

GLYPH

Notes

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 • VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

Become Acquainted with All Good Books

by Patricia J. Beebe et al

The beginning of a new year has traditionally been a time of reflection on the year past; a time to evaluate where we, as individuals, are now and where we would like to be in the coming year. Henry Ward Beecher said, "Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page" (Wikipedia). Each morning that we awake is not only a miracle but also a blessing from our Heavenly Father. Every new day provides an opportunity to honor Him with the "start [of] a fresh page." But how can we make the most of the blessing given? The Scriptures offer excellent guidance:

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

... seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning even by study, and also by faith (D&C 85:36a).

... and study and learn, and become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues, and people (D&C 87:5b).

Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI) in its newsletter, *glyph notes*, has endeavored through research to share evidence of the authenticity of The Book of Mormon. PSI, from its beginning (and each New Year) has had as its primary goal: to assist in strengthening your faith and in helping to turn that faith into knowledge and into action. Throughout the issues of *glyph notes* can be found strong tangible evidence testifying of the people who lived the narrative of The Book of Mormon. Uplifting testimonies, study helps, and resource materials are abundant.

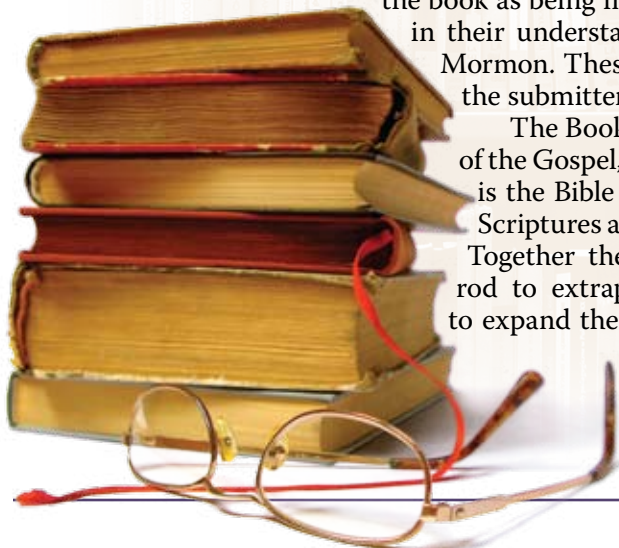
The January/February issue, the first of the New Year, is dedicated to encourage you, the reader, the believer, the researcher, or simply the curious to experiment upon the words of counsel given by our Lord. There are many "good books" from which to choose. The selections which follow are offered as potential sources for exploration and learning. The criteria upon which a selection has been included is that the one submitting considered the book as being integral to growing their faith and helping in their understanding and appreciation of The Book of Mormon. These books also are considered to be among the submitter's top five excluding the Scriptures.

The Book of Mormon, which contains the fullness of the Gospel, is treasured by many around the world as is the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants—these Scriptures are considered to be among the best books. Together they provide a foundation and measuring rod to extrapolate eternal truths. Good books help to expand the mind, thus enabling the reader to grasp and understand more fully the depth and breadth of God's eternal nature and workings with all of his creation.

Cont. on Page 2

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Zsuzsanna Kilian



Background photo - Mateusz Zdanko

Become Acquainted with All Good Books (Cont. from page 1)

The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of the past centuries.

— René Descartes

When Pat Beebe asked me to select one or more of my favorite books related to The Book of Mormon and tell why it (or they) deeply affected me, I had to reach way back to when I first read that book. My first choice would be the five volume *Works of Hubert H. Bancroft—The Native Races*, first published in 1874. The edition that I have was published in 1882 by A. L. Bancroft & Co., San Francisco. Bancroft was probably the first major scholar to note that the legend of the bearded white God/man, in Mexico referred to as Quetzalcoatl, was also known to most of the indigenous tribes from Alaska to Panama. However, because Bancroft’s works have for so long been out of print, I have chosen a more recent book with a similar theme titled *He Walked the Americas* by L. Taylor Hansen (1963) published by Amherst Press, Amherst, Wisconsin. This book is still available at the Book of Mormon Foundation bookstore at 210 West White Oak, Independence, Missouri.

