

# glyph *notes*

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## Great Are the Words of Isaiah! Archaeology, Isaiah, and the Latter Days

By Sherrie Kline Smith

*Archaeological discoveries and events are challenging us to heed the prophecies of Isaiah. Christ told the Nephites, "Great are the words of Isaiah!" He also gave them a commandment to "search these things diligently..." (3 Nephi 10:27 [LDS 23:1]).*

If Christ called the Nephites to give particular attention to the writings of the prophet Isaiah, then we also need to heed that commandment.

We know we live in the latter days. Within these last days, archaeology has opened, in particular, two windows in support of the prophetic ministry of Isaiah and his prophecies concerning these last days. I feel these discoveries are reminders to search Isaiah's writings diligently.

### Isaiah's Bulla (Seal)

The most recent discovery is the signature of Isaiah in the form of a bulla (or seal). (See the article "Isaiah's Signature?" in *glyph notes*, Jan/Feb/Mar 2018, pp. 9-12.) A seal or bulla is a small piece of moist clay, usually attached to string that has been tied around a document or package. The moist clay is then stamped with a device engraved with the signature of the person responsible for the document or package.

Dr. Eilat Mazar, the archaeologist in charge of the excavation of the area south of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, believes the facts strongly indicate that the bulla was the personal seal of Isaiah the prophet. If indeed it was the seal of Isaiah,

*Cont. on Page 2*

*These two archaeological finds and the study of current and historical events, call us to recognize that God is working in miraculous ways to fulfill the promises and prophecies concerning the latter days.*



*Aaron Presler (L), Sallie Presler, and Lyle Smith listen to the guide during the tour of the exhibition "Seals of Isaiah and King Hezekiah Discovered."*

Sherrie Kline Smith

Reese Zoellner, Courtesy of AICF



Actual Size: 1 cm

The upper half of the Isaiah bulla was broken off, probably at the time when the package was opened. The impressions on the back of the bulla are of fabric instead of paper, which suggests it was a “package.” And though the left side is smudged by a thumb print, the inscription can be reconstructed. It reads, ““Belonging to Isaiah . . . [Prophet].”

The inscription on the newly discovered King Hezekiah’s bulla reads, “Belonging to Hezekiah, [son of] Ahaz, King of Judah.” The first bulla found in a controlled archaeological excavation, this one displays a “new” royal logo design. According to Dr. Eilat Mazar, the “rare display of a sun with downturned wings,” which indicates protection, represents King Hezekiah’s miraculous healing (Isaiah 38). “The ankh motifs at the sides—while still essentially Egyptian in nature—are universally understood to symbolize life” (ACIF p. 25). The former known seals of King Hezekiah, all of unknown provenance, featured the image of a scarab beetle, an Egyptian symbol of the creator-god Khepri.

well-presented. Through the exhibition and the tour, the time frame of King Hezekiah and Isaiah came to life, and the accounts in the biblical record captured our undivided attention. The exhibit was based on the biblical record found in 2 Kings 16-20; 2 Chronicles 28-30; and Isaiah 36-39.

The information about Isaiah’s family and his close ties with Hezekiah was new to me. Evidently Isaiah and King Hezekiah were both descended from Joash. And Isaiah, according to Jewish tradition, had a daughter, Hephzibah. His two sons are mentioned in scripture, but not this daughter. It appears she was married to King Hezekiah. The archaeologists believe Isaiah and his family most likely lived inside the royal

## Words of Isaiah (Cont. from Page 1)

this is the first archaeological evidence of something that belonged to that great prophet that can be seen and touched! For the spiritually minded person, the implications of this discovery are profound.

Discovered in 2009, but only made public this year, the seal of Isaiah, along with a seal of King Hezekiah and other ancient items from the same time period, were on display this past summer at the Herbert W. Armstrong College in Edmond, Oklahoma. Four of us from PSI went to the exhibit. I was impressed by the professionalism of the exhibit. We arrived in time to join a group tour, which was also

complex. The seals of both Isaiah and King Hezekiah were found close together—only 10 feet apart.

