Edition Chapter 6. Comprising chapter 8.*
 - Chapter 8
- **The words of Alma, and also the words of Amulek, which were declared unto the people who were in the land of Ammonihah. And also they are cast into prison, and delivered by the miraculous power of God which was in them, according to the record of Alma.** Comprising chapters 9 to 14 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 7. Comprising chapter 9.*
 - Chapter 9
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 8. Comprising chapters 10 and 11.*
 - Chapter 10
 - Chapter 11
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 9. Comprising chapter 12 to chapter 13 verse 9 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 12
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 10. Comprising chapter 13 verse 10 to chapter 15 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14
 - **Chapter 15**
- *1830 Edition Chapter 11. Comprising chapter 16.*
 - Chapter 16
- **An account of the sons of Mosiah, who rejected their rights to the kingdom for the word of God, and went up to the land of Nephi to preach to the Lamanites; their sufferings and deliverance—according to the record of Alma.** Comprising chapters 17 to 26 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 12. Comprising chapters 17 to 20 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 17
 - Chapter 18
 - Chapter 19
 - Chapter 20
 - **An account of the preaching of Aaron, and Muloki, and their brethren, to the Lamanites.** Comprising chapters 21 to 26 inclusive.

- *1830 Edition Chapter 13. Comprising chapters 21 and 22.*
 - Chapter 21
 - Chapter 22
- *1830 Edition Chapter 14. Comprising chapters 23 to 26 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 23
 - Chapter 24
 - Chapter 25
 - Chapter 26
- *1830 Edition Chapter 15. Comprising chapters 27 to 29 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 27
 - Chapter 28
 - **Alma glories in that which the Lord hath commanded.** Comprising chapter 29.
 - Chapter 29
- *1830 Edition Chapter 16. Comprising chapter 30 to 35 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 30
 - Chapter 31
 - **The words of Alma to the Zoramites.** Comprising chapter 32 to 33 inclusive.
 - Chapter 32
 - **Alma quotes from the prophets Zenos and Zenock.** Comprising chapter 33.
 - Chapter 33
 - **The words of Amulek to the Zoramites.** Comprising chapter 34.
 - Chapter 34
 - Chapter 35
- *1830 Edition Chapter 17. Comprising chapters 36 and 37.*
 - **The commandments of Alma to his son Helaman.** Comprising chapters 36 and 37.
 - Chapter 36
 - Chapter 37
- *1830 Edition Chapter 18. Comprising chapter 38.*
 - **The commandments of Alma to his son Shiblon.** Comprising chapter 38.
 - Chapter 38
- *1830 Edition Chapter 19. Comprising chapters 39 to 42 inclusive.*
 - **The commandments of Alma to his son Corianton.** Comprising chapters 39 to 42 inclusive.

- Chapter 39
- Chapter 40
- Chapter 41
- Chapter 42
- *1830 Edition Chapter 20. Comprising chapters 43 and 44.*
 - Chapter 43
 - Chapter 44
- **The account of the people of Nephi, and their wars and dissensions, in the days of Helaman, according to the record of Helaman, which he kept in his days.**
Comprising chapters 45 to 62 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 21. Comprising chapters 45 to 49 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 45
 - Chapter 46
 - Chapter 47
 - Chapter 48
 - Chapter 49
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 22. Comprising chapter 50.*
 - Chapter 50
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 23. Comprising chapter 51.*
 - Chapter 51
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 24. Comprising chapters 52 and 53.*
 - Chapter 52
 - Chapter 53
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 25. Comprising chapters 54 and 55.*
 - **Epistles of Captain Moroni and Ammoron.** Comprising chapter 54.
 - Chapter 54
 - Chapter 55
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 26. Comprising chapters 56 to 58 inclusive.*
 - **An Epistle from Helaman to Captain Moroni.** Comprising chapters 56 to 58 inclusive.
 - Chapter 56
 - Chapter 57
 - Chapter 58
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 27. Comprising chapters 59 and 60.*
 - Chapter 59
 - **An Epistle from Captian Moroni to Chief Judge Pahoran.** Comprising

chapter 60.

- Chapter 60
- *1830 Edition Chapter 28. Comprising chapter 61.*
 - **An Epistle from Chief Judge Pahoran to Captain Moroni.** Comprising chapter 61.
 - Chapter 61
- *1830 Edition Chapter 29. Comprising chapter 62.*
 - Chapter 62
- *1830 Edition Chapter 30. Comprising chapter 63.*
 - Chapter 63

- **The Book of Helaman**

An account of the Nephites. Their wars and contentions, and their dissensions. And also the prophecies of many holy prophets, before the coming of Christ, according to the records of Helaman, who was the son of Helaman, and also according to the records of his sons, even down to the coming of Christ. And also many of the Lamanites are converted. An account of their conversion. An account of the righteousness of the Lamanites, and the wickedness and abominations of the Nephites, according to the record of Helaman and his sons, even down to the coming of Christ, which is called the book of Helaman.

