



Importance Of The Prototype

The Prototype unlocks some of the mystery of the Tree-of-Life patterns in the Book of Mormon. By studying it, we can learn many things about how the verses work within this pattern framework.

For now, we will focus on the main words or names describing the sefirot of the Tree-of-Life structure. For convenience sake, I have provided them here:

1. Crown,
2. Wisdom,
3. Understanding,
4. Mercy,
5. Strength,
6. Beauty,
7. Victory,
8. Glory,
9. Foundation,
10. Kingdom, and
11. Knowledge.

If a person looks at all of the text in 1 Nephi 1:1-2 (MO) or 1:1-3 (UT), the majority of these above words are not in that section of scriptures. The only

exception is knowledge. Besides sefirah 11, this word also occurs in the strength sefirah (5).

A verse with any of these words in them will not automatically align to that named sefirah. A numbered verse with the word wisdom does not always have to connect with the wisdom sefirah (2). It can be attached to the mercy sefirah (4), for instance.

Let us look at this word knowledge. It applies to the strength sefirah (5): "...yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God...". The phrase "great knowledge" is the main focus of the text. How does this "great knowledge" fit with the strength definition of boundaries and restraint? Did God give Nephi all knowledge of His goodness and mysteries? The answer is no. He gave what Nephi needed to know. God restrained Himself and set boundaries for Nephi. The knowledge word helps to define the strength definition.

The knowledge in the 11th sefirah means the accumulation of knowledge. The word knowledge appears in the component that matches to this 11th sphere. We can see how they link together. Nephi

made the record based on his accumulated experiences, as revealed in the previous components of these verses by the other sefirot. The lens of the knowledge sefirah focuses our attention on Nephi's accumulated knowledge.

The two different uses of knowledge in the Prototype appear before us. We now have examples to guide us for the other patterns. Let us look at how the knowledge sefirah (11) affects the two most important rules governing the tree patterns in the Book of Mormon.