

- CC A I do not boast in my own strength,
nor in my own wisdom;
but behold, my joy is full,
yea, my heart is brim with joy,
and I will rejoice in my God. 12
Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself,
but I will boast of my God,
for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land,
- B for which we will praise his name forever. 13
- DD₁ C Behold, how many thousands of our brethren has he loosed from the pains of hell; and they are brought to sing redeeming love,
D and this because of the power of his word which is in us,
E therefore have we not great reason to rejoice? 14
- DD₂ B Yea, we have reason to praise him forever, for he is the Most High God,
C and has loosed our brethren from the chains of hell. 15
F Yea, they were encircled about with everlasting darkness and destruction;
G but behold, he has brought them
into his everlasting light,
yea, into everlasting salvation;
F and they are encircled about with the matchless bounty of his love;
- EE D yea, and we have been instruments in his hands of doing this great and marvelous work. 16
E Therefore, let us glory,
yea, we will glory in the Lord;
yea, we will rejoice,
for our joy is full;
B yea, we will praise our God forever.
- A Behold, who can glory too much in the Lord?
Yea, who can say too much of
his great power, and of
his mercy, and of
his long-suffering towards the children of men?
Behold, I say unto you, I cannot say the smallest part which I feel.[1] 17
- FF A Who could have supposed that our God would have been so merciful as to have snatched us from our awful, sinful, and polluted state? 18 Behold, we went forth even in wrath, with mighty threatenings to destroy his church. 19
B Oh then, why did he not consign us to an awful destruction, yea, why did he not let the sword of his justice fall upon us, and doom us to eternal despair? 20
C Oh, my soul, almost as it were, fleeth at the thought.
B Behold, he did not exercise his justice upon us,
A but in his great mercy hath brought us over that everlasting gulf of death and misery, even to the salvation of our souls. 21

- EE A And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there
that knoweth these things?
I say unto you, there is none
that knoweth these things,
save it be the penitent. 22
- A Yea, he that
repenteth and
exerciseth faith, and
bringeth forth good works, and
prayeth continually without ceasing--
- B unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God;
- B yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed;
- C yea, and it shall be given unto such to bring thousands of souls to repentance,
- C even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance. 23
- D Now do ye remember, my brethren, that we said unto our brethren in the land of
Zarahemla, we go up to the land of Nephi, to preach unto our brethren, the Lamanites,
and they laughed us to scorn? 24
- D For they said unto us:
Do ye suppose that ye can bring the Lamanites
to the knowledge of the truth?
Do ye suppose that ye can convince the Lamanites
of the incorrectness of the traditions of their fathers,
as stiffnecked a people as they are;
whose hearts delight in the shedding of blood;
whose days have been spent in the grossest iniquity;
whose ways have been the ways of a transgressor from the beginning?
Now my brethren, ye remember that this was their language. 25
- E₁ And moreover they did say: Let us take up arms against them, that we destroy them
and their iniquity out of the land,
- E₂ lest they overrun us and destroy us. 26
- E₁ But behold, my beloved brethren, we came into the wilderness not with the intent
to destroy our brethren,
- E₂ but with the intent that perhaps we might save some few of their souls. 27
- F Now when our hearts were depressed, and we were about to turn back,
behold, the Lord comforted us, and said:
- a Go amongst thy brethren, the Lamanites,
- b and bear with patience thine afflictions,
- c and I will give unto you success. 28
- a And now behold, we have come, and been forth amongst them;
- b i and we have been patient in our sufferings, and we have
suffered every privation;

- ii₁ yea, we have traveled from house to house, relying upon the mercies of the world--not upon the mercies of the world alone
 - ii₂ but upon the mercies of God. 29
 - iii And we have entered into their houses and taught them,
 - iv and we have taught them in their streets;
 - iv yea, and we have taught them upon their hills;
 - iii and we have also entered into their temples and their synagogues and taught them;
 - ii₁ and we have been cast out, and mocked, and spit upon, and smote upon our cheeks; and we have been stoned, and taken and bound with strong cords, and cast into prison;
 - ii₂ and through the power and wisdom of God we have been delivered again. 30
 - i And we have suffered all manner of afflictions, and all this, that perhaps we might be the means of saving some soul; and we supposed that our joy would be full if perhaps we could be the means of saving some. 31
- DD₁ c Now behold, we can look forth and see the fruits of our labors; and are they few? I say unto you, Nay, they are many; yea, and we can witness of their sincerity, because of their love towards their brethren and also towards us.[2] 32
- DD₂ A For behold, they had rather sacrifice their lives
- B than even to take the life of their enemy;
 - C and they have buried their weapons of war deep in the earth, because of their love towards their brethren. 33
 - D And now behold I say unto you, has there been so great love in all the land?
 - D Behold, I say unto you, Nay, there has not, even among the Nephites. 34
 - C For behold, they would take up arms against their brethren;
 - B they would not suffer themselves to be slain.
 - A But behold how many of these have laid down their lives; and we know that they have gone to their God, because of their love and of their hatred to sin. 35
- CC A Now have we not reason to rejoice? Yea, I say unto you, there never were men that had so great reason to rejoice as we, since the world began; yea, and my joy is carried away,

- BB B even unto boasting in my God;
- C for he has
 all power,
 all wisdom, and
 all understanding;
 he comprehendeth all things, and
 he is a merciful Being, even unto salvation, to those who will repent and believe on his name. 36
- B Now if this is boasting, even so will I boast;
- AA A for this is
 my life and
 my light,
 my joy and
 my salvation, and
 my redemption from everlasting wo.
- B Yea, blessed is the name of my God,
 who has been mindful of this people,
 who are a branch of the tree of Israel, and has been lost from its body in a strange land;
 yea, I say, blessed be the name of my God,
 who has been mindful of us,
 wanderers in a strange land. 37
- Now my brethren, we see that God
 is mindful of every people,
 whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people,
 and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth.
- A Now this is
 my joy, and
 my great thanksgiving;
 yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever. Amen.[3]

Notes

1. Verses 11-16 possess an irregular parallel form, with each element appearing twice except the B's, concerning praise, of which there are three, and the G, the point of emphasis.
2. In verses 21-31 we find a complex and informative paired echelon. The point of emphasis, F, is itself complex, extending from verse 27 through 31. It is a double echelon, with the second b being a chevron.
3. The complex structure of this chapter rewards careful consideration. Ponder the relationships between the paired elements of the overall structure (double capital letters) and the substructure. Notice how the substructure pays little attention to the overall structure. What level of literary skill is required to do this?