

## GLYPH

Notes

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 • VOLUME 16 NUMBER 5

## Why Are They Leaving?

By Shirley R. Heater

*“No longer believe in God... I’ve decided I am an atheist.” It may not surprise you that young people today are taking this stand when you see the deteriorating conditions in the world around us. But what may surprise you is that these words are not only being spoken by young people with various Christian backgrounds, but also by children of the Restoration! Why? Why! Why...*

It is not an easy answer—or rather, it is not an answer that is easy to listen to. But I’m going to give it a try. A recent survey of young people ages 20-29, specifically identified as from conservative Christian homes (having grown up attending church, Sunday school, camps, praying with their families, reading the Bible, etc.), revealed that 90% no longer attend. The majority said they didn’t get answers they needed and were more likely to accept abortion, gay rights, evolution, do your own thing, question authority, even the word of God and God Himself!

I can look back in my own lifetime and see many seemingly “small” or isolated changes that have accumulated until today we have a full-blown war against God and His Word. I remember when in 1954 “under God” was added to the pledge of allegiance. I also remember when prayer was removed from schools (1963) and Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973. For decades, a concerted effort has been in play to undermine the word of God, culminating in the chaos and contention seen in the world today. It has spilled over into government (“separation of church and state”), education devoid of anything spiritual (only Santa is welcome at Christmas), removing “In God We Trust” from newly minted coins, and the fight to have “under God” removed from the pledge! (And, sadly, these are only a few examples.)

How has this happened? Part of the answer is being celebrated this year by spotlighting two significant events—the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of his landmark work *Origin of Species*. When Darwin left on his five-year sea journey in 1831, he left a Bible-believing creationist. But he carried with him another book, *Principles of Geology* published in 1830 by Charles Lyell, proposing the doctrine of uniformitarianism which states that the present is the key to the past. By 1859 Darwin was an atheist and full-blown evolutionist.

Did you catch the date of Lyell’s book? 1830! – the same year The Book of Mormon was published. Second Nephi 1:81 tells us there is opposition in all things—that is certainly true when it comes to God and the Scriptures today! And just prior to the coming forth of The Book of Mormon, the foundations for questioning the Bible were laid down by questioning the origin of Genesis and Moses as the writer.

Darwin’s and Lyell’s false doctrines spread insidiously throughout the last century-plus, its tentacles infiltrating not only world and government views, but also science, education and text books, meaning of life, marriage, standards, and yes, even Bible-believing (and Book of Mormon

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## Why Are They Leaving? (cont. from page 1)

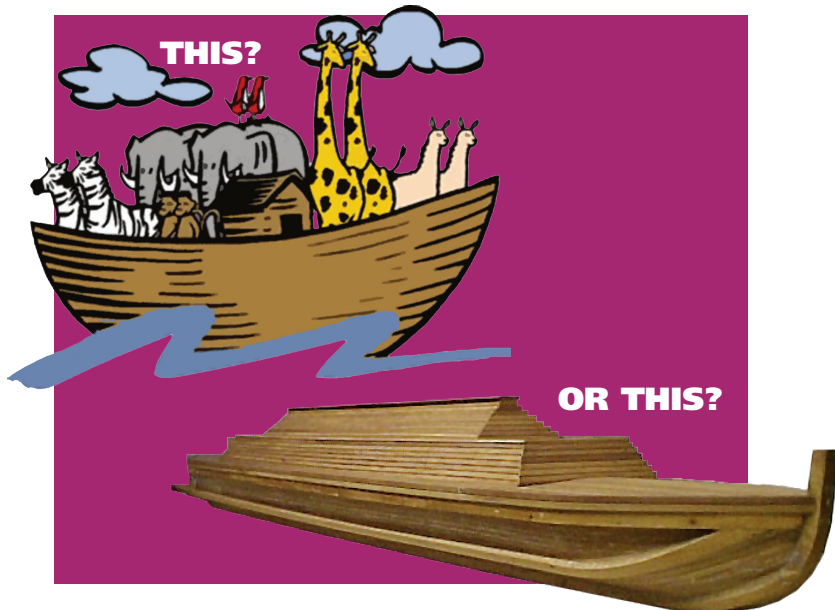
believing) churches. In attempts to mold Biblical creation to evolution, compromise interpretations such as theistic evolution or evolutionary creation were adopted. While these views seemed to satisfy some religionists, it has been a slippery slope toward the ultimate goal of evolution—a total rejection of the Bible and God Himself!