The actual size of the seals is only one centimeter, yet, the embossed letters and symbols are clearly distinguishable! The finding of these tiny seals shows the great care archaeological excavations take to preserve *anything* found in the dirt and rubble.

The exhibit focused on approximately 732 BC to 586-85 BC. Within this time frame, the northern ten tribes became what we call “the lost tribes of Israel.” Later, the Jews were carried captive into Babylon and Solomon’s temple destroyed. These events are tied tightly to Isaiah’s prophecies (and Nephi’s) about the latter days and the restoration of the House of Israel.



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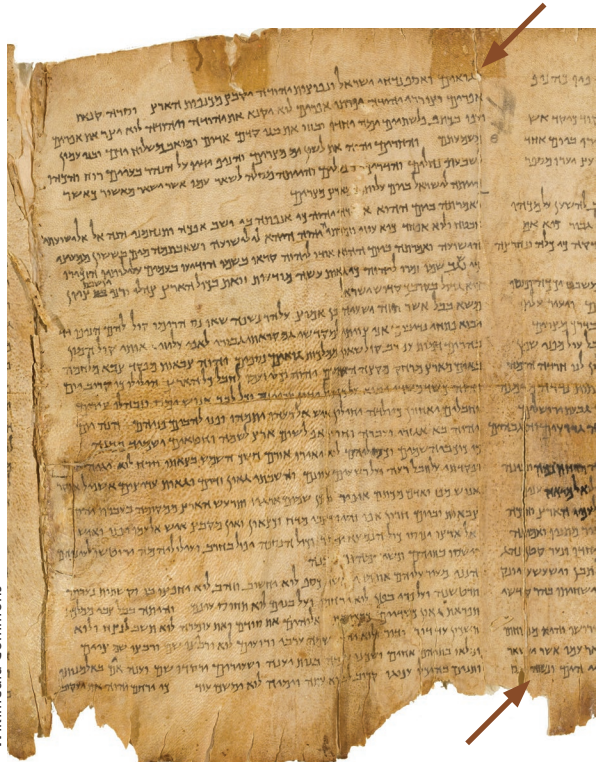
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The Great Isaiah Scroll is displayed on the Israel Museum's website: [dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah](https://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah) The portion shown here consists of parts of chapters 10-13. Verse 11:12 begins at the bottom left of the partial image of the section on the right and continues at the top of the page in the middle of the image. It is the top line and reads right to left.

be published. Of supreme importance in relation to the “last days” and fulfillment of prophecies of Isaiah and Nephi is the fact that one of the very first scrolls that came to light was a scroll of Isaiah, complete with all 66 chapters. Scholars refer to this scroll as the Great Isaiah Scroll.

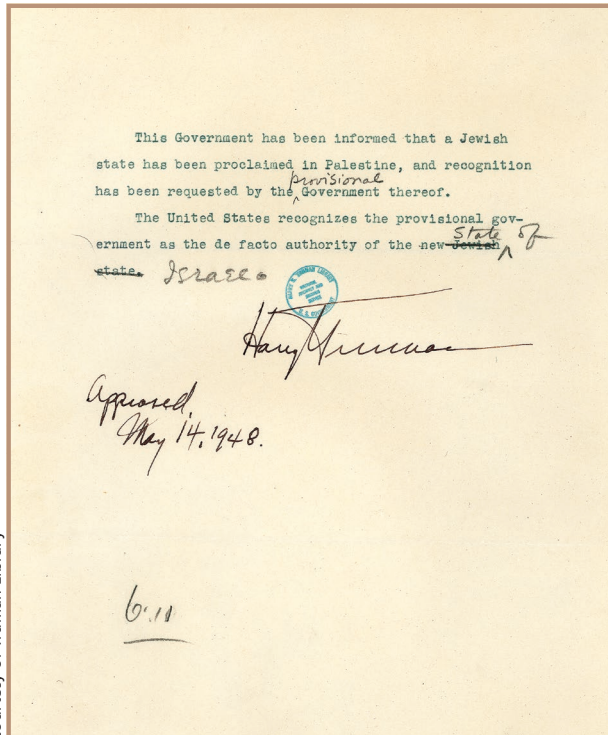
More than that—this scroll, found by a shepherd boy, was in turn sold to a professor from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In order to obtain the scroll (and six others), the professor had to go to Bethlehem. This was the day before the United Nations passed by two-thirds vote a resolution in November 1947 for the creation of the Jewish state at the time the British Mandate was to end in 1948. As Hershel Shanks wrote,

It was almost messianic. At the same time, literally within a 24-hour period, the state of Israel was created and Hebrew University acquired a scroll of the prophet Isaiah that was 1,000 years older than anything that had been known up to that time. (Shanks 1991:6).

