

Textual Variations in the Supplemental Text of The Book of Mormon

1981 text compared to the current authorized text
as found in the 2004 Doubleday edition

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The regular edition of the Book of Mormon contains, in addition to the scriptural text, many other supplemental portions of text, such as the introduction and the chapter headings. This non-scriptural text has been adjusted from time to time since the 1981 edition was printed, and these changes are reflected in the recently published Doubleday edition of the Book of Mormon (the first commercial edition ever printed). This document is a comparison of differences within the non-scriptural text (which I have called “supplemental text” between the 1981 Church edition and the 2004 Doubleday edition.

These changes were *not* made by Doubleday; they have been made by the Church over the years. However, since the Church has not printed a new English edition since 1981, these changes have largely only been seen in non-English editions (phone conversation with Kai Anderson).

This is not exhaustive. I did not do a comparison on the testimonies of the witnesses or of Joseph Smith, nor did I look at the scriptural text. I looked mainly at the introductory material and all the chapter headings.

See also [“Doubleday to Publish Book of Mormon in New Edition,”](#) Church Newsroom website, newsroom.lds.org.

Italics

Many headnote passages in the Doubleday edition employ italics more consistently to distinguish phrases that were on the gold plates (such as “The record of Zeniff”) from modern explanatory phrases (such as “comprising chapters 9 to 22 inclusive”). Examples are:

- 1 Nephi introduction
- 2 Nephi introduction
- Mosiah headnotes, before chapters 9, 23
- Alma introduction
- Alma headnotes, before chapters 5, 7, 9, 17, 21, 36, 38, 39, 45
- Helaman introduction
- Helaman headnotes, before chapters 7, 13
- 3 Nephi introduction
- 3 Nephi headnotes, before chapter 11
- 4 Nephi introduction
- Moroni headnotes, before chapter 9

Notably, the introduction to Ether remains italicized in the Doubleday edition, conveying the fact that it is a modern addition rather than a passage from the gold plates.

Phone conversation

Kai Anderson, Curriculum Department, 3 July 2006.

- Doubleday headings are consistent with the standard headings for non-English versions of the Book of Mormon. If you compare them to the Spanish, Portuguese, or German, you’ll find that they match. Those heading changes were made about 15 years ago. E.g., putting approximate dates in the headings instead of at the bottom of the page.
- All these changes came from the Church committee. They sent their database to Doubleday to use. Yep, those are all authentic changes. Elder Eyring called it the “authorized text.”
- Question: What about omitting “as does the Bible” in the introduction? Answer: Yes, that came from the scripture committee, which three members of the Twelve sit on. That particular matter was agreed on in a temple meeting of the Twelve.

Other changes

Royal Skousen tipped me off to some other changes:

In the 1981 pronunciation guide, Zenock's name was spelled *Zenoch*, akin to *Enoch*. The Doubleday edition pronunciation guide changes it back to *Zenock* to match the scriptural text. (Royal Skousen considers this unfortunate, since he believes that though the original manuscript spelled it like *Enoch*, in Oliver's handwriting the *h* was mistaken for a *k*.)

Brother Skousen also mentioned a punctuation change to the scriptural text that he said Daniel Ludlow has been in favor of for several years.

Passage	1981 edition	Doubleday
◦ Moro. 3:3	I ordain you to be a priest, (or, if he be a teacher) I ordain you to be a teacher, to preach repentance	I ordain you to be a priest (or if he be a teacher, I ordain you to be a teacher) to preach repentance

Since I didn't look at the scriptural text, I don't know the other ways that the current authorized text may differ from the 1981 edition. My assumption is that what few changes may have been made are of the simple proofreading kind found in previous editions. Royal Skousen's project, the Critical Text of the Book of Mormon, is probably the best source to go to for recent changes in the scriptural text.

—Nathan Richardson

Key

The ● symbol indicates an item I considered to be rather notable, and the ◦ symbol indicates an item I considered to be of slight interest.

Entries that include extra headings preceded by plus signs (+) indicate other chapter headings that have changes of a similar nature.

I did not record details of every change in dates, serial commas, adverbial clause commas, repeated pronoun antecedents, or formality (e.g., *shall* to *will*; *calleth* to *calls*).

