

GLYPH

Notes

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • MARCH/APRIL 2012 • VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

2012: End of the World or the Beginning of a New Era?

by Sherrie Kline Smith

Unless you have been living on a desert island, you cannot be unaware of the hullabaloo about the year 2012. More than 1500 books, thousands of websites, and the media have bombarded us with sensational assertions of rare cosmic events that will cause destruction and the end of the world as we know it or the dawning of a new age of wisdom and consciousness.



Connie Smith

Fig. 1
Lintel 21, found at Yaxchilán, includes the typical Long Count. Almost two-thirds of this inscription (highlighted in blue) are glyphs tracking time. The opening date correlates to A.D. 454 but the inscription was carved in 756. The scribe refers back to an earlier event connecting it to the present—or about 300 years later. The orange glyph is “and it came to pass.” Glyphs are read in columns of two, top to bottom, left to right.

The frenzy over December 2012 involves the Maya calendar, astronomy, astrology and magic, the New Age movement, and religious beliefs. The themes include the end of an ancient calendar which may mark the end of the world, some kind of global cataclysm or galactic alignment that will occur on that day, and Maya prophecy. The 2012 phenomenon was succinctly summed up in the *Wall Street Journal* book review on David Stuart’s new book, *The Order of Days*.

Drawing on their mystical knowledge of the cosmos, the ancient Maya foresaw the end of the world on Dec. 21, 2012, when the sun will align with the center of the Milky Way galaxy and the globe will be rocked by earthquakes and other catastrophes. Or so we’ve been warned in an avalanche of popular books and at least one Hollywood movie (Helferich, Gerard: 2011-05-11).

The foundation for these ideas stems from the Maya calendar, specifically the 5,125-year Long Count which “ends” on December 21,* 2012, (supposedly in conjunction with rare cosmic events), and one Maya inscription, the Tortuguero Monument 6.

At this point I need to make a disclaimer—I’m not an expert mathematician, nor astronomer,

Cont. on Page 2

*“Scholars are currently divided over whether the correct Gregorian correlation . . . is December 21 or December 23, 2012, or even some other date. The date of December 21 has been especially popular for many interpretations because it happens to fall on a solstice...” (Hoopes 2011).

The frenzy over December 20-12 includes the end of an ancient calendar which may mark the end of the world, some kind of global cataclysm or galactic alignment that will occur on that day, and Maya prophecy.

2012 (*Cont. from page 1*)

nor a prophetess, but I do know something about Maya writing. In addition, as a professional librarian, I teach others how to evaluate information. Therefore, my comments will be limited to a few key points followed by a list of reliable sources for those who want to dig deeper.

Maya Calendar

Readers of *glyph notes* know that the ancient Maya, a people who lived in southern Mexico and the Yucatan peninsula, Guatemala, Belize, and parts of El Salvador and Honduras, left behind thousands of inscriptions, most with timekeeping information. In fact, the calendar or dates comprise a major portion of the hieroglyphic inscriptions. See Fig. 1. Although decipherment of the glyphs stultified until about the 1970s, when it rapidly advanced, the calendar glyphs have been deciphered for over a hundred years. This is one reason why early Maya scholars mistakenly believed the Maya were a peaceful, priestly people obsessed with the movement of the heavenly bodies and keeping time.

The Maya monitored time with complex calendar systems that were very precise. They kept track of several units like the phases of the moon, a rare 7-day count, an 819-day count, and what are called the 9 Lords of the Night. The main dates, though, are comprised of three interconnected calendars: the **Long Count** (count of days that equal 5,125 years), the **Tzolk'in** (sacred count comprised of 13 numbers combined with 20 days to equal 260 days), and the **Haab** (solar calendar of 18 months with 20 days and the 19th mini-month of five days at the end to equal 365 days).