When the angel came for the first time to Joseph Smith on September 21, 1823, he told Joseph many things and quoted several different scriptures. *One of those was the complete chapter of Isaiah 11.* (Isaiah 11 is also in 2 Nephi 9:116-131 [LDS 21]). The angel said that this scripture was about to be fulfilled. In chapter 11 Isaiah prophesies in the latter days “that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to *recover the remnant of his people*” (verse 11), “and he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall *assemble the outcasts of Israel*, and *gather together the dispersed of Judah* from the four corners of the world” (Isaiah 11:12).

**The Great Isaiah Scroll**

Much has been written about the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls. Although first coming to the public’s attention in the late 1940s and early ‘50s, it took years for much of the work of assembling the fragments and for the translations to



The original press release signed by President Truman on May 14, 1948, endorses the creation of the state of Israel. Notice how the words “Jewish state” are crossed out and replaced with “State of Israel.”

It was not “almost” messianic—it *was messianic!* The acquisition of the Great Isaiah Scroll occurred on the eve of the beginning of fulfillment of the prophecy by Isaiah that the “dispersed of Judah” would have a place to call home.

But—there is more! The United States played a decisive role in the creation of the state of Israel. Among other things, President Truman was the first to acknowledge Israel as a state. The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum website has a complete timeline of events leading to setting aside part of Palestine for Israel. Below are the two crucial 1948 entries in the timeline.

*Cont. on Page 4*

## Words of Isaiah (Cont. from Page 3)

May 14, 6 p.m. eastern standard time (12:00 midnight in Palestine): The British mandate for Palestine expires, and the state of Israel comes into being.


May 14, 6:11 p.m. eastern standard time: The United States recognizes Israel.

Where was President Truman from? Independence, Missouri, the designated place by the Lord for the establishment of Zion in “Joseph’s Land.” Joseph was son of Jacob (Israel) and father of Ephraim and Manasseh, two of the tribes of the House of Israel.

### Conclusion

Yes, “Great are the words of Isaiah!” These two archaeological finds, the seal of Isaiah and the Great Scroll of Isaiah and the study of current and historical events, call us to recognize that God is working in miraculous ways to fulfill the promises and prophecies concerning the latter days. The Lord is in this work! He is moving to fulfill his promises. This should bring us great hope. We can begin to glimpse the excitement of the days in which we live, in which the remaining promises and prophecies will be fulfilled. And we echo Roy Weldon’s words in his article in this issue called “Date with Destiny” – “What a day to be alive!”

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Both accessed September 7, 2018. 

## You can experience the exhibit,

including text, photographs, and videos at [watchjerusalem.co.il](http://watchjerusalem.co.il). Scroll down to the link “Seals of Isaiah and King Hezekiah Discovered,” in the middle of the screen. It will take about an hour to read the text and watch all the videos. If you don’t have that much time, at least scroll down to the third and fourth videos to watch about the discovery of King Hezekiah’s seal and Isaiah’s seal.

Back on the home page, just to the left of the link to the exhibit, is another link to download the complete “magazine” of 40 pages which is the exhibit in print, but, of course, without the videos. If some of our readers do not have a computer and would like a copy of the text and photographs of the exhibit, you might ask a relative who does have a computer to download it for you.

The goals of *Watch Jerusalem* are stated under the “About” link and described as follows:

Based in Jerusalem, Israel, *Watch Jerusalem* features on

the ground reporting and analysis of geopolitical, economic, social and religious events and trends specific to Israel and, secondarily, the wider Middle East.

