



7-31-2004

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Hallen, Cynthia L.; Sorenson, Josh; and students, ELANG 324 (2004) "What's in a Word?: Pairs and Merisms in 3 Nephi," *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*: Vol. 13 : No. 1 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jbms/vol13/iss1/16>

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NEAL A. MAXWELL INSTITUTE
FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY • PROVO, UTAH

Title What's in a Word? Pairs and Merisms in 3 Nephi

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Reference *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 13/1-2 (2004): 152-57, 174.

ISSN 1065-9366 (print), 2168-3158 (online)

Abstract Cynthia Hallen invited students in her History of the English Language course to search for conjoined word pairs in the scriptures as a term project. They searched for pairs of words linked with conjunctions in order to better understand the meaning of selected set expressions in the King James Bible and the Book of Mormon. Hallen summarizes and comments on their research.



WHAT'S IN A WORD?

Pairs and Merisms in 3 Nephi

Cynthia L. Hallen with Josh Sorenson
and ELANG 324 students

James T. Duke's recent *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* article on "Word Pairs and Distinctive Combinations in the Book of Mormon"¹ invites us to ponder "the deeper meanings" of word pairs that appear in two syntactic forms: parallel structures and conjoined pairs. In my History of the English Language course at Brigham Young University, I invited students to focus attention specifically on conjoined word pairs in the scriptures. They searched for pairs of words linked with conjunctions (*and, or, nor*) in order to better understand the meaning of selected set expressions in the King James Bible and the Book of Mormon. They also analyzed the meaning of the pairs according to semantic relations such as synonyms, antonyms, and complements. These terms are defined and exemplified in the following table:

Synonyms	Pairs of words that have the same or similar meanings: <i>faithful and true, evil and wicked, firm and steadfast</i>
Antonyms	Pairs of words that have antithetical or contradictory meanings: <i>good and evil, righteous and wicked, true and false</i>
Complements	Pairs of words that have distinct yet reciprocal meanings: <i>kings and queens, silver and gold, bows and arrows</i>

Pairs of synonyms often have the effect of emphasis, so that *faithful and true* can mean "very faithful." Pairs of antonyms often create antithesis, so that the word *good* is the categorical opposite of the word *evil*. Complementary pairs are often related by contiguity; *bows* are not the same as *arrows*, but they go together as a set.

For the first part of his term project, Josh Sorenson tabulated students' findings to assist me with research for this study. I have examined his tables and added commentary from my research on the pairs that students identified. In the Old Testament, Katie Sorenson identified the complementary pair *male and female* in Genesis 1:27. Both elements of the pair came into Middle English from early French. According to Strong's dictionary in the electronic edition of the Latter-day Saint scriptures,² the word *male* is a translation of the transliterated Hebrew root *zkhr*, meaning "marked, remembered, male." The word *female* is a translation of the transliterated Hebrew root *nqbh*, meaning "perforated, designated, female." Although the meanings of the elements *male* and *female* are complementary rather than synonymous, both have their semantic roots in the marking of domestic animals in order to distinguish them as part of one's flock.

In the New Testament, Brian McMillan found the synonymous pair *holiness and righteousness* in the prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:75). Both elements of the pair have their modern English roots in Old English. According to Strong's dictionary, the word *holiness* is a translation of the transliterated Greek root *hósios*, which includes connotations such as "piety" and "right." The word *righteousness* is a translation of the transliterated Greek root *dikaíos*, which includes connotations such as "equity," "justification," and "holy." Since *holiness* includes the sense of "right," and *righteousness* includes the sense of "holy," we can label the elements of this pair as synonyms.