The **Tzolk'in** and **Haab** mesh together in a cycle that repeats every 52 years. See Fig. 2. This cycle of 18,980 days or 52 years was used by all Mesoamerican cultures—not just the Maya, although day and month names differed. It is commonly referred to as the Calendar Round. The **Long Count** tracks days since a specific date. It uses a base of 20 instead of 10 and when combined with the **Tzolk'in** and **Haab** produces the complete **Long Count** date.

The beginning of the **Long Count**, sometimes called the Great Cycle, correlates to August 11, 3114 B.C. in the Gregorian calendar and is accepted by most Maya scholars. “Later scholarship showed that this was a sacred ‘Creation’ date for the ancient Maya, who referred to it in

their mythology as a kind of ‘birth’ of the present world” (Hoopes 2011). In our calendar, we also count from a calculated sacred and special day—the birth of Christ. It’s been two thousand and twelve years (2012) since the Lord came to dwell in “a tabernacle of clay” (Mosiah 1:97).

The count of days from August 11, 3114 B.C., the current Long Count of 13 bak’tuns (13 periods of 400 years), will end on December 21, 2012. Is that the end of the world? Or will it be the start of a new “creation”?

Examination of other Maya inscriptions reveals that the ancient Maya counted time far into the future. For example, an inscription at Palenque tells of an event which will occur on A.D. October 13, 4772 (Stuart 2011:242). Two stelae at Coba have an astronomical number of years that occurred *before* August 11, 3114 B.C. These recorded dates indicate that time doesn’t end in 2012, just the current series of 13 bak’tuns. In other words, there is evidence that even though there is a “beginning” date in 3114 B.C., it wasn’t the start of time, simply the beginning of this “creation” or present world “folded” into the greater calendar. The present Long Count is only a small part of what David Stuart calls the Grand Long Count. It’s mathematically mind-boggling. See chapter 8, “The Deepest Time,” in Stuart’s book *The Order of Days* and Fig. 3.

Tortuguero Monument 6 Inscription

The other foundational element for the 2012 phenomenon is Tortuguero Monument 6. This inscription is the *only* one known

at this time that includes something about the end of the 13th bak’tun (or December 21, 2012). The problem is, the crucial glyphs which might indicate what is to happen at that time are eroded. See Fig. 4, photo of book cover for Van Stone’s book on page 4.

To many, the handful of glyphs at the very end of Monument 6’s text continues to form the linchpin for understanding what the ancient Maya thought about the end of the bak’tun in 2012, even as the readings of the partially damaged glyphs continue to be discussed and debated (Stuart 2011-10-04).

What does the Tortuguero inscription tell us?

Analysis of the entire Monument 6 inscription clearly shows that its main thrust is the ritual



Sherrie Kline Smith

Fig. 2
This illustration from the museum in Chetumal, Mexico, shows how the Calendar Round works. The small red circle has 13 numbers—a dot stands for 1 and a bar 5. These match up with 20 days (larger red circle) to make the Tzolk'in or sacred count. The day signs are almost always in a cartouche which makes them easy to identify. The Haab, 18 months of 20 days with a mini-month of 5 days at the end to equal the 365 days of a solar year, meshes with the Tzolk'in. It takes 52 years for the numbers and months to complete the cycle.

dedication of a tomb or shrine in the 7th century, specifically on the day . . . (January 11, 669). The record of this episode takes up the majority of the text's overall space.... The final passage serves as a re-statement or elaboration of the inscription's main topic, the dedication of a shrine, tomb or some other structure where Monument 6 was said to have been found (Stuart 2011-10-04).

While Stuart and other epigraphers believe the end of the inscription doesn't refer to the future, debate continues among epigraphers about the final passage with some who believe the date does refer to something that will happen at the end of the 13th bak'tun. The eroded glyphs, however, make it challenging to know just what they say may occur.

Cosmic Cataclysm

Some of the literature and television programs promote a belief in "a rare cosmic conjunction of the earth, sun, and the galactic center" that may cause catastrophic events on December 21, 2012.