Both of these scholars started their studies by collecting as many ancient legends as possible, then sifting and comparing similarities and differences between the legends. It is the remarkable similarities of the wide-spread legends of the bearded white God/man that will be of most interest to believers in The Book of Mormon.

It seems that somewhere around the first century AD he visited most of the inhabitants of the New World and left such an indelible impression as a healer and miracle worker that he is still remembered in their legends. While each tribe named him in their own language, their descriptions of him are uniquely consistent. His symbols are still found in pottery, paintings and sculpture throughout the Americas.

Hansen began in Polynesia where

Wakea had appeared, visiting all the scattered islands. He stopped wars and human sacrifice, healed the injured and taught of One God whose law is love. The curator of the Bishop museum in Honolulu confirmed that *Wakea* came in the first century AD.

In Guatemala he was given many names. In the Yucatan he was called *Kul-kul-kan*, in the Petén he was called *Gu-ku-matz*, both meaning Plumed Serpent. In the southern highlands, he was *Itz-amna-Lord of wind and water*. At Panuco, Mexico, he stilled a tornado and was called *Hu-ru-kan*. There he healed the sick and showed them his wounded hands.

In Oklahoma he was called *Chee-zoos*. He chose 12 disciples and related that he was born of a virgin across the sea on a night when winged beings sang in the heavens. At Spiro Mound (considered to be one of the most important Native American archaeological sites in North America) has been found pottery incised with winged beings.

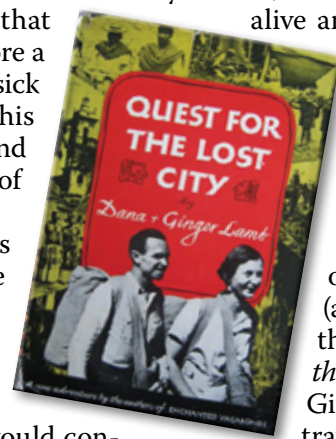
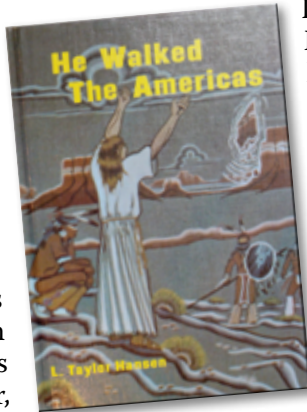
The Algonkin Indians also remember *Chee-zoos the Dawn God*.

The five nations of the Seneca called him *Hea-wa-sah* meaning “from far off.”

The Yakima of the northwest called him *Tla-acoma – Lord miracle worker*.

The Chippewa say that *Wis-ah-co* was bearded, wore a long white robe, healed the sick and chose a priesthood. This was more than a thousand winters before the coming of the Catholic fathers.

In Georgia he was called *E-see-co-wah*. There he chose 12 disciples, but prophesied that their descendants would return to idol worship and that men from across the sea would conquer their broad land.



At Tula, Mexico, the Toltec capital, he denounced slavery, war, and human sacrifice. They called him Quetzalcoatl and *Teo Wahkan*. There he prophesied that in three cycles they would forget the One God, resume human sacrifice, and war would fill the land. In the year *Te-tec-patl* (the word *tecpatl* means a day of grave ordeal, trial or tribulation) three ships would cross the eastern sea bearing bearded white men wearing shining garments and carrying rods that spoke thunder and killed at a distance.

At Cholula, Mexico, he continued “They will kneel and kiss the ground and carry a large cross but trust them not. They hunger for the yellow metal and they are children of war. Hide your great books and histories deep in caverns—the day will come when they will be precious.”

The reason that these books are favorites of mine should be obvious. They parallel The Book of Mormon from many different independent sources, thus providing additional support to its truthfulness. I highly recommend them.

Glenn A. Scott, Author
Voices from the Dust 2002

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

After seeing slides of Meso-american ruins when I was eight years old, The Book of Mormon came alive and I knew I wanted to study archaeology!

