

# Elements Found in Great Farewell Addresses

## Biblical and Classical Speech Elements

## Benjamin's Speech (Mosiah 1–5)

1. The speaker summons his successors	1:9–10; 2:1, 9
2. He cites his own mission as an example	2:12–14, 18
3. He states that he fulfilled his duty	2:15, 27–31
4. He refers to his impending death	1:9; 2:26, 28
5. He exhorts his audience	2:9, 40–41; 5:12
6. He issues warnings and final injunctions	2:31–39; 3:12, 25; 4:14–30; 5:10–11
7. He blesses his audience	Possibly “blessed” in 2:41
8. Farewell gestures	Possibly in 2:28
9. He names tasks for his successors	1:15, 16; 2:31; 6:3
10. He theologically reviews history	2:34–35; 3:13–15
11. The speaker reveals future events	3:1, 5–10
12. Promises are given	2:22, 31; 4:12; 5:9
13. He appoints/refers to successor	1:15–16; 2:31; 6:3
14. Rest bewail the loss of the leader	Not found
15. Future degeneration addressed	3:23–27; 4:14–15
16. Sacrifices and covenant renewal	2:3; 5:1–7
17. Care is given for those left	4:14–26; 6:3
18. Consolation to inner circle	5:15
19. Didactic speech	3:16–21
20. <i>Ars moriendi</i>	Possibly in 2:28

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**Key Scripture** Mosiah 1–6

**Explanation** In ancient classical and biblical farewell addresses, certain themes appear consistently. William S. Kurz has identified twenty elements commonly found in the final farewell addresses of famous men shortly before their deaths. Moses' farewell speech contains sixteen of these elements, while the farewell speeches of the apostle Paul and Socrates include fourteen and eleven elements, respectively. Sixteen, and possibly nineteen, of these elements can be found in the carefully preserved text of Benjamin's farewell address, making it perhaps the best example of this speech genre on record. This chart lists Kurz's twenty elements and shows where the elements can be found in Benjamin's farewell speech.

**Sources** John W. Welch and Daryl R. Hague, "Benjamin's Speech: A Classic Ancient Farewell Address," in *Reexploring the Book of Mormon*, ed. John W. Welch (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and FARMS, 1992), 120–22; see also John W. Welch and Daryl R. Hague, "Benjamin's Sermon as a Traditional Ancient Farewell Address," in *King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom,"* ed. John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1998), 105; and William S. Kurz, "Luke 22:14–38 and Greco-Roman and Biblical Farewell Addresses," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 104 (1985): 251–68.