In addition to news casting, *Watch Jerusalem* keeps readers up-to-date with archaeological excavations taking place in Israel and the wider Middle East, as well as publishing articles detailing lessons from biblical history. The staff of *Watch Jerusalem* are directly associated with archaeological excavations in Jerusalem—visit our sister website [keytodavidscity.com](http://keytodavidscity.com) to find out about previous excavations and to stay current with our participation in future excavations in Jerusalem.



# Date with Destiny

By Roy Weldon

*Part of an address delivered to the sixth annual Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon conference held in Independence, Missouri, October 27, 1990.*

**T**he Book of Mormon has a date with destiny. It has potentials no other book has or even remotely approaches as it moves into the future.

The first potential has to do with the statement in Helaman that the Nephites wrote many books (Helaman 2:14 [LDS 3:15-16]). One of the potentials is that an archaeologist may just stumble onto one of these books which could, overnight, bring The Book of Mormon into, what shall we say, stunning the world. Another one is that the Lord is waiting for us, his people, to prepare ourselves so he can bring out the great treasure of the Cumorah records.

For the past few years, there has been a marked increase by the media mentioning The Book of Mormon, both by the printed page and television. I personally have listened to two noted television evangelists go out of their way to condemn The Book of Mormon. By their own claims, millions of people hear their programs.

I became curious one time and read the Koran. How many of these millions [who heard these television evangelists] will be moved by curiosity or whatever to read The Book of Mormon? Would it be five thousand? Ten thousand? Would it be fifty thousand?

Those who do read it will soon discover that The Book of Mormon speaks for itself and in no uncertain terms.

The Book of Mormon, at this time, has amassed such a great amount of evidence. It is added to day by day even as we have listened to this morning. The Book of Mormon is now rolling on, rolling on into the future with a momentum that no hand can deter; that no power can slow, as it rolls on into a grand opening, a grand burst into the full limelight of world recognition.

Time is running out. A new day is dawning—a day in which we need to make great preparations. I believe the time is NOW to make preparations of all kinds.

The time will come when the

world will be looking toward Zion. In view of what the prophets have said, the day will come when they come to learn of her ways. We need to have an assemblage of all kinds of material, and a need of, what shall I say—I think I'll quote about the land shadowing with wings, Isaiah 18, the third verse.

All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.

Evidence shows the Lord is NOW preparing men of such caliber and of such expertise that they can step to the microphone and under divine endowment from on high speak to the nations, speak to the millions.

One time when I was in California, I was climbing up Mount Diablo, a mountain about 6,500 feet high. I was taking a group of teenagers up the mountain. We stopped to rest near the top by a huge boulder. This boulder, probably 15 or 20 tons, turned out to be very lightly balanced. We got that thing going. It rolled on. The first thing it hit was a huge dead tree and scattered it into parts all around. The results were awesome and frightening.

There is another mountain; there is another stone. The second chapter of Daniel tells of the stone that rolls out of the mountain, down into a great image, representative and symbolic of all the philosophies, isms and ologies that we have in the world.


What will be left of that image? The results will be awesome. Not anything more but what the wind can blow away will be left. The stone rolls on. On and on and it fills the whole earth, and stands forever.

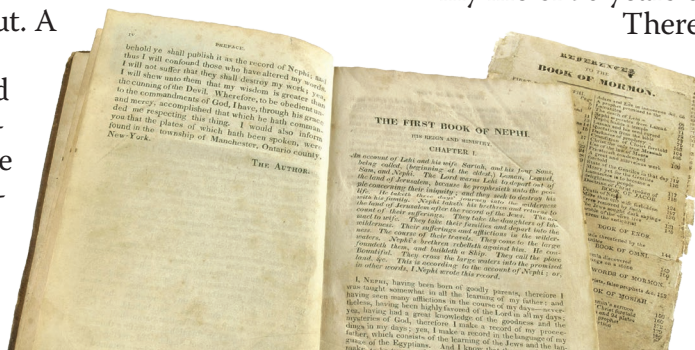
The grand finale of the Restoration Movement is now beckoning us on. What a day to be alive!