In my teen years, I found a number of adventure books that whet my appetite. Reflecting back from this vantage point, the one that stands out (and which I read more than once) is *Quest for the Lost City* by Dana & Ginger Lamb. The Lambs traveled throughout the Maya area “roughing it,” camping

out and even staying with local natives. It was as if “you were there” when they visited numerous Maya sites traveling by canoe along the eastern Caribbean coast, as well as on foot to places inland, including Palenque, Bonampak and Yaxchilán. Their claim to have found ruins of a “lost city” (which has never been satisfactorily identified) has obviously influenced my observations of archaeological evidences confirming The Book of Mormon, as seen in my title “Discovering Lost Worlds of The Book of Mormon”!

**Shirley R Heater, Director
Quetzal Archaeology Center for
Mesoamerican Research**

Note: *Quest for the Lost City* was originally published in 1951, and recently republished in 2001. Quite a few sites can be found online discussing their adventures.

The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it. — James Bryce

I first became interested in The Book of Mormon after being invited to a slide show given by Roy Weldon at a neighbor’s home. This was in the late ’40s while I was still in high school in Swartz Creek, Michigan.

The first book that I studied was by Verneil Simmons, *Peoples, Places, and Prophecies*, which helped me to begin to see the overall picture of



The Book of Mormon. Next I studied Glenn Scott’s book, *Voices from the Dust*, which brought out more details. Many trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador also helped me understand the history and geography of The Book of Mormon.

Recently, I became acquainted with Neil Steede’s book, *Why I believe in the Historical Veracity of the Book of Mormon*, followed by Neil’s eight volume, *Archaeology Artifact by Artifact*. Since Neil is an archaeologist and lived in Southern Mexico for more than 17 years (and believes The Book of Mormon to be historically accurate), he has been and continues to have access to professional people in the field and new discoveries that few are able to obtain.

I have learned a great deal from these books and others that I have studied. I believe that prayer to the Lord as I study opens my eyes and helps me understand. The Lord is truly breaking forth new light and truth in these latter days which soon will open The Book of Mormon to the world.

**Barent Eliason, Pastor
Sandusky Restoration Branch,
Michigan**

*I have always imagined that
Paradise will be a kind of library.*
— Jorge Luis Borges

When asked to name the top five most influential books in my life, excluding the Scriptures, I found it difficult because there have been many. There also have been many people who have guided me in my studies. My father taught me to evaluate things carefully. He would say, “Figures don’t lie, but liars figure” (Mark Twain). Therefore, I looked for evidence to weigh counsel against

scripture. James 1:5, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and it shall be given him,” has been important in my life; I wear it out. There are so many things I want to know.

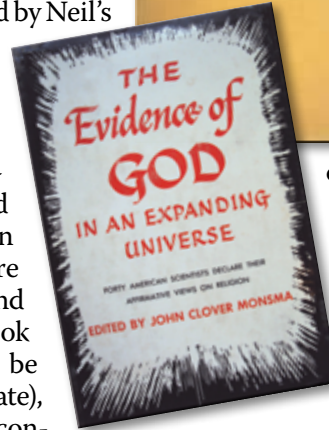
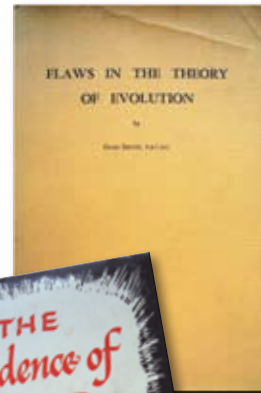
As a young college student majoring in science (biology and chemistry) at the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri (UCM), Roy Weldon took time to help guide me in my studies (as he did with several other students). He was well aware that men in science often had a history of losing their faith. He would tell me about especially good books which, if I would read them, would help bolster my faith in the Gospel, especially The Book of Mormon. The following are five of the most influential books in my life.