And the church has unwittingly contributed by not treating the foundational principles seriously. Take the flood of Noah, for instance. Was it worldwide or just local as many now believe? Evolution presents the geologic column as evidence of eons of gradual change, with man appearing near the top or most recent “age.” But the geologic column does not appear intact *anywhere* in the world, and in fact, some layers (“ages”) are missing, or are out of order with later millions of years appearing before earlier millions of years. The geologic column is actual evidence of a worldwide, catastrophic flood! And let’s not forget Noah’s ark—we see cute little boats with Noah and a few animal pairs with giraffes sticking their heads above the top, when the real ark was huge and perfectly proportioned to stay afloat—proportions still used today by the largest ships!

By embracing or molding these false doctrines, the result is a loss of confidence in the Word of God, then

a denial of His existence and His role in the history of mankind, and society rushing toward the moral collapse. When the foundation crumbles, we are left without a Creator; there was no Fall and thus no need for a Savior, no judgment (the Flood), no miraculous virgin birth, crucifixion or resurrection! When you let go of the rod of iron, you are without a sure foundation.

What we believe is foundational to how we interpret and understand everything. We must “be ready always to give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15). Understanding what has happened to the Bible will help us understand the role of The Book of Mormon. My position—as with archaeology and The Book of Mormon—is that the Scriptures are TRUE! They are either a true history—or they are not! The attack on the word of God—the Bible—has been blatant, and The Book of Mormon has not been spared. And while the Christian world as a whole is fighting against The Book of Mormon, it is the very answer they need! The Book of Mormon joined together as a second witness with the Bible strengthens the testimony of those foundations (e.g., Creation, Fall and need for a Savior, Flood, Crucifixion and Resurrection) and according to the words of Lehi, the two “shall grow together unto the confounding of false doctrines” (2 Nephi 1:19-24)!




### The Deception

By Shirley R. Heater

satan believed he had won  
when he thought he'd killed the Son  
but he was momentarily deluded by his misconception  
because he didn't anticipate the Resurrection!  
so he devised his own deception  
to undermine the Resurrection—

no creation > no Creator  
no fall > no Savior

hold fast to the Rod of Iron  
and to our Creator, Savior and Friend  
reject the deception—embrace the Resurrection  
and—endure to the end! 

## From OUR READERS


Thank you for being with us last Saturday and Sunday. These are exciting times, as you said, Don and Pat. Your pictures and true stories of discovering new evidences of Christ in America are awesome and inspirational. Your enthusiasm is catching. We hope you will come again. Colorado Springs Restoration Branch. **MLH**

I just realized that I have not paid for the *glyph notes* I have been receiving for many years. Enclosed is a small check that will not begin to cover the cost. Thank you so much for sharing with me – and I share with other

friends. You are doing a good work, please continue. **LN**

Keep up the good work. I really enjoy the work you folks are doing. I believe the missing plates will come forth. **BL**

*Glyph notes* is a great and awesome piece of work. I look forward to it every time. **Julia**

I hope this helps in the studies of Book of Mormon lands. Sincerely, a sister in Gospel Bonds and member nearly 50 years of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. **HM”J”B** 

# Hebrew Script in Ancient Mesoamerica and Its Significance

By Neil Steede and the Mexican Epigraphic Society ©2009

*For years Mesoamerican archaeologists and linguists have stated that there is no evidence of Hebrew in Ancient Mesoamerica. That assumption is crumbling. While these scholars were technically correct in their statements, linguistic evidence has always existed since the time of ethnographic linguistic maps.*

The best set of these maps, in my opinion, can be found in David Kelly's book, *Deciphering Maya Hieroglyphics* (Kelly 1976). Kelly's maps and tables clearly illustrate almost every major migration spoken of in The Book of Mormon. A Book of Mormon correlation is explained using Kelly's maps and tables in *Book of Mormon Archaeology: Artifact by Artifact* (Steede 2008:v8). Therefore, the statement that no linguistic evidence for The Book of Mormon exists has not been true for decades. It is simply a question of how one reads the presently accepted linguistic maps in conjunction with how one lays out Book of Mormon geography.