The next table contains Book of Mormon pairs that Sarah Swank gathered from Lehi's vision in 1 Nephi 8. Column 1 gives the scriptural reference; column 2, the elements of the pair; column 3, the part of speech of the conjoined lexical items; and column 4, the semantic relationship between the

elements. The semantic classification of pairs can be ambiguous and overlapping. For example, the pair *dark and dreary* in 1 Nephi 8:4 comes from two Old English roots that mean “without light” and “bloody,” so they could constitute a pair of complements as well as synonyms:

1 Nephi 8:4, 7	dark and dreary	adjective	synonyms
1 Nephi 8:9, 20	large and spacious	adjective	synonyms
1 Nephi 8:20	strait and narrow	adjective	synonyms
1 Nephi 8:26, 31	great and spacious	adjective	synonyms
1 Nephi 8:27	old and young	adjective	antonyms
1 Nephi 8:36	dream or vision	noun	synonyms

The pair from 1 Nephi 8:36 occurs near the end of the chapter when Nephi writes, “After my father had spoken all the words of his *dream or vision* . . .” This pair seems to be an echo of Lehi’s words at the beginning of chapter 8, “Behold, I have *dreamed a dream*; or, in other words, I have *seen a vision*” (v. 2). The synonymy of the pair is supported by parallel structures and Hebrew roots in other scriptural cross-references. Conjoining *dream* with *vision* into a pair seems to be an ellipsis (reduction) of larger parallel syntactic structures found in Numbers 12:6, Job 7:14, Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17, and 1 Nephi 1:16. In other words, many of the conjoined pairs that we can identify as rhetorical figures in scriptural texts seem to be abridgments of larger syntactic units. Perhaps such larger structures became so common or familiar that they were clipped into shorter idiomatic expressions, standing as telegraphic placeholders for richer meanings.

Book of Mormon pairs from 1 Nephi 14 that Sarah Haskew identified and labeled are shown in the following table:

1 Nephi 14:3, 9, 15, 17	great and abominable	adjective	complements
1 Nephi 14:4	wickedness and abomination	noun	complements
1 Nephi 14:7	temporally and spiritually	adjective	antonyms
1 Nephi 14:23	plain and pure	adjective	complements

In 1 Nephi 14:23, Nephi uses the phrase *plain and pure* with two other pairs to describe the revelations of the apostle John:

Wherefore, the things which he shall write are *just and true*; and behold they are written in the book which thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; and at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were *plain and pure*, and most *precious and easy* to the understanding of all men.

Although the words *plain* and *pure* could be synonyms, an examination of the corresponding terms in the Hebrew Old Testament suggests that the underlying meanings may be different but complementary, as Sarah indicated. The transliterated Hebrew word *nākoah* means “straightforward, equitable, correct, right” in Proverbs 8:8–9: “the words of my mouth . . . are all *plain* to him that understandeth.” On the other hand, the transliterated Hebrew word *ṭāhōr* means “clean, fair, bright, sound, clear, uncontaminated” in Psalm 12:6: “The words of the Lord are *pure* words.” Although it occurs only once in the standard works, the pair *plain and pure* seems to be a shorter representation of more extensive expressions found in other passages of scripture.

Stanley Thayne found pairs in 2 Nephi 2, a chapter famous for complementary and antithetical concepts that illustrate Lehi’s teaching that “there is an opposition in all things” (v. 11):

2 Nephi 2:10	truth and holiness	noun	complements
2 Nephi 2:11	holiness nor misery	noun	antonyms
2 Nephi 2:11	good nor bad	noun	antonyms
2 Nephi 2:14	profit and learning	noun	complements
2 Nephi 2:14	heavens and earth	noun	antonyms

Although the phrase *the heavens and the earth* may be read as a pair of antonyms with contradictory meanings, a careful reading of 2 Nephi 2:14 suggests that the words may be complementary rather than antithetical. The words *heavens* and *earth* have a contiguous relationship that can represent the entire universe with everything and everyone in it:

And now, my sons, I speak unto you these things for your profit and learning; for there is a God, and he hath created all things, both *the heavens and the earth*, and all things that in them are, both things to act and things to be acted upon.

In fact, the Old Testament begins with the same complementary pair that Lehi uses in his sermon: “Thus *the heavens and the earth* were finished, and all the host of them” (Genesis 2:1).