Some textual variations in
the **Doubleday** edition of
The Book of Mormon

Passage	1981 edition	Doubleday
• Introduction, ¶1	The Book of Mormon . . . contains, as does the Bible , the fulness of the everlasting gospel.	The Book of Mormon . . . contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel. <i>omits the phrase “as does the Bible”</i>
◦ The testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith, last ¶	The ancient record . . . was first published to the world in the year 1830 as THE BOOK OF MORMON.	The ancient record . . . was first published to the world in English in the year 1830 as THE BOOK OF MORMON.
◦ A brief explanation about the Book of Mormon, ¶1	Four kinds of metal record plates are spoken of	Four kinds of metal plates are spoken of
• A brief explanation about the Book of Mormon, last ¶	About this edition . . .	<i>Last ¶ omitted</i>
Chapter heading	1981 edition	Doubleday
◦ 1 Nephi 2 , etc. <i>many minor date changes</i>	Between 600 and 592 B.C.	About 600 B.C.
◦ 1 Nephi 3	Laman and Lemuel smite Nephi	Laman and Lemuel smite Nephi and Sam
1 Nephi 5	The plates of brass contain writings of Moses and the prophets— They identify Lehi as a descendant of Joseph	The plates of brass contain writings of Moses and the prophets— The plates identify Lehi as a descendant of Joseph
1 Nephi 6	Nephi writes of the things of God— His purpose is to persuade men	Nephi writes of the things of God— Nephi’s purpose is to persuade men
• 1 Nephi 7	Lehi’s sons return to Jerusalem and enlist Ishmael and his household in their cause	Lehi’s sons return to Jerusalem and invite Ishmael and his household to join them in their journey
◦ 1 Nephi 10	Lehi predicts the Babylonian captivity —He tells of the coming among the Jews of a Messiah, a Savior, a Redeemer— He tells also of	Lehi predicts that the Jews will be taken captive by the Babylonians—He tells of the coming among the Jews of a Messiah, a Savior, a Redeemer— Lehi tells also of
◦ 1 Nephi 12 + 3 Nephi 19	the twelve disciples and the twelve apostles	the Twelve Disciples and the Twelve Apostles
1 Nephi 15 1 Nephi 19, etc. <i>Many changes of shall to will</i>	branches shall be grafted in again The God of Israel shall come The Jews shall be despised	branches will be grafted in again The God of Israel will come The Jews will be despised
1 Nephi 16	his family murmur	his family murmurs
1 Nephi 18	They arrive in the promised land	The people arrive in the promised land

Chapter heading	1981 edition	Doubleday
1 Nephi 20	The Lord reveals his purposes to Israel— They have been chosen in the furnace of affliction and are to go forth from Babylon	The Lord reveals his purposes to Israel— Israel has been chosen in the furnace of affliction and is to go forth from Babylon
1 Nephi 21	Messiah shall be a light	The Messiah will be a light
2 Nephi 2 + Mosiah 15	Redemption cometh He bringeth to pass	Redemption comes He brings to pass
• 2 Nephi 5	Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites are cursed, receive a skin of blackness , and become a scourge unto the Nephites.	Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites are cut off from the presence of the Lord, are cursed , and become a scourge unto the Nephites.
2 Nephi 6	Jacob recounts Jewish history: Their Babylonian captivity . . . and their latter-day restoration	Jacob recounts Jewish history: The Babylonian captivity . . . and the Jews latter-day restoration
2 Nephi 7	Isaiah speaks Messianically — Messiah shall have . . .	Isaiah speaks messianically — The Messiah shall have . . .
2 Nephi 9	Atonement ransoms man . . . Atonement saves from death . . . The righteous to be saved . . . Penalties for sins set forth	The Atonement ransoms man . . . The Atonement saves from death . . . The righteous are to be saved . . . Penalties for sins are set forth
◦ 2 Nephi 10	Jews shall crucify their God . . . Be reconciled to God	The Jews shall crucify their God . . . Reconcile yourselves to God
2 Nephi 19	The people in darkness to see a great Light	The people in darkness will see a great Light
2 Nephi 20	Destruction of Assyria is a type of destruction of wicked. . . . Remnant of Jacob shall return	The destruction of Assyria is a type of the destruction of the wicked. . . . The remnant of Jacob shall return
2 Nephi 23	Destruction of Babylon is a type of destruction at Second Coming	The destruction of Babylon is a type of the destruction at the Second Coming
2 Nephi 24	Lucifer cast out of heaven	Lucifer was cast out of heaven
2 Nephi 26 + 2 Nephi 30 + Jacob 5, etc.	The gentiles	The Gentiles
◦ 2 Nephi 27	The learned man cannot read the sealed book	The learned man will say he cannot read the sealed book
2 Nephi 28 + 3 Nephi 30	They shall teach false and vain and foolish doctrines	They shall teach false, vain, and foolish doctrines
◦ 2 Nephi 29	The Lord speaks to many nations— He will judge the world out of the books thus written	The Lord speaks to many nations— He will judge the world out of the books which will be written
◦ 2 Nephi 30	Many Lamanites and Jews shall believe the word and become a delightsome people	Many Lamanites and Jews shall believe the word and become delightsome

