

Shared Words in the Three Accounts of Alma's Conversion

Key Scriptures Mosiah 27; Alma 36; 38

Explanation The three accounts of Alma's conversion recorded in the Book of Mormon contain many shared or similar phrases, leading us to believe that Alma had repeated his story often and in a distinctive manner. The use of shared words in these three accounts is circumstantial evidence of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, since, in spite of the different settings of these accounts and the textual layers of compilation, abridgment, and translation, Alma's unique, underlying personal voice can still be heard and identified.

Shared Words in the Three Accounts of Alma's Conversion

Mosiah 27:7–37	Alma 36:1–30	Alma 38:4–8
destroy the church	destroy the church	work of destruction
angel of the Lord	his holy angel	his angel
voice of thunder	voice of thunder	voice of thunder
fell to the earth	fell to the earth	
arise and stand	arose and stood	
remember captivity	remember captivity and bondage	thou wast in bonds
	Lord delivered them	Lord delivered thee
	trust in God	trust in God
	trials, troubles, afflictions	trials, troubles, afflictions
	lifted up at last day	lifted up at last day
	know not of myself	know not of myself
born of the Spirit, God	born of God	born of God
be cast off	be destroyed	
not open his mouth	not open my mouth	
not move hands	not move limbs	
fast two days, nights	out three days, nights	out three days, nights
the Lord in mercy	heart cried for mercy	
limbs received strength	limbs received strength	
everlasting burning	everlasting chains	
gall of bitterness	gall of bitterness	most bitter pain
marvelous light	marvelous light	
pained no more	pains no more	
many to the knowledge	many born of God	