

glyph notes

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • JANUARY—APRIL 2023 • VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1
glyph notes is published quarterly by the Pre-Columbian Studies Institute PSI, a 501 c 3 nonprofit research and education organization

Five Major Book of Mormon Studies

By Lyle L. Smith

The angel Moroni gave Joseph Smith ancient records written in an unknown script, which contained the everlasting gospel. Joseph translated these records by the power and gift of God and published them as The Book of Mormon. Could anyone in 1830, without God's help, have written a 3,000-year history that matches current archaeological evidence of the Olmec and the Maya in event, date, and sequence?

To begin to answer the above question, I have created **five major studies** (listed below). **These studies are a work in progress** and are available in both PowerPoint and in print.

Contact us through our website (See page 11) at www.precolumbiansi.org or at precolumbiansi@gmail.com

1. Creation

Maya stone inscriptions, Maya conquest documents, Maya wall paintings, Inspired Version of the Bible, The Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants all describe a similar creation story.

2. Arad

Does The Book of Mormon provide accurate linguistic, cultural and archaeological information about Israel at the time of Lehi?

3. Christ In America

Other Sheep, Conquest Documents, Quetzalcoatl/Kulkulkan, and God G1 all describe Christ in the New World.

4. Where do we find Jaredite History in the New World?

Jaredite history and pre-Olmec and Olmec histories converge.

5. Where Do We Find Nephite history in the New World?

Nephite and Maya histories converge in the New World.

This issue features only number 4: Where Do We Find Jaredite History in the New World? 



Gabriel Hallier

*There are
 nine major
 parallels
 between the
 Jaredites
 and a major
 civilization
 found in
 Mexico.*

Where Do We Find Jaredite History in the New World? *MESOAMERICA*

By Lyle L. Smith

The angel Moroni gave Joseph Smith ancient records, written in an unknown script, that contained the everlasting gospel. Joseph translated these records, by the power and gift of God, and published them as The Book of Mormon. These records also included details about two major groups of people: the Nephites and Jaredites.

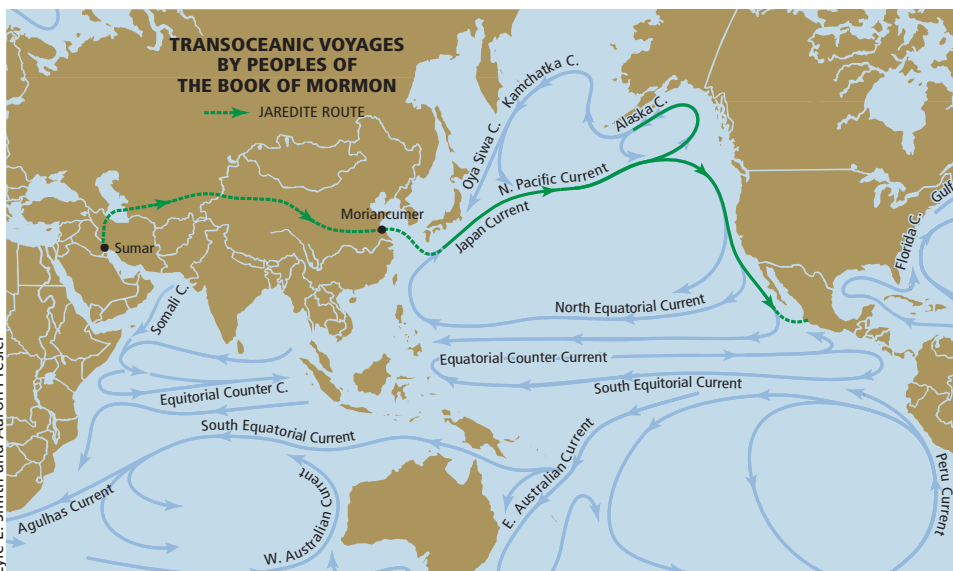
Many believers in The Book of Mormon want to know where these two major groups located after their journeys. Many suggestions have been made, but after 50 years of research I have no doubt that only one area of the Americas matches Jaredite and Nephite history. The archaeological and linguistic evidence found in the area identified by archaeologists as Mesoamerica strongly supports the information found in The Book of Mormon as the location of these two groups.

This article will examine only the **Jaredites**: where they **originated**, their **journey**, and the probability of **when they arrived** in the New World, followed by a comparison of the Jaredites with a civilization in the New World.

