

glyph *notes*

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## Faith into Knowledge

By Lyle L. Smith

*Nephi and several other authors use the word “prove” numerous times in The Book of Mormon to indicate that what they are writing is true. See 2 Nephi 8:4-7, 12 [LDS 11:3-4] and especially 12:62 [LDS 29:9] where Nephi quotes the Lord, “And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever...” The Lord himself proves all his words.*

It appears we should not shy away from proving that The Book of Mormon—or the Bible—are true authentic ancient records. This article is meant to help with this process by sharing three, short physical evidences one can touch and feel that bear record that our ancient Scriptures are true. The third example presents quite new evidence; the other two you may have heard before, but these are so *important* in our process of changing *faith* into *knowledge* that they bear repeating.

### Scripture Written on Metal Plates

The Book of Mormon indicates that the Jews had a set of metal plates originally started by Moses which were written on plates of brass. Lehi’s group brought that record with them to the Land of Promise. Shortly after arriving in the Land of Promise, Nephi, at the instruction of the Lord, began to engrave a record on metal plates of their journey and some of the spiritual experiences that both he and his father Lehi had with the Lord.

When Joseph Smith Jr. in 1830 announced to the world that The Book of Mormon . . . was translated from ancient metal plates bound with rings, which he found in a stone box near Manchester, New York, he unleashed a firestorm of criticism which has not ceased to this day. All of the “authorities” of his day laughed and said that there was no evidence of ancient peoples ever having left inscribed metal records... (Scott 2011:1).

They were right. There was no evidence in 1830.

About 100 years ago, archaeologists began to find engraved metal plates around the Middle East and lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. A multitude of examples have been found. This indicates that records being written on metal

*This silver scroll, used as an amulet, is one of the two engraved with the scripture from Numbers 6:24-26. They both are displayed in the Israel Museum.*



Sherrie Kline Smith

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*It would seem that the Lord wants us to realize that we can move from faith to knowledge. The Scriptures testify this is possible.*



## Faith into Knowledge (Cont. from Page 1)

plates during the time of Lehi, Jeremiah, Zedekiah, and before recorded in The Book of Mormon is true. Glenn Scott’s article in the May/June 2011 issue of *glyph notes* includes a list of some of the metal plates found in the Middle East since 1830.

None of these plates, however, had scriptures or sacred writings engraved on them. Only recently were two examples discovered. The archaeological evidence came from one of the tombs that honeycomb the mountains and hills around Jerusalem. Just below and under St. Andrew’s



Sherrie Kline Smith

*Yossi (Joseph) tells the 2013 PSI Israel tour group about the Ketef Hinnom tombs and treasures found there.*

Scottish Memorial Church and Guest House are the Ketef Hinnom tombs. Visitors to the church or guest house can look down the hillside upon the entrance to Cave 24 which includes burial chamber 13 from the seventh century B.C, the time of Zedekiah, Jeremiah, and Lehi.

The plaster ceiling of burial 13 had collapsed centuries ago, completely covering the many treasures buried there. When archaeologists

recently sifted through all the dust, a large quantity of jewelry was discovered along with two small silver scrolls. These amulets had been worn as either a pendant or charm on a bracelet. When the scrolls were unrolled, they were found to be engraved—with *scripture!* They are not only the first examples of scriptures written on metal plates found in Israel to date, but also the oldest Biblical texts yet discovered. They predate the 200 B.C. Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years—and are from the exact era of Lehi! The amulets are considered one of the most important archaeological discoveries in Israel over the past 30 years (Smith 2012:1-2).

The engravings on both amulets include verses from Numbers 6:24-26. *The Lord bless thee, and keep*

*thee; The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”*

These silver scrolls engraved with scripture prove religious records were recorded on metal at the time of Lehi in Israel. It further proves that at least parts of the Bible were written as early as 600 to 700 B.C. Today these claims—laughed at 185 years ago—can be more readily accepted by the believer and the non-believer. That proof should help change our *faith* into *knowledge*.

## “AND NOW”: A Standard Opening

Proof comes in many ways. This example comes from language written on potsherds that one can pick up and read. The Book of Mormon is a product of Middle Eastern thought, language, and writing, not nineteenth-century America. We should expect, and have found, many proofs in the areas of writing systems and language patterns.

