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Additional Structural Line Forms and Word Forms to Be Examined in Future Editions

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A Note About the Future:

As far as the future study of artistic “figures” in the text of the Book of Mormon is concerned, I will offer you a few thoughts penned over a century ago by E. W. Bullinger, and hopefully, we can liken them to ourselves at this point in time:

Jehovah has been pleased to give us the revelation of His mind and will in words. It is absolutely necessary that we should understand not merely the meanings of the words themselves, but also the laws which govern their usage and combinations. [p. v-vi]

The Word of God may, in one respect, be compared to the earth. All things necessary to life and sustenance may be obtained by scratching the surface of the earth: but there are treasures of beauty and wealth to be obtained by digging deeper into it. So it is with the Bible [and the Book of Mormon]. [p. xii]

A “figure” denotes some form which a word or sentence takes, different from its ordinary and natural form. This is always for the purpose of giving additional force, more life, intensified feeling, and greater emphasis. [v-vi]

Man’s words are scarcely worthy of such study. Man uses figures, but often at random and often in ignorance or in error. But “the words of the Lord are pure words.” All His works are perfect, and when the Holy Spirit takes up and uses human words, He does so, we may be sure, with . . . infinite wisdom, and perfect beauty. We may well, therefore, give all our attention to “the words which the Holy Ghost teacheth.” [p. xvi]

(E[benezer] W. Bullinger, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible: Explained and Illustrated*.

Originally published in 1898 by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, in London.

Reprinted in 1968 by Baker Book House Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan.)

Although my “structuring” of the text of the Book of Mormon might seem overwhelming to some, I have only “scratched the surface.” Bullinger described and referenced hundreds of “figures.” He also testified that “no branch of [Scripture] study can be more important, or offer greater promise of substantial reward.” (p. vi) Yet the scope of this type of study goes beyond the reaches of any one man. It should beckon to all of us. **Thus, the challenge is laid before you.**