

An Outline of the Textual Structure of The Book of Mormon

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Explanation

As part of my work on the open source ScriptureLog scripture study project, I have compiled the following outline to help 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 1879 edition. One objective of this outline is to easily see the different boundaries between the chapters both in the original translation and in our modern version.

The Book of Mormon itself is compiled 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 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, whenever possible using words from the actual text, colored green. 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 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 previously, and building this 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.ScriptureLog.com. The date of this revision is found in the footer of each page. Outlines are also available for the Old and New Testaments.

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

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.**

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5

- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**

- Chapter 6
- Chapter 7
- **Nephi’s Father Lehi recounts a dream of a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy .**
 - Chapter 8
- Chapter 9

- **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**

- Chapter 10
- **Nephi recounts his own vision of the same things which his father saw.**
 - Chapter 11
 - Chapter 12
 - Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14

- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**

- 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.** Compare Isaiah 48,49.
 - Chapter 20
 - Chapter 21
- **1830 Edition Chapter 7.**
 - 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.**
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 1.**
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - **Lehi quotes from the writings of Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt.**
 - Chapter 3
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 4
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - Chapter 5
- **The words of Jacob, the brother of Nephi, which he spake unto the people of Nephi.**
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 5.**
 - Chapter 6
 - **Jacob excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Compare Isaiah 50, 51, 52:1-2.
 - Chapter 7
 - Chapter 8
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 6.**
 - Chapter 9
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 7.**
 - Chapter 10
- **1830 Edition Chapter 8.**
 - Chapter 11
 - **Nephi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Compare Isaiah 2-5.
 - Chapter 12
 - Chapter 13
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 15
- **Nephi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Compare Isaiah 6-14.
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 9.**

- Chapter 16
- Chapter 17
- Chapter 18
- Chapter 19
- Chapter 20
- Chapter 21
- Chapter 22
- **1830 Edition Chapter 10.**
 - Chapter 23
 - Chapter 24
- **1830 Edition Chapter 11.**
 - Chapter 25
 - Chapter 26
 - Chapter 27
- **1830 Edition Chapter 12.**
 - Chapter 28
 - Chapter 29
 - Chapter 30
- **1830 Edition Chapter 13.**
 - Chapter 31
- **1830 Edition Chapter 14.**
 - Chapter 32
- **1830 Edition Chapter 15.**
 - 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.**
 - Chapter 1
- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 4
 - **Jacob excerpts the words of the prophet Zenos, which he spake unto the house of Israel.**
 - Chapter 5
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - Chapter 6
- **1830 Edition Chapter 5.**
 - 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

The Book of Mosiah

- **1830 Edition Chapter 1.**
 - Chapter 1
 - **The words which king Benjamin spake and caused to be written.**
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- **Additional words spoken by king Benjamin.**
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - Chapter 4
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 5
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - Chapter 6
- **1830 Edition Chapter 5.**
 - 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.”***
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 6.**
 - **The writings of Zeniff.**
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
 - **The ministry and words of Abinadi.**
 - **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.***
 - **Abinadi excerpts from the Book of Isaiah.** Compare Isaiah 53.
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 15
 - Chapter 16
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 9.**
 - Chapter 17