There are **nine major parallels** between the Jaredites and a major civilization found in Mexico; a people called the Olmec. Because of these nine parallels, I believe the Olmec were the Jaredites, and I hope this article will help you see and understand why I believe this.

Before delving further into these parallels, though, I want to address the question of location. I firmly believe the record of the Jaredites found in the book of Ether only relates to the area of Mesoamerica. (The reasons for believing this to be discussed below.) In other words, it is not a history for North or South America.

In Ether 1:7 [LDS 1:33] Moroni writes, “At the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, and swear in his wrath that **they should be scattered upon all the face of the earth**; and according to the word of the Lord the people were scattered.” At the time Columbus discovered the New World, some 5,000 years after the Jaredite arrival, **diverse groups of Native Americans lived in the Americas**. Many groups probably stem from Jaredite heritage. The Jaredites were here at least 3,000 years. If part of their people left their main area located in Mesoamerica, **their history was lost, not being a part of the record found in Ether**. As the people were scattered upon all the face of the earth, it is also most likely that the Lord led other groups to the land of promise who are not a part of Book of Mormon history. A good example could be the ancient cultures in Peru. Many of the



Native Americans today may well be descendants of these other probable migrations.

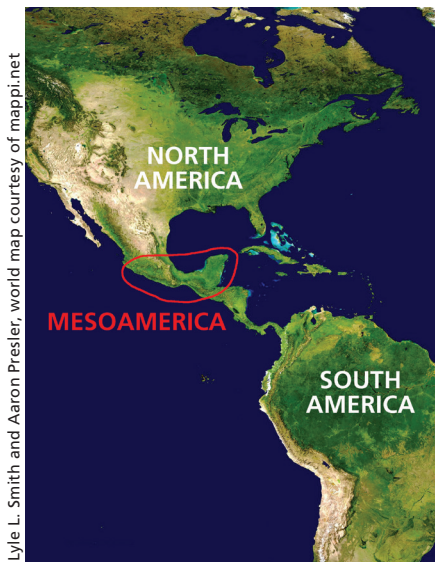
Let’s now explore the people led by the Brother of Jared. They migrated from Sumer, the world’s earliest recognized civilization, which was the place of the “great tower.” Today we know it as modern Iraq. Without doubt this journey from the Middle East to the “great sea which divideth the lands” took many years. “They did travel in the wilderness, and did build barges, in which they did cross many waters, being directed continually by the hand

Lyle L. Smith and Aaron Presler

of the Lord" (Ether 1:28 [LDS 2:6]). They were **walking**, they had to **build barges** and they had to stop and **grow crops** for food. (See Ether 1-3:13 [LDS 1-6:11].) I believe it reasonable that it took 50 to 100 years for the journey. From the Middle East to the Pacific Ocean is a long, long way. The Brother of Jared says, "and for this many years we have been in the wilderness..." (Ether 1:64 [LDS 3:3]).

After arriving at the seashore of the "great waters," they followed instructions given by the Lord and built new barges that would carry them across the sea to the land of promise. "And thus they were driven forth, **three hundred and forty and four days** upon the water; and they did land upon the shore of the promised land" (Ether 3:12 [LDS 6:10]). The length of the journey implies that they crossed the Pacific Ocean. To cross the Atlantic would take much less time. Today we know that items float from the coast of Asia to the coast of California or Mexico in about a year.

But—when did the Jaredites arrive at the land of promise? Based on archaeological evidence in Mesoamerica and Sumer (what is now the ancient civilization found in Iraq), and on the timeline found



Lyle L. Smith and Aaron Presler, world map courtesy of mappi.net

in The Book of Mormon itself, I propose they arrived around 3114 B.C. My reason for proposing this date can be found in Maya records painted on walls and portable objects, codices, and inscriptions in stone. Epigraphers believe this date is the creation date found in Maya beliefs. **They call it a "mythical date" because they know Maya cities only showed up about 500 to 600 B.C.** You may ask why we reference a Maya date when we are looking at the earliest civilization in Mesoamerica?

First, the archaeologists recognize that 3114 B.C. is not the beginning date for the Maya, hence they call it a "mythical date."

Second, I feel that since it is carved on stone and painted in murals in several Maya cities, it must be an important date.

Third, the 3114 B.C. date found in the Maya hieroglyphs is the beginning date for their current creation. (See Smith in References on page 9.)

Fourth, it makes sense to me that the beginning of creation in Mesoamerica most probably references the arrival of the Jaredites in the promised land.

