

Book of Mormon Covenant Language

Key Scriptures Mosiah 5; 18; 3 Nephi 18; Moroni 4–5

Explanation Covenant-making phrases used throughout the Book of Mormon are similar, regardless of which group of people made the covenants. This chart compares covenant-language phrases in four particular settings: after King Benjamin’s great speech, with Alma at the Waters of Mormon, during Christ’s administration of the sacrament, and during Nephite sacrament administration following Christ’s visitation. Most of the elements are the same or are similar throughout, such as the willing commitment to obey God’s commandments. Other elements may vary somewhat. For example, the phrase “God’s people,” used commonly in ancient Israel to emphasize collective salvation, shifts to the phrase “people of [Christ’s] church,” focusing more on individual membership and worthiness. Covenant language shifted slightly after Christ came to the Americas, when intimate “fold” (shepherd) imagery was replaced by the more institutional affiliation of covenanters with Christ’s larger church.

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COVENANT SETTINGS

COVENANT PHRASES	Benjamin's covenant with his people	Alma's covenant at Waters of Mormon	Christ's sacrament administration	Nephite sacrament prayers
	Mosiah 5	Mosiah 18	3 Nephi 18	Moroni 4–5
witness to God		18:10	18:7, 10	4:3; 5:2
willing	5:5	18:8–9	18:10	4:3; 5:2
to obey the commandments	5:5, 8	18:10	18:10	4:3
until the end of life	5:8	18:9		
become God's people		18:8		
come into God's fold	5:14	18:8		
become the people of my church			18:5	6:4
called by the name of Christ	5:8		18:11	4:3
remember Christ always	5:12		18:7, 11	4:3; 5:2
have eternal life	5:15	18:9		
have Christ's Spirit		18:10	18:7, 11	4:3; 5:2