Dr. Anthony Aveni, who helped develop the field of archaeoastronomy and is considered one of the founders of Mesoamerican archaeoastronomy, has shown that all the planets will not be aligned on that day. (See Aveni's presentation at Marlborough College on YouTube, October 2010.) He also commented that the cosmic junction of the sun with the galactic equator, as promulgated by John Major Jenkins, is not that rare at all, as do Van Stone and Stuart.

Concerning any unique galactic alignment that will take place in 2012, we can say that over a period of a few hundred years on either side of the year 2000, the sun at winter solstice indeed will cross the plane of the Milky Way Galaxy. Whether the Maya knew about it is another question. I have shown that it is possible, but also that there is no solid evidence to verify it. Even if they did, I know of no effect such an alignment

might have on the earth. I have also gone to great lengths to demonstrate that although Maya knowledge of precession of the equinoxes, implied by the galactic alignment theory, is possible, no one has successfully demonstrated that the Maya calculated that cycle (Aveni 2009:115).

This result differs from the one John Major Jenkins gives (*Maya Cosmogogenesis* 2012, 113-114) and which he insists the Maya calculated, although he does not say how. J. Meeus, in *Mathematical Astronomy Morsels* (Richmond, Va: Willmann-Bell, 1997), 301-313, has calculated that the crossing point of the galactic equator and the solstices occurred in May 1998. His calculations also show that this alignment was within two-thirds of a degree . . . of that mark *within a fifty-year period surrounding that date*. This is a very small tolerance for naked-eye observations of such a phenomenon (emphasis added, Aveni 2009:173).

The point is that, yes, the sun passes the Center of the Galaxy every year, and has crossed the equator on the Solstice *every* year since ca. 1983. This "rare" event will continue annually till about 2019. Astrologers have not yet explained to *my* satisfaction why the 2012 solstice sunrise is any more potent than that on 2018, or 1999, or 1987, or any year in between (emphasis in original, Van Stone 2010:11).

Role of Prophecy in the Life of the Maya

Although the Tortuguero Monument 6 may say something about the end of the 13th bak'tun, there are no known ancient Maya prophecies about December 2012. And while Maya prophecies exist in the eighteenth-century *Books of Chilam Balam*, these do not specify 2012. On the other hand, the ancient Maya *did* celebrate endings of particular counts, especially the k'atun (end of 20 years). This practice is known from the many stelae and

inscriptions that began to appear after approximately A.D. 300, when the kings would erect a new stela to commemorate the end of a k'atun. The kings were also given a title of how many k'atuns he had lived, i.e. the "two k'atun lord."

These period endings were important as illustrated by a most interesting event that occurred in 1697, long after the Maya discontinued using the Long Count (Stuart 2011: 113). Cortez overthrew the



Sherrie Kline Smith

Fig. 3
The inscription of one of the hieroglyphic steps in front of Structure 33 in Yaxchilán, right side, includes eight 400 periods above the bak'tun. It's transcribed as: 13.13.13.13.13.13.13.13.9.15.13.6 .9 3 Muluk 17 Mak. It puts the event being commemorated, a ball game, into the mythical past and in the grander scheme of things or the calendar that encompasses almost 72 octillion years. (Stuart 2011:246-247).

Cont. on Page 4

Fig. 4

Van Stone used the composite photo of Tortuguero Monument 6 by "Paul Johnson, utilizing photos by Sven Gronemeyer (Villahermosa Museum) & Donald Hales (private collection)" for his book cover. The complete inscription was shaped like a T but the upper left portion has not been discovered. Because of looting, this monument is now in several pieces and in several different places. Four portions are in the Civic Museum in Villahermosa, Mexico; another portion in the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and the remaining two are in a private collection. The upper right portion of the T, comprised of three pieces and shown here in the photo cover, includes the thorny part of the text. In the last two columns (read from top to bottom and two rows at a time) are glyphs indicating the completion of the 13th bak'tun and 4 Ahaw and 3 Kankin (the dates in the Tzolk'in and Haab) equating 21 (or 23) December 2012. The pivotal element is the verb utoom (u-to-ma), "it will happen or come to pass." The damaged glyphs follow. The tantalizing question is what, exactly, is the subject of this verb? What is going to come to pass?