*[As Brother Weldon moved to return to his place, he was given a standing ovation. He added the following words.]*

I appreciate your response. Before I went to church this morning I asked the Lord to give me a special blessing; that I would give him all the honor and credit. This goes for this morning and for all my life of 70 years of working in the Lord's vineyard.

There are simply three words to say and that is: "WITHOUT HIM, I can do NOTHING!"

*This article first appeared in The Witness, Spring 1991 (#72), page 15. Permission to reprint granted by The Book of Mormon Foundation. *



# 2020!!!!!!

## Plan Now for a Tour to Mesoamerica!!!

*Led by Lyle and Sherrie Smith on behalf of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute*



*We explore the ruins together—like the North Acropolis at Tikal.*

Lyle Smith

Please join us as we experience a life-changing 11 days touring ancient places once inhabited by people found between the covers of The Book of Mormon.

The time frame is January/February of 2020. This will allow plenty of time to make plans. At the moment, the itinerary has not been decided but we are leaning towards Guatemala. After the news of the amazing results of the LiDAR survey in Guatemala, we believe it would be a good time to revisit that beautiful

country. The site of Tikal was one of the major sites surveyed, and if we go to Guatemala, we will visit Tikal. We always spend two days exploring Tikal because there is so much to see and so much to relate to what is happening in The Book of Mormon, especially its closing hours and days.

No matter where we go, however, you can be very sure that the experience will change your perspective of The Book of Mormon. We encourage you to consider joining us on an adventure, not only



*We learn together.*

Don Beebe

one of enjoying the camaraderie with other believers in The Book of Mormon, but also a spiritual experience—if you make necessary preparations. We have included some excerpts from former travelers on one of our Guatemala tours that we hope will give you a glimpse of what you might also experience.

The approximate cost for each individual would be \$3500, depending on the size of the group. This includes air fare from Kansas City and return, ground



*We travel on the rivers to some sites.*

Lyle Smith

transportation, hotel accommodations based on two to a room, most meals, entrance fees, service charges, and tips.

If you are thinking about going with us, would you please let us know? This is not a commitment; it is simply an expression of interest. You can email us at [precolumbiansi@gmail.com](mailto:precolumbiansi@gmail.com) or call us at 816.838.5192.

We hope you will join us in 2020!

Lyle and Sherrie Smith



*We worship together.*

Pat Beebe

*I don't think the full impact of this trip will be revealed to me until sometime later, but for the present, suffice it to say, it has been a real blessing and one I have only dreamed about. It's difficult to focus upon one aspect because so many experiences have been outstanding, but being able to share them with those who believe in and love the Book of Mormon as I do has brought me great joy. The magnificent Tikal, the adventures of Ceibal, visiting the beautiful Copan and our time at Kaminaljuyu (very possibly the city of Nephi) is almost too much to contemplate.*  
 ~ Mary George (Now Mary Ferguson)



*We share meals and have fun together.*

Pat Beebe

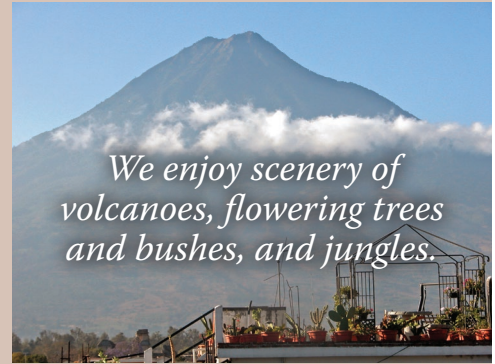


*We visit museums together to see treasures discovered at the ruins.*

Pat Beebe

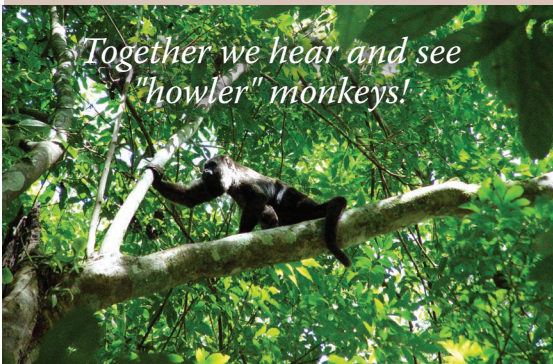
*The thing that stands out most in my mind about our "Guatemalan adventure" is the genuine friendliness and graciousness of the "Guatemaltecos." Everywhere we went, I felt that we were treated with warm acceptance and respect. I certainly have a different view of this beautiful country and its people than my preconceived ideas which were formed mostly from the news media in the past.*  
 ~ Linda Drown