Cont. on Page 4



Lyle L. Smith and Aaron Presler

Jaredites *Cont. from Page 3*

They could well be the first people in Mesoamerica after the flood.

Fifth, the best archaeological evidence to support this date is that pottery and domesticated crops first appeared in Mesoamerica at about 3000 B.C.

Our method today will be to look at the history of the Jaredites as told in The Book of Mormon.

We will compare it with the history of the earliest civilization in Mesoamerica called the Olmec. As we begin to build the Jaredite/Olmec timelines, it is important to know that all Olmec references come from leading archaeologists. *These are not my theories or ideas.* The archaeologists tell the story of the Jaredites even though they do not know it.

BOOK OF MORMON <i>Pottery and Domesticated Crops</i>	MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY <i>Pottery and Domesticated Crops</i>
--	--

Ether records that shortly after the Jaredites came to the land of promise “they began to . . . to till the earth, and they did wax strong in the land” (Ether 3:20 [LDS 6:18]). Having been at the great tower, they in all probability brought knowledge of **domesticated crops** and **pottery** with them. Archaeological explorations have shown that the civilization of Sumer, in the Middle East, had both pottery and domesticated crops before the flood. On the other hand, since the Olmec lived so long ago, little archaeological evidence has been found, but enough evidence, I feel, to equate them with the early Jaredites.

Pottery first appeared in Mesoamerica about 3000 B.C. which correlates with the arrival of the Jaredites. The pottery shown here dates later, around 1500-1200 B.C.



Sherrie Kline Smith

Sherrie Kline Smith

This ceramic bowl, with carving of an image that represents a "celestial dragon" or "avian serpent," is characteristic of early Olmec style (1200 to 950 B.C.) found primarily in non-Gulf Coast sites in Central Mexico and the Pacific Coast.

Documented evidence of very early occupation (shell middens) on the Pacific Coast of the Mexican state of Guerrero begins around 2900 B.C. “After 3000 B.C. it is clear that lowland societies [in coastal Pacific sites] began to acquire domesticated plants...” (Adams 2005:42).

“Some of the earliest, if not the earliest, pottery in Mesoamerica” was found at Puerto Marquez (near Acapulco) and dates to 2400 B.C. Archaeologists designate pottery phases by timeframe. The Abejas phase of pottery in Mesoamerica began circa 3000 B.C. (Adams 2005: 42, 45, 36).

The Jaredites from the Old World knew about domesticated crops and how to make pottery. That both domestication of plants and evidence of pottery occur about the same time as the arrival of the Jaredites provides a strong witness for correlating the two groups.

BOOK OF MORMON <i>Civilization on Two Seas</i>	MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY <i>Civilization on Two Seas</i>
--	--

As noted above, because of the length of crossing of the sea and the ocean current, the Jaredites arrived somewhere on the Pacific coast near present-day Acapulco in the Mexican state Guerrero. Ether records that shortly after the Jaredites came to the land of promise “they began to spread upon the face of the land, and to multiply . . . and they did wax strong in the land” (Ether 3:20 [LDS 6:18]). Centuries later, in the time of King Omer, probably about 2500 B.C.,

Although what is classified as the “Olmec Heartland” is on the Gulf Coast, some archaeologists believe the earliest evidence for the Olmecs is found on the Pacific side.

“Indubitably in Guerrero there was a marked Olmec influence, to the point that Covarrubias thought that the style had been born there, before its efflorescence in Veracruz-Tabasco” (Bernal 1969:142-143).

a group left and migrated eastward, overland, to another seashore east from where they had landed earlier (Ether 4:3-4 [LDS 9:3]). This puts their civilization on both the Pacific and Gulf coasts.

Sherrie Klime Smith



This beautiful black earthenware vessel exemplifies the artistry and skill of early Pre-Olmec potters (1200-600 B.C.).

“Archaeologist John Graham of the University of California at Berkeley, who excavated Abaj Takalik in Guatemala, believes it is possible that this Pacific coast area—and not the Gulf Coast region after all—may indeed have been the Olmec heartland” (Stuart 1993:114). See also Coe and Koontz’s discussion of this in Mexico pages 89 through 91.