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 and 2.*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
- *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapters 3 to 6 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 4
 - Chapter 5
 - Chapter 6
- **THE PROPHECY OF NEPHI, THE SON OF HELAMAN—God threatens the people of Nephi that he will visit them in his anger, to their utter destruction except they repent of their wickedness. God smiteth the people of Nephi with pestilence; they repent and turn unto him. Samuel, a Lamanite, prophesies unto the Nephites.** Comprising chapters 7 to 16 inclusive.
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapters 7 to 10 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 7
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapters 11 and 12.*
 - Chapter 11
 - **Editorial commentary on the pride of the Nephites by Mormon.**

Comprising chapter 12.

- Chapter 12
- 1830 Edition Chapter 5. *Comprising chapters 13 to 16 inclusive.*
 - **The prophecy of Samuel, the Lamanite, to the Nephites.** Comprising chapters 13 to 15 inclusive.
 - Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 15
 - Chapter 16
- **The Third Book of Nephi**

The Book of Nephi The Son of Nephi, who was the Son of Helaman

And Helaman was the son of Helaman, who was the son of Alma, who was the son of Alma, being a descendant of Nephi who was the son of Lehi, who came out of Jerusalem in the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, the king of Judah.

- 1830 Edition Chapter 1. *Comprising chapter 1 and 2.*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
- 1830 Edition Chapter 2. *Comprising chapters 3 to 5 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 4
 - **Editor's personal introduction and commentary on editorial process by Mormon.** Comprising chapter 5.
 - Chapter 5
- 1830 Edition Chapter 3. *Comprising chapters 6 and 7.*
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7
- 1830 Edition Chapter 4. *Comprising chapters 8 to 10 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
- **Jesus Christ did show himself unto the people of Nephi, as the multitude were gathered together in the land Bountiful, and did minister unto them; and on this wise did he show himself unto them.** Comprising chapters 11 to 26 inclusive.
 - 1830 Edition Chapter 5. *Comprising chapter 11 to chapter 13 verse 24 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 11
 - Chapter 12
 - Chapter 13

- *1830 Edition Chapter 6. Comprising chapter 13 verse 25 to chapter 14 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 14
- *1830 Edition Chapter 7. Comprising chapters 15 and 16.*
 - Chapter 15
 - Chapter 16
- *1830 Edition Chapter 8. Comprising chapters 17 and 18.*
 - Chapter 17
 - Chapter 18
- *1830 Edition Chapter 9. Comprising chapter 19 to chapter 21 verse 21.*
 - Chapter 19
 - Chapter 20
 - Chapter 21
- *1830 Edition Chapter 10. Comprising chapter 21 verse 21 to chapter 23 verse 13 inclusive.*
 - **Jesus excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Comprising chapter 22.
 - Chapter 22
 - Chapter 23
- *1830 Edition Chapter 11. Comprising chapter 23 verse 13 to chapter 26 verse 5 inclusive.*
 - **Jesus excerpts from the Book of Malachi.** Comprising chapter 24 and 25.
 - Chapter 24
 - Chapter 25
 - *1830 Edition Chapter 12. Comprising chapter 26 verse 6 to chapter 27 verse 22 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 26
 - Chapter 27
- *1830 Edition Chapter 13. Comprising chapter 27 verse 23 to chapter 29 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 28
 - Chapter 29
- *1830 Edition Chapter 14. Comprising chapter 30.*
 - Chapter 30
- **The Fourth Book of Nephi**

The Book of Nephi Who is the son of Nephi, one of the disciples of Jesus Christ

An account of the people of Nephi, according to his record.

- Chapter 1

- **The Book of Mormon**

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 to 3 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapters 4 and 5.*
 - Chapter 4
 - Chapter 5
- *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapters 6 and 7.*
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7
- *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapters 8 and 9.*
 - **Moroni finishes the record of his father Mormon.** Comprising chapters 8 and 9.
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 9

- **Moroni's Abridgment of the Plates of Ether**

- **The Book of Ether**

The record of the Jaredites, taken from the twenty-four plates found by the people of Limhi in the days of king Mosiah.

- *1830 Edition Chapter 1. Comprising chapters 1 to 4 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
 - **Editorial commentary and revelation concerning the sealed portion of the plates by Moroni.** Comprising Chapters 4.
 - Chapter 4
- *1830 Edition Chapter 2. Comprising chapter 5.*
 - **Editorial commentary to the translator by Moroni.** Comprising Chapter 5.
 - Chapter 5
- *1830 Edition Chapter 3. Comprising chapters 6 to 8 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7

- Chapter 8
- *1830 Edition Chapter 4. Comprising chapters 9 to 11 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
 - Chapter 11
- *1830 Edition Chapter 5. Comprising chapter 12.*
 - **Editorial commentary concerning Faith by Moroni.** Comprising chapter 12.
 - Chapter 12
- *1830 Edition Chapter 6. Comprising chapter 13 to 15 inclusive.*
 - Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 15

- **The Book of Moroni**

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- **A sermon on Faith, Hope, and Charity by Mormon.** Comprising chapter 7.
 - Chapter 7
- **An Epistle from Mormon to Moroni concerning the Baptism of Little Children.** Comprising chapter 8.
 - Chapter 8
- **The second epistle of Mormon to his son Moroni.** Comprising chapter 9.
 - Chapter 9
- Chapter 10