1) *Flaws in the Theory of Evolution* by Dr. Evan Shute. The author shares the thoughts of many internationally-known scientists concerning the theory of evolution. In 1933 Drs. Wilfred and Evan Shute, brothers, were among the first doctors to use mega doses of Vitamin E in the treatment of heart disease. “We didn’t make vitamin E so versatile. God did. Ignore its mercy at your peril” (Dr. Evan Shute).

2) *The Evidence of God in an Expanding Universe* by John Clover Monsma. This book, also recommended to me by Roy Weldon, uses the format of inviting 40 of the world’s leading scientists to share why they believe in the creation.

3) *None of These Diseases* by S. I. McMillan. The author, intrigued by the scripture in Exodus 15:26, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, wilt give ear to His commandments, and wilt keep his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee.” Application is made to all of the major diseases of our day.

4) *He Who Is* by Arthur Oakman
Cont. on Page 4



Become Acquainted with All Good Books (Cont. from page 3)

Brother Oakman shares his experience while in vision he stood before our Lord on the morning of creation. He heard our Lord utter the words, "Let there be light" and he witnessed it occur. While reading Section 90 in the Doctrine Covenants, brother Oakman's experience came to life for me.

5) *God's Spiritual Universe* by Arthur Oakman, 1961. The author assists the reader in understanding the relationship of God to man and man to God.

Of these five—all wonderful books—the one which has guided me most is *Flaws in the Theory of Evolution*. It begins with one of the most powerful statements I have read. It is not scripture, but as Brother Oakman would say, "it might as well be."

To accept as truth that which is not truth, or to fail in distinguishing the sense in which a proposition may be true from other senses in which it is not true, is an evil having consequences which are indeed incalculable. There are subjects in which one mistake of this kind will poison all the wells of truth, and affect with fatal error the whole niche of our thoughts (*The Reign of Law*—the Duke of Argyle)

Throughout my life, I have found this statement to hold true; whether used as a measuring rod in science or religion, it doesn't matter. I believe The Duke of Argyle's statement is a warning against our natural self. If man would follow the counsel of God, he could avoid most of the problems of his day, throughout the world, within the Church, and in our relationships with one another. Each of these books carries a dynamic testimony for our day and that is why they are so meaningful for me.

**Don Beebe, President
Pre-Columbian Studies
Institute**

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. — Joseph Addison

My first introduction to The Book of Mormon came in 1972 at the age of 13 with a hip injury that kept me bedfast for half of the summer. I picked up The Book of Mormon and read it from cover to cover. While I was still on crutches, Neil Steede came to our congregation and shared the testimony of his experience in Oaxaca, Mexico; my imagination was set in motion. I spent the rest of the summer building Mayan pyramids with my Lego set. That fall our Zion's League class was visited by Madalyn Taylor who shared with us the 3-dimensional maps she had developed from the stories of The Book of Mormon, and she gave me her copy of *Book of Mormon Evidences in Ancient America* by Dewey Farnsworth. While the geography in this book is now outdated, it did set the context for my later development.

It wasn't until about 2003 that I found myself back in the realm of Book of Mormon archaeology. Having been introduced to Book of Mormon belief in the context of finding evidences to validate faith, I have been fed over and over again by Linda Schele and David Freidel's book entitled *A Forest of Kings*. This treasure of Mayan archaeological reports is a collection of puzzle pieces just waiting to be properly placed to create the big picture that accurately marries The Book of Mormon story to historical evidences. Each time I read through this incredible collection of maps, line drawings, historical snippets and archaeological gems, I find myself being enriched as more correlations fall into place and The Book of Mormon story comes to life through real people, places and events. This book feeds my passion for the work of bringing this beautiful spiritual treasure into greater light, and this work of continual searching provides a hope that even greater things can be revealed through our efforts to discover.

**David B. Brown, Editor
Cumorah Messenger**

If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he

reads. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Like many, I was born into a Restoration tradition (RLDS) and grew up accepting The Book of Mormon as Scripture. As a young teenager, I have fond memories of reading The Book of Mormon and experiencing the witness of the Holy Spirit that the book is true. Even as I grew into adulthood, I never really felt the need to critically examine its origins or the question of whether it was historically true. I just accepted it on faith.

