

Chiasmus in Helaman 6:7–13

Key Scripture Helaman 6:7–13

Explanation Yet another example of chiasmus, in this case a report of the events in a particular Nephite year, is found in Helaman 6:7–13. Because the report is a fine literary unit, the account was most likely originally written as a single entry in the Nephite annals that Mormon copied verbatim into his record from the large plates of Nephi. The sixty-fourth year of the reign of the judges was an unusual year, one in which the Nephites and Lamanites cooperatively enjoyed economic prosperity, peace, and free trade—an unprecedented occurrence. The chiastic form of the report for this year underscores its importance. In the chart, notice that *Zedekiah* and *Lord* are paired together at the center of the chiasm. The *-yah* at the end of *Zedekiah* represents the Hebrew word for “Lord”; thus the chiasm was probably even more evident in its original language than it is today in English.

Source John W. Welch, “Chiasmus in Helaman 6:7–13,” in *Reexploring the Book of Mormon*, ed. John W. Welch (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1992), 230–32.

Chiasmus in Helaman 6:7–13

And behold, there was *peace* in all the land,

[Freedom of travel and trade in *both lands* is discussed]

And it came to pass that they became exceedingly *rich*, both the Lamanites and the Nephites;

and they did have an exceeding *plenty* of *gold*, and of *silver*, and of all manner of *precious metals*, both in the *land south* and in the *land north*.

Now the land *south*

was called *Lehi*, and

the land *north*

was called *Mulek*,

which was after the son of *Zedekiah*;^{*}

for the *Lord*

did bring *Mulek*

into the land *north*,

and *Lehi* into

the land *south*.

And behold, there was *all manner* of *gold* in *both* these *lands*, and of *silver*, and of *precious ore* of *every kind*;

and there were also curious workmen, who did work all kinds of ore and did refine it; and thus they did become *rich*.

[Economic prosperity in *both lands* is discussed]

And thus the sixty and fourth year did pass away in *peace*.

^{*}The Hebrew word for *Lord* constitutes the theophoric suffix *-yah*, which is at the end of the name Zedekiah.