

# GLYPH

*Notes*

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*Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men,  
 and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea;  
 And that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath;  
 And I bring forth my word unto the children of men,  
 Yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?  
 Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word?  
 Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you  
 that I am God, that I remember  
 one nation like unto another?  
 And when the two nations shall run  
 together, the testimony of the two  
 nations shall run together also.*

(2 Nephi 12:56-61)



## Turning Faith into Knowledge

By Jillian Maas, Queensland, Australia

*B*risbane recently had the privilege of being visited by Don and Pat Beebe and Barent and Barbara Eliason, four members of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute.

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Barbara Eliason with eager young minds.

During their visit of 12 days, they shared with us their archaeological knowledge on Mesoamerica. The class themes were focused on "Turning Faith into Knowledge," which were held over a period of four days with attendee numbers increasing every session. It was exciting to learn and see the evidences that Christ visited the Americas well before it was ever discovered and settled by Christian nations.

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Eating and fellowship go hand-in-hand with spiritual development. Our Australian hosts were most gracious whether in their homes, sightseeing, or in worship.

*For 12 days,  
 members of  
 the PSI team  
 shared with  
 the Brisbane,  
 Australia  
 saints  
 archaeological  
 knowledge on  
 Mesoamerica.*



*While it is important to have questions, we really should do less wondering and more pondering on the things the Lord has instructed us in.*

### *Faith into Knowledge (cont.)*

While Don and Pat Beebe and Barent Eliason presented their revealing information, Barbara Eliason taught the children on The Book of Mormon. The children were excited about their classes and thoroughly enjoyed attending and sharing with the adults what they had learned.

It was exhilarating to see carved in stone the ordinance of 'laying on of hands,' Chief Captain Moroni and his flag of Liberty, freedom of family, country and religion, and hieroglyphs that have been interpreted to reveal names of kings, cities and accounts with which those who have read The Book of Mormon are very familiar.

There are thousands of ruins that still have not been uncovered in Central America. This is partially due to a lack of

funds and also the need to preserve history. Once ruins are exposed to the elements, they rapidly deteriorate thus eliminating etched treasures of history.

These classes have encouraged us to keep studying our Scriptures and to become more familiar with the people and cities found therein.

We send a special thank you to the entire crew of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI) for sharing their knowledge and




Pat Beebe

A delicious potluck dinner brought the series to a conclusion, but expressions of regret that it was over were abundant. Ministry in the homes followed.



Don Beebe

The Restored Church of Jesus Christ, Brisbane, Queensland, share their talents before an evening of food and fellowship. Back row: Simcha Melling, Linda Kerswell, Luke Melling, Troy Olsen, Luke Kerswell & Robert Lakelin. Front row: Jillian Maas, Jessica Kerswell, Amy Kerswell & Katrina Olsen.



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findings with the Saints in Brisbane.

While it was only Don and Pat Beebe and Barent and Barbara Eliason who were PSI's representatives on this re-

cent visit, we understand that it takes everybody involved with the institute to find

and deliver this information.

The folks of Brisbane were encouraged with the many evidences that have been found supporting written accounts within the pages of The Book of Mormon. Personal testimonies shared by the Beebe's and Eliason's were uplifting and motivating and assisted in a rekindling desire to study and familiarize ourselves with the Scriptures.



Our hosts while in Australia. L-R: Norman Melling, Katherine Melling and Jillian Maas.



Don Beebe

## GLYPH *Quotes* By Jillian Maas

**“...that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.” —Moroni 10:3**

Thanks to our Almighty God, He has given us the ability to ‘ponder’ and to ‘wonder’. Often this ‘wondering’ involves a curiosity into our own self-preservation. We wonder on the ‘how’, ‘when’ and ‘why’ of our lives, our families, our future, and our faith. Why did it happen? When will it end? How long will it last?

*To ponder is to Consider  
To wonder is to be Curious  
(one definition)*

Wondering always starts its sentences with a word that contains a ‘W’ and seals it with a question mark ‘?’.

God will take care of everything for our lives when we live in obedience to Him. Yet, we wonder how this will be. We wonder too much about the when, why and how’s of tomorrow, and the days after that. And often this leads to worry.

God asks us to ponder on His Word of Light, Promise, Hope, Faith, Truth and Wisdom. Rather than do this we


tend to ‘wonder why’ we should do this—resulting in confusion, depression, complaining, wasting time... and more sin. When we ponder on God’s word, He instinctively guides us in the How, When and Why, and no task is too difficult.

And, yes, other wondering Christians can be stumbling blocks in our daily walk with God. The Israelites fleeing Egypt are an example of a people who wondered about too much, rather than dwelling on God’s promises for them, turning an 11 day journey into 40 years.

