

Alma 5 Chiasm

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The words which Alma, the High Priest according to the holy order of God, delivered to the people in their cities and villages throughout the land.

- v1-3 **A** (1) Now it came to pass that Alma began to *deliver the word of God* (2) unto the people, first in the land of Zarahemla, and from thence throughout *all the land*. (3) And these are the words which he spake (4) to the people in the church which was established in the city of Zarahemla, (5) *according to his own record*, saying: (6) I, Alma, (7) having been *consecrated* by my father, Alma, to be a *high priest over the church of God*, (8) *he having power and authority from God to do these things*, (9) behold, I say unto you that he began to *establish a church* in the land which was in the borders of Nephi; yea, the land which was called the land of Mormon; (10) yea, and he did baptize his brethren in the waters of Mormon.
- v4,5 **B** 1. And behold, I say unto you, they were *delivered out of the hands of the people of king Noah*, by the mercy and power of *God*. 2. And behold, after that, they were *brought into bondage* by the hands of the Lamanites in the wilderness; yea, I say unto you, they were in *captivity*, 3. and again the Lord did *deliver them out of bondage* by the power of his word; 4. and we were *brought into this land*, 5. and here we began to *establish the church* of God throughout this land also.
- v6,7 **C** 1. And now behold, I say unto you, 2. my brethren, you that belong to this church, 3. have you sufficiently *retained in remembrance the captivity of your fathers*? Yea, and have you sufficiently *retained in remembrance his mercy and long-suffering towards them*? 4. And moreover, have ye sufficiently retained in remembrance that *he has delivered their souls from hell*? 5. Behold, he *changed their hearts*; yea, he awakened them out of a deep sleep, and they *awoke unto God*. 6. Behold, they were in the midst of darkness; nevertheless, their *souls were illuminated by the light of the everlasting word*; 7. yea, they were encircled about by the bands of *death*, and the chains of *hell*, and an everlasting *destruction* did await them.
- v8-10 **C** 1. And now I ask of you, 2. my brethren, 3. were they *destroyed*? Behold, I say unto you, Nay, they were not. 4. And again I ask, were the *bands of death* broken, and the *chains of hell* which encircled them about, were they loosed? 5. I say unto you, Yea, they were loosed, and their souls did expand, and they did *sing redeeming love*. And I say unto you that *they are saved*. 6. And now I ask of you on what conditions are they *saved*? Yea, what grounds had they to hope for *salvation*? What is the cause of their *being loosed*? 7. from the *bands of death*, yea, and also the *chains of hell*?
- v11 **D** a Behold, I can tell you--did not my father Alma *believe* in the words which were delivered by the mouth of Abinadi?
b And was he not a holy prophet?
a Did he not speak the words of God, and my father Alma *believe* them?
- v12,13 **E** 1. ...And behold, he **preached the word** unto your fathers, 2. and a *mighty change* was also wrought in their hearts, 3. and they *humbled themselves and put their trust in the true and living God*. 4. And behold, they were faithful until the *end*; 5. therefore they were *saved*.