The March/April 1987 *Biblical Archaeology Review* reported on excavations at Arad, an ancient Israelite fortress located in the Negev Desert about 40 miles south of Jerusalem. The site has a continual archaeological record from 1200-586 B.C. The last settlement strata, from the ninth to sixth century B.C., is contemporary with Lehi and his departure from Israel shortly before the destruction of the First Temple. Among the significant discoveries were Israelite archives with political, administrative, and religious documents in a singular series of inscriptions. Among the large quantity of ostraca (potsherds with inscriptions on them) were a number which featured a “standard opening”



Lyle Smith

*The Arad fortress, where many inscriptions were found, overlooks the desert plains.*



phrase—“and now.”

The archives of Eliashib, the commanding officer at the fortress circa 600 B.C., contained potsherds inscribed with correspondence, supply vouchers, inventory lists, and important military orders (Rainey 1987:36-39).



Sherrie Kline Smith

*Figure 1: Exhibited at the Israel Museum, this Arad ostracon is a letter written in ink on pottery, ca. sixth century B.C. The museum label includes the translation of the Hebrew. The beginning of the letter is: "To my lord Eliashib, may the Lord seek your welfare, and now: Give to Shemaryahu..."*

Lord is providing us proof that his word is true.

### The Riot at Ephesus

Most readers of *glyph notes* are familiar with Luke’s account of the riot (“uproar” I.V.) in Acts 19:23-41. Paul, along with Gaius and Aristarchus, two fellow travelers from Macedonia, had been in Ephesus for some time. The silversmith Demetrius realized that Paul was having success in proclaiming Christ and saying that gods made with hands are not gods. As people embraced

To my Lord Eliashib, May Yahweh seek your welfare, **And now** . . . as to the matter you commanded me...

To Eliashib:  
**And now** [the standard opening], give the Kittiyim three baths of wine... (see Figure 1).

Numerous examples at Arad of the use of “and now” as a standard opening testify this was the usual way to commence a written communication after the salutation.

Further research on the phrase “and now” used as an opening disclosed a definite pattern found in 60 of the 114 total chapters of The Book of Mormon. Most of the remaining chapters begin simply with “now.” Many verses in The Book of Mormon that begin with “and now” continue with the well-known phrase “it came to pass.”

Once again we have a proof that can be picked up and touched. It should help change our *faith* into *knowledge*. Surely the

Christianity, sales of silver miniatures of the Temple of Artemis decreased, resulting in a loss of considerable income for the silversmiths. Demetrius led the silversmiths in inciting a riot and uproar against Paul and his companions.

Much as The Book of Mormon has received untold criticism about its validity, so has and does the Bible. James R. Edwards, in a recent *Biblical*

*Cont. on Page 4*



Donald Beebe

*The Roman theater in Ephesus, where the riot occurred, has been uncovered and partially restored.*



## Faith into Knowledge *(Cont. from Page 3)*

*Archaeology Review* article about Luke’s account of the riot at Ephesus, stated that “skepticism of the historical merit of the account, as of the Book of Acts as a whole, was typical of the late 19th century and much of the past century” (2016:32). He relates that “in 1890 William M. Ramsay, the eminent authority of the history and geography of Asia Minor, responded to an article by an English divine who contended that the account of the riot in Ephesus . . . was largely fabricated.” Edwards believes that Ramsay’s response gave evidence to counter “that Luke’s account was not a fabrication but [was] ‘vivid and true to the situation and surroundings’ of ancient Ephesus.” He also stated that Ramsay “expressed further hope that points still disputed would be resolved by future discoveries at Ephesus” (2016:32, 62).

Ramsay’s hope was not in vain. More than 100 years of excavations have now occurred at Ephesus. Three years after Ramsay’s article, the Austrian Archaeological Institute began digging at Ephesus. Its work has continued almost “uninterruptedly for more than a century,” and “Ephesus is now the most thoroughly excavated archaeological site in Turkey. The composite excavations provide a remarkably full archaeological and inscriptional commentary on Luke’s account of the riot in Ephesus” (2016:26).



Donald Beebe

Many inscriptions in both Latin and Greek have been discovered in and around Ephesus. The one shown here is in Latin. In 1984 a 16-line Greek inscription was found that talks about the silversmiths of Ephesus and “indicates that during the second century, the silversmith guild, with which Paul had come in conflict a century earlier, still flourished in Ephesus” (Edwards 2016:27).



Donald Beebe

*The Celsus Library in Ephesus, built some 50 years or so after the riot, served not only as a library but also as a mausoleum for a Roman senator called Celsus. The library was built to accommodate 12,000 scrolls. An earthquake and fire in A.D. 262 destroyed the interior and all the scrolls. (Library of Celsus. Wikipedia. Accessed September 13, 2016.)*

Many of the “proofs” come from the inscriptions—words or terms commonly used at that time.