However, while the historical migration patterns of Book of Mormon people can be traced, and while this is linguistic evidence, none of these finds demonstrates that the Hebrew language itself was actually used in Ancient Mesoamerica. But, relatively new evidence now exist which strengthens the Hebrew connection. Two pottery shards found at Cholula have ancient Hebrew characters painted on them. At this point, some definitions must be established. "Script" refers to the alphabet, syllabary, glyphs or hieroglyphs in which the inscription is expressed. The "medium" in which the inscription is written can vary from petroglyphs (carvings or incising on stone) or paint as on the pottery shards—which this article is reviewing. Not all scholars or linguists acknowledge that most languages can be written in almost any script. A very good example is the modern translation of Maya hieroglyphs. Usually when scholars translate Maya hieroglyphs, they transliterate the glyphs to

Latin letters for others to more easily follow pronunciations. And, though our society does this everyday when writing modern reports on ancient translations without a second thought, it is generally not considered to have been done by ancient scholars. I neither understand nor agree with this reasoning. However, there now has been found Hebrew script (letters) on classical Mesoamerican pottery.

At present there are close to 32 known ancient scripts in the Ancient Americas according to David Kelley, Professor Emeritus, Calgary, Canada, whose specialty is Mesoamerican Archaeology. Yet, textbooks still teach that Native Americans were universally illiterate. Among this wide variety of scripts, several Old World scripts have been found (Steede 2008:v8). The discovery of Hebrew script should not be a surprise. After all, The Bat Creek Stone was found decades ago and was proven to have a Hebrew inscription by both Mertz (*The Wine Dark Sea: Homer's Epic of the North Atlantic* 1964) and Gordon (*Before Columbus* 1971).

But that inscription's identification has been relegated to the "back closets" by a number of institutions including The Smithsonian. (The Bat Creek Stone was excavated by and remains in the custody of The Smithsonian Institution at present.) The same likely will occur with this most recent discovery. The Cholulan shards are presently claimed to be "lost." While steps are being taken to rectify this dilemma, there is reason for good cheer. All is not lost.

Before the shards were "misplaced," they were examined by Dr. Phillip Leonard, Professor Emeritus,

*Continued on Page 4*



Pottery shards found at Cholula have ancient Hebrew characters painted on them.



*The statement that no linguistic evidence for The Book of Mormon exists has not been true for decades. It is simply a question of how one reads the presently accepted linguistic maps in conjunction with how one lays out Book of Mormon geography.*

## Hebrew Script in Ancient Mesoamerica and Its Significance (cont. from page 3)

University of Utah, whose specialty is Ancient Middle Eastern Languages and Dr. David Kelly. Dr. Kelly states, "No one could deny that these pieces are classical Cholulan pottery (private conversation with author). Dr. Leonard confirmed that the script (letters) were Hebrew. However, Dr. Leonard further stated, "They must be names, for I do not recognize any Hebrew words." These observations are most significant.

Book of Mormon believers have been warned that they would be "tried" in their faith (Ether 5:7). Unfortunately, many appear to have failed that test. A large part of the reason for not enduring in faith is a recurring habit that many Book of Mormon believers have in accepting and passing on misconceptions or easy assumptions of what real evidence is. Most Book of Mormon believers do not make the attempt to be scholarly in their claims, thus they are bewildered when accredited scholars do not respond to their claims. And, some recognized Book of Mormon scholars are no better or perhaps worse than the novice. The following will help clarify the previous statement. Just because there is Hebrew script on two pottery shards from Cholula does not mean that the case for the use of Hebrew in Ancient Mesoamerica has been resolved—quite the contrary. And, there are several reasons why.


First and foremost, the texts cannot be read. This creates several immediate problems. Though the script is Hebrew, it does not mean that the underlying language is Hebrew. Even scholars balk at this argument. But let's suppose that a single Jewish fisherman got caught in a storm and was taken across the Atlantic by accident [this scenario has happened in the past, notably told in the text of The Paraiba Stone from Brazil (Gordon 1971)]. Once ashore in a new land, he had no choice but "to go native." However, he would still have his "cultural baggage" such as his knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet. Therefore, he alone (in this supposed tale) can write with that alphabet. As time goes along, our imaginary fisherman finds work in Cholula making pottery. His pottery sells well because he paints in Hebrew the name of the purchaser on each piece. Thus centuries later, one finds Hebrew script on a pot that does not necessarily reflect the use of the Hebrew language. Rather, the fisherman painted native names in

the script which he knew. The natives thought having their name written in a foreign language was charming.