2012 (Cont. from page 3)

Aztec Empire in 1521, and through the next 200 years, Spanish conquerors "converted" most of the Aztec Empire and the Maya to the Catholic faith. One area, though, held out almost 200 years against being conquered and converted—the Maya kingdom of Kanek' whose capital was what is now the Island of Flores in Guatemala.

The story of their eventual conquest in 1697 is a remarkable tale, a barely known episode of American history that we are compelled to examine in close detail. For what is most striking about it—in my mind [Stuart], at least—is that during the decades leading up to their fall, the Itzá Maya had *prophesied* their own end. Numerous written accounts tell us how Kanek' had a strong sense of his inevitable defeat, when, according to the sacred prophecies, a new era of the Maya calendar called a *k'atun* would begin. If we're to believe the firsthand accounts of what happened—and there's no reason not to—native prophecy played as much a role in the defeat of the Itzá as the political machinations of the time, or as did the superior weaponry and numbers of the Spanish soldiers. For the Itzá, the year 1697 was the inevitable "end of an era," a foretold turning point when time would fold and repeat itself, and when political change and transformation were utterly unavoidable. In a fascinating twist on how we usually look on the course of history, native prophecy made the Itzá look on their conquest and conversion to Christianity a foregone conclusion (emphasis in original, Stuart 2011:2).

Stuart then explains the story in detail and concludes,

Prophecy has the power to "work" when enough people or certain influential individuals believe in it, as seems to have been the case of Kanek'. Time doesn't directly affect history, but people's perception of time and its structure certainly can, and did...

The native Maya calendar in this way played

a key role not only in influencing how the Maya perceived events of the past and future, but also in actively shaping the course of history itself... (Stuart 2011:26).

Yet on that one spring day in 1697, that world was finally and permanently over (Stuart 2011:30).

Conclusion

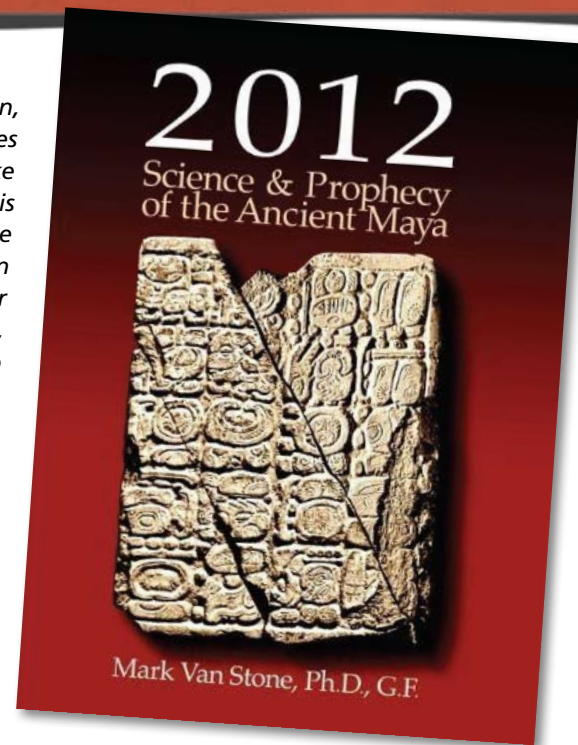
The Book of Mormon relates "time only is measured unto men" (Alma 19:38), and "no man" nor the "angels in heaven" know "the hour and the day" when the Lord will return (DC 49:2b). We are members of a church whose name has included the words Latter Day Saints. The Scriptures indicate we're living in the "latter days" and include prophecies for these days. The one compelling prophecy is the establishment of Zion and the great missionary work to occur before Christ's return. These events have yet to occur, so we know the world will not end on December 21, 2012.