Some 18 historical references or terms occur in Acts 19:23-41 [NRSV\*]. Apart from the personal identities of Demetrius and Alexander, all these references and terms are repeated and reported in the archaeological or inscriptional remains of Ephesus, affording a remarkably complete ‘material commentary’ on the riveting drama.... Luke knew what he was talking about in recording the riot in the theater” (Edwards 2016:62).

Perhaps one example will illustrate Edwards’ assertion. During the riot, the people had swarmed into the theater, taking Paul’s companions Gaius and Aristarchus with them. “Paul wanted to enter the theater, but fellow Christians and ‘some officials of the province of Asia,’ who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theater” (Acts 19:30-31 [NRSV]). (Verse 31 in the Inspired Version reads, “And certain of the chief of Asia.”) The Greek word used for “some officials of the province of Asia” is *Asiarchs*. According to Edwards, “This word occurs nowhere else in the Bible, but it occurs in more than a dozen inscriptions from Ephesus and beyond” (2016:31). Edwards goes into length about the use of the word, showing that

\*New Revised Standard Version

Luke knew exactly the right term to use for these officials. This one example by itself doesn't prove the account of the riot is true, but taken together with the other 17 references or historical terms a solid case has been provided to prove that Luke's account is accurate.

Many of us have already chosen to believe the account in Acts 19 is a true historical event. Now there is the proof that this is so. We can move from *faith* in this account to *knowledge*.

**Conclusion**

It would seem that the Lord wants us to realize that we can move from faith to knowledge. The Scriptures testify this is possible. The Brother of Jared provides a good example.

And he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting; wherefore, having this perfect knowledge of God, he could not be kept from within the veil; therefore he saw Jesus, and he did minister unto him (Ether 1:84 [LDS 3:19]).

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*glyph quotes* How blind and impenetrable are the understandings of the children of men: for they will not seek wisdom...

By Eric English

—Mosiah 5:85 [LDS 8:20]

The words from this verse were uttered by King Limhi, the last in a chain of three Nephite kings who had chosen to leave Zarahemla to return to the land of Nephi. The visionary for this expedition, that ended up in servitude to the Lamanites, had been Zeniff. Next was his wicked son Noah; then Limhi.

This colony of Nephites had been gone for a long time, and those in Zarahemla wondered what happened to them. This was long before cell phones and GPS, so 16 men, led by Ammon, were

dispatched from Zarahemla to discover their whereabouts. Ammon and Limhi meet outside the city walls, and after clearing up some confusion about who each one was, they share with one another what had been occurring in both Nephite groups. As part of this conversation, Limhi tells Ammon how his people came to discover the 24 gold plates that make up a good portion of the record of the Jaredites (the book of Ether).

As Limhi speculates with  
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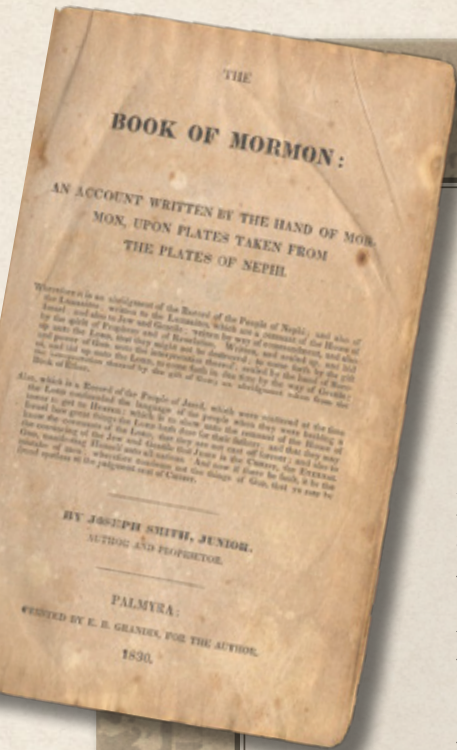
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**We** feel very emotional about our 10-day adventure with you. It has caused us to look deeper into our hearts and encouraged us to study more and share our testimony with others. (2008, Independence)

**Your** expertise and knowledge turned what would have been ordinary into extraordinary. Your enthusiasm was contagious and I really appreciate how your planning incorporated so much diversity at the ruin sites. (2011, Pennsylvania)

**My** faith and belief in the Book of Mormon was greatly increased as a result of the tour. (2005, Florida)

**Although** I have studied the Book of Mormon for years, I am now able to relate to the area and the people who are a part of our religious history in the Book of Mormon. (1989, Independence)

Dear Friends,

It has been almost 30 years that we have been privileged to lead tours into Book of Mormon and Bible lands. One of the special places we tour is Guatemala, the lands of Nephi and Mulek. Next year we once again plan a tour to the “Land of Eternal Spring.”