For the second part of his term project, Josh Sorenson created a preliminary inventory of word pairs in 3 Nephi. Using his data and my own comprehensive inventory, I have examined, categorized, and cross-referenced the conjoined pairs in 3 Nephi. In addition to synonyms, antonyms, and complements, I found pairs that seem to act as merisms and hendiadys, as defined below:

merisms	Pairs of terms that represent a whole set of items that point to a larger totality; <i>the blind and the deaf</i> = {the blind, deaf, lame, mute, paralyzed, wounded, insane, diabetic, etc.} = “all who are afflicted in any way”
hendiadys	Pair of words in which one term acts as a modifier for the other; <i>joy and praise</i> = “joyful praise”

The semantic relationships between the first and second elements of each of the 132 coordinate pairs in 3 Nephi can be classified and tallied as follows:

synonyms	28 pairs
antonyms	4 pairs
complements	42 pairs
merisms	42 pairs
hendiadys	16 pairs

Because semantic relations can vary depending on how the scriptural context is interpreted, I was careful to ensure that, whenever possible, each word pair in my classification was supported by a cross-reference to another scripture in which the elements appear together in a pair, a series, or a parallelism of similar or identical meaning.

The following chart lists 28 synonymous pairs found in 3 Nephi:

3 Nephi	Conjoined Pairs	Cross-References
1:4	signs and miracles	Deuteronomy 29:3
1:22	lyings and deceivings	Jeremiah 9:5
2:2	lead away and deceive	1 Nephi 16:38
2:2	foolish and vain	Lamentations 2:14
2:11	wars and contentions	Isaiah 41:12
2:12	freedom and liberty	Alma 43:49
3:1	leader and governor	none
3:2	right and liberty	Alma 43:26
3:13	flocks and herds	Genesis 13:5

5:22	blessed and prospered	Mosiah 2:22
6:4	prosper and wax great	Jeremiah 5:28
6:4	equity and justice	Proverbs 1:3
6:20	sins and iniquities	Exodus 34:9
6:28	given and administered	Moroni 10:8
7:19	devils and unclean spirits	Luke 9:42
7:25	witness and testimony	Mosiah 21:35
8:25	cry and mourn	Jeremiah 48:31
9:9	sins and wickedness	Deuteronomy 9:27
10:2	lamenting and howling	Jeremiah 4:8
10:8	weep and howl	James 5:1
10:10	praise and thanksgiving	Nehemiah 12:46
10:13	sunk and buried up	3 Nephi 9:6, 9:8
10:14	see and behold	Judges 21:21
11:1	marveling and wondering	3 Nephi 15:2
18:32	return and repent	Joel 2:14
24:16	hearkened and heard	Isaiah 42:23
25:4	statutes and judgments	Leviticus 18:26
30:2	lyings and deceivings	Psalms 120:2

In 3 Nephi 2:2, *a foolish and a vain thing* resembles and reverses a phrase in Lamentations 2:14, “Thy prophets have seen *vain and foolish things* for thee.” The phrase *wars and contentions* in 3 Nephi 2:11 has a counterpart in the parallelism of Isaiah 41:12:

Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them,
even them that *contended with thee*:
they that *war against thee* shall be as nothing,
and as a thing of nought.

The synonymy of the pair *lyings and deceivings* in 3 Nephi 1:22 and 30:2 is supported by parallel structures in Jeremiah 9:5:

they will *deceive* every one his neighbour,
and will not speak the truth:
they have taught their tongue to *speak lies*,
and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Some may wonder why a speaker or writer would deliberately choose the redundancy of a pair of synonyms. Such repetition can enhance memory, add emphasis to important concepts, or intensify emotion in significant messages.

The following table shows four pairs of antonyms in 3 Nephi whose semantic relationship consists of words that have antithetical or contradictory meanings:

3 Nephi	Conjoined Pairs	Cross-References
12:36	black or white	Matthew 5:36
13:24	God and Mammon	Matthew 6:24
24:18	righteous and wicked	Ecclesiastes 3:17
28:17	mortal or immortal	1 Corinthians 15:53

The contrast between the words *righteous* and *wicked* in 3 Nephi 24:18 (see Malachi 3:18) appears in at least 100 other scripture references. One example is found in Ecclesiastes 3:17, “God shall judge *the righteous and the wicked*: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.” In Strong’s dictionary, the transliterated Hebrew root for *righteous* is *tsdhq*, meaning “just, lawful, righteous, morally clean.” The root for *wicked* is *rshʿ*, meaning “bad, guilty, ungodly, morally wrong.” The antithetical contrast is obvious.

