

"It Came to Pass"

(An adaptation of Robert F. Smith's
1980 FARMS monograph)

November, 2010

Original monograph preserved as "003Smith2.pdf"

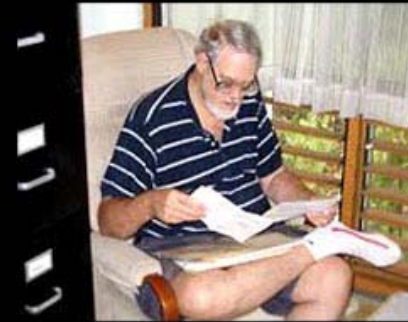
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were dead. Now the loss of men, women and children, on both sides, were so great that Shiz commanded his people that they should not pursue the armies of Coriantumr; wherefore they returned to their camp.

And it came to pass that when Coriantumr had recovered of his wounds, he began to remember the words which Ether had spoken unto him: He saw that there had been slain by the sword already nearly two millions of his people, and he began to sorrow in his heart; yea, there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children. He began to repent of the evil which he had done; he began to remember the words which had been spoken by the mouth of all the prophets, and he saw them that they were fulfilled, thus far, every whit; and his soul mourned, and refused to be comforted. **And it came to pass** that he wrote an epistle unto Shiz, desiring him that he would spare the people, and he would give up the kingdom for the sake of the lives of the people. **And it came to pass** that when Shiz had received his epistle, he wrote an epistle unto Coriantumr, that if he would give himself up, that he might slay him with his own sword, that he would spare the lives of the people. **And it came to pass** that the people repented not of their iniquity; and the people of Coriantumr were stirred up to anger against the people of Shiz; and the people of Shiz were stirred up to anger against the people of Coriantumr; wherefore the people of Shiz did give battle unto the people of Coriantumr.— And when Coriantumr saw that he was about to fall, he fled again before the people of Shiz. **And it came to pass** that he came to the waters of Ripliancum, which, by interpretation, is large, or to exceed all; wherefore, when they came to these waters, they pitched their tents; and Shiz also pitched his tents, near unto them; and therefore, on the morrow, they did come to battle. **And it came to pass** that they fought an exceeding sore battle, in the which Coriantumr was wounded again, and he fainted with the loss of blood. **And it came to pass** that the armies of Coriantumr did press upon the armies of Shiz, that they beat them, that they caused them to flee before them; and they did flee southward, and did pitch their tents in a place which was called Ogath. **And it came to pass** that the army of Coriantumr did pitch their tents by the hill Ramah; and it was that same hill where my father Mormon did hide up the records unto the Lord, which were sacred.— **And it came to pass** that they did gather together all the peo-

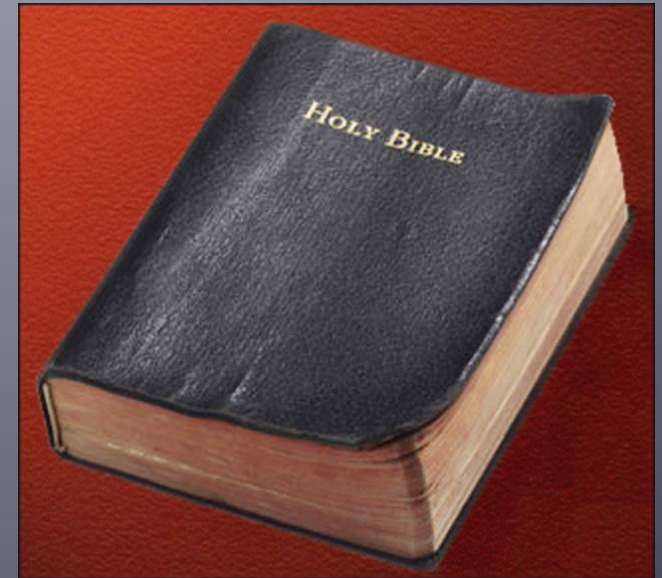
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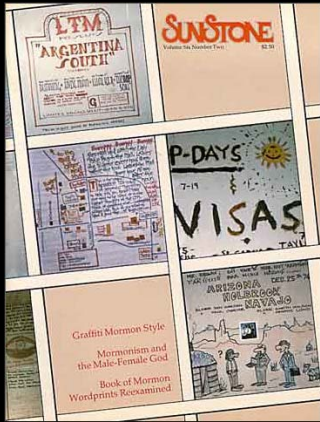


