A Spatial Language

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The language of The Book of Mormon includes many long run on sentences. One summer I was introduced to a book that describes how the complexity of an individual's language describes their potential capability in planning. As I studied The Book of Mormon lists, I started to see a completely different pattern, which I attribute to the fact as a seismic interpreter I am much more comfortable working with pictures of subsurface geology, than lists of words. This pattern fits with the fact I accept as a fact The Book of Mormon was written in the language of the Egyptians, and this has been referred to as a form of hieroglyphics.

One March Andrea and I visited the ruins at Palenque, Edzna, and Calakmul in Southern Mexico. I was struck with how the hieroglyphics take up space, and each hieroglyphic has a similar size. As I was reading The Book of Mormon that summer, I started to look for patterns that could relate to 2 columns and 4 rows of concepts, or 3 columns and 3 rows of concepts. The idea which seemed to be planted in my mind was each concept could be a separate hieroglyphic. Patterns of 9 related concepts seemed to come up over and over again in this reading of The Book of

Mormon. In fact, it appears most of The Book of Mormon can be repackaged as sets of nine concepts. Over time, this has developed into what I refer to as a spatial language.

¹Human Capability, A Study of Individual Potential and Its Application, Jaques & Cason, Cason Hall & Company Publishers, Falls Church, VA, 1994, 164 pages.

²I Nephi 1:2

The following pages demonstrate this pattern by coloring text which in the attitude of singing and praising their God. could be represented as a heiroglyphic: the chapter text; then the tables for that chapter.

- 1 I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days.
- 2 Yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians.
- 3 And I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with **mine own hand**; and I **make** it according to my knowledge.
- 4 For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, (my father, Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city **Jerusalem** must be destroyed.
- 5 Wherefore it came to pass that my father, Lehi, as he went forth prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart, in behalf of his people.
- 6 And it came to pass as he prayed unto the Lord, there came a pillar of fire and dwelt upon a rock before him; and he saw and heard much; and because of the things which he saw and heard he did quake and tremble exceedingly.
- 7 And it came to pass that he returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed, being overcome with the Spirit and the things which he had seen.
- 8 And being thus overcome with the Spirit, he was carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels

- 9 And it came to pass that he saw One descending out of the midst of heaven, and he beheld that his luster was above that of the sun at noon-day.
- 10 And he also saw twelve others following him, and their brightness did exceed that of the stars in the firmament.
- 11 And they came down and went forth upon the face of the earth; and the first came and stood before my father, and gave unto him a book, and bade him that he should read.
- 12 And it came to pass that as he read, he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord
- 13 And he read, saying: Wo, wo, unto Jerusalem, for I have seen thine abominations! Yea, and many things did my father read concerning Jerusalem—that it should be destroyed, and the inhabitants thereof; many should perish by the sword, and many should be carried away captive into Babylon.
- 14 And it came to pass that when my father had read and seen many great and marvelous things, he did exclaim many things unto the Lord; such as: Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty! Thy throne is high in the heavens, and thy power, and goodness, and mercy are over all the inhabitants of the earth; and, because thou art merciful, thou wilt not suffer those who come unto thee that they shall perish!
- 15 And after this manner was the language of my father in the praising of his God; for his soul did rejoice, and his whole heart was filled, because of the things which he had seen, yea, which the Lord had shown unto him.
- 16 And now I, Nephi, do not make a full account of the things which my father hath written, for he hath written many things which he saw in visions and in dreams; and he also hath written many things which he prophesied and spake unto his children, of which I shall not make a

full account.

17 But I shall make an account of my proceedings in my days. Behold, I make an abridgment of the record of my father, upon plates which I have made with mine own hands; wherefore, after I have abridged the record of my father then will I make an account of mine own life.

18 Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after **the Lord** had shown so many marvelous things unto **my father**, Lehi, yea, concerning the **destruction of Jerusalem**, behold he went forth among the people, and began to bprophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard.

19 And it came to pass that the Jews did mock him because of the things which he testified of them; for he truly testified of their wickedness and their abominations; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the redemption of the world.

20 And when the Jews heard these things they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; and they also sought his life, that they might take it away. But behold, **I**, **Nephi**, will show unto you that the tender mercies of **the Lord** are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance.

I Nephi 1:1		
	having been	therefore I was
I, Nephi	born of goodly	taught
	parents,	somewhat in the
		learning of my
		${f father};$
and having seen	nevertheless,	yea, having had
many afflictions	having been	a great
in the course of	highly favored	knowledge of
my days,	of the Lord in	${ m the\ goodness}$
	all my days ;	
and the	therefore, I	
mysteries of	make a record of	in my days .
$\operatorname{God},$	my proceedings	

I Nephi 1:2-3		
		which consists
Yea, I make a	in the language	of the learning
record	of my father,	of the Jews
	And I know	
and the	that the record	and I make it
language of the	which I make is	
Egyptians.	true;	
	and I make it	
with mine own		according to my
hand;		knowledge.

