

AN EXPERIMENT ON THE WORD



AN EXPERIMENT ON THE WORD:
READING ALMA 32

EDITED BY ADAM S. MILLER

NEAL A. MAXWELL INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOLASHIP

BRIGHAM YONG UNIVERSITY

AN EXPERIMENT ON THE WORD
Reading Alma 32

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Cover and book design: Jenny Webb

Cover photograph by Stanislav Coufal, courtesy of Stock.XCHNG

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of the American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials. ANSI Z39.48-1984.

ISBN 978-0-8425-2870-2

Printed in the United States of America

maxwellinstitute.byu.edu

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Series Introduction

THIS SERIES OF BOOKS is based on a novel idea: that Mormons do theology. Doing theology is different from weighing history, deciding doctrine, or inspiring devotion. Theology speculates. It experiments with questions and advances hypotheses. It tests new angles and pulls loose threads. It reads old texts in careful and creative ways.

Theology, in this sense, is not an institutional practice. It has no force beyond the charity it demonstrates and it decides no questions beyond what the Brethren have settled. It is the work of individuals who, for its own sake, want to see what ideas about Mormonism may, at least for a time, fly.

The Mormon Theology Seminar aims to promote such work. The Seminar is both unofficial and independent. It is scholarly in orientation and cooperative in practice. It focuses on organizing short-term, seminar-style collaborations that, over the span of a few months of intense discussion, consider specific questions about Mormon theology through close readings of basic Mormon texts.

The books in this series make public the papers that result from these seminars. They display, in print, theology as a Mormon ideal.