As far-fetched as the above story may seem, it is a lot more reasonable with the evidence available than claims that, "there are Hebrew inscriptions from Cholula which prove The Book of Mormon to be true!" So, if you are a Book of Mormon believer, slow down on your enthusiasm to use the word prove. This discovery is just a small step for man in the giant leap awaiting mankind. When you, dear reader, see this article and share it with others verbally, do so in context. This discovery is but a drop in the bucket. Thus far it proves nothing as far as The Book of Mormon is concerned. It proves only that at least one person arrived from the Hebrew-speaking area.

And, also be of good cheer for there are those who are working hard on not only this discovery but also other related ones as you read these words. One of these organizations is the Mexican Epigraphic Society (MES). Headway has been made by MES, and they may soon be recognized as a group of outstanding epigraphers. And, you know what? MES is made up of people just like you. The only difference is that they have chosen to actually do something about the sad state of acceptable Book of Mormon evidences. Moreover, they put their time and money behind their belief. Anyone can do the same. MES members need have no professional training, but they are making a difference through their research efforts. You, too, CAN make a difference. We thank Pre-Columbian Studies Institute for allowing MES to share their research efforts with you through their publication *glyph notes*.

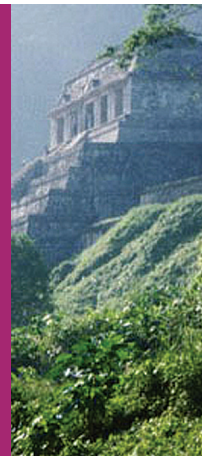
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- The Mexican Epigraphic Society  
2009 c/o Early Sites Research Society, Box 4175, Independence, MO 64050. 

## SERIES OF CLASSES

Expand your understanding of The Book of Mormon! Classes held each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at South Crysler Restoration Branch

Oct. 13	- "Chinese Connection-Part 2" .....	Sherrie Smith
Oct. 20	- "The Book of Mormon, Spiritual Yardstick" .....	Tim Raffety
Oct. 27	- "Interpreters of The Book of Mormon" .....	Shirley Heater
Nov. 3	- "Confounding False Doctrines" .....	Shirley Heater
Nov. 10	- "Stone Boxes and Metal Plates" .....	Pat Beebe
Nov. 17	- "Easy Assumptions" .....	Glenn Scott



# The Book of Mormon in Stone: A Testimony

By Patricia J. Beebe

Russian writer, Ivan Turgenev wrote, "A picture shows me at a glance what it takes dozens of pages of a book to expound." (Fathers and Sons, 1862)

Whenever I share my testimony of why I believe The Book of Mormon is a historical and literal account of a people that the Lord led to the Promised Land, I always seem to end up dragging out photographs. Why? Because as the old saying goes, "a picture is worth ten thousand words" (popularly attributed to Confucius according to Wikipedia). The phrase refers to the idea that complex thoughts can be more easily conveyed in an image than in a multiplicity of text. I am a strong advocate of using the five senses—sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste—in the learning process. I also believe our Heavenly Father uses these gifts to man to help us come closer to Him.

As a convert to the Restoration movement, I came into the church with what I call *left-over baggage*—prejudices or incorrect interpretations of Christ's Gospel without having full knowledge or a complete examination of the facts (the scriptures and physical evidence). Many Christians, including myself, continue to struggle with *left-over baggage*. It took me many years to embrace The Book of Mormon because of the stories I had heard from other people regarding the book. Others said and continue to say that it is not a Christian book. They say it is a book of the devil. I could not bring myself to open its pages and let the book speak for itself. So, as too many do, I shelved it thinking it would do me no harm. In retrospect, I now recognize that "what you don't know" can hurt you. I have missed so much time in the act of avoidance and reacting to the belief of others. Valuable time was wasted that I could have used to share the truthfulness of this wonderful book.

I will not take time to reiterate when or why I first opened The

Book of Mormon to read, but I did. The following scripture shocked my mind like a hot coal. Those others who whispered in my ear, "it is not a Christian book," were wrong! They had not read the book. For if they had, they would have read,

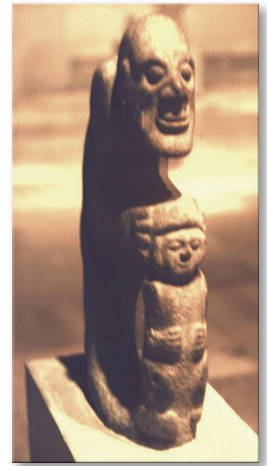
And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins (2 Ne 11:48).