A big part of my acceptance was due to hearing and reading testimonies of converts to the Faith. The Book of Mormon always seemed to be the focal point. Upon receiving a testimony of the truthfulness of that book, many then seemed willing and anxious to unite with the Church. Just recently I have been reading four books of testimonies compiled by Clara Thomas entitled *True Restoration Experiences*, *True Restoration Adventures*, *True Restoration Testimonies* and *True Restoration Blessings* (available at Price Publishing, Independence, Missouri). While containing varied testimonies, there are many miraculous testimonies of The Book of Mormon.

However, it is as George Njeim once said, "The mind must be fed as well as the heart." Late in life it has become extremely important for me, from an intellectual viewpoint, to be able to accept The Book of Mormon as true and to have an answer for those who would doubt its historicity. During the inception of my search, a friend directed me to LDS author Terryl Givens' book, *By The Hand of Mormon*, Oxford Press, 2003. It was this book and my subsequent relationship with Terryl that actually convinced me that, just possibly, The Book of Mormon was historically true. Subsequent to that then I read many other books by LDS authors and others that were crucial to my search such as Glenn Scott's excellent book entitled *Voices from the Dust*.

Line by line over the course of five years, I have become increasingly

convicted (again, from an intellectual point of view) that The Book of Mormon is true. In my case it was the accumulation of details from many sources that became an overwhelming witness I couldn't deny.

**Richard E. Rupe, Author
The Book of Mormon: An
Inconvenient Truth 2009**

*Read not to contradict and confute;
nor to believe and take for granted;
nor to find talk and discourse; but to
weigh and consider. Some books are to
be tasted, others to be swallowed, and
some few to be chewed and digested:
that is, some books are to be read
only in parts, others to be read, but
not curiously, and some few to be
read wholly, and with diligence and
attention. — Francis Bacon*

When I evaluate books that have made the most difference in my study of The Book of Mormon, I can easily choose two. The first is *Peoples, Places, and Prophecies* by Verneil Simmons. This text gave me a whole new way of looking at and understanding The Book of Mormon. It made me consider several things: the language and writing systems of the book; comparison of The Book of Mormon timeline with the current archaeological record; and major cultural requirements found in The Book of Mormon. I began to teach an adult class using this book and for some years devoured it again and again. Sister Simmons, you did a great work!!

A few years later, I came to know Glenn Scott and was introduced to his book *Voices from the Dust*. It has been updated several times, and I now consider it the best, most complete reference we have in the Restoration about The Book of Mormon and its cultural history and language. As one reads, studies, and teaches it, his or her whole understanding of The Book of Mormon will expand.

Jacob teaches his people in

The Book of Mormon, "But to be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsels of God" (2 Nephi 6:61). There are many voices today telling about Book of Mormon geography, language, and culture. In addition to using The Book of Mormon as a primary source and measuring stick, use also *Voices from the Dust*. The best thing about Glenn's book is that it will prove to you that the current archaeological, linguistic, and cultural evidence, in the area of Mesoamerica, do support The Book of Mormon account.

**Lyle Smith, Tour Director
Pre-Columbian Studies Institute**

For me, selecting one book that was integral to growing my faith and understanding of The Book of Mormon was difficult. A constant reading of the book itself, blessed numerous

times with an overpowering spirit, convinces me of its truth as the word of God. For some, though, this spiritual or emotional conviction is sometimes tried in the light of intellectual knowledge. As my husband Lyle so often says, "I want to convert your mind also, not just your heart." Therefore we look

to other good books to support and increase our faith intellectually.