The next table shows 42 pairs of words in 3 Nephi whose semantic relationship is neither synonymous nor antithetical but complementary. In 3 Nephi 1:14, the *Father* and the *Son* are not the same person, so they are not synonyms; neither are they opposed to each other in a contradictory sense as antonyms. Rather, they complement each other in meaning, purpose, and role (see Matthew 28:19).

3 Nephi	Conjoined Pairs	Cross-References
1:14	Father and Son	Matthew 28:19
1:18	iniquity and unbelief	Alma 45:12
1:29	lyings and flattering words	Proverbs 26:28
2:10	preaching and prophesying	Nehemiah 6:7
2:11	death and carnage	none
2:16	young men and daughters	Jeremiah 11:22
3:12	demands and threatenings	3 Nephi 3:11
3:14	day and night	Genesis 8:22
4:12	threatenings and oaths	none
4:14	stood and fought	Mormon 2:23
4:14	overtaken and slain	Deuteronomy 19:6
4:33	repentance and humility	Helaman 11:9
5:5	condemned and punished	2 Nephi 9:25
6:10	pride and boastings	Helaman 12:5
6:13	railing and persecution	none
6:13	humble and penitent	Alma 27:18
6:20	preaching and testifying	Acts 8:25
6:27	friends and kindreds	Alma 10:4
6:30	law and rights	none
7:21	power and Spirit	Luke 1:17
7:22	sicknesses and infirmities	Matthew 8:17

8:12	tempest and whirlwinds	Amos 1:14
8:23	darkness and destruction	Psalms 91:6
9:2	sons and daughters	Joel 3:8
9:5	prophets and saints	Revelation 16:6
11:40	more or less	Numbers 22:18
12:6	hunger and thirst	Isaiah 49:10
13:19	moth and rust	Matthew 6:19–20
13:19	break through and steal	Matthew 6:19–20
15:17	one fold and one shepherd	John 10:16
17:25	hear and bear record	1 Nephi 14:27
18:3	brake and blessed	Mark 14:22
18:29	eateth and drinketh	Genesis 24:54
19:18	Lord and God	John 20:28
20:35	Father and I	John 10:30
20:36	uncircumcised and unclean	Isaiah 52:1
23:3	have been and shall be	Jacob 7:9
24:3	refiner and purifier	Malachi 3:3
25:2	go forth and grow up	Malachi 4:2
26:4	great and last	2 Nephi 2:26
26:14	teach and minister	Romans 12:7
27:4	murmur and dispute	Philippians 2:14

The complementary words *iniquity* and *unbelief* make a pair unique to the Book of Mormon. In English etymology, the Latin roots of the word *iniquity* mean “not + equitable,” whereas the Germanic roots of *unbelief* mean “not + loving.” The negated items in the pair exemplify the rhetorical figure litotes, as in the advertisement that portrays Seven-Up as the “Un-Cola.” Instead of saying “their sins and their doubts,” 3 Nephi 1:18 uses a pair of two negated forms: “they began to fear because of *their iniquity and their unbelief*.” Future studies of word pairs in the Book of Mormon could include a thorough search for such rhetorical figures and forms.