I Nephi 1:4		
For it came to	of the reign of	
pass in the	Zedekiah, king	$(\mathbf{my} \ \mathbf{father},$
commencement	of Judah,	Lehi,
of the first year		
having dwelt at		
Jerusalem in	and in that	$_{ m there\ came}$
all his days);	same year	many prophets
		or the great city
prophesying	that they must	Jerusalem
unto the people	repent,	$\mathbf{must} \mathbf{be}$
		${f destroyed}.$

I Nephi 1:5-6		
Wherefore it		
came to pass	as he went forth	prayed unto
that my		${\bf the} \ {\bf Lord},$
father, Lehi,		
		And it came
yea, even with	in behalf of his	to pass as he
all his heart,	people.	prayed unto
		$\mathbf{the}\ \mathbf{Lord},$
	and dwelt upon	
there came a	a rock before	and he saw and
pillar of fire	him;	heard much;

I Nephi 1:6-7		
and because of the things which	and heard	he did quake
he saw		
	And it came	
and tremble	to pass that he	at Jerusalem;
exceedingly.	returned to his	
	own house	
and he cast		and the things
himself upon his	being	which he had
bed,	overcome	seen.
	with the	
	${f Spirit}$	

I Nephi 1:8		
And being thus		even that he
overcome	he was carried	saw the heavens
with the	away in a vision,	open,
$\mathbf{Spirit},$		
and he thought	sitting upon his	$\operatorname{surrounded}$
he saw God	$_{ m throne,}$	
with numberless		
concourses of	in the attitude	and praising
angels	of singing	their God.

I Nephi 1:9-10		
	One descending	
And it came	out of the midst	and he beheld
to pass that he	of heaven,	
saw		
	was above that	
that his luster	of the sun at	And he also
	noon-day.	saw
	and their	
twelve others	brightness did	that of the stars
following him,	exceed	in the
		${\it firmament}.$

I Nephi 1:11-12		
	and went forth	
And they came	upon the face of	and the first
down	the earth;	came
		and bade him
and stood	and gave unto	that he should
before my	him a book,	read.
${\bf father},$		
And it came		
to pass that as	he was filled	with the Spirit
he read,		of the Lord.

I Nephi 1:13		
		for I have seen
And he read,	Wo, wo, unto	thine
	Jerusalem,	abominations!
Yea, and many	concerning	and the
things did my	Jerusalem—	inhabitants
father read	that it should	thereof;
	be destroyed,	
many should	and many	
perish by the	should be	into Babylon.
sword,	carried away	
	captive	

I Nephi 1:14-14.5		
And it came to pass that when my father	had read	and seen
many great and marvelous things,	he did exclaim	many things unto the Lord;
such as:	Great and marvelous are thy works,	O Lord God Almighty!

I Nephi		
1:14.5-14.9		
Thy throne is		
high in the	and thy power,	and goodness,
heavens,		
	are over all the	
and mercy	inhabitants of	and, because
	the earth;	thou art
		${ m merciful},$
thou wilt not	those who come	that they shall
suffer	unto thee	perish!

I Nephi 1:15		
And after this	6 6 1	
manner was the	of my father	in the praising
language		of his God;
for his soul did rejoice,	and his whole heart was filled,	because of the things
which he had seen,	yea, which the Lord	had shown unto him.

I Nephi 1:16		
		of the things
And now I,	do not make a	which my
Nephi,	full account	father hath
		written,
for he hath	which he saw in	and he also hath
written many	visions and in	written many
things	dreams;	things
		of which I shall
which he	and spake unto	not make a
prophesied	his children,	full account.

I Nephi 1:17		
But I shall	of my	Behold, I make
make an	proceedings in	an abridgment
account	my days.	of the record of
		my father,
upon plates	with mine own	wherefore, after
which I have	$\mathbf{hands};$	I have abridged
made		the record
of my father	then will I	of mine own life.
	make an	
	account	

I Nephi 1:18		
Therefore, I	that after the	unto my
would that ye	Lord had	father , Lehi,
should know,	shown so many	
	$\operatorname{marvelous}$	
	$_{ m things}$	
yea, concerning	behold he went	and began to
the	forth among the	$\operatorname{prophesy}$
destruction of	people,	
${f Jerusalem},$		
and to declare	concerning the	which he had
unto them	$_{ m things}$	both seen and
		$_{ m heard}$.

I Nephi 1:19		
And it came	because of the	for he truly
to pass that	things which he	$\mathbf{testified}$ of
the Jews did	$\mathbf{testified}$ of	their wickedness
mock him	${ m them};$	
and their	and he	and also the
abominations;	testified that	things which he
	the things which	read in the
	$\mathbf{he} \ \mathbf{saw} \ \mathbf{and}$	book,
	heard,	
manifested	of the coming of	and also the
plainly	a Messiah,	redemption of
		the world.

I Nephi 1:20		
And when the	yea, even as	whom they had
Jews heard	with the	cast out, and
${ m these} \ { m things}$	prophets of old,	stoned, and
they were angry		slain;
with him;		
and they also	that they might	But behold, I,
sought his life,	take it away.	Nephi, will
		show unto you
that the tender	because of their	to make them
mercies of the	faith,	mighty even
Lord are over		unto the power
all those whom		of deliverance.
he hath chosen,		