Reflecting back many years to when I was a junior in high school,

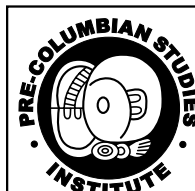
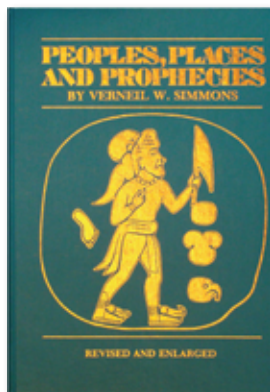
when I read The Book of Mormon cover to cover for the first time, I remember studying Paul M. Hanson's book *Jesus Christ Among the Ancient Americans*. This re-enforced my belief in The Book of Mormon as Hanson provided examples of what could be art forms and legends of Jesus Christ among people in the Americas.

Later, my husband and I began a study of *Peoples, Places, and Prophecies* by Verneil Simmons, whose extensive study of Mesoamerican archaeology as it relates to The Book of Mormon also helped confirm my faith. About the same time, however, Roy Weldon and F. Edward Butterworth published three volumes called *Book of Mormon Deeps*. These volumes address philosophical, psychological, and prophetic teachings found in The Book of Mormon. The amount of research done by them and the in-depth examination of the principles and teachings found in The Book of Mormon amaze me.

During difficult times in my life, I often re-read the chapter "Opposition in All Things" found in volume one (pp. 141-169). The authors write, "Real faith is increased by opposition, while false confidence is damaged and discouraged by it" (p. 143). They use the example of electricity (requiring both positive and negative) and prevalent examples of opposites shown in ancient Mesoamerican art and beliefs. These illustrations not only shore up my belief in the truth of the words uttered by Lehi, "For there must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things" (2 Nephi 1:81), but enlightens my mind that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**Sherrie Kline Smith, Librarian
Kansas City Public Library**

It is our hope that you will set aside time in the New Year to explore many good books as you enjoy upcoming issues of *glyph notes* and continue your study of The Book of Mormon. In doing so, we trust that 2011 will find you born again with a freshness that will shine within your life and witness to those around you. 



GLYPHNotes

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Welcome to Dwellers!

Dwellers - to live and have a home in a particular place

The Adventures of Beezrom

by Mindy Mulheron


Hi guys!

I just buzzed in from Jerusalem, and you're never going to believe what's going on there! Nephi's dad, Lehi, had a vision . . . which means that God showed him things that no one else can see. Anyway, in Lehi's vision God actually showed himself to Lehi! How cool is that? God also showed Lehi that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed.

Well, Lehi didn't want all his friends and family to perish, so he went to tell everyone that they needed to get their lives back on track and ask God for protection. And guess what? No one listened! They thought Lehi was crazy and ignored what he said. (It was kind of like when Noah told everyone that the earth would be flooded and his friends wouldn't listen.)

Lehi continued to try and convince his friends that they needed to listen but they got so mad that Lehi was afraid they might really hurt him and his family. He asked God what he should do, and God told Lehi to gather his family and leave Jerusalem. Can you imagine your Dad coming home one day and telling you to pack up your stuff because you were leaving in an hour? Wow. And they couldn't take anything with them except food, clothes and tents. Bummer. But Lehi's the boss because he's the dad and you have to listen to your parents, so the whole family packed up and went camping in the wilderness.

They camped all over and traveled a long way. Laman and Lemuel, Nephi's oldest brothers, got tired of traveling and wanted to go back to Jerusalem. Lehi and Nephi were really worried about Laman and Lemuel, so they, along with Sam (Nephi's other brother), began to pray for them and ask God for guidance and help. And do you know what God said? God told Nephi that as long as he tried his best to do what God asked, God would always bless him and that Nephi didn't need to worry no matter what. God would always take care of Nephi. Pretty cool, huh? And you know what else? God will do the same for you too! When you try your best to be a good person and follow the rules in the scriptures, God will bless you and keep you safe.

Well, I better get back and see what's going on! See ya next time! 