Merisms may be seen as a special kind of complementary pair with an expanded scope. Calvert Watkins explains the function of merisms as metonymic connectors in an “A, B : C” formula. The specific A and B elements refer to a set of subordinate items (hyponymns) that refer to C, a more general “totality of notion.”³ Not only do merisms appear as textual figures in the Indo-European family of languages, of which English is a member, but they are also a part of the Afro-Asiatic family, or Hamito-Semitic tradition, that Hebrew, Arabic, and Egyptian belong to. This table shows 42 pairs of subordinate items in 3 Nephi whose semantic relationship constitutes a merism,

or superordinate totality. The last column suggests a larger meaning that the figure may be pointing to:

3 Nephi	Conjoined Pairs	Cross-References	Meanings
1:1	judge and governor	Daniel 3:2–3	leadership roles
1:6	joy and faith	Galatians 5:22	fruits of the Spirit
1:22	signs and wonders	Deuteronomy 4:34	extraordinary events
1:25	jot or tittle	Matthew 5:18	scripture
1:27	holds and secret places	Judges 6:2	retreats
1:30	faith and righteousness	1 Timothy 6:11	good character
2:1	heard and seen	Philippians 4:9	perceive; experience
2:18	contentions and dissensions	Jarom 1:13	violence
3:19	revelation and prophecy	1 Corinthians 14:6	the word of the Lord
4:2	beasts nor game	none	wild animals
4:4	horses and cattle	Exodus 9:3	domesticated animals
4:31	singing and praising	2 Samuel 22:50	vocal music
5:18	just and true	Philippians 4:8	virtuous
5:20	God and Savior	2 Samuel 22:2	Deity
6:27	lawyers and high priests	Alma 14:18	governing officials
7:17	power and authority	Revelation 13:2	priesthood
8:12	thunderings and lightnings	Exodus 20:18	aspects of storm
8:25	killed and stoned	Matthew 21:35	taking life violently
8:25	mothers and daughters	Jeremiah 16:3	female family members
9:8	hills and valleys	Ezekiel 6:3	geographical features
9:15	heavens and earth	Genesis 2:1	the whole universe
9:18	Alpha and Omega	Revelation 1:11	eternal
9:18	beginning and end	Revelation 1:8	eternal
9:19	sacrifices and burnt offerings	Leviticus 7:37	memorials to Deity
9:20	broken heart and contrite spirit	Psalms 34:18	whole soul

12:17	law or prophets	Luke 24:44	scriptures
12:19	law and commandments	Genesis 26:5	teachings of the Lord
15:18	stiffneckedness and unbelief	2 Nephi 32:7	failures
16:9	hiss and byword	1 Nephi 19:14	object of derision
17:9	sick and afflicted	Alma 1:27	victims of misfortune
18:1	bread and wine	Genesis 14:18	total sustenance of life
18:15	watch and pray	Matthew 26:41	be reverent
18:21	wives and children	Genesis 30:26	family
18:25	feel and see	3 Nephi 11:15	know
18:29	flesh and blood	Numbers 19:5	physical body
24:3	gold and silver	Malachi 3:3	wealth
24:4	Judah and Jerusalem	Isaiah 1:1	the covenant people
24:8	tithes and offerings	Nehemiah 12:44	debt to God
25:1	root nor branch	Malachi 4:1	eternal family ties
26:1	great and small	2 Chronicles 36:18	everything
26:4	nations and tongues	Isaiah 66:18	everyone
27:1	prayer and fasting	Daniel 9:3	communication with God

The merism in 3 Nephi 1:6 of “your joy and your faith” seems to point to the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23, “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Both the pair and the list represent Christlike character as a whole. Similarly, the pair *faith and righteousness* in 3 Nephi 1:30 can be read as a merism. The total concept of good character is cataloged in 1 Timothy 6:11: “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness” (see also 2 Timothy 2:22).

Because merisms can act as both symbols and indexes, they can deliver literal and figurative meanings at the same time. The emblems of the sacrament in 3 Nephi 18:1–3 are literally “bread and wine,” symbolizing the body and blood of Christ. In addition, these elements point to a totality of sustenance and nourishment. Calvert Watkins explains that the Hittite pair *grains and grapes* and the Greek pair *bread and wine* serve as deictic expressions for

“all agricultural products and alimentation.”⁴ Similar constructs appear in the Hebrew Old Testament (see Genesis 14:18; 1 Samuel 16:20; 2 Samuel 6:19; 16:1; 2 Kings 18:32; Isaiah 36:17). The symbols of the sacrament reveal that Christ is the sustainer of mortal life and the source of eternal life. He is the “*bread of life*” (John 6:35) and the “*living water*” (John 4:10–11); he is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

Further research on word pairs in the Book of Mormon could include a look at the syntactic figure of hendiadys, a pair of conjoined words in which one element actually modifies the other grammatically. In the following table are 15 pairs of words whose syntactic elements constitute various modifier/head relationships.