The interpretation that the Olmec originated on the Pacific coast did not change the prevailing belief. A great controversy raged until the discovery of the site in Guerrero of Teopantecuanitlan. This “revived past theses

that proposed that the groups which eventually gave rise to the ‘Olmec’ culture divided in two, some settling along the Pacific coast, others on the Gulf coast.... [Norman] Hammond suggests that rather than a Mother Olmec Culture—referring to the Gulf—, the Pacific and Gulf cultures are sisters” (Martinez Donjuan 1996:65).

Some archaeologists, however, still designate any Olmec settlement not in the Gulf coast Olmec Heartland, that blossomed earlier than 2000 B.C., as pre-Olmec or their predecessors.

Once again, archaeology aligns with the account found in The Book of Mormon.



Lyle L. Smith and Aaron Presler

Olmec civilization is found near Acapulco on the Pacific coast and La Venta on the Gulf coast, therefore on two seas.

BOOK OF MORMON *Great Dearth and Famine*

Glenn Scott’s book *Voices from the Dust* has a great Jaredite time line. According to Scott’s time line, at the time of King Heth, about 2100 B.C., prophets came into the land again crying repentance. There would be a great famine in the land if the people did not repent. As the Jaredites did not repent, “there began to be a **great dearth upon the land**, and the inhabitants began to be destroyed exceeding fast, because of the dearth, for there was no rain upon the face of the earth...” (Ether 4:35 [LDS 9:31]).

Because of the **exceedingly high temperatures** and the **lack of rain** most of the Jaredites were destroyed including King Heth, a descendant of the former Jaredite kings.

MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY *Hypsithermal, Excessively High Temperatures and Famine*

“The higher temperatures of this period were accompanied by decreased rainfall. Authorities on ancient climate do not agree on the precise beginning and ending dates of this warm, dry spell, which is known as the Altithermal or Hypsithermal.... Higher than modern temperatures prevailed until sometime between 3000 and 1500 B.C.” (Fiedel 1987:119-120).

“Vast areas of the New World were transformed into desert wastes” and many animals disappeared like the “mastodon, mammoth, horse . . . camel, giant bison, ground sloth, and dire wolf” (Coe and Koontz 2008:26).

Cont. on Page 6

Jaredites *Cont. from Page 5*

BOOK OF MORMON

Prospered Exceedingly; Build a Great City Near the Narrow Neck of Land

The Lord promised that the people of Jared and his brother would be highly blessed above all other nations. “And there will I bless thee and thy seed, and raise up unto me of the seed, and of the seed of thy brother, and they who shall go with thee a great nation...” (Ether 1:19-20[LDS 1:43]).

“And they built a great city by the narrow neck of land, by the place where the sea divides the land.... And the whole face of the land northward was covered with inhabitants; and they were exceeding industrious.... And did work in all manner of ore . . . and all manner of metals.... And they did have silks and fine twined linen.... And they did work all manner of work of exceeding curious workmanship. And never could be a people more blessed than were they, and more prospered by the hand of the Lord” (Ether 4:68-78 [LDS 10:20-28]).

The description in The Book of Mormon of this great time of civilization is astounding.

We read about:

- a great city built by a narrow neck of land, where the sea divides the land
- a land northward covered with inhabitants
- a land southward kept as wilderness



Lyle L. Smith

North of the La Venta Pyramid were several important finds. One was this tomb (labeled Tomb A) made from basalt columns (900 to 500 B.C.). Among the many offerings found in the burial was a small figurine covered in cinabar and wearing a hematite mirror. See page 8.



Lyle L. Smith

These are some of the jade offerings found in the La Venta Tomb A mentioned above.

MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Great City by Narrow Neck of Land

Archaeologists recognize the blossoming of the Olmec, in the area they call the Olmec Heartland, beginning about 2000 B.C. This date coincides with the end of the great dearth/famine. The quotes below reference the Olmec Heartland.

Major Olmec cities began by 1800 B.C.” (Coe 1994:62). Two very large and wealthy cities near the “narrow neck of land” are San Lorenzo and La Venta.

In San Lorenzo, “between 1800 and 1400 BC, they moved 2.2 million tons (2 million metric tons) of earth as part of the initial step in their plan to erect the first capital of the Olmec world...” (Cyphers 2010:37).

“The total quantity of treasures uncovered in Complex A [at the Olmec city of La Venta, the second largest Olmec city after San Lorenzo], only a portion of which are described here, brings to mind the royal treasures of European monarchs or pharaonic tombs” (Diehl 2004:74).

