

Chiasmus in Mosiah 3:18–19

Key Scripture Mosiah 3:18–19

Explanation King Benjamin's complex ceremonial speech in Mosiah 2–5 contains several excellent examples of chiasmus. The overall structure of the speech is chiastic and houses smaller chiasms within it. (For a more detailed representation of the speech of Benjamin as a whole, see chart 87.) This chart shows only one of the chiasms found in Benjamin's speech. Notably, the main chiasms in Benjamin's speech concern the doctrine of Jesus Christ—the doctrine Benjamin wants to emphasize. This particular chiasm, which comes at the midpoint of the entire speech, concerns the crucial process of being spiritually reborn through the atonement of Christ.

Source John W. Welch, "Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon," *BYU Studies* 10 (autumn 1969): 69–84; and John W. Welch, "Parallelism and Chiasmus in King Benjamin's Speech," in *King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom,"* ed. John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1998), 347–54.

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except they *humble* themselves

and become as little *children*, and believe that

salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and through the *atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent*.

For the *natural man*

is an enemy to *God*,

and *has been* from the fall of Adam,

and *will be*, forever and ever,

unless he yields to the enticings of the *Holy Spirit*,

and putteth off the *natural man*

and becometh a saint through the *atonement of Christ the Lord*,

and becometh as a *child*,

submissive, meek, *humble*, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things