3 Nephi	Conjoined Pairs	Cross-References	Meanings
2:3	wickedness and abominations	Ezekiel 8:9	wicked abominations
2:12	church and worship	Alma 43:45	church worship
3:10	lands and possessions	Genesis 36:43	land of possession
3:10	rights and government	3 Nephi 3:10	rights of government
3:16	great and marvelous	Revelation 15:1	greatly marvelous
4:7	great and terrible	Deuteronomy 1:19	greatly terrible
6:20	death and sufferings	Hebrews 2:9	suffering of death
7:3	chief(s) and leader(s)	Alma 43:44	chief leader(s)
8:4	doubtings and disputations	Romans 14:1	doubts caused by disputations
8:14	great and notable	Acts 2:20	very famous
9:2	iniquity and abominations	Ezekiel 36:31	loathsome perversions
9:9	murders and combinations	2 Nephi 9:9	combinations of murder
9:18	light and life	John 8:12	light of life
21:21	vengeance and fury	Micah 5:15	furios vengeance
25:5	great and dreadful	Daniel 9:4	very powerful

In 3 Nephi 2:3, the “noun + noun” pair *wickedness and abominations* (see 3:11; 7:15; 9:7, 10, 11, 12;

30:2) may actually be an adjective modifying a noun as in Ezekiel 8:9, “Go in, and behold the *wicked abominations* that they do here.” The pair *great and marvelous* events (see 3 Nephi 3:16; 5:8; 11:1; 17:16–17; 19:34; 21:9; 26:14; 28:31–32) may actually be occasions that leave us “marveling greatly” (Joseph Smith—History 1:44). Either way, the language of the Lord and his servants in the scriptures is great and marvelous. Our attention to the details of the divine dialogue will not be ignored or unrewarded!