4. Destroy, 5. Blessing, 6. Jerusalem, 7. Perish, 8. Gather

Crossword: 1. Wilderness, 2. Guidance, 3. Vision,

Word Scramble: Nephi, Lehi, Laman, Lemuel, Sam

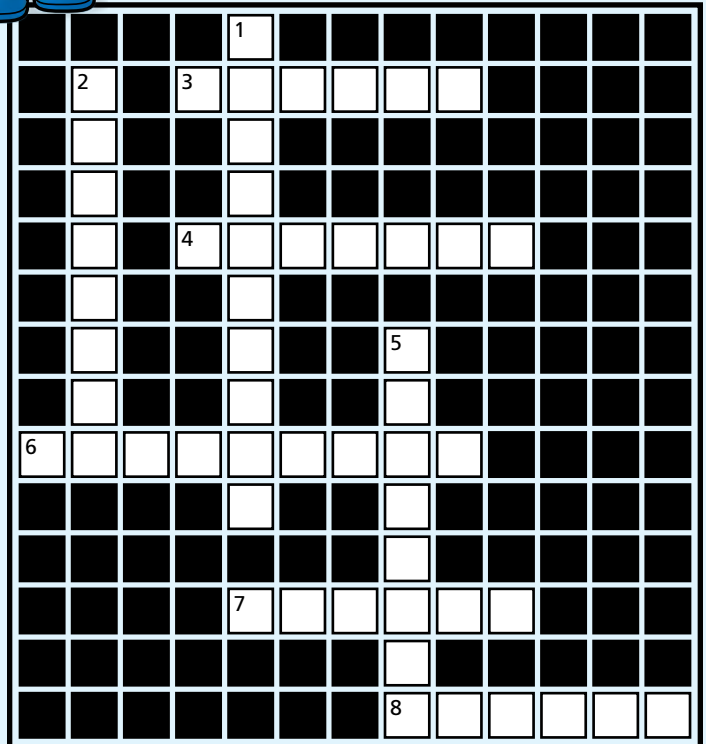
ANSWERS



My name is Beezrom, and I will be your tour guide throughout our adventure! Over the next several issues, we will explore The Book of Mormon first hand and meet lots of friends along the way. It's going to be great! I'm so excited! Check out our first adventure with Nephi, and make sure you check back next time for the next segment in our journey.

Lehi flees Jerusalem

by Beezrom



Across

- WHEN GOD SHOWS YOU SOMETHING THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE
- WHEN GOD GETS RID OF SOMETHING BECAUSE OF SIN, HE _____S IT
- NEPHI'S HOMETOWN
- THINK OF A WORD THAT WAS USED IN THE STORY THAT MEANS "TO DIE"
- ANOTHER WORD FOR GETTING TOGETHER

Down

- LEHI TOOK HIS FAMILY INTO THE _____
- WHEN YOU ASK GOD FOR HELP, HE WILL GIVE YOU _____
- IT'S IMPORTANT TO COUNT YOUR _____S

Word Scramble

Unscramble each word below

EIHNP _____

EIHL _____

AALMN _____

EEULLM _____

AMS _____

GLYPH *Clips*

Maya Exhibition in St. Louis

February 13 – May 8, 2011

“Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea” will be on view February 13, 2011, to May 8, 2011, in the Main Exhibition Galleries at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

This breathtaking exhibition showcases more than 90 works of Maya art. Many shown for the first time in the United States, are from Mexico, Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala and reveal the ancient Maya people’s powerful fascination with the seas around them. Dazzling images of sea monsters, maritime battles, fish and water deities illustrate the complexity the Maya had long been known for in language, mathematics, and culture and illuminate new ways in which this ancient culture viewed the cosmos. The artifacts date from the Preclassic period to as recently as the colonial period in the 16th century.

The exhibit was organized by the Peabody Essex Museum. Read more about it and some sample works in the exhibit on this web page: http://www.pem.org/exhibitions/106-fiery_pool_the_maya_and_the_mythic_sea.

Gomphotheres (Cureloms or Cumoms?)

