Hebrew Idioms and Analogies in the Book of Mormon, III

Author(s): Thomas W. Brookbank

Abstract: A series that produces evidence that the Book of Mormon is an ancient Hebrew work, containing Hebraisms. Emphasizes: (1) The Book of Mormon contains peculiar grammatical structures that are similarly found in the Bible, (2) many of the proper names in the Book of Mormon possess a notable Jewish character, and (3) many of the Jaredite proper names contain Hebraic similarities that date back to the period predating the Tower of Babel. The third part discusses Nephite proper names.

Hebrew Idioms and Analogies in the Book of Mormon.

BY THOMAS W. BROOKBANK.

III.

The different terminations of the Nephite proper names, excluding those applied to God, Christ and the Holy Spirit—many of which are translatable terms—number over sixty; but more than forty of them belong to names that are found in identical form in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and hence this large number is accounted for at once as certainly Jewish. Of the remainder we find all but two of them among Biblical names as follows:

TERMINATION OF NEPHITE NAMES	BIBLE NAMES	TERMINATION OF NEPHITE NAMES	BIBLE NAMES
osh	Rosh	ib	Chezib
or	Beth-peor	ag	Abishag
hu	Elihu	ez	Bozez
um	{ Rheum	iz	Ziz
	{ Shallum	f	Zif
no	Adino	et	Eliphalet
oth	Aloth	ne	Mene
ath	Gath	la	Bethhogla
le	Baale		

The termination of Nephite proper names not found in any Biblical ones that the writer has examined, are *r* without a preceding vowel, as in Coriantumr, and *ts* in Hermounts. More than one example of the use of names with these terminations by the sacred writers of the Bible might be supplied, but it is not considered neces-

sary as most of them would be readily recognized by students of the
Jewish scriptures. Two names ending in *um* have been given, for,
at first thought, some assume that this termination is Latin
only.

Most of the suffixes that the Nephites welded to the base
were so common and familiarly Jewish that no special attention
need be directed to more than a few of them—one of which is
hah, evidently instead of *ah*. This form, however, is authorized
by the terminal ending in Janohah, apparently from the same
base as Jano-ah—both Bible names. The combination *hah* is
found in the Nephite names Nephi-hah, Moroni-hah, Ammoni-hah,
and Cameni-hah. Sometimes *ah*, when added to a base, was
preceded by a vowel sound as Ahaz-i-ah from Ahaz. Among the
Nephite names we find analogically formed those of Amalick-i-ah,
Sar-i-ah and Mos-i-ah. Again, *oni* was a musical termination to
which the Jews seemed somewhat partial. We find it in Ben-oni,
from Ben, and in Rabb-oni, from Rabh. The Nephites used this
ending in Gidgidd-oni, Math-oni, and in Math-oni-hah they welded
the two suffixes to the same base.

It is not necessary to prolong these observations in order to
call further attention to the fact that in the matter of forming
new names by addition of suffixes, the Nephites were orthodox
Jews. Those who wish to pursue this inquiry at greater length
can readily find examples in the comparative exhibit that is given
on preceding pages, or in the general list of names that is to fol-
low. Coming now to an examination of the prefixes that were
used by the Nephites in the formation of their proper names, we
find that they are about all included in the following enumeration:
Te, Pa, Z, Ze, H, See, A, Am, O, and Ab. The first, or Te, with
Omner, gives Teomner; Pa and Cumeni occur together in the
name Pacumeni; Z and Enock form Zenock; Ze and Nephi welds
into Zenephi; H and Elam-an makes Helaman; See and Zoram com-
bines into Seezoram; A and Kish gives Akish; Am and Moron
appears in Ammoron; O and Gath in Ogath and Ab and Lom welds
into Ablom—all of them being genuine Nephite names, as an
examination of the general list will disclose. Considering the
limited number of proper names in the Book of Mormon—about
three hundred different ones altogether—it will be observed that

the Nephites were very liberal in the use of prefixes in forming them. We have seen how these prefixes were joined with certain roots or bases in order to form new names; but a question of greater interest and importance now claims our attention as to whether these particular prefixes are sanctioned by ancient Jewish usage as disclosed from lists of Bible names. That they are strictly Hebraic and properly used is evident from the illustrations that soon follow. The first column gives the prefixes that were applied by the Nephites in compounding some of their own names. In the second column there is entered base names taken from the Bible. In the third column will be found other Bible names, and of course Jewish; but which might just as well be formed by welding the Nephite prefix to the Hebrew base of the second column. Stronger proof than this that the Jews and the Nephites were of the same race, and understood alike the principles of the same language, can scarcely be expected or needed:

NEPHITE PREFIX	BIBLE BASE	BIBLE NAME COMPOUNDED	NEPHITE PREFIX	BIBLE BASE	BIBLE NAME COMPOUNDED
Te	Beth	Tebeth	Se or See	Elah	Selah*
	Koa	Tekoa(h)		Machi	Semachi
	Mani	Temani		Ephar	†Seph(a)er*
	Resh	Teresh		Eron	†Sera(o)n*
O	Beth	Obeth	A	Gar	Agar
	Zorah	Ozorah		Hiram	Ahiram
Pa	Dan	Padan		Ner	Aner
	Shur	Pashur		Rumah	Arumah
	Rosh	Parosh	Am	Asa	Amasa
	Arah	Parah*		Azia	Amazia(h)
Ze	Bul	Zebul		Ittai	Amittai
	Resh	Zeresh		Ram	Amram
Z	Enan	Zenan	Ab	Iram	Abiram
	Ethan	Zethan		Iron	Abiron
	Immah	Zimmah		Ner	Abner
	Uriel	Zuriel		Raham	Abraham

In order that it may be demonstrated still further by visual evidence that the Nephite proper names are genuinely Hebraic, it will be necessary in the first place to give the names and powers

---

* One vowel dropped.   † Substitution of one vowel sound for another, not unusual in Jewish proper names.

of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and afterward a complete list of all proper names that occur in the Book of Mormon together with some untranslated terms that are also to be subjected to our inspection, and for convenience they shall be divided into several different groups. Taking these matters up in the order thus indicated we find that the names and powers of the Hebrew letters are:

NO.	NAME	POWER	NO.	NAME	POWER
1	Aleph		12	Lamedh	L
2	Beth	Bh, B	13	Mem	M
3	Gimel	Gh, G	14	Nun	N
4	Daleth	Dh, D	15	Samekh	S
5	He	H	16	Ayin	
6	Vav	V	17	Pe	Ph, P
7	Zayin	Z	18	Tsadhe	Ts
8	Hheth	Hh	19	Koph	K
9	Teth	T	20	Resh	R
10	Yodh	Y	21	Shin	Sh, S
11	Kaph	Kh, K	22	Tav	Th, T

No English equivalents have been written for the first or the sixteenth of these letters—the powers for all of which have been given as *Greene's Hebrew Grammar* illustrates them. It is difficult to represent equivalents for the two just numbered without some accompanying explanation. Aleph is regarded as the weakest of the letters and its value is likened to the English silent *h* in *hour*. The power of Ayin is uncertain; but some modern Jews give it the sound of *ng*, or of French *gn* in champagne. Though the power of Yodh is given above as English *y* others of equal authority with Greene give it the sound of *j* or *i*. This letter, Yodh, is the first one in the original name Jehovah, which is variously pronounced as just written, or as Yehovah. Now, looking the Hebrew alphabet over very carefully, we find that it has no equivalent for the English *q*, *x* or *w*, and, as a consequence, any word or name that has one or more of these letters in it, is not a genuinely Jewish word or name. Even the familiar names *Jew* and *Hebrew*, as here spelled, must be excluded. They are not in the proper form for Hebraic names. Their orthography condemns them as foreign to the language of Israel. To be orthographically

correct, if Jewish, they should be spelled *Ju* and *Hebru;* but more respecting them hereafter. Now, in order to ascertain whether the Book of Mormon conforms its orthography to these limitations of the Hebrew alphabet, we must not examine foreign words or names, nor any terms that are English signs for Jewish words, which were not spelled as the translation is; but we can take the proper names in that book, and which are known to be of Nephite origin, for they are not translated, but have been, as it were, transferred bodily from the Nephites down to us, and determine this question by the showing thus made. Proceeding, then, on this basis, to examine all the proper names (and untranslated terms) that occur in the Book of Mormon, there is not found a single one of them that has a *q, x* or *w* in it. That is to say, so far as the names in question can be traced to a purely Nephite origin, they do conform in their orthography to the limitations of the Hebrew alphabet, and this remarkable consistency is especially forced upon our attention by the spelling of the Nephite name "Amnihu" as here given, instead of "Amnihew" or "Amnihugh," according to some of the English methods of representing the long sound of *u*.

GENERAL LISTS. (Class No. 1.)