In 1969, a large cache of artifacts was found at Rio Pesquero. This “was the site of one of the most spectacular Olmec discoveries ever made, when fishermen accidentally uncovered jadeite and serpentine objects in the river bottom. It soon became apparent that they had encountered an immense cache that included dozens of life-sized greenstone masks, at least 1,000 celts, as well as

figurines, ornaments, and ritual paraphernalia” (Diehl 2004:79). (Unfortunately, robbers stole this wonderful find before the government could move to protect it.)

“Olmecs were the first Native Americans to erect large architectural complexes, live in nucleated towns and cities, and develop a sophisticated art style executed in stone and other imperishable media” (Diehl 2004:12).

The Lord promised the Jaredites that they would become a

- metals
- silks and fine twined linen
- tools, weapons of war

Following the great dearth, it appears that the promise made to the Jaredites of being a great nation was fulfilled.

great nation and greatly prosper. The treasures found in Olmec cities such as San Lorenzo and La Venta support this. Such wealth does not come when people are only subsistence farmers. The accumulation of wealth is made possible by business, government, trade, i.e., advanced, well organized, and prosperous civilizations.

BOOK OF MORMON <i>Land Southward Sparsely Populated before 600 B.C.</i>	MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY <i>Land Southward Sparsely Settled until 600/500 B.C.</i>
---	--

During the great famine "there came forth poisonous serpents.... Their flocks began to flee before the poisonous serpents, towards the land southward.... The Lord did cause that they should hedge up the way, that the people could not pass..." (Ether 4:35-38 [LDS 9:30-33]).

Some years after the famine ended the poisonous serpents were destroyed, but the Jaredites "did preserve the land southward for a wilderness, to get game" (Ether 4:66, 69 [LDS 10:19-21]).

Archaeology indicates that, "One of ancient Mesoamerica's great mysteries is the **absence of significant human populations** in Yucatan, Belize, and the Peten of Guatemala before 800 B.C. Earlier remains have been identified at various places in the northern Peten and Belize, but the entire area was **very lightly settled** until 600/500 B.C." (Diehl 2004:150).

"Slow, uneven population growth occurred from 1000 to 500 B.C..... There are indications that **this erratic population growth became an explosion after 550 B.C.** The reasons for the apparent jump in numbers of people are obscure" (Adams 1991:152-153).

BOOK OF MORMON <i>Jaredites Experts in Working Metals</i>	MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY <i>Expert in Metallurgy Beginning around 1475 B.C.</i>
---	---

From the descriptions of their civilization, it is obvious that the Jaredites used metal shortly after their arrival in the promised land. It is later, about 1500 B.C. that Ether relates the many different way metals were used.

"Wherefore he came to the hill Ephraim, and he did moulten out of the hill, and made **swords out of steel...**" (Ether 3:34 [LDS 6:28]).

Sometime later,



Lyle L. Smith

Cinnabar, a pigment extracted from mercury, has been found in many tombs including La Venta Tomb A shown on page 6.

What does archaeology indicate about metals for the Olmecs?

"**Ilmenite and magnetite** were used to make mirrors in Oaxaca about 1475 B.C." (Flannery 1970:149).

"Pierre Agrinier found native iron ore deposits, a workshop littered with thousands of broken and partially worked ilmenite and magnetite blocks, chert drills and other tools, and even a fragment from an iron ore mirror..." (Diehl 2004:133).

"Ann Cyphers and her colleagues uncovered two workshops containing **tons of small rectangular [iron] "beads"** perforated with conical holes.... The sheer quantity of objects turned up by Cyphers suggest they may have had some other use as well" (Diehl 2004:93).

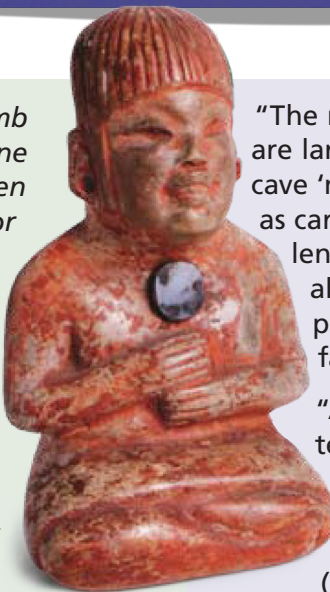
Cont. on Page 8

Jaredites *Cont. from Page 7*

about 1500 B.C., “They did work all manner of ore, and they did make **gold, and silver, and iron, and brass**, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get **ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron and of copper**” (Ether 4:71 [LDS 10:23]).