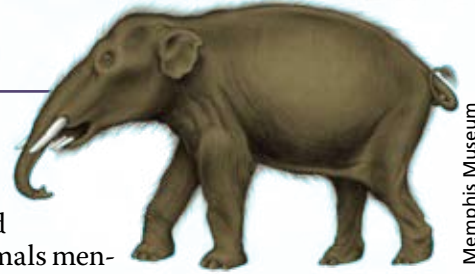
Several blogs and posts (one from INAH, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, posted January 19, 2011 <http://goo.gl/9elSx>) talks about a find in Sonora, Mexico, of clovis points, one missing its tip, alongside the extinct gomphotheres. This, archaeologists say confirms that the species was hunted by man and they coexisted about 11,200 BC. “A gomphothere is a four-tusked relative of mastodons which are in turn distantly related to modern elephants. Unlike elephants and mastodons, who have two curved upper tusks, the gomphothere had four straight tusks, two upper, and two lower. Added to these differences, it had a longer jaw than mastodons” (Sierra College website, accessed January 20, 2011 (<http://www.sierracollege.edu/EventsAthletics/NatHistMus/exhibitsIn/gomphothere.htm>)).

A gomphothere was also found in Tennessee and is highlighted on the website of the Pink Palace Museum.

<http://www.memphis-museums.org/exhibit-13941/> (accessed

January 20, 2011). Could

this be one of those animals mentioned in Ether 4:21, “There were elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms: all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms.”



Memphis Museum

Volunteer at Archaeology Dig in Belize

From announcement on Aztlán, a listserv

The Maya Research Program, a US-based non-profit organization, sponsors archaeological and ethnographic research in Middle America. Each summer since 1992, they have sponsored archaeological fieldwork at the ancient Maya site of Blue Creek in northwestern Belize. In 2011 again there are opportunities to participate in their field program and learn about the Maya of the past and today. The Blue Creek project is open to student and non-student participants, regardless of experience. Participants will receive training in archaeological field and laboratory techniques. Academic credit and scholarships are available.

“We invite students and volunteers to participate in the Maya Research Program’s 20th year of our Blue Creek archaeological project in Belize.”

2011 Field Season Dates:

Session 1: Monday May 23 - Sunday June 6

Session 2: Monday June 6 - Sunday June 19

Session 3: Monday June 27 - Sunday July 10

Session 4: Monday July 11 - Sunday July 24

For additional information please contact the Maya

Research Program: www.mayaresearchprogram.org

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GLYPH *Notes* PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

GLYPH *Quotes* *Be wise in the days of your probation—Mormon 4:94*

by Clyde Noren

People today associate the advent of the New Year with the making of new resolutions for changes in their life style. Some resolutions may be trite while others may be of a very serious nature. Many resolutions end up in a scrap pile of “good intentions.” Observing an individual’s reverting to a selfish life style, continuously pursuing activities of momentary pleasure, neglecting things which have a lasting value, illustrates good intentions gone astray.

We fail to realize how short our life span is compared to that of eternity. This is pointed out in 2 Peter 3:8, “... that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” The “three score and ten years” (Psalms 90:10) of life expectancy illustrates how infinitesimal our lifetime becomes. Expressed mathematically, God views our life as a panoramic video lasting one hundred minutes of time!

God’s purpose in granting us a period of time in this earthly life is expressed, “for this is my work and my glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (D&C 22:23b). The time we are allotted becomes a window of opportunity for us to work toward our salvation as

promised by Jesus. Our time on earth, then, becomes one of probation. Moroni, one of God’s servants, counseled, “Be wise in the days of your probation (Mormon 4:94).

In his autobiography, *Sent Forth to Witness*, Brother Z.Z. Renfroe’s window of opportunity was opened only after he overcame smoking and playing semi-pro baseball on Sundays. After making these necessary changes in his life, he was able to make the pledge, “Lord, if there is anything I can do for you, you can count on me.” The Lord did count on him and his faithfulness, because Brother Renfroe labored for the Lord in the mission field for 49 years.

The ultimate purpose for living is stated very clearly in Alma 16:230.

For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.

At the beginning of this New Year, it is the time for us to transcend good intentions and choose worthwhile activities that will prepare us to meet God who grants salvation for eternity. 