*Because of the genuine love and help by each and every one of you, this trip became even more special to me than last year's trip to Mexico. I found out how the Lord's spirit worked through all the tour members to bring about a Christ-like bond between brothers and sisters in the faith. Money cannot buy what the Lord allowed to happen to us as the entire trip experience brought us closer to our brothers and sisters from The Book of Mormon. I didn't get to climb like the rest or see all the ruins, but I saw the convictions in your faces and the desire to see more.* ~ Barb Eliason



*We enjoy scenery of volcanoes, flowering trees and bushes, and jungles.*

Lyle Smith



*Together we hear and see "howler" monkeys!*

Pat Beebe

*My faith and belief in the Book of Mormon was greatly increased as a result of the tour.* ~ Ann Brown

*It is hard to pick out one experience, because they all stand out. Tikal was very interesting because of the large city and spectacular structures. I was impressed by the young Indian boy selling pop that brought me change an hour later after the purchase. The trip to Ceibal was an experience I won't soon forget. We saw the real, every day Guatemala....* ~ Barent Eliason

*All members of the group had one purpose in mind—to observe the excavated sites and find evidence which relates to the Book of Mormon account. This spirit of unity opened our hearts to one another and opened our minds to connect what we saw with what is recorded of the Nephite-Lamanite period of time. The Lord promised many things would be hidden from the world until he allowed them to be made known to the latter-day people.* ~ Francis Ashby (Francis was in her 80s on this trip.)



*We shop at Chichicastenango on market day*

Lyle Smith



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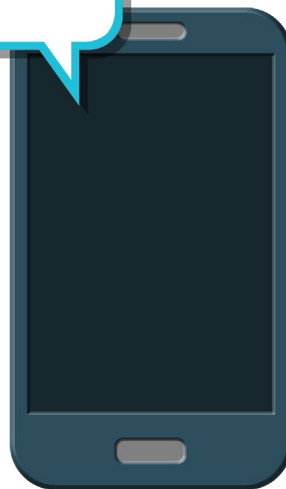
# WOW!

*J* By Patricia J Beebe

exting as a means of communication is prevalent in the lives of our youth and is making headway into the older generation. I resisted for a long time before entering the texting world filled with abbreviations and emojis. WOW is not being used as an abbreviation here. It is an interjection which, in text form, is an outburst, interpolation, exclamation, or interruption. Perhaps that definition correlates to an emoji.

Pre-Columbian Studies, Institute has as its main goal to assist in turning faith into knowledge. The process of doing so involves creating many moments of WOW. “WOW, I didn’t know that”; “WOW, I hadn’t thought of it that way,” or “#WOWthatismazing.” PSI takes pleasure in being able to keep our readership up to date in the latest breaking research findings that relate to The Book of Mormon. Beautiful pictures/graphics accompanying the text story utilize the concept of “a picture is worth a thousand words” with cutting-

WOW!



edge revelations. The outcome, we hope, is a WOW moment. Engaging the heart and the mind penetrates the belief system. The belief system is where faith and knowledge reside.

Just as daily communication continues to evolve through technology, PSI is seeking ways to keep in touch with its readers. Publication of additional resource materials such as Beezrom and *glyph notes* on CD along with the development of a webpage for easy access to current and past works is on-going. Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware. Don’t let the quick-paced world of texting and emojis keep you from growth attained from a single WOW moment.

As always, we extend a special thank you to those who have increased their giving, which makes it possible for PSI to send Book of Mormon faith-building information to those who desire to receive the newsletter even though they may feel unable to subscribe. Please use the self-addressed envelope to update your subscription. And, we encourage you to invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member to join that they may have opportunity also to experience that WOW! moment. 