Found in Tomb A, this figurine of a red queen holds a mirror made of ilmenite and magnetite. Both indicate that the Olmec knew how to work with metals.

Sherrie Kline Smith



“The most spectacular Olmec iron ore creations are large, beautifully polished, parabolic concave ‘mirrors’....” The concavity on the front is as carefully ground as many modern optical lenses, and the optical qualities of some allow them to be used to ignite fires and project ‘camera lucida’ images on flat surfaces” (Diehl 2004:93-94).

“Although the Olmecs had a Stone Age technology, they did **work the iron ores magnetite, hematite, and ilmenite** into beads, mirrors, and at least one marvelous little human figurine...” (Diehl 2004:93).

“And they did make all manner of tools to till the earth, both to plow and to sow, to reap and to hoe, and also to thrash. And they did make all manner of tools with which they did work their beasts. And they did make all manner of weapons of war” (Ether 4:74-76 [LDS 10:25-27]).

The Olmec used stone-age technology. Yet they could make these marvelous metal mirrors and figurines. Why should we not assume that they could make hoes, plows, thrashing machines, and weapons of war as required by Book of Mormon history?

BOOK OF MORMON

Writing, Jaredites Always Had

From the beginning of the Jaredite colony, it appears they had the ability to write. During the experience on the mountain, the Lord said unto the Brother of Jared, “write these things and seal them up...” (Ether 1:92 [LDS 3:27]).

Moroni tells us about the author of the 24 plates of gold, “He that wrote this record was Ether...” (Ether 1:6 [LDS 1:6]).

And at the end of the Jaredites as a civilization, they still were writing. During the final battles, Coriantumr communicated with his opponent. “And it came to pass that he wrote an epistle unto Shiz, desiring him that he would spare the people....” Shiz responded by writing back to Coriantumr (Ether 6:75-76 [LDS 15:4-5]).

MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Writing by 650 B.C.

In December 2002 a fortuitous discovery established the existence of Olmec writing and calendrics by at least 650 BC” (Diehl 2004:96).

Coe and Koontz report in their sixth edition of Mexico (2008), that, “More conclusive evidence that the Olmecs had a script appeared in 1999 at a place called El Cascajal, not far north of San Lorenzo . . . local villagers had recovered a serpentine block, one face of which was incised with hieroglyphs...” (76). They date this writing to 1000-900 B.C.

BOOK OF MORMON

Jaredite Civilization Ceased

The exact date of the end of the Jaredite civilization is unknown. Some clues can be gleaned from the account King Limhi relates to Ammon around 121 B.C. (Mosiah 5:60-66 [LDS 8:7-11]). King Limhi had sent 43 of his people to

MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Olmec Civilization Ceased

It is now apparent that by the beginning of the Late Preclassic (400 B.C. to A.D. 100) . . . **Olmec presence . . . ceased**” (Morley, et al. 1983:65).

“Having dated the Olmec decline, what might account for it...? Whatever environmental changes

search for the Land of Zarahemla to petition them for help in delivering King Limhi and his people out of bondage. The group was lost and did not find the Land of Zarahemla but had “traveled in a land among many waters and a land covered with bones of men, and of beasts . . . covered with ruins of buildings of every kind.” And “a land which had been peopled with a people who were as numerous as the hosts of Israel.” This group returned bring 24 plates of “pure gold,” as well as “perfectly sound” large breastplates made of brass and copper. They also “brought swords, the hilts thereof [had] perished, and blades . . . were cankered with rust.”

The description of these items suggests that the destruction of these people occurred probably only a couple hundred years prior to their discovery by the people sent by King Limhi.

Glenn Scott’s “A Projected Chronology of Jaredite History” (p. 46 in *Voices from the Dust*) gives 200 B.C. for the end of the **Jaredite nation due to exterminating battles.**

occurred, the demise of Olmec culture was ultimately a cultural process that reflected human actions and responses.... **But what happened to the people?”** (Diehl 2004:82).

Yes, it was “human actions and responses” that destroyed the people. The Book of Mormon gives this history. “Yea, there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children” (Ether 6:22, 73 [LDS 13:21, 15:2]).



Lyle L. Smith

This Olmec-style carving was found at Chalcatzingo, which was first settled in 1500 B.C. with an abrupt decline in 500 B.C.

NINE MAJOR PARALLELS

By now, I trust you see and understand the parallels between the Jaredite and Olmec civilizations. See summary chart on page 10.