Are we capable of living each day with Him, for Him, being civil with one another, showing kindness, using patience, speaking kindly, pondering always on good things? Can we live one whole day keeping all of God’s commandments and possessing every fruit of the Spirit, such as temperance, forgiveness and brotherly kindness?

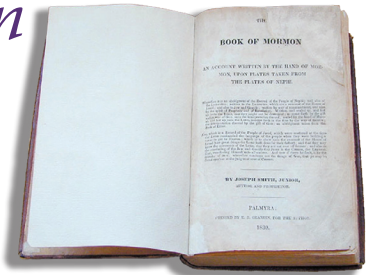
*...but keep my commandments  
wherewith I have commanded you.*

*For which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature...if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he not provide for you, if ye are not of little faith...Behold, I say unto you, that your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Take, therefore, no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day shall be the evil thereof (IV:Matthew 6:30,31,34,37-39).*

While it is important to have questions, we really should do less wondering and more pondering on the things the Lord has instructed us in. May God continue to enlighten and guide us in His ways. 

# What to Tell Your Friends and Neighbors about The Book of Mormon

By Eric Scott  
 Presented at The Book of Mormon Roundtable, January 21, 2007, Stone Church, Independence, Missouri. This is an abbreviated version due to limitation of space.



Arguments against The Book of Mormon fall basically into three categories:  
 (1) uninformed  
 (2) house of cards, and  
 (3) serious issues.  
 The Book of Mormon Roundtable addressed many of those arguments.

## Why Read The Book of Mormon?

1. It is another witness of the divinity of Jesus Christ. **Title Page**
2. It contains prophecies recorded centuries ago which are being fulfilled right now. **Mormon 4:38**
3. It contains more information on the teachings of Jesus Christ. **3 Nephi 7:9-10**
4. It contains more information about life after death. **Alma 19:43 & 47**
5. It supports the divinity of the Holy Bible. **1 Nephi 3:161-164**
6. It teaches sexual purity and monogamous marriage. **Jacob 2:33, 35-37**
7. It supports biblical teachings of creation. **Mormon 4:78**
8. It supports the biblical witness that God is a God of miracles. **2 Nephi 11:145**
9. It teaches the importance of God's word. **Alma 16:144-147**
10. It supports and explains the biblical teachings of Atonement. **Alma 16:208-211**
11. It supports the biblical teaching that there is only one God. **2 Nephi 13:32**
13. It is prophesied of in the Holy Bible. **Isaiah 29:4, Psalm 85:11, Ezekiel 37:15-20**
14. It is easy to understand. **2 Nephi 11:37**
15. It supports and expands on the biblical witness that God is an unchangeable God. **1 Nephi 3:27-28**
16. It promotes faith in God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. **2 Nephi 11:54, Mosiah 2:13-17**
17. It contains more prophetic information about latter day events. **Alma 17:32-33**
18. It supports the universal mission of Jesus Christ to all nations. **Title Page**
19. It is the history of three groups of people who were led to the New World by the hand of God. **2 Nephi 7:34-38**
20. It teaches the restoration of the House of Israel in the last days. **2 Nephi 12:73**
21. It supports and expands on the biblical teaching of the Fall of Man. **Ether 1:63, Mormon 4:71**
23. It gives promises and warnings to the people living in the land of America in the latter days. **Ether 1:31, 35**
24. It further explains the biblical teaching of the resurrection. **Alma 19:33-38**
26. It witnesses that God is not a partial God and that all may freely come to him for salvation. **2 Nephi 11:114-115**
26. It witnesses along with the Bible that there is but one way to salvation, and that way is through Jesus Christ. **Helaman 2:71**
27. It warns us that in the last days there will be those who will teach that Satan does not exist. **2 Nephi 12:26-27**
28. It warns us that in the last days there will be those who will deny the existence of God. **2 Nephi 12:5-7**
29. It is a book which contains a promise from the Lord that whoever will read it and asks God about may receive a testimony of its divinity and truthfulness by the power of God. **Moroni 10:4-5**
30. It is a gift and blessing from God.
31. It is part of the world's treasury of sacred books.

## Suggestions for Answering the Critics\*\*

1. The geography described in The Book of Mormon doesn't match any geographic region in the Americas.

*Belize fits the description of the Land of Jershon as evidenced by the relocation of a people and their culture from the highlands of Guatemala to Belize just as the Anti-Nephi-Lehi's relocated from the Land of Nephi to the Land of Jershon which was east by the sea around 100-140 BC as described in The Book of Mormon.*

2. American archaeology fails to reveal anything Christian or Hebraic (no crosses, synagogues, Hebrew letters or symbols).