Perhaps all the brouhaha about 2012 is the Devil's attempt to discredit the real transformation orchestrated by the Lord. "When God moves, Satan moves." If the gathering and the kingdom is soon, the Devil will have a counterfeit movement, just like the publication of Darwin's *Origin of the Species* in 1859 soon after the publication of The Book of Mormon.

The present-day Maya plan many festivities and activities to celebrate or acknowledge the end of the 13th bak'tun, the end of a very long period of time, 5,125 years. We celebrate the beginning of every new year and especially when the millennium changed to 2000. But what may come to pass in December 2012, only the Lord knows.

References

See "Recommended Resources" for authors cited in this article.



Recommended Resources

Remember that these authors believe in evolution and that most references to the Maya refer to their civilization after the end of The Book of Mormon. And I have to admit, that my faith causes me to question some of their conclusions, yet I recommend these authors as being some of the best resources about 2012.

The End of Time: The Maya Mystery of 2012 by Anthony Aveni, University Press of Colorado, 2009.

Dr. Aveni, the Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy, Anthropology, and Native American Studies at Colgate University, addresses many questions about 2012, in particular astronomy and the Maya calendar. He has given many presentations, including one at the Maya Meetings at the University of Texas-Austin last year which I heard. You can view one of these on YouTube, "The End of Time: Dr. Anthony Aveni at Marlboro College," September 13, 2010 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exQGTvZ5aKw>).

"What You Should Know About 2012: Answers to 13 Questions" by John Hoopes, *Reality Check: Saving Yourself from Pseudoscience*, December 30, 2011 (<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/reality-check/201112/what-you-should-know-about-2012-answers-13-question>).

This well-researched and extensive blog entry regarding 2012 for both academics and the general public was prepared by Dr. John Hoopes, a Harvard graduate and associate professor in the department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas.

2012: Science and Prophecy of the Ancient Maya, by Mark Van Stone, San Diego: Tlacaclael Press, 2010.

It can be purchased in book form, but is also available, full text, online at FAMSI.org, website of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies (<http://www.famsi.org/research/vanstone/2012/index.html>). Van Stone is Professor of Art History at

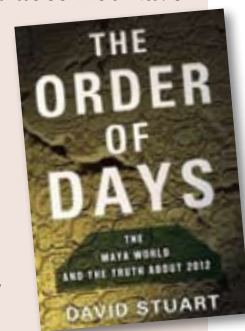
Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California, and has studied physics and world paleography, earning a Guggenheim Fellowship before entering the University of Texas Graduate school to study Maya hieroglyphs. His text about 2012 is lavishly illustrated and does not have to be read in chronological order.

The Order of Days: The Maya World and the Truth about 2012, by David Stuart, New York: Harmony Books, 2011.

David Stuart, Maya scholar and professor of Mesoamerican art and writing at the University of Texas-Austin, began deciphering Maya hieroglyphs at the age of eight and is considered one of the foremost scholars on the Maya script. See also his blog, "More on Tortuguero's Monument 6 and the Prophecy that Wasn't," *Maya Decipherment: A Weblog on the Ancient Maya Script*, October 14, 2011.

Breaking the Maya Code, DVD, by Nightfire

Highly recommended for an explanation of how the Tzolk'in and Haab calendars work together. Your local library may have a copy.



Plan to Attend!

30th Annual Maya Weekend, May 4-6, 2012
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

This year's Maya Weekend is held in conjunction with the opening of a major new exhibition, *Maya 2012: Lords of Time*. Weekend attendees enjoy a special preview of the exhibition before it opens to the general public (www.penn.museum/mayaweekend). **Three of these authors in the list of Recommended Resources will be giving presentations at this Maya Weekend event: Anthony Aveni, John Hoopes, and David Stuart.** 

GLYPH *Quotes* They were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift. —4 Nephi 1:4.

by Aaron J. Smith


Someone close to me once gave away a vehicle because he was moving and didn't "need" it anymore. The car was not in great shape. It was old and pretty beat-up and on its last leg. The car lasted only a few more years and finally died.