INTRODUCTION

Although the Book of Mormon is less than $\frac{1}{3}$ (31.6%) the length of the King James Version of the Bible (without Apocrypha), yet it contains over twice as many instances of the phrase "came/come to pass." Howso? Well, just over $\frac{9}{10}$ of the biblical instances of that phrase are to be found *in only about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Bible*, and *in 20 of the 66 books of the Bible -- all but 3 of those 20 being from the Old Testament*. The OT, constituting over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Bible, contains 86% of the instances of our phrase. However, 28 books of the Bible contain no Instances of that phrase, and those books are characterized primarily by formal poetry, song, lament, wisdom literature, legislation, and epistles. The same applies to those books *in which the phrase is quite rare*. *On the other hand*, biblical instances of the phrase are found usually within prose narrative, though there are also instances of its use within poetic and prose prophecy and apocalyptic in the future tense.



This illustrated presentation reproduces the main points contained in the earlier FARMS monograph. Please see that paper for the full text.

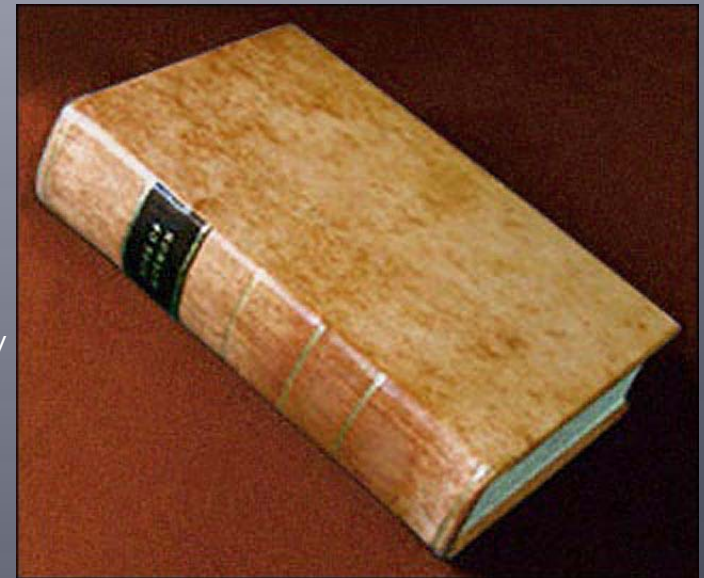


Wordprints and the Text

A valuable critique of one computer approach to the phrase here under study is that of Prof. D. J. Croft (Univ. of Utah), "Book of Mormon 'Wordprints' Reexamined," -- *Sunstone*, 6:2 (Mar-Apr 1981), 18: "...the *incidence of the six words in the phrase ... is highly dependent on the literary form. An occurrence of anyone of those six words in a passage... is correlated with an occurrence of the other five words and gives an immediate indication that the author is likely to be a historian. Thus the words in that phrase should not be labeled as 'noncontextual'"*

(cf. R. P. Howard, *Restoration Scriptures*, 1st ed., p. 38). See also, however, Brian C. Roberts, "Stylometry and Wordprints: A Book of Mormon Reevaluation," M. S. thesis (BYU Dept. of Statistics, Aug 1983), which employs junction grammar analysis and deletes all instances of the phrase *in question*.