*Yes, the 10 commandments in Hebrew are engraved in a boulder in Los Lunas, New Mexico, dating to BC, and this is well documented. Many tombs and stelea have engraved crosses and are built in the shape of a cross. At Palenque there is a Temple of the Cross. The strong evidence for a Christian influence on the Maya culture is being acknowledged in the most recent archaeological publications.*

3. No person, place or nation mentioned in The Book of Mormon has been identified archaeologically or geographically.

*The city of Yaxchilán has been identified by one of two name glyphs as Muluk (son of Zedekiah) who would have been the city's founding ruler. The name glyphs are but two of several pieces of evidence that strongly suggest Yaxchilán to be the city of Zarahemla. The city of Lamanai is named after King Lamoni. These are but two examples where documentations can be found.*

4. The Book of Mormon claims that Jesus of Nazareth (of the Bible) is the same person that visited the Americas in The Book of Mormon. This couldn't be, because he killed thousands here before his arrival.

*God and Christ, his son, keep promises and have promised to punish the wicked. Sodom and Gomorrah are good examples in the Bible of such action.*

5. The Book of Mormon claims Native Americans are descendants of the Nephites and Lamanites even though there is no DNA connection. A recently published video titled "DNA vs The Book of Mormon" claims to prove that there is no Hebrew connection to any of the native peoples of Mesoamerica.

*The Book of Mormon makes no such claims. There were lots of non-Hebrews living in northern America even at the time of the Lehitites and Mulekites. Studies and charts used in the "DNA vs. The Book of Mormon" video bases conclusions on an unreliable approach through "mtDNA" testing with scientifically unacceptable sample sizes (all but two used less than 50 specimens) as opposed to the most recognized accurate Nuclear DNA testing. Sample sources were unverified and scientifically flawed. The conclusions of the flawed study reached an unsupported conclusion that since no Hebrew connections were found in these samples they didn't exist. Further, Nephites were of the house of Joseph rather than Judah and there are no known sources of the house of Joseph to use as a comparative sample.*

6. Joseph Smith claimed to have translated The Book of Mormon into English from Reformed Egyptian.

*The characters that Joseph Smith and others saw inscribed on the plates and called by the author "reformed Egyptian" were a special "shorthand-like" version used for simplicity and convenience by selected record keepers in compiling their history. The Book of Mormon does not claim this was a language used the general public. While the Egyptians wrote in glyphs, they also developed their own shorthand style of writing called Demotic.*

7. Joseph Smith claims to have translated The Book of Mormon from gold plates by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Urim and Thummim while personal accounts from Emma Smith, Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Isaac Hale and Michael Morse don't support that claim.

*This is untrue. The three primary scribes for Joseph (Emma Smith, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris) each testified in written published documents that Joseph translated from the plates, word or words, by use of two seer stones referred to as Urim and Thummin in the Bible.*

8. The Book of Mormon claims it is consistent with the doctrine of the Bible but teaches salvation by works rather than grace alone.

*The Kansas City Star, January 20, 2007, quotes Pope Benedict XVI in 2000 when he stated that salvation comes through grace. But if they fail to respond in*

*Uninformed arguments can be easily dispelled with supporting documentation and evidence.*

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## *Answering the Critics (continued)*

*thought, word and deed to that grace, not only shall they not be saved but they shall be the more severely judged. The Book of Mormon teaches salvation by grace alone but acknowledges that once converted, a sinner will begin to produce good works by which they can be identified. Further the Apostles Paul, James and John all taught the importance of works in the Bible.*

9. Anachronisms are found in The Book of Mormon. Anachronisms are “anything foreign to or out of keeping with a specified time.” For example, the word bible had not been invented at the time it was used in The Book of Mormon. Critics have tried to use the word Bible and Adieu as exceptions.

*Bible – This is used only once in The Book of Mormon and then in a prophesy just as Isaiah used Cyrus in a prophesy years before Cyrus was born; Adieu is a loan word from French that had become an English word in common usage in the 1820’s and means farewell which is the proper word for the concept conveyed at the end of Jacob 5:48. We know of no unexplained anachronisms in The Book of Mormon.*

10. Christian teachings practiced such as baptism could not have been practiced before Christ was born.

*John the Baptist baptized with water before he knew Christ. The word of Christ was taught from the beginning of creation and many Book of Mormon prophets knew of Christ before His coming.*

11. The Book of Mormon claims that fruit and wild honey were products of the Sinai desert called Bountiful and that there was ample timber to build a ship.