For quite some time, the one who gave the car away thought really nice thoughts about what he had done, about how good it was to give the car to someone. One day, though, he was hit hard with a new thought. If he truly loved this other individual, he would have tried to help the other person get the kind of car he wanted, not simply what was needed.

What about God's economy? Is there equality? God's economy is based on loving our brother. This means placing his wants equal to ours – not just his needs. The

reality is, though, that we have many who barely have enough to meet their needs, while others have almost all of their "wants" met.

Many of us have never had an income problem; we've had a "love" problem. We love ourselves more than we love our brother. How can we protect someone else's dignity, their choice, when we continue to have our choices and they have none?

We need a philosophy shift – we need a new paradigm – we need to see each man, not based on his skin color, his education, his dialect, or his salary, but instead as God views him. To see how God views him will change our perspective. We need revelation – the revelation of the love of God for each man, not just ourselves. 

GLYPH *Clips*

by Sherrie Kline Smith

Forgery Charges Cleared

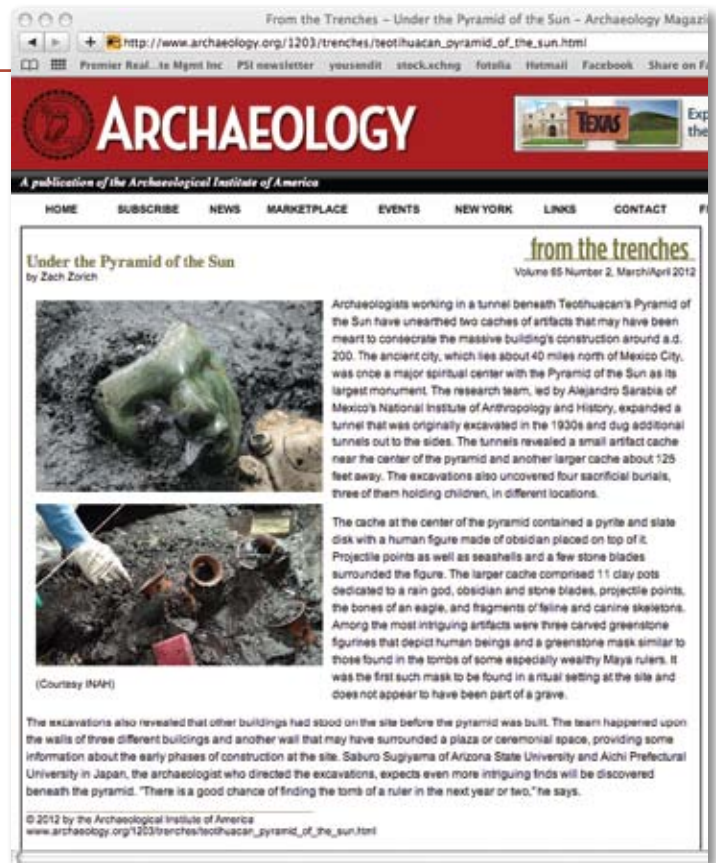
For more than five years, a trial of five defendants on charges of forging inscriptions on antiquities has been in process. On March 14, 2012, Hershel Shanks, with Biblical Archaeology Society (BAR), reported that “the judge cleared the defendants of all charges of forgery.” One of the items in question, and the most famous, was the inscription on an ossuary or bone box that reads “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.” Other inscriptions “thought” to be forgeries were an engraved ivory pomegranate, which if authentic, may be “the only relic surviving from Solomon’s Temple,” and the “so-called Jehoash (or Yehoash, in Hebrew) inscription, a 15-line text describing repairs to the Temple. If authentic, it would be the first royal Israelite inscription.” You can read about this on the BAR blog page: <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/news/verdict-not-guilty/>.

Mesoamerica: The Site of Continuing Discoveries

submitted by Glenn A. Scott, Jr.