Indeed, "in just under 800 pages, The Book of Mormon has almost 2000 references to our Lord" (Rupe, *The Book of Mormon: An Inconvenient Truth* 2009:25).

As Pre-Columbian Studies Institute sponsored tour after tour to the lands of The Book of Mormon, I began to see with my own eyes vestiges of this sacred book carved in stone. Images of events, peoples, and places were etched in stone and painted on murals. Our Lord is truly an awesome God to have created and preserved for his people physical evidence for such a time as this—our time. Little physical evidence existed until recent years to validate that the Bible is historical and literal. I believe there is more physical evidence to support the authenticity of The Book of Mormon than there is to support the Bible—and I believe much of the Bible is historical and literal in its teachings. It would be easy to say there are no words to describe what I have seen. But, that would not be truthful. There are too many words from which to choose. Each trip to Mesoamerica strengthens my faith in much the same way as the huge stones placed side by side

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- A large statute in the museum at Jalapa, Mexico, classified as Olmec style. Carved in stone is an older man (archaeologists recognize as a priest) placing his hands on the head of a child—which strongly reflects the practice of the ordinance of laying on of hands (Alma 4:1).



- A close up of the Tablet of 96 Glyphs displayed at the Palenque site museum. On the bottom right is one of the five



"and it came to pass" glyphs on this tablet. The "and it came to pass" glyph was one of the great breakthroughs in understanding Maya writing. The Book of Mormon is replete

with this Hebrew literary phase linking its writers to the Old World language.



- A mural of now extinct animals in the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City, Mexico. Bones of the remains of such animals are also on display and were used by the artist to produce the likenesses. The Book of Mormon speaks of the usefulness to man of elephants, cureloms and cumoms (Ether 4:21), and National Geographic Magazine, October, 1993, says small mammoths survived as recent as 1700 BC—well into Jaredite time.

*The Book of Mormon in Stone: A Testimony (cont. from page 5)*

and stacked one upon each other give strength to the structure.

If truly a picture is worth ten thousand words, then this testimony will have a word count valuation in excess of 60,000. It is hard to decide which photograph(s) helped me reach that point where my faith turned into knowledge. Those included here are my favorites—not necessarily the most important to my belief. Several hurdles had to be overcome in order for me to embrace The Book of Mormon as authentic. The book requires the existence of: a great civilization; a writing system; a hill where two final battles occurred a thousand years apart; adherence to precise geographical descriptions; existence of elephants and horses; ancient highways; battle strategies; and much more. Photographs have been captured which produce compelling evidence to support each of the aforementioned claims.

It has been only within the past 50 years that discoveries have come forth which have changed previous interpretations/translations and timelines which, in turn, have brought the community of archaeology and historians closer to the accounts related in The Book of Mormon. Look, read and let the photographs take you on a, perhaps, unexpected journey in search for the truth.



• Statute located at La Venta Park, La Venta, Mexico, referred to as the Ambassador Stone. It depicts a man walking (footprint to left of man) carrying what appears to be a flag with three round glyphs that have been loosely translated to refer to God, country, and family. Engraving on the top of the stone in an ancient system of writing, ogam, reads "national freedom." The stone bears a striking resemblance to the story of Chief Captain Moroni (Alma 21:42).



• Creation text on Stela C at the site of Quirigua, Guatemala. "Echoes of the Genesis account of creation reverberate throughout Maya creation texts and legends" (Sherrie Kline Smith, *glyph notes*, Jul/Aug 1998). How could a people considered to be illiterate by

historians and the archaeology community—and supported in textbooks yet today—carve such a compelling story of their existence and heritage which ties so closely to the Genesis account?



• Artifacts from Cerro Rabon, State of Oaxaca, Mexico (which we believe to be Hill Cumorah), corroborate final battles took place at this hill on the same battlefield and were held a thousand years apart as The Book of Mormon claims (Ether 6; Mormon 4:2).