Up until some years ago, archaeological evidence did not match Jaredite history as found in *The Book of Mormon*. Now it continues to converge so that Jaredite and Olmec histories have parallel time lines. With emerging evidence, we find a plethora of Jaredite history in MESOAMERICA.

Could anyone in 1830, without God’s help, have written a 3000-year history that matches current archaeological evidence of the Olmec and their predecessors in event, date, and sequence?

References

- Adams, R.E.W.
2005 *Prehistoric America*. 3rd ed. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Bernal, Ignacio
1969 *The Olmec World*. Translated by Doris Heyden and Fernando Horcasitas. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Berrin, Kathleen and Virginia Fields, ed.
2010 *Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico*. Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Coe, Michael and Rex Koontz
2008 *Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs*. 6th ed. Thames & Hudson, New York.
- Cyphers, Ann
2010 San Lorenzo. In *Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico*, edited by Kathleen Berrin and Virginia M. Fields, pp. 34-43. Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, New Haven, Connecticut.
- de Guevara, Sara Ladron
2010 Olmec Art: Essence, Presence, Influence, and Transcendence. In *Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico*, edited by Kathleen Berrin and Virginia M. Fields, pp. 24-33. Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Diehl, Richard A.
2004 *The Olmecs: America’s First Civilization*. Thames & Hudson, London.
- Fiedel, Stuart J.
1987 *Prehistory of the Americas*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Martinez Donjuan, Guadalupe
1996 Teopantecuanitlan. *arqueologia Mexicana*. Special Edition Olmec, pp. 64-67.
- Morley, Sylvanus G. and George W. Brainerd
1983 *The Ancient Maya*, rev. by Robert J. Sharer. 4th ed. Stanford University Press, California.
- Pool, Christopher A.
2007 *Olmec Archaeology and Early Mesoamerica*. Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Scott, Glenn A. Jr.
2002 *Voices from the Dust: New Light from an Ancient American Record*. 3rd ed. School of the Saints, Independence, Missouri.
- Smith, Sherrie Kline
2012 2012: End of the World or the Beginning of a New Era? *glyphnotes* 19(2):1-5 March/April.
- Stuart, George
1993 New Light on the Olmec. *National Geographic* 184:88-114.

JAREDITE/ARCHAEOLOGY TIMELINE

BOOK OF MORMON	DATE	MESOAMERICA
Jaredite Arrival	c.a. 3114 B.C.	Early Settlements
Pottery and Domesticated Crops	c.a. 3000 B.C.	Pottery and Domesticated Crops
Civilization on Two Seas	c.a. 2400 B.C.	Civilization on Two Seas
Great Dearth and Famine	c.a. 2100 B.C.	Hypsithermal, Excessively High Temperatures and Famine
Prospered Exceedingly; Build a Great City Near the Narrow Neck of Land	c.a. 1800 B.C.	Great City by Narrow Neck of Land
Land Southward Sparsely Populated before 600 B.C.	c.a. 1500 B.C.	Land Southward Sparsely Settled until 600/500 B.C.
Metals Used, Jaredites Always Had	c.a. 1475 B.C.	Metals Used by 1475 B.C.
Writing, Jaredite Always Had	c.a. 650 B.C.	Writing by 650 B.C.
Jaredite Civilization Ceased	c.a. 300 B.C.	Olmec Civilization Ceased

glyph quotes

Good cometh of none, save it be of me.

By Eric English


~ Ether 1:106 [LDS 4:11]

In the beginning of recorded time, God spoke to Moses and commanded him to write the words which he would speak. He informs Moses that by his Only Begotten that he created all things and relates the account of creation. After God had completed the marvelous act of bringing all the known universe into being, he looked at his works and declared that they were very good (Genesis 1:33; 2:2 IV). That statement defined for us what good meant and established a principle that The Book of Mormon confirms for us many years later regarding the source for anything good.

God not only created all things, but has defined all things, and at the very beginning, he defined good as those things that he had created while still in their perfect state. Many, many years later, the last author of The Book of Mormon, Moroni, adds some editorial comments at the end of the first chapter of Ether. This is shortly after Moroni had been abridging part of the experience of the Brother of Jared, and then he shares some inspiration that he had received from the Lord. He's quoting Jesus when he shares that the Spirit persuades men to do good, that whatever persuades men to do good is from him, and that good comes from none but him. Here God is not describing the inherent quality of goodness in