Please send questions or comments to Cynthia_Hallen@byu.edu. ☒

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- Archaeology and Cumorah Questions**
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 3. For Pennsylvania, see Jay F. Custer, *Prehistoric Cultures in Eastern Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1996).
 4. Squier, *Antiquities of the State of New York*, 7.
 5. It is important to note that other places in the Americas do fit these requirements, and this is what most of the debate is about. See John L. Sorenson, *The Geography of Book of Mormon Events: A Source Book*, rev. ed. (Provo, UT: FARMS, 1992).
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- [What's in a Word?]
Pairs and Merisms in 3 Nephi
Cynthia L. Hallen with Josh Sorenson
1. James T. Duke, "Word Pairs and Distinctive Combinations in the Book of Mormon," *JBMS* 12/2 (2003): 32–41.
 2. James Strong, ed., *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, in *The Scriptures: CD-ROM Resource Edition 1.0*. A widely available printed version of Strong's classic work is *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990).
 3. Calvert Watkins, *How to Kill a Dragon: Aspects of Indo-European Poetics* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1995), 41–46.
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- [What's in a Name?]
The Name Cumorah
Paul Y. Hoskisson
1. The name *Cumorah* appears only in Mormon 6:2, 4–6, 11 and 8:2.
 2. For a discussion of which languages are relevant for producing Book of Mormon onomasticon etymologies, see Paul Y. Hoskisson, "An Introduction to the Relevance of and a Methodology for a Study of the Proper Names of the Book of Mormon," in *By Study and Also by Faith: Essays in Honor of Hugh W. Nibley* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and FARMS, 1990), 2:126–35.
 3. All proper nouns in the ancient world (and even most modern proper nouns) have a meaning. The meaning may be randomly applied, such as "Kolob Canyon" near Springville, Utah, or it may reflect the actual nature of the feature being named, such as "Long Island." Or it may reflect a positive or negative view of the actual place, such as "Rattlesnake Ridge" near Provo, Utah, or "Pleasant Grove" just north of Provo.
 4. As far as I know, Joanne Hackett was the first to propose this etymology. A copy of her unpublished work is currently in my possession.
 5. Royal Skousen, ed., *The Printer's Manuscript of the Book of Mormon*, pt. 2 (Provo, UT: FARMS, 2001), 892–93, 896.
 6. From a photostatic copy in my possession of an original 1830 edition.
 7. As per *The Printer's Manuscript*, 892, note to line 9, "the spelling *Camorah* shows that O[liver] C[owdery]'s u in [the original manuscript] looks like an a." The two spellings with o might also indicate that the (so far) unidentified scribe who wrote that section of the printer's manuscript mistook Oliver's u's in the original manuscript for o's. Oliver himself comments that the spelling of the 1830 edition is wrong and should have been spelled *Cumorah* and not *Camorah* (*Messenger and Advocate* 1/10 [July 1835]: 158a). The spelling of *Cumorah* was standardized in the 1837 edition, the next-to-last edition that Joseph Smith himself helped edit.
 8. Both Ugaritic, another Northwest Semitic language closely related to Hebrew, and Arabic, a Southwest Semitic language, contain both phonemes and represent them with different characters. In Phoenician, like Hebrew, both phonemes are represented by the same character. English and other Indo-European languages that I am aware of do not possess either phoneme. For more on 'ayin, see my discussion in "The Name Alma," *JBMS* 7/1 (1998): 72.
 9. In most cases we can determine whether the Hebrew 'ayin derives from an original 'ayin or gayin because the cognate words in Ugaritic or Arabic or both preserve the difference. In addition to *Gomorrah*, the place-name *Gaza* falls into this category.
 10. In Hebrew the doubling of consonants is phonemic, meaning that if a letter is doubled, the meaning of the word changes. Normally, doubling is indicated by the insertion in the letter of a small dot, called a *dagesh*, the size of the period at the end of this sentence. According to Hebrew grammarians, an r cannot take a *dagesh*. Therefore, when the context requires that the r be doubled, the r is said to be "virtually doubled" and does not receive a *dagesh*.
 11. For example, see Numbers 27:21 and 1 Samuel 28:6.
 12. See David A. Palmer, *In Search of Cumorah* (Bountiful, UT: Horizon, 1981), 21, for an example of this interpretation.
 13. Stephen D. Ricks and John A. Tvedtnes, in "The Hebrew Origin of Some Book of Mormon Place Names," *JBMS* 6/2 (1997): 255–57, point out many of these difficulties.
 14. It might be said that both *qum* and *orah* are commands, yielding "Arise, Shine." The biblical passage most like this suggestion for *Cumorah* is Isaiah 60:1, *qūmī'ōrī*, containing the feminine command forms, "arise" and "shine." But *cum orah* lacks the long i vowel marker of the feminine imperative form and therefore cannot be feminine; and to read both *cum* and *orah* as masculine imperatives requires that *orah* be an energetic (a special form of the masculine imperative that ends in the long vowel ā, represented in Hebrew orthography by אָ) and *qum* not be an energetic, which is unlikely. For the energetic in Hebrew, see *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, ed. E. Kautzsch, 2nd English ed., rev. A. E. Cowley (Oxford: Clarendon, 1920), §48i. While it is also true that there are three instances in the Hebrew Old Testament of what look like masculine singular imperatives used with feminine singular nouns, it is possible in all three instances to explain the apparent masculine imperative as a different form. In addition to the example in *Gesenius* §110k, note that the feminine ending of the imperative is a long vowel and not a consonant. It was therefore represented in the script only when the use of a *mater lectionis* generally came into play. Thus, all three instances may have originally been feminine, but the long i vowel marker was never represented in the text. Suffice it to say, to see in *Cumorah* a combination of "rise" and "shine" is at best plausible, but unlikely.
 15. Joanne Hackett and Robert F. Smith both have suggested this root in unpublished etymologies in my possession.
 16. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University*