- v14 **F** 1. And now behold, I ask of you, 2. my brethren of the church, 3. have ye spiritually been born of God?
- G-1** Have ye received *his image in your countenances?*
- G-2** Have ye experienced this *mighty change in your hearts?*
- v15 **H** 1. Do ye *exercise faith* 2. in the *redemption* 3. of him who created you? 4. Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in *immortality*, and this corruption raised in *incorruption*, to *stand before God to be judged* 5. *according to the deeds* which have been done in the mortal body?
- v16,17 **I** (1) I say unto you, can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying unto you, in that day: (2) *Come unto me* ye blessed, (3) for behold, your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth? (4) Or do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can *lie* unto the Lord in that day, and say--Lord, our works have been *righteous works* upon the face of the earth-- (5) and that *he will save you?*
- v18 **J** Or otherwise, can ye imagine yourselves brought before the tribunal of God with your souls filled with ¹*guilt* and ²*remorse*, having a remembrance of all your ³*guilt*, yea, a perfect remembrance of all your ⁴*wickedness*, yea, a remembrance that ye have ⁵*set at defiance the commandments of God?*
- v19 **K** I say unto you, can ye ¹*look up to God* at that day with a ²*pure heart* and ³*clean hands*? I say unto you, can you ⁴*look up*, having the ⁵*image of God engraven upon your countenances?*
- v20 **L** 1. I say unto you, 2. can ye think of being saved when you have *yielded yourselves* 3. to become subjects to the devil?
- v21,22 **M** I say unto you, ye will **know** at that day that ye cannot be saved;
- N** for there can no man be saved except his *garments are washed white*; yea, his garments must be *purified* until they are *cleansed* from all stain,
- O** through the blood of *him of whom it has been spoken* by our fathers, who should come to redeem his people from their sins.
- v22-23 **P** And now I ask of you, my brethren, how will any of you feel, if ye shall *stand before the bar of God*,
- Q** having your *garments stained with blood and all manner of filthiness?*
- R** 1. Behold, *what will these things testify against you?* 2. Behold will they not testify that ye are murderers, yea, and also that ye are guilty of all manner of wickedness
- v24 **S** 1. Behold, my brethren, do ye suppose that such an one can *have a place to sit down in the kingdom of God*, 2. with *Abraham*, with *Isaac*, and with *Jacob*, and also *all the holy prophets*, whose garments are cleansed and are spotless, pure and white?
- v25 **T** I say unto you, Nay; except ye make our Creator a liar from the beginning, or **suppose that he is a liar** from the beginning, ye *cannot suppose that such can have place in the kingdom of heaven*;
- U** 1. but they shall be *cast out* 2. for they are the *children of the kingdom of the devil*.
- v26 **V** And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, if ye **have** experienced a *change of heart*, and if ye **have** felt to *sing the song of redeeming love*,
- W** I would ask, *can ye feel so now?*
- v27-31 **X** 1. Have ye walked, *keeping yourselves blameless* before

God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been *sufficiently humble*? **2.** That your garments have been *cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ*, **3.** who will come to *redeem his people* from their *sins* **4.** Behold, are ye *stripped of pride*? I say unto you, if ye are not ye are not prepared to meet God. Behold ye must *prepare quickly*; **5.** for the *kingdom of heaven* is soon at hand, **6.** and such an one hath not eternal life. **7.** Behold, I say, is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? **8.** I say unto you that such an one is not prepared; and I would that he should prepare quickly, for the hour is close at hand, and he knoweth not when the time shall come; **9.** for such an one is not found guiltless. **10.** And again I say unto you, is there one among you that doth *make a mock of his brother*, or that *heapeth upon him persecutions*? **11.** Wo unto such an one, for he is *not prepared*, and **THE TIME IS AT HAND** **12.** that he must repent or he *cannot be saved*!

v32

Y YEA, EVEN WO UNTO ALL YE WORKERS OF INIQUITY; REPENT,

Y' REPENT, FOR THE LORD GOD HATH SPOKEN IT!

v33-36

X' **1.** Behold, he sendeth an *invitation unto all men*, **2.** for the *arms of mercy* are extended towards them, **3.** and he saith: *Repent*, and *I will receive you*. **4.** Yea, he saith: Come unto me **5.** and ye shall *partake of the fruit of the tree of life*; **6.** yea, ye shall eat and drink of the *bread and the waters of life* freely; **7.** Yea, *come unto me* **8.** and bring forth works of righteousness, **9.** and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire-- **10.** For behold, **THE TIME IS AT HAND** that whosoever *bringeth forth not good fruit*, **11.** or whosoever *doeth not the works of righteousness*, **12.** the same *have cause to wail and mourn*.

v37

W' *O ye workers of iniquity; ye that are puffed up in the vain things of the world,*

V' ye that have professed to have known the *ways of righteousness*

U' **1.** nevertheless have *gone astray*, **2.** as sheep having no shepherd, notwithstanding a *shepherd hath called after you* and is still calling after you,

T' but ye *will not hearken unto his voice*!

v38

S' **1.** Behold, I say unto you, that the *good shepherd doth call you*; **2.** yea, and in his own name he doth call you, which is the *name of Christ*;

R' **1.** and *if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the good shepherd*, to the name by which ye are called, **2.** behold, ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd.