- Chapter 18
- Chapter 19
- Chapter 20
- Chapter 21
- **1830 Edition Chapter 10.**
 - Chapter 22
- **1830 Edition Chapter 11.**
 - ***“An account of Alma and the people of the Lord, who were driven into the wilderness by the people of king Noah.”***
 - 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.**
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - Chapter 4
- **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - *“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.”*
 - Chapter 5
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - Chapter 6
- **1830 Edition Chapter 5.**
 - *“The words of Alma which he delivered to the people in Gideon, according to his own record.”*
 - Chapter 7
- **1830 Edition Chapter 6.**
 - 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.”*
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 7.**
 - Chapter 9
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 8.**
 - 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.**
 - 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.”*
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 12.**
 - Chapter 17
 - Chapter 18
 - Chapter 19
 - Chapter 20
 - *“An account of the preaching of Aaron, and Muloki, and their brethren, to the Lamanites.”*
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 13.**
 - Chapter 21
 - Chapter 22
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 14.**
 - Chapter 23
 - Chapter 24
 - Chapter 25
 - Chapter 26
- **1830 Edition Chapter 15.**
 - Chapter 27
 - Chapter 28
 - **Alma glories in that which the Lord hath commanded.**
 - Chapter 29
- **1830 Edition Chapter 16.**
 - Chapter 30
 - Chapter 31
 - **The words of Alma to the Zoramites.**
 - Chapter 32
 - **Alma quotes from the prophets Zenos and Zenock.**
 - Chapter 33
 - **The words of Amulek to the Zoramites.**

- Chapter 34
- Chapter 35
- **1830 Edition Chapter 17.**
 - ***“The commandments of Alma to his son Helaman.”***
 - Chapter 36
 - Chapter 37
- **1830 Edition Chapter 18.**
 - ***“The commandments of Alma to his son Shiblon.”***
 - Chapter 38
- **1830 Edition Chapter 19.**
 - ***“The commandments of Alma to his son Corianton.”***
 - Chapter 39
 - Chapter 40
 - Chapter 41
 - Chapter 42
- **1830 Edition Chapter 20.**
 - 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.”***
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 21.**
 - Chapter 45
 - Chapter 46
 - Chapter 47
 - Chapter 48
 - Chapter 49
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 22.**
 - Chapter 50
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 23.**
 - Chapter 51
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 24.**
 - Chapter 52
 - Chapter 53
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 25.**
 - **Epistles of Captain Moroni and Ammoron.**

- Chapter 54
 - Chapter 55
- **1830 Edition Chapter 26.**
 - **An Epistle from Helaman to Captain Moroni.**
 - Chapter 56
 - Chapter 57
 - Chapter 58
- **1830 Edition Chapter 27.**
 - Chapter 59
 - **An Epistle from Captain Moroni to Chief Judge Pahoran.**
 - Chapter 60
- **1830 Edition Chapter 28.**
 - **An Epistle from Chief Judge Pahoran to Captain Moroni.**
 - Chapter 61
- **1830 Edition Chapter 29.**
 - Chapter 62
- **1830 Edition Chapter 30.**
 - 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.**
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - 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.”***
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 7
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - Chapter 11
 - **Editorial commentary on the pride of the Nephites by Mormon.**
 - Chapter 12
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 5.**
 - ***“The prophecy of Samuel, the Lamanite, to the Nephites.”***
 - 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.**
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 4
 - **Editor’s personal introduction and commentary on editorial process by Mormon.**
 - Chapter 5
- **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - 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.”**
 - **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.**
 - Chapter 15
 - Chapter 16
 - **1830 Edition Chapter 8.**
 - 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.** Compare Isaiah 54.
 - 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.**
 - 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.**
 - 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.**
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - Chapter 4
 - Chapter 5
- **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - **Moroni finishes the record of his father Mormon.**
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 9

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.**
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
 - **Editorial commentary and revelation concerning the sealed portion of the plates by Moroni.**
 - Chapter 4
- **1830 Edition Chapter 2.**
 - **Editorial commentary to the translator by Moroni.**
 - Chapter 5
- **1830 Edition Chapter 3.**
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7
 - Chapter 8
- **1830 Edition Chapter 4.**
 - Chapter 9
 - Chapter 10
 - Chapter 11
- **1830 Edition Chapter 5.**
 - **Editorial commentary concerning Faith by Moroni.**
 - Chapter 12
- **1830 Edition Chapter 6.**
 - 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.**
 - Chapter 7
- **An Epistle from Mormon to Moroni concerning the Baptism of Little Children.**
 - Chapter 8
- ***“The second epistle of Mormon to his son Moroni.”***
 - Chapter 9
- Chapter 10