In the past, some of our friends have enjoyed the tours so much that they have travelled with us more than 10 years in a row. We have developed life-long and enduring love and concern for each other. The tours bring a special blessing this way. They also provide adventure! Seeing and walking through the magnificent ruined cities, hearing the howler monkeys, and traveling on jungle rivers alive with wildlife.

Perhaps the most important thing the tours offer is the opportunity for a life-changing experience with the Lord as you walk where Nephi, Mormon, and Moroni lived. We often hear someone say, “Oh! Now I see!” as the people of The Book of Mormon come alive for them.

We invite you to join us on this special adventure—one avenue for changing *faith* into *knowledge*.

In Gospel bonds,  
Lyle and Sherrie

**Rich** experiences with old and new friends, in exotic Book of Mormon locations...for my wife and I, these tours have been our favorite vacations...**EVER**. (2015, Independence)



# GUATEMALA TOUR

## *The Lands of Lehi and Mulek*

February 15-26, 2017 (12-Day Tour)

Tour Presented by Pre-Columbian Studies Institute and  
PSI Tours, LLC, Lyle and Sherrie Smith, Tour Leaders



## REGISTRATION FORM

Our tour goes to Guatemala, land of eternal spring and alma de la tierra, or soul of the earth. We will explore numerous archaeological ruins, museums, and the ancient towns of Antigua and Chichicastenango. And of course, sites such as Tikal, Kaminaljuyu, Yaxhá, Aguateca, and Quiriguá are also on the itinerary. Not only will we have fun but also we will 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) 838-5192.*

**COSTS:** Tour cost per person from Kansas City — \$3,200 with at least 22 people traveling. Ground portion (no airfare included) — \$2,200. Single person in single room — 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 Guatemala; entrance fees, service charges, and tips.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Personal items such as airline baggage charges, 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.

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Deposits refundable until December 15, 2016, when final payment is due.

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### *glyph quotes* (Cont. from Page 5)

Ammon about what those plates might contain, he also shares about how marvelous are God's works and his longsuffering towards man. He then comments,

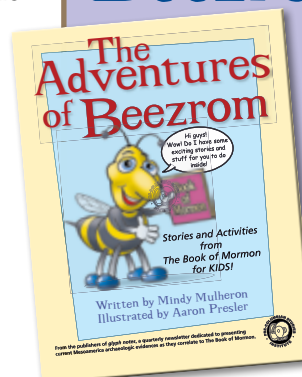
How blind and impenetrable are the understandings of the children of men: for they will not seek wisdom, neither do they desire that she should rule over them. Yea, they are as a wild flock, which fleeth from the shepherd, and scattereth, and are driven, and are devoured by the beasts of the forest. (Mosiah 5:85-86 [LDS 8:20-21]).

When recalling what Limhi saw and experienced growing up in the court of his father Noah and its wickedness, we get a sense of his perspective on this topic. He saw first-hand how blind men can become and, especially, how twisted their thoughts. He was there to see how the priests of his father could twist the truth and who were so intelligent yet at the same time so lacking in wisdom. When confronted by Abinadi, they could not see the error of their ways. They wanted to live by the dictates of their own hearts. They fled from wisdom and from the Shepherd who offers true wisdom, and ended up suffering under the devouring torment of the Lamanites in the wilderness.

Do we find ourselves at times making the same choices as these Nephites did? Do we selectively choose to not let God's wisdom rule in areas of our lives and in our decision making, but instead choose to operate as Christian atheists? Let us learn from their heartache and not follow the pattern of a wild flock, but instead give God's wisdom the proper authority over our decisions. If we do, we'll experience his marvelous works in our lives.

As the poet Harry Fosdick wrote, "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour." 

**Coming Soon!!!!**  
**Beezrom in a book.**



*The Adventures of Beezrom* will be a compilation of all his adventures previously published in *glyph notes*. It will be spiral bound in order to facilitate photocopying for classes (Sunday School, retreats, reunion, homeschooling, etc.).