Exploration around the perimeter of Book of Mormon lands continues to reveal surprises. From 40 miles northeast of Mexico City to 15 miles northwest of San Salvador, archaeologists continue to uncover surprising details of ancient American history.

The March/April issue of *Archaeology* magazine



describes discoveries at two sites 750 miles apart. The first site revealed artifacts in two caches recently found in tunnels beneath the pyramid of the Sun at the ancient site of Teotihuacan, Mexico, dated to approximately A.D. 200. One of the caches found under the approximate center of

Cont. on Page 8


No News is Good News???

by Patricia J. Beebe, Editorial Committee

Pre-Columbian Studies Institute has been publishing “good news” bi-monthly since 1994. During that period of time, thankfully, PSI has struggled only a few years when income dropped below costs. Our supporters always rallied to the cause. Words cannot express enough our appreciation to all who have joined with PSI in sharing exciting insights and correlations to The Book of Mormon through its newsletter, *glyph notes*. Thank you.

This past year has been one of those low income years; expenses for publication and mailing exceeded contributions by \$300. However, I am pleased to report that contributions have begun to increase since the beginning of 2012. But, we need you and hope that the trend will continue.

I have never understood the saying, “no news is good news.” The Gospel as found in The Book of Mormon and the Holy Scriptures is rich with faith-building principles and hope for a world filled with fear and doubt. I believe the volunteers and supporters of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute would agree with me that “no news” is definitely not good news for those who desire to know when, where, and how The Book of Mormon is finding authenticity in our time. We at PSI don’t want you to miss a single issue.

If you have not already done so, won’t you please take a moment to update your subscription to the newsletter now? A self-addressed envelope is provided in this issue for your convenience. Again, we thank each and every one of you who have been faithful supporters of Book of Mormon research over the years. There is still “more light and truth to break forth from his word,” as penned in the song “We Limit Not the Truth of God” (*Hymns of the Restoration*, p.197). 

Glyph Dwellers

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

Hi guys! I just heard the coolest story about this man named Abinadi!



The Adventures of Beezrom

by Mindy Mulheron

Illustration by Aaron Presler

There was a king named Noah, who wasn't the nicest guy... He did a lot of bad things. Noah decided he didn't believe in God anymore, so he pretended there was no God and did whatever he wanted. He wasn't nice to people; he didn't pray... He didn't do anything that we're supposed to do to stay close to our Heavenly Father. And, of course, that means things got really bad in his kingdom because everyone forgot how they were supposed to act!

God decided to remind them that He still loved them and wanted them to act better, so He sent that man I told you about: Abinadi. God asked Abinadi to tell King Noah and his people that they needed to repent and start living right again. Well, King Noah became very upset and kicked Abinadi out. (Abinadi had to hide for a while after that, because King Noah threatened to kill him!)

A few years later, God asked Abinadi to go back and try again. This time He told Abinadi to tell the people to shape up or else! This message made King Noah angry and he put Abinadi in prison. While he was in prison, Abinadi tried to talk with the priests of the city about how they should be living. He reminded them about the Ten Commandments and that they should be living righteously. He told them that God would send His only Son, to die for their sins, so they could be saved—if only they would return to Him and live better.

Unfortunately King Noah decided that he didn't believe Abinadi, and decided to kill him...⊗ But, there was one man, named Alma, who had listened to Abinadi and believed that he was giving advice directly from the Lord. Alma ran from the city and began to quietly talk to the people about the truths that Abinadi shared.

And guess what?! God blessed Alma, and many people began to believe in the words that Abinadi had preached. Many people repented and were baptized. A lot of crazy things happened after that, but the most important thing was that God blessed and protected those who believed in Him.

And you know what? He'll do the same for you too. Believe in God and do your best; He'll always take care of you!