- v39 **Q'** And now if ye are *not the sheep of the good shepherd*,
P' of *what fold* are ye?
O' Behold, I say unto you, that the *devil is your shepherd*,
N' and ye are of *his fold*;
M' and now, *who can deny this*?
L' 1. Behold, I say unto you, 2. whosoever *denieth this* 3. is a liar and a *child of the devil*.
- v40 **K'** For I say unto you that whatsoever is **good** cometh from God,
J' and whatsoever is **evil** cometh from the devil.
- v41 **I'** (3) Therefore, if a man bringeth forth good works (1) he hearkeneth unto the voice of the good shepherd, (2) and he doth *follow him*; (4) but whosoever bringeth forth *evil works*, (5) the same becometh a *child of the devil*, for he hearkeneth unto his voice, and doth *follow him*.
- v42 **H'** 1. And whosoever *doeth this* 2. must *receive his wages* 3. of him; 4. therefore, *for his wages* he receiveth *death*, 5. as to things pertaining unto *righteousness*, being dead unto all *good works*.
- v43,44 **G-1'** *...I have spoken...according to the commandments of God. For I am called to speak after this manner, according to the holy order of God, which is in Christ Jesus; yea, I am commanded to stand and testify unto this people the things which have been spoken by our fathers concerning the things which are to come....*
- v45,46 **G-2'** *...Behold, I say unto you they are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me.*
- v47-49 **F'** 1. *...And now I say unto you* that this is the order after which I am called, 2. yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren, yea, and every one that dwelleth in the land; yea, to preach unto all, both old and young, both bond and free; yea, I say unto you the aged, and also the middle aged, and the rising generation; 3. yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again.
- v50 **E'** 1. Yea, *thus saith the Spirit*: 2. *Repent*, all ye ends of the earth, 3. for the *kingdom of heaven is soon at hand*; 4. yea, the *Son of God cometh in his glory*, in his might, majesty, power, and dominion. 5. Yea, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Spirit saith: Behold the glory of the King of all the earth; and also the *King of heaven shall very soon shine forth* among all the children of men.
- v51,52 **E'** 1. And also *the Spirit saith* unto me, 2. yea, crieth unto me with a mighty voice, saying: Go forth and say unto this people--*Repent*, 3. for except ye repent ye can in nowise *inherit the kingdom of heaven*. 4. And again I say unto you, the Spirit saith: Behold, the *ax is laid at the root of the tree*; 5. therefore every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be *hewn down and cast into the fire*, yea, a fire which cannot be consumed, even an unquenchable fire.
- [omission] Behold, and remember, the Holy One hath spoken it.
- v53-56 **D a** *...will ye persist in the persecution of your brethren, who humble themselves*
b and do walk after the holy order of God, wherewith they have been brought into this church,
a having been *sanctified* by the Holy Spirit, and they do *bring forth works which are meet for repentance....*
- v57,58 **C'** 1. And now I say unto you, 2. all you that are *desirous to follow the voice of the good*

shepherd, **3.** *come ye out from the wicked, and be ye separate, and touch not their unclean things;* **4.** and behold, their names shall be blotted out, that the *names of the wicked shall not be numbered among the names of the righteous*, that the word of God may be fulfilled, which saith: The names of the wicked shall not be mingled with the names of my people; **5.** For the names of the *righteous* shall be written in the *book of life*, **6.** and unto them will I *grant an inheritance at my right hand*. **7.** And now, my brethren, what have ye to *say against this*? I say unto you, if ye *speak against it*, it matters not, for the word of God must be fulfilled. (See Alma 12:11.)

v59 **B'** **1.** For what *shepherd* is there among you having many sheep doth not *watch over them, that the wolves enter not and devour his flock*? **2.** And behold, if a *wolf enter his flock* **3.** doth he not *drive him out*? Yea, and at the last, if he can, he will *destroy* him. **4.** And now I say unto you that the *good shepherd doth call after you*; **5.** and if you will hearken unto his voice he will *bring you into his fold, and ye are his sheep*....

v61-62 **A'** **(6)** And now I, Alma, **(7)** *do command you* **(5)** in the *language* of him who hath commanded me, **(8)** that ye *observe to do the words which I have spoken* unto you. **(3)** I speak by way of *command* **(4)** unto you that belong to the church; **(2)** and unto those who do *not belong to the church* **(1)** I speak by way of invitation, *saying*: **(10)** Come and be baptized unto repentance, **(9)** that ye also may be *partakers of the fruit of the tree of life*.

*This chiasm runs *twenty-five* levels deep.