Chapter heading	1981 edition	Doubleday
◦ 2 Nephi 33	Those who believe in Christ will believe Nephi's words— They shall stand as a witness before the judgment bar.	Those who believe in Christ will believe Nephi's words, which will stand as a witness before the judgment bar.
Jacob 3 + Enos 1	Lamanite righteousness exceeds that of Nephites	Lamanite righteousness exceeds that of the Nephites
Jacob 5	Gentiles shall be grafted	The Gentiles shall be grafted
◦ Jacob 6	The Lord shall recover Israel in the last days— Then the world shall be burned with fire	The Lord will recover Israel in the last days—The world will be burned with fire
Jarom 1 + 3 Nephi 20	Many prophets labor to keep them in the way of truth	Many prophets labor to keep the people in the way of truth
● Omni 1 , etc. <i>Every instance of Mulekite</i>	Mosiah discovers the people of Zarahemla who came from Jerusalem in the days of Zedekiah— He is made king over them—The Mulekites had discovered Coriantumr	Mosiah discovers the people of Zarahemla, who came from Jerusalem in the days of Zedekiah— Mosiah is made king over them—The descendants of Mulek at Zarahemla had discovered Coriantumr
● The words of Mormon 1	Mormon abridges their history onto the plates of Mormon —He inserts the plates of Nephi into the abridgement	Mormon abridges the large plates of Nephi—He puts the small plates with the other plates
Mosiah 2	heavenly King	Heavenly King
Mosiah 4 + Alma 30 + Moroni 8	the atonement	the Atonement
Mosiah 5	The saints	The Saints
Mosiah 7	Ammon finds the land of Lehi-Nephi where Limhi is king	Ammon finds the land of Lehi-Nephi, where Limhi is king
● Mosiah 8	The gift of seership exceeds all others	No gift is greater than seership
◦ Mosiah 20	Lamanite daughters are abducted by the priests of Noah—The Lamanites wage war upon Limhi and his people— They are repulsed and pacified.	Some Lamanite daughters are abducted by the priests of Noah—The Lamanites wage war upon Limhi and his people— The Lamanite hosts are repulsed and pacified.
Mosiah 21	Limhi's people are smitten and defeated by the Lamanites— They meet Ammon	Limhi's people are smitten and defeated by the Lamanites— Limhi's people meet Ammon
● Mosiah 25	The people (the Mulekites) of Zarahemla become Nephites	The descendants of Mulek at Zarahemla become Nephites
● Mosiah 26	they shall be excommunicated	they will not be numbered among the people of the Church

Chapter heading	1981 edition	Doubleday
Mosiah 27 + Mosiah 29	Alma the younger	Alma the Younger
• Mosiah 28	The sons of Mosiah shall have eternal life —They go to preach to the Lamanites—Mosiah translates the Jaredite plates with the two seer stones	The sons of Mosiah go to preach to the Lamanites— Using the two seer stones , Mosiah translates the Jaredite plates
Mosiah 29	Alma the elder	Alma the Elder
Alma 1	Nehor . . . slays Gideon— He is executed	Nehor . . . slays Gideon— Nehor is executed
• Alma 5	men must . . . strip themselves from pride and envy. . . . Names of the righteous shall be written	men must . . . strip themselves of pride and envy. . . . The names of the righteous will be written <i>Alma 5:28,29—“stripped of pride . . . stripped of envy”</i>
Alma 9 + Ether 4 + Ether 9	The Son of God soon cometh —He shall redeem those who repent and are baptized and have faith in his name	The Son of God will come soon —He shall redeem those who repent, are baptized, and have faith in his name
• Alma 11	Nephite coinage set forth	The Nephite monetary system is set forth
◦ Alma 12 + Alma 41 + 3 Nephi 23	The plan of redemption brings to pass the resurrection and, through faith, a remission of sins.	The plan of redemption brings to pass the Resurrection and, through faith, a remission of sins. <i>c.f. Alma 16</i>
Alma 14 + Alma 15	Alma and Amulek are delivered and their persecutors are slain	Alma and Amulek are delivered, and their persecutors are slain
◦ Alma 16	after his resurrection Christ will appear to the Nephites	<i>No change; c.f. Alma 12.</i>
Alma 18	the creation	the Creation
◦ Alma 19	some see angels	many see angels <i>v. 34—“many . . . had seen angels”</i>
Alma 21	After their deliverance they teach in the synagogues	After their deliverance, they teach in the synagogues
◦ Alma 22	Aaron teaches Lamoni’s father about the creation , the fall of Adam, and the plan of redemption through Christ. . . . How the land was divided between the Nephites and the Lamanites.	Aaron teaches Lamoni’s father about the Creation , the fall of Adam, and the plan of redemption through Christ. . . . The division of the land between the Nephites and Lamanites is explained .
• Alma 36	Alma testifies to Helaman of his conversion by an angel. . . . His converts have tasted and seen as he did .	Alma testifies to Helaman of his conversion after seeing an angel. . . . Many converts have tasted and seen as he has tasted and seen .
Alma 37	all thy doings	all your doings

