

## INTRODUCTION

by DAN WEES

**T**he *Bible to Book of Mormon Comparative* is a companion volume to the web-only based comprehensive project, *The Book of Mormon: Likely Sources*; found at BOMsource.com. This manuscript is a “best of” list of Biblical verses which compare to passages from the BOM (*Book of Mormon*).

Each verse of the 2013 on-line church edition of the BOM is listed in the left-hand column. A KJV (*King James Version Bible*) passage showing comparative verbiage is located next to it in the right-hand column. Strings of words, which may/may not include synonyms are indicated in **bold-type**.

Certain verses require more than one reference to the right and have been added directly below the initial passage.

There is always a temptation to highlight the longest string of matching words, as the mind reasons, “The longer the string, the more significant the similarity.” Though this seems to be sound logic, the truth is, that certain multi-word strings are often more common and overused; you need look no further than “And it came to pass.” With more than a thousand instances of these five words in the BOM, and 400+ in the KJV, the inclusion of these strings would be boring, except where more interesting comparisons are lacking. The highest yielding 3+ word string in the BOM to a matching verse in the Bible is shown within backslashes. An example is /for the Lord/; appearing nearly 2,000 times in the KJV.

Care has been taken to find unique matches, even if it is only two words. A prime example of this is found here:

1 Nephi 22:25 And he gathereth his children **from the four quarters of** the earth; and he *numbereth* his sheep, and they know him; **and there shall be one fold and one shepherd**; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall **find pasture**.

A wonderful string of words can be found in “the four quarters of the earth.” A six-string catch is rare and noteworthy. However, the words “four quarters” are found four times in the KJV, even though the full six-string phrase is found only in the *Book of Revelation* (20:8). Instead of using this passage, an *Old Testament* selection was chosen:

Jeremiah 49:36 And upon Elam will I bring the four winds **from the four quarters of** heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; **and there shall be** no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come.

This was done for two reasons: I) the verse from *Revelation* was already utilized for 1 Nephi 19:16, and II) Jeremiah 49:36 contains two 3+ word strings, namely, “from the four quarters of” and “and there shall be.” While the former is rare, the latter is common. However, the fact that a single verse has two unique 3+ word strings in it is significant... It gets better...

In the middle of this Nephi passage, a stunning 9 word-string appears “and there shall be one fold and one shepherd,” which matches the classic Biblical passage from John:

John 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; **and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd**.

This match *must* be included... It gets *even* better.

Occasionally, two words appear which are so uncommon, that attention needs to be given to them. The last two words of the verse, “find pasture” have a singular match just a few verses above the *fold/shepherd* match in John. Verse 10:9 reads:

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and **find pasture.**

This combination is a prize find.

The inclusion of *The Apocrypha* has proven of vital importance. An example of its influence on Joseph Smith can be found when comparing these two verses:

2 Nephi 2:16 Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by **the one or the other.**

1 Maccabees 8:30 Howbeit if hereafter **the one party or the other** shall think to meet to add or diminish any thing, they may do it at their pleasures, and whatsoever they shall add or take away shall be ratified.

Singular or multiple words will be **underlined** when they surface only one time; exclusively in either the BOM or KJV. The appearance of **underlines** in the left-hand side (BOM) means it is the ONLY time that string will appear through the end of *The Bible to Book of Mormon Comparative*. If a combination from the BOM appears more than once in the KJV, it may be used multiple times in the right-hand (KJV) side. In the instance shown above, the only time the words “or the other” appear in the BOM is in this reference. These three words never appear in the *Old or New Testaments*, but only once in this obscure reference from *The Apocrypha*; a part of the Smith family Bible.

Words which do not appear in the KJV, but only in the BOM, are shown in *italics*, (see “*numbereth*” in 1 Nephi 22:25 above), and words (from the 2013 edition BOM) which have consequently been changed from the *Original Manuscript* (OM) and/or the *Printer’s Manuscript* (PM) are identified within [brackets] when they match the KJV.

2 Nephi 1:4 For, behold, said he, I **have seen a vision, in [the]** which I know that Jerusalem is destroyed; and had we remained in Jerusalem we should also have perished.

Luke 1:22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he **had seen a vision in the** temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

The goal of this volume is not to attempt to prove that every verse in the BOM finds its origin in the KJV, but that in the quest for finding original sources for the BOM, much greater credit needs to be given to the *Old Testament, New Testament, and The Apocrypha* than has been previously realized.

The comparison herein shows that the BOM is saturated with wording whose ultimate source is the KJV Bible.