*GLYPH Notes*

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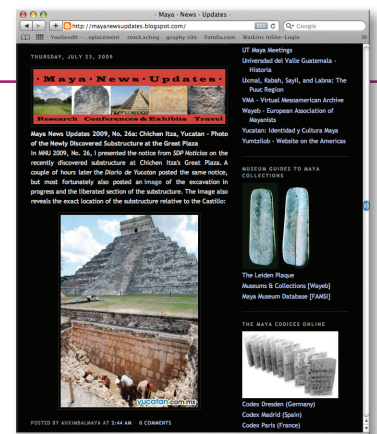
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**GLYPH Clips**

**Chichen Itza, Yucatan - Archaeologists Discover Substructure Predating Buildings at the Great Plaza**

July 22, 2009, SDP Noticias reported the discovery at Chichen Itza of a substructure predating the well-known buildings at the Great Plaza like the Castillo or the Temple of the Warriors. The substructure may date from the 8th or 9th century and was discovered through the excavations that the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) initiated some four months ago at the site. Archaeologist Rafael Cobos, responsible for the project, said that at present a length of some 12 meters of the substructure has been revealed and that it predates a building like the Castillo by some 100 years. From Erik Boot's Maya News Updates <http://mayanewsupdates.blogspot.com/>

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# Narrow Neck of Land

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Book of Mormon Archaeological Tour, January 21 – 31, 2010\*\*\*



Sponsored By: **Pre-Columbian Studies Institute**, Don Beebe, President  
Tour Presented by PSI Tours, LLC, Lyle and Sherrie Smith, Tour Leaders

# REGISTRATION FORM

Our 23<sup>th</sup> annual tour emphasizes Jaredite history and culture. On our way to Veracruz on the Gulf, we visit the ruins of Cholula and Cacaxtla. A short drive from Veracruz takes us to the archaeological museum in Jalapa that displays many Olmec artifacts. A day to Hill Rabon (possible Cumorah) is always memorable with an overnight stop at beautiful and peaceful Lake Catemaco. Olmec ruins of the cities of Tres Zapotes, San Lorenzo, and La Venta are the earliest large cities in Mesoamerica. We cap our Olmec adventure with a visit to La Venta Park in Villahermosa. Turning to the Maya or Nephites, we visit fascinating Comalcalco on the Gulf coast and make a visit to Palenque, one of the most beautiful and intriguing Maya sites. We will also visit Mexico City, the National Museum, and the massive ruins of Teotihuacan. Classes will be held in the evenings. Not only will we have fun together, but we'll worship together.

*Join us for an adventure you won't forget and let The Book of Mormon come alive for you! BUT, remember! We travel where the unpredictable happens. It's part of the adventure! Questions call Lyle Smith, 816 867-5057 or Don Beebe, 816 796-4094.*

\*\*\*Dates could shift a day or two. We may possibly leave January 22nd or 23rd and return on February 1st or 2nd.

**COSTS:** **Tour cost per person — \$2,495**  
**Single Supplement — additional \$600**

**INCLUDES:** All airfare from Kansas City; all ground transportation; hotel accommodations based on two persons in a double room; breakfasts and dinners in Mexico. Entrance fees, service charges, and tips.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Personal items such as a-la-carte orders, room service, laundry, and meals and other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**LIQUOR or TOBACCO:** Please refrain from using either when our group is together.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** **\$500 deposit per person due NOW!**  
**Deposits refundable until Oct. 30, 2009, when final payment is due**

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# GLYPH *Clips* (cont. from page 6)

## New Tomb at Copan

The September/October 2009 issue of *Archaeology* reports on a new tomb discovered at Copan, Honduras. It's possibly the tomb of the son or brother of the founder, but could be a later king. The tomb dates from about AD 450 to 550. The presence of much jade and many shell artifacts suggest the person may have been a king. The tomb is buried under the large pyramid designated as Temple 16. The full article is online at: [http://www.archaeology.org/0909/maya\\_copan/](http://www.archaeology.org/0909/maya_copan/).

## 200th Issue of BAR

The combined double issue (July/August and September/October) of *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR) celebrates its 200th issue by featuring some of the more important archaeological finds over the past 30 years. Included are the ten top discoveries as well as an article called "The Riches of Ketef Hinnom." Many important items were found at Ketef Hinnom, at Jerusalem, among them were two silver amulets that date to the time of Jeremiah and therefore Lehi. They are inscribed with a text very similar to that found in Numbers 6:24-26. "May YHWH bless you, keep you. May YHWH make his face shine upon you and grant you peace." There are at least two reasons why this discovery is of value for believers in *The Book of Mormon*. 1.) The amulets prove the Israelites engraved language on metal at the time of Lehi. And 2.) The amulets preserve the oldest Biblical text ever found. They pre-date the Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years. If you don't subscribe to BAR, see if your nearby library has a copy. This issue is full of great material on Biblical archaeology. 