Chapter heading	1981 edition	Doubleday
Alma 42	The fall	The Fall <i>c.f. Alma 22</i>
• Alma 45	Alma is taken up by the Spirit, even as Moses	Alma may have been taken up by the Spirit, even as Moses
Alma 48	He rejoiced in liberty	He rejoices in liberty
• Alma 52	Jacob the Lamanite is slain	Jacob the Zoramite is slain
Helaman 1	Pahoran the second . . . the judgment-seat	Pahoran the second [<i>no change</i>] . . . the judgment seat
◦ Helaman 2	Helaman the second	Helaman, the son of Helaman <i>c.f. Helaman 1</i>
• Helaman 6	Lucifer, the author of sin, guides the Gadianton robbers in their murders and wickedness	Lucifer, the author of sin, stirs up the hearts of the wicked and the Gadianton robbers in murder and wickedness
• Helaman 10	The Spirit carries him from congregation to congregation.	The Spirit carries him from multitude to multitude. <i>c.f. v. 17</i>
Helaman 12 + Ether 1	The nothingness of men compared with the power of God	The nothingness of men is compared with the power of God
◦ Helaman 16	The Nephites who believe Samuel are baptized by Nephi—Samuel cannot be slain with their arrows and stones	The Nephites who believe Samuel are baptized by Nephi—Samuel cannot be slain with the arrows and stones of the unrepentant Nephites
3 Nephi 1	Nephi, son of Helaman	Nephi, the son of Helaman
◦ 3 Nephi 2	Converted Lamanites become white and are called Nephites.	<i>No change; c.f. 2 Nephi 5</i>
• 3 Nephi 7	the government is overthrown . . . Jacob, an antichrist , becomes king of a league of tribes	the government is destroyed . . . Jacob, an anti-Christ , becomes king of a secret combination
• 3 Nephi 23	The words of Samuel the Lamanite concerning the resurrection are added to their records.	<i>no change</i>
◦ 3 Nephi 26	Babes and children utter marvelous things which cannot be written	Babes and children utter marvelous things that cannot be written
• 4 Nephi 1	The Nephites and the Lamanites are all converted to the Church of Christ. . . . After two centuries divisions, evils, false churches, and persecutions arise	The Nephites and the Lamanites are all converted unto the Lord. . . . After two centuries, divisions, evils, false churches, and persecutions arise
• Mormon 5	The Lamanites shall be a dark, filthy, and loathsome people	Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites will be scattered, and the Spirit will cease to strive with them
◦ Ether 2	The Lord talks to the brother of Jared for three hours— They build barges	The Lord talks to the brother of Jared for three hours— The Jaredites build barges

Chapter heading	1981 edition	Doubleday
◦ Ether 3	the Lord . . . touches the sixteen stones	the Lord . . . touches sixteen stones
Ether 6	Jared and his brother pass away in death	Jared and his brother die
● Ether 11	Their prophets predict the utter destruction of the Jaredites	Prophets predict the utter destruction of the Jaredites
● Ether 12	The Lord gives men weaknesses that they may be humble	The Lord gives men weakness that they may be humble <i>Ether 12:27 — “I give unto men weakness that they may be humble.”</i>
◦ Ether 13	Ether speaks of a New Jerusalem to be built in America	Ether speaks of a new Jerusalem to be built in America
● Moroni 2	the Nephite apostles	the twelve Nephite disciples
◦ Moroni 4	How the elders and priests administer the sacramental bread	How elders and priests administer the sacramental bread is explained
Moroni 7	An invitation to enter into the rest of the Lord	An invitation is given to enter into the rest of the Lord
◦ Moroni 8	Infant baptism	The baptism of little children