

The Colors of the Scriptures

Color	OT	NT	BM	D&C	PGP	Total	Notes or Variant Endings
Black	15	3	2	1	1	22	
Black-	6	2	2	4	1	15	-ening, -er, -est, -ish, -ness, -ed
Brown	4					4	All refer to conflict between Jacob and Laban
Red	46	6	13	3		68	
Red-	7					7	-dish (Levitical), -ness
Scarlet	46	6				52	Mostly with reference to cloth, priesthood
Scarlets			2			2	Used with reference to cloth
Crimson	5					5	
Yellow	4					4	Mostly Levitical
Green	37	4		1	1	43	Often linked with vegetation
Green-	3					3	-ish (Levitical), -ness
Blue	49					49	Mostly used with reference to cloth, priesthood, temple
Blue-	1					1	-ness (medical, a bruise)
Purple	39	9				48	Mostly cloth, priesthood, temple, kings; once the sea
Gray/Grey	6		1			7	
Gray/Grey-	4					4	-headed, -hound
White	40	26	24	12	2	104	
White-	2	2	4	1	1	10	-ed, -ness, -er
Gold	336	25	55	6	4	426	As a metal
Gold-	48	13	2	1		64	-en
Silver	264	18	47	4	2	335	
Copper	1		8	1		10	
Brass	107	6	37	4	2	156	
Iron	83	7	15	3	1	109	
Amber	3			1		4	D&C 11:2 reads "in color like amber"
Emerald(s)	4	2				6	
Rubies	6					6	
Sapphire(s)	11	1	1			13	
Blood	282	93	135	39	10	559	As in "moon became as blood" (Revelation 6:12)
Bloody	15	1	1			17	

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Key Scripture 1 Nephi 8:11

Explanation This chart compares the number of times a particular color is referred to in each of the standard works. References to particular colors are most similar between the Old Testament and the Book of Mormon, indirectly tying the Book of Mormon in yet another way to the physical world and culture of the Old Testament. The use of specific colors during ceremonies and rituals under the law of Moses could be one reason for this positive correlation.

Source Work of a student of John W. Welch, Book of Mormon 121H, Brigham Young University, fall 1997.