How does the Book of Mormon usage stack up in comparison? Rather well, according to a statistical survey: Seven of eight (possibly nine) Book of Mormon epistles, for example, contain direct speech and *no* instances of the phrase, while the one epistle which *does* employ the phrase contains prose narrative (Alma 56:2 – 58:14). Mormon's second epistle (Moroni 9:1-26) is indicative in that it contains no instances of the phrase, while his parallel prose narrative account of the same incidents does (Mormon 4:10-15). Most of the Book of Mormon claims to be highly condensed prose narrative, and to a far greater and more uniform degree than can be claimed of most biblical books, even under hypercritical scrutiny by a documentary analyst. As Croft and others have pointed out, where oratory is found, fewer instances of our phrase naturally occur. Thus, a set of controlled and condensed annals, only incidentally or collaterally containing non-narrative matter, would not be likely to be as heterogeneous in nature as the anthology known as the "Bible."



We can only speculate as to how closely Joseph Smith aped or exaggerated the biblical style of his day, or reproduced the language of the "Plates" in altogether too literal and humdrum a manner. Whatever the case, the precedent is clearly available to argue for either, or both possibilities, and the phrase is not diagnostic of any substantive disjunction between Bible and Book of Mormon. Indeed, Joseph's use of a fallible, non-plenary "scriptural idiom" is reemphasized by our statistics.

TABLE Ia

OT Books (KJV)	Chapters	Verses	Words	"came, come to pass"		
Genesis	50	1,533	38,267	61 +	7 =	68
Exodus	40	1,213	32,692	27 +	7 =	34
Leviticus	27	859	24,546	1	=	1
Numbers	36	1,288	32,092	11 +	5 =	16
Deuteronomy	34	959	28,461	5 +	13 =	18
Joshua	24	685	18,858	27 +	5 =	32
Judges	21	618	18,976	26 +	1 =	27
Ruth	4	85	2,578	3	=	3
I Samuel	31	810	25,061	33 +	7 =	40
II Samuel	24	695	20,612	28 +	1 =	29
I Kings	22	816	24,524	39 +	4 =	43
II Kings	25	719	23,532	37	=	37
I Chronicles	29	942	20,369	9 +	1 =	10
II Chronicles	36	822	26,074	20	=	20
Ezra	10	280	7,441			
Nehemiah	13	406	10,483	13	=	13
Esther	10	167	5,637	4	=	4
Job	42	1,070	10,102			
Psalms	150	1,775	35,166			
Proverbs	31	915	15,043			
Ecclesiastes	12	222	5,584			
Song of Songs	8	117	2,661			
Lamentations	5	154	3,415		1 =	1
Isaiah	66	1,292	37,044	6 +	27 =	33
Jeremiah	52	1,364	42,659	19 +	17 =	36
Ezekiel	48	1,273	39,407	15 +	11 =	26
Daniel	12	357	11,606	2 +	3 =	5
Hosea	14	197	5,175		3 =	3
Joel	3	73	2,034		3 =	3
Amos	9	146	4,217	1 +	2 =	3
Obadiah	1	21	670			
Jonah	4	48	1,321	1	=	1
Micah	7	105	3,153		2 =	2
Nahum	3	47	1,285		1 =	1
Habakkuk	3	56	1,476			
Zephaniah	3	53	1,617		3 =	3
Haggai	2	38	1,131			
Zechariah	14	211	6,444	1 +	13 =	14
Malachi	4	55	1,782			
39 books	929	22,486	593,195			526

"Came to Pass" in the Biblical Texts

526 occurrences in the Old Testament

613 occurrences in the New Testament

TABLE Ib

NT Books (KJV)	Chapters	Verses	Words	"came, come to pass"		
Matthew	28	1,071	23,684	6 +	1 =	7
Mark	16	678	15,171	4 +	2 =	6
Luke	24	1,151	25,944	40 +	9 =	49
John	21	878	19,099		4 =	4
Acts	28	1,007	24,250	13 +	4 =	17
Romans	16	433	9,447		1 =	1
I Corinthians	16	437	9,489		1 =	1
II Corinthians	13	257	6,092			
Galatians	6	149	3,098			
Ephesians	6	155	3,039			
Philippians	4	104	2,002			
Colossians	4	95	1,998			
I Thessalonians	5	89	1,857	1	=	1
II Thessalonians	3	47	1,042			
I Timothy	6	113	2,269			
II Timothy	4	83	1,703			
Titus	3	46	921			
Philemon	1	25	445			
Hebrews	13	303	6,913			
James	5	108	2,309			
I Peter	5	105	2,482			
II Peter	3	61	1,559			
I John	5	105	2,523			
II John	1	13	303			
III John	1	14	299			
Jude	1	25	613			
Revelation	22	404	12,000		1 =	1
27 books	260	7,956	180,551			87
Grand Totals:	Chapters	Verses	Words	"came, come to pass"		
66 OT/NT Books	1,189	30,442	773,746			613