Aaron	Ammah	Antiomno	Comnor
Abel	Ammaron	Antionum	Corianton
Abinadi	Ammon	Antionah	Coriantor
Abinadom	Ammonihah	Antiparah	Coriantum
Abish	Amnigaddah	Antipas	Coriantumr
Ablom	Ammoron	Antipus	Corihor
Abraham	Amnor	Antum	Corom
Adam	Amnihu	Archeantus	Corum
Aha	Amoron	Babylon	Cumeni
Ahah	Amos	Bashan	Cumorah
Agosh	Amulek	Benjamin	David
Akish	Amulon	Bethabary	Eden
Alma	Angola	Boaz	Egypt
Amaleki	Ani-Anti	Cain	Egyptians
Amalickiah	Anteonum	Camenihah	Elijah
Amaron	Anteum	Cezoram	Emer
Amgid	Anti-Christ	Chemish	Emnon
Aminadab	Anti-Lehi-	Christians	Emron
Aminadi	Nephi	Cohor	Enos
Amlici	Antiomni	Com	Ephraim

Ezrom	Jesus	Mocum	Satan
Ethem	John	Moriancumer	Seantum
Ether	Jonas	Morianton	Sebus
Eve	Joneam	Moriantum	Sezoram
Ezias	Josh	Mormon	Seth
Gad	Joshua	Moron	Shared
Gaddiandi	Jordan	Moroni	Shazer
Gadianton	Jordon	Moronihah	Shem
Gadiomnah	Joseph	Moses	Shemlon
Gazelem	Judah	Mosiah	Shemnon
Gid	Judea	Mulek	Sherem
Giddianhi	Kib	Muloki	Sherrizah
Giddonah	Kim	Nahom	Sheum
Gideon	Kimnor	Nazareth	Shez
Gidgiddoni	Kish	Nehor	Shiz
Gilead	Kishkumen	Nephi	Shule
Gilgal	Korihor	Nephihah	Shur
Gilgah	Kumen	Neum	Shiblom
Gimgimno	Kumenonhi	Nimrah	Shiblon
Hagoth	Laban	Nimrod	Shilem
Hearthom	Lachoneus	Noah	Shilom
Helam	Laman	Ogath	Shim
Helaman	Lamanitish	Omer	Shimnilon
Helem	Lamah	Omner	Sidom
Helorum	Lamoni	Omni	Sidon
Hem	Lebanon	Onhah	Sinai
Hermounts	Lehi	Onidah	Siron
Heshlon	Lehonti	Ontah	Solomon
Heth	Lemuel	Oreb	Teancum
Himni	Levi	Orihah	Teomner
Isaac	Lib	Paanchi	Timothy
Isabel	Limhah	Pachus	Tubaloth
Isaiah	Limher	Pacumeni	Zarahemla
Ishmael	Limhi	Pagag	Zedekiah
Israel	Luram	Pahoran	Zeezrom
Jacob	Mahah	Pharaoh	Zemnarihah
Jacobugath	Malachi	Philistines	Zemnariah
Jacom	Manti	Ramah	Zenephi
Jared	Manasseh	Riplah	Zeniff
Jarom	Mathoni	Riplakish	Zenock
Jasher	Mathonihah	Ripliancum	Zenos
Jashon	Melchizedek	Sabbath	Zerahemnah
Jehocab	Melek	Salem	Zeram
Jehovah	Middoni	Sam	Zerin
Jerusalem	Midian	Samuel	Zion
Jeremiah	Minon	Sariah	Zoramites
Jershon			

The next list is composed of Nephite terms that in general have not been translated: and all of them have been handed down to us without alteration phonetically:

(Class No. 2.)

Amnor	Irreantum	Rabbanah	Shum
Antion	Leah	Rameumpton	Shiblon
Cumoms	Liahona	Senine	Shiblum
Cureloms	Limnah	Seum	Shublon
Deseret	Neas	Seon	Ziff
Ezrom	Onti	Sheum	

The names now given include all those of Nephite origin that we should expect to conform orthographically to the power of the Hebrew alphabet.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Flagstaff, Ariz.

Wishes for "Utah."

(*For the Improvement Era.*)

I would the *Utah* had been fashioned for
A barge of peace and friendship, not for war!
When Alice stood, the star of that grand scene,
Royal and beauteous as a free born queen,
To name the ship for her own native state—
A thing so splendid, wonderful and great—
I would have had the glass she broke contain
Pure, sparkling water, not the bright champagne.

"Peace! Peace!" we hear the nations cry, and still
There is no peace. The scriptures they fulfil.
But if we still must hear of strife and war,
The *Utah* do the work she's fashioned for;
May she e'er sail courageous for the right,
True honor gain, and vict'ry in each fight,
Till tranquil seas she may bear swiftly o'er,
Brave messengers of peace, from shore to shore.

L. L. GREENE RICHARDS.

Salt Lake City, Utah.