Isn't it cool how one man was able to do something that changed so many people's lives?! Even though

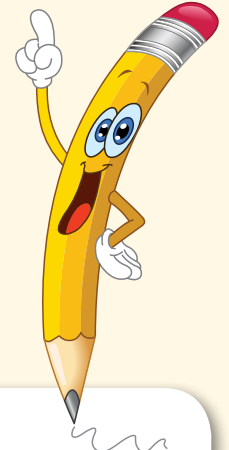
Abinadi didn't live to see it, people were blessed because of his example. Pretty neat, huh? Remind yourself that you need to try and always live the best way you can because others may be watching, and maybe you're their Abinadi. Maybe you'll be the reason they decided to live better! ☺

Good luck! Do your best and I'll get back to you next time!

Scripture reference: Mosiah 5-11

Write a letter to your "Abinadi." ☺

Think of someone who's always helped you and been a good example for you. Then send them a note to say "Thanks!" ☺



Handwriting practice area with 15 horizontal lines.

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 477
Independence, MO 64051

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

INDEPENDENCE, MO
PERMIT NO 203

INSIDE:

*2012: End of the World or the
Beginning of a New Era?*

GLYPH Quotes

GLYPH Clips:

- *Forgery Charges Cleared*
- *Mesoamerica: The Site of
Continuing Discoveries*

No News is Good News???


*GLYPH Dwellers: The
Adventures of Beezrom and
Letter for Your Abinadi*

From Our Readers

GLYPH *Notes* PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE MARCH/APRIL 2012 VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

Glyph Clips (Cont. from page 6)

the pyramid contained a pyrite and slate disc with a human figurine on top, surrounded by arrow and lance points, stone blades, and seashells (150 miles from the nearest sea). The other cache, 125 feet away in an extended tunnel, held 11 ceramic pots, obsidian and flint weapon points, stone blades, and the skeletons of felines, canines, and an eagle. But most intriguing were three figurines and a ceremonial mask made of greenstone of a quality usually found in royal tombs. Surprisingly, underneath the pyramid was found the remains of several buildings and a wall that formerly surrounded a plaza, all of which existed before the pyramid was built over it.

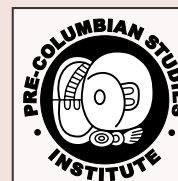
At the opposite edge of the geographical perimeter, in El Salvador, are the remains of "the jewel of Ceren," a small farming village that was buried under 20 feet of volcanic ash in about A.D. 630. Everything is in perfect detail—thatched roof houses, outdoor kitchens, workshops, storehouses, religious buildings, and even a sauna, cooking pots containing maize and manioc, and hundreds of multicolored ceramic vessels. But not a single person! No one knows what became of the people. The most recent find at Ceren is a *sacbe* (highway) in perfect condition, leading south from the center of the village. This remarkably preserved village is open to visitors. 

From Our Readers

Thank you for your hard work in getting this wonderful magazine together. Every time a new one comes in the mail, I read it from cover to cover immediately. It is full of fascinating insights to the sacred scriptures I love. Keep up the great work.

Kathy Morash, North Platte, NE

*The Saints
at Butler
Restoration
Branch enjoy
glyph notes,
and as a
branch desire
to continue
receiving it for
this year. Keep
up the good
work, and
GOD BLESS.*



GLYPH *Notes*
is published bimonthly by Pre-Columbian
Studies Institute (PSI), a nonprofit
research and education organization.

Membership & Annual Subscription to newsletter is \$25.
Send to: Pre-Columbian Studies Institute
P.O. Box 477, Independence, MO 64051

Editorial Committee: Sherrie Kline Smith, Editor; Pat Beebe,
Clyde Noren, Glenn Scott, Mindy Mulheron, and Shirley Heater

Board Officers: Lyle L. Smith, President; Shirley Heater, Vice
President; Margaret Noren, Secretary; and Clyde Noren, Treasurer

Design: Aaron Presler, Signature Marketing Group, LC

Articles and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent
the view of the Editorial Committee. Unsigned articles are attributed
to the editor. All materials submitted may be edited for clarity and
space. © 2012 Pre-Columbian Studies Institute