Book of Mormon Occurrences

The chapters and verses below are figured, without counting superscriptions, according to the 1879 LDS edition -- divisions which are used currently; RLDS (CoC) editions maintain the chapters of the 1830 edition, and have a completely different versification; the words are my estimates and may be low, (i.e., higher figures given elsewhere may be more correct).



TABLE II

Book of Mormon Books	LDS Chapters	LDS Verses	Words	"came, come to pass"		
I Nephi	22	618	22,655	202 +	6 =	208
II Nephi	33	771	27,318	16 +	36 =	52
Jacob	7	203	8,384	47 +	1 =	48
Enos	1	27	989	6	=	6
Jarom	1	15	659	4	=	4
Omni	1	30	1,272	13	=	13
Words of Mormon	1	18	824	5 +	1 =	6
Mosiah	29	785	28,613	154 +	14 =	168
Alma	63	1,975	77,315	431 +	2 =	433
Helaman	16	497	18,652	124 +	11 =	135
III Nephi	30	785	26,706	133 +	21 =	154
IV Nephi	1	49	1,790	19 +	1 =	20
Mormon	9	227	8,666	62 +	1 =	63
Ether	15	433	14,837	165 +	1 =	166
Moroni	10	163	5,676			
15 books	239	6,596	244,355	1,381 +	95 =	1,476

"Came to pass" 1830 Edition/1879 Edition "Come to pass"

1 Nephi	201/200	5
2 Nephi	17/17	36
Jacob		NC
Enos		NC
Jarom		NC
Omni		NC
Words of Mormon		NC
Mosiah	165/153	NC
Alma	445/422	NC
Helaman	121/120	10
3 Nephi	NC	19
4 Nephi	20/20	0
Mormon	60/60	NC
Ether	NC	0
Moroni		NC



A computer check of the Book of Mormon figures was run by John L. Hilton in August, 1981, utilizing the computer files of the 1830 Edition of the Book of Mormon prepared by Larry K. Browning of the Language Research Center at Brigham Young University. This computer run corroborated most of the statistics in Table II, but yielded the few differences provided in the above table.

Note also that the 1879 LDS edition's Alma and Mosiah contain substantially fewer occurrences of the "came to pass" phrase, than does the 1830 edition. In order to measure the distribution of the phrase in the Nephite record, the 1830 text should be the edition consulted.

Frequency in the Biblical Text

Table III (below) is arranged by biblical book according to the weight of instances of the phrase under study. It shows that, of the 38 biblical books which have some occurrence of the phrase, only 20 of those books (67.3 % of the Bible = 2/3) are required to account for 92.9 % (over 9/10) of the total number of occurrences of the phrase in the Bible. Moreover, only 15 books (55.2 %) are required to account for 83.2 % of those occurrences. The rate or frequency of those occurrences is figured according to the number of words (averaged) between each occurrence, the smaller number indicating the higher frequency. Obviously the biblical text is not uniform in its use of "come to pass" and "came to pass." It is much more prevalent in Genesis, Luke, etc.

TABLE III

Biblical Books	% of Bible	"came/come to pass"	% of instances	rate each per
Genesis	5.0 %	68	11.1 %	563 words
Luke	3.4	49	8.0	530
I Kings	3.2	43	7.0	570
I Samuel	3.2	40	6.5	627
II Kings	3.0	37	6.1	636
Jeremiah	5.5	36	5.9	1,185
Exodus	4.2	34	5.6	962
Isaiah	4.8	33	5.4	1,123
Joshua	2.4	32	5.2	589
II Samuel	2.7	29	4.7	711
Judges	2.5	27	4.4	703
Ezekiel	5.1	26	4.3	1,516
II Chronicles	3.4	20	3.3	1,304
Deuteronomy	3.7	18	2.9	1,581
Acts	3.1	17	2.8	1,427
Numbers	4.2	16	2.6	2,006
Zechariah	0.8	14	2.3	460
Nehemiah	1.4	13	2.1	806
I Chronicles	2.6	10	1.6	2,037
Matthew	3.1	7	1.1	3,383
20 books	67.3 %	569 instances	92.9 % of instances	

A more detailed look at the rates is provided in Table IV. However, the 14 highest rates are listed below for quick reference:

Zechariah	460 words per phrase
Luke	530
Zephaniah	539
Genesis	563
I Kings	570
Joshua	589
I Samuel	627
II Kings	636
Joel	678
Judges	703
II Samuel	711
Nehemiah	806
Ruth	859
Exodus	962

Sections of the Bible where “come to pass” has a high frequency of occurrence

TABLE IV
Selected High Frequency Portions of Bible
for "came, come to pass"

Biblical Section	style & genre	instances	total words	rate ea per words
Zph 1:8-12	poetic prophecy	3	222	74 wds VERY HIGH
Neh 4:1-16	prose narrative	5	445	89

Isa 7:1-23	poetic/prose narrative	5	572	114
Lk 24:4-51	prose narrative	6	699	116
Lk 21:7-36	prose apocalypt.	5	603	121
Ex 16:5-27	prose narrative	5	603	121 HIGH
Gn 37:23 - 41:13	prose narrative	20	2,604	130
Ex 12:25 - 13:17	prose narrative	8	1,080	135
Zch 13:2 - 14:16	prose prophecy	7	953	136

Gn 24:14-52	prose narrative	6	953	159
Zch 7:1 - 8:23	prose prophecy	6	984	164 MEDIUM
Jer 41:1 - 43:1	prose narr & prophecy	8	1,365	171

I Sm 17:48 - 18:30	prose narrative	6	1,111	185
Jsh 1:1 - 6:20	prose narrative	15	2,889	193
Lk 5:1 - 6:12	prose narrative	6	1,238	206
II Chr 24:4 - 25:16	prose narrative	6	1,365	228
Jer 36:1 - 37:11	prose narr & prophecy	5	1,334	267 LOW
Jsh 8:5 - 11:1	prose narrative	11	3,016	274
Lk 8:1 - 9:57	prose narr/proph/parable	9	2,635	293
Lk 1:8 - 2:46	poetry/prose narr/tales	8	2,350	294



The number of words within each biblical section is estimated, and the rates in the Very High to Medium categories compare well with typical Book of Mormon rates (see Table V).

However, the occurrence rate in II Nephi is more in line with a Very Low category (not tabulated) and the book of Moroni contains no instances whatsoever (as is the case for 28 biblical books).

The five sections of Luke listed in the table contain nothing from “Q,” the non-narrative gospel source posited by many New Testament scholars. With “Q” removed, Luke shows a very high use of the phrase.

Occurrence Rates for the Various Books

The percentages listed may not total 100%, due to rounding. The figures were selected by counting the instances listed in the Reynolds and Shapiro concordances. Reynolds and Shapiro differ in their counts, and the higher figure is used for each book, though both counts are listed here for reference and future study.

Highest Rates are found in Ether and 4th Nephi



According to S. Larson, 48 instances of "came to pass" in the 1830 edition were deleted from the 1837 edition (thesis, p. 267; n. 56, PHS marks only 42 of these for correction). I am able to count only 46 of these instances absent from the 1920 edition.

Whether the lower counts for some books in Shapiro's concordance are due to deletions subsequent to the 1879 edition used by Reynolds will be unknown until the necessary collations by computer are made of all editions and manuscripts. For convenience, the books are arranged by rate, -- note especially Mormon's nearly identical high rates in separate books.

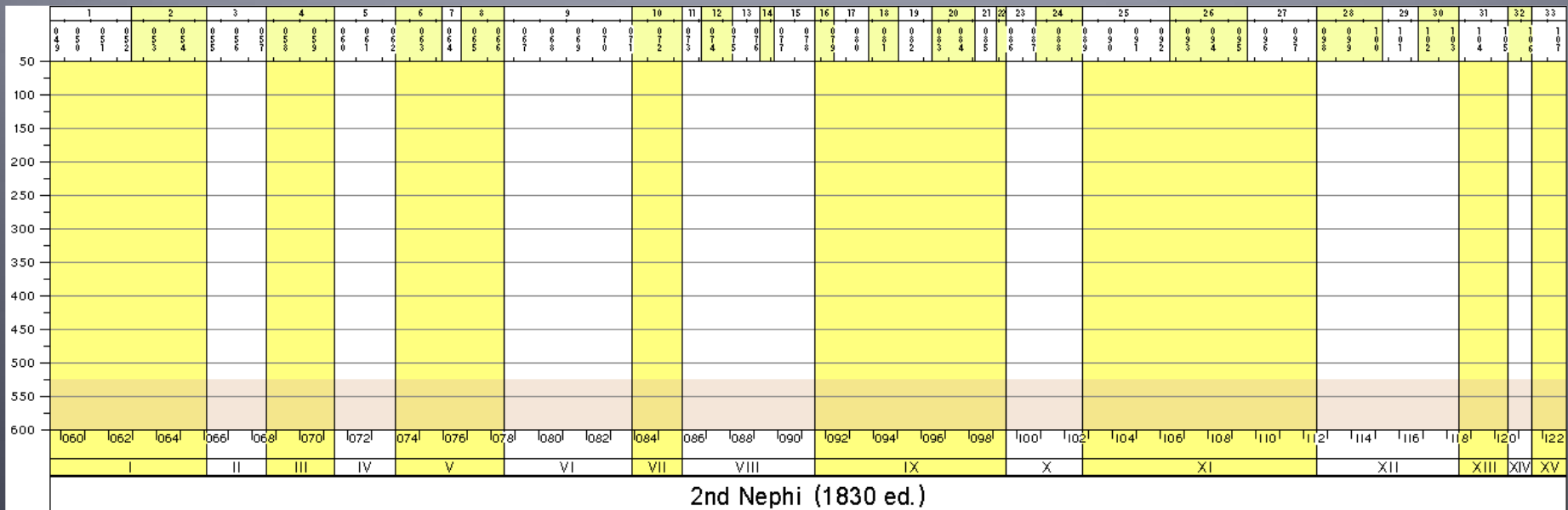
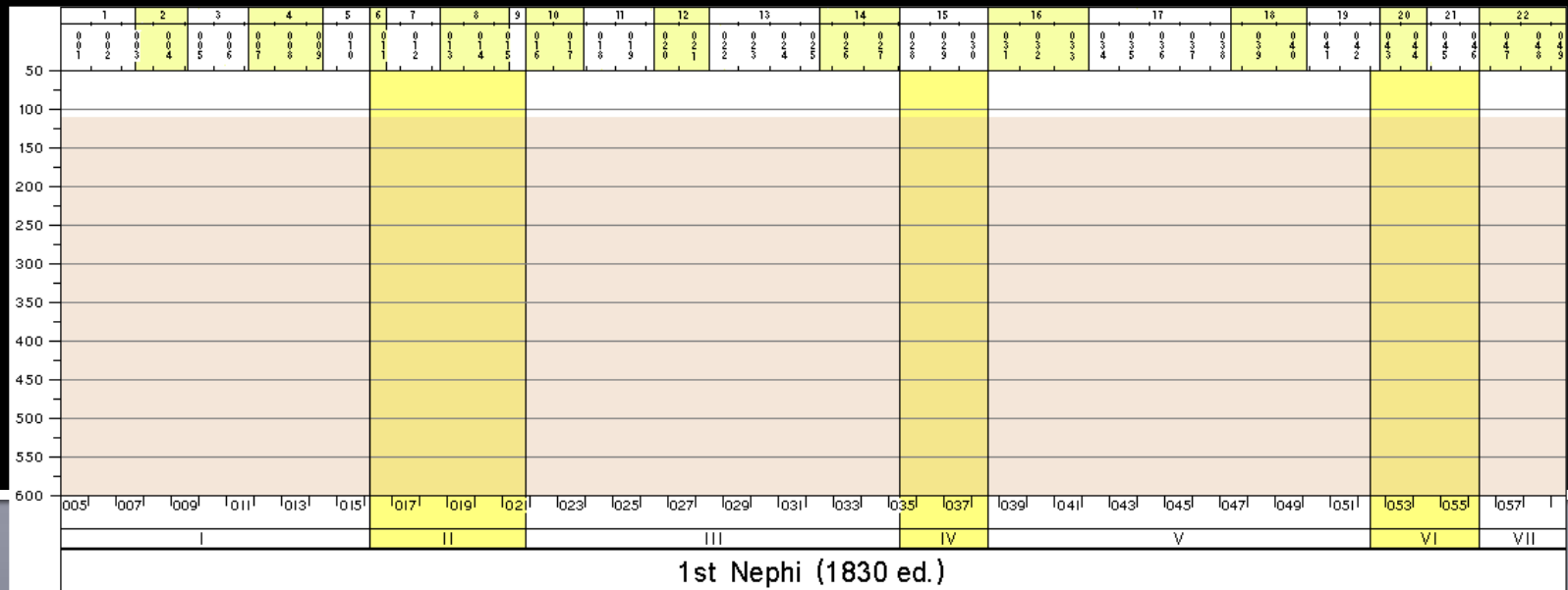
TABLE V

Book of Mormon	% of BofM	"came/come to pass" Reynolds/Shapiro	% of instances	rate ea/per
Alma	31.6 %	433/417	29.3 %	178.6 words
I Nephi	9.3	208/206	14.1	108.9
Mosiah	11.7	168/167	11.4	170.3
Ether	6.1	111/166	11.3	89.4
III Nephi	10.9	154/150	10.4	173.4
Helaman	7.6	135/130	9.2	138.2
Mormon	3.6	63/61	4.3	137.6
II Nephi	11.2	52/52	3.5	525.4
Jacob	3.4	48/48	3.3	174.7
IV Nephi	.7	20/20	1.4	89.5
Omni	.5	13/13	.9	97.8
Enos	.4	5/6	.4	164.8
Words of Mormon	.3	5/6	.4	137.3
Jarom	.3	4/4	.3	164.8
Moroni	2.3	0	0	

Book of Mormon	rate of occurrence per	classification
Ether	89.4 words	VERY HIGH
IV Nephi	89.5	
Omni	97.8	
I Nephi	108.9	
Words of Mormon	137.3	HIGH
Mormon	137.6	
Helaman	138.2	
Enos	164.8	MEDIUM
Jarom	164.8	
Mosiah	170.3	
III Nephi	173.4	
Jacob	174.7	
Alma	178.6	VERY LOW
II Nephi	525.4	
Moroni	0	none

1st Nephi and 2nd Nephi

The occurrence rates for 1st Nephi (one per 108.9 words) and 2nd Nephi (one per 525.4 words) can be illustrated in a simple bar graph.



The rates (one per 108.9 words in 1st Nephi, and one per 525.4 words in 2nd Nephi) are averages for each book. If chapter/page rates were calculated, the data would appear as individual graph bars. In such a depiction the rates for the non-Isaiah chapters in 2nd Nephi would average substantially above one per 525.4 words.

Entire Book of Mormon Graphed

The Phrases "Come to Pass" and "Came to Pass"
Occurring in the 1830 Book of Mormon
(using modern chapter divisions)

[view chart at full size resolution](#)

Percentages of the Phrases
"Come to Pass/Came to Pass"
in the 1830 Book of Mormon
(One Occurrence in "X" Words)
Bars are Modern LDS Chapters

■ Narrative ■ Doctrinal ■ Biblical