*The Wadi Sayq on the south coast of the Arabian Peninsula is a lush jungle with fruits and many big trees for boats. Joseph couldn’t have known of this when he translated The Book of Mormon, and obviously the critics didn’t either.*

12. There is no proof of war on Hill Cumorah in New York.

*That is because the Hill Cumorah on which the battle took place was in the land of the Nephites. It was Oliver Cowdery who mistakenly called the hill in New York, where Joseph was led to the plates by the angel, Hill Cumorah. Joseph never did. Students and scholars believe that the majority of the events in The Book of Mormon took place in an area called Mesoamerica, embracing most of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and parts of Honduras. The Hill Cumorah mentioned in The Book of Mormon would be located in that area.*

13. The Book of Mormon chronology of the rise and fall of the Nephites is not consistent with the known archaeological dates of the Maya.

*Archaeologists are now in agreement that the Maya were highly civilized as evidenced by the uncovering of great cities (El Mirador et al) that date some 600 years BC. This is an adjustment of over 600 years in the archaeological community that brings the dates in line with The Book of Mormon.*

14. If The Book of Mormon is free of error as claimed by Joseph Smith, how come there were so many corrections made to it?

*These were to correct printer’s errors which were copied from the longhand of three different people. It is reasonable to assume that there would be many errors in the printer’s copy before and during the first several editions.*

Arguments against The Book of Mormon fall basically into three categories: (1) uninformed (2) house of cards, and (3) serious issues. The uninformed arguments include those like the question of steel, silk, or oats in the Americas at the time of the Nephites or that Solomon Spaulding wrote the outline of The Book of Mormon. These are arguments that can be easily dispelled with supporting documentation and evidence.

The second, or house-of-cards arguments, include those like Hill Cumorah could not be in New York or there is no DNA evidence of all the Indians having Hebrew origins. These are those reputed to be in the book, but a careful reading of the narrative shows they are not there.

And lastly, the serious issues, such as the authorship of Isaiah that is in question until additional evidence comes forth, have to be dealt with on faith.

*\*\*Points taken from Teaching The Book of Mormon How and Why, Theo E. Boyd, et al, Arrow Printing.*

### CALENDAR DATES

Graceland College Winter Term Mexico Tour  
January 6 – 15, 2008

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

22nd Annual Book of Mormon Archaeological Tour  
January 26–February 5, 2008

Maya Meetings —University of Texas at Austin  
February 25 – March 2, 2008

# Michigan Book of Mormon Day

The Annual Michigan Regional Book of Mormon Day was held at the Oakwood Restoration Church in Oakwood, Michigan, on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Representatives from PSI included Aaron and Sallie Presler, Dane Presler, Tim and Jennifer Raffety, Don and Pat Beebe, Neil and Doreen Steede, and Melvin Quick. Neil Steede and Tim and Jennifer Raffety were featured speakers. Michigan has been host to an annual Book of Mormon Day for more than 20 years.

Neil Steede explains possible locations of events and places found within the pages of The Book of Mormon from evidence emerging at various sites.



The search for new readers of **glyph notes** and supporters for research and study of The Book of Mormon is a primary focus of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute. YOU can add someone to the mailing list by sending their name and address to:

**PSI, Box 477, Independence, MO 64051**

This display blends the past with the present.



Pat Beebe

Pat Beebe

# GLYPH *Clips*

## Guatemala Gets Copy of Dresden Codex

Thomas Burger, the general director of the Royal Library of Saxony in Dresden, Germany presented Guatemala's Deputy Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Andrade a copy of the Dresden Codex, considered to be the most important of the world's four best preserved Maya manuscripts. It is also considered to be the "most valuable and complete" (Burger). Maya codices (singular codex) are folded books stemming from the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, written in Maya hieroglyphic script on Mesoamerican paper, made from the inner bark of certain trees (*Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*). The original codex will remain at the Royal Library of Saxony.

Experts discovered "the keys to the 260-day Maya calendar, information about local harvests, prophecies and a universe of gods among whom stand out: K'in Ahau, the sun god; Naal, the corn god; Chaak, the rain god; and Lahun P'et, the god of human sacrifices" (*Institute of Maya Studies Newsletter*, October 2007). The facsimile document is scheduled to be publicly presented on October 22, 2007 in a series of lectures. The codex represents an important piece of Guatemala's history.

Only three codices and fragment of possibly a fourth have survived to modern times. These are:

- The Madrid Codex, also known as the Tro-Cortesianus Codex
- The Dresden Codex
- The Paris Codex, also known as the Peresianus Codex
- The Grolier Codex, also known as the Grolier Fragment

Source: *Institute of Maya Studies Newsletter*, October 17, 2007. 

Photo of image from page 7 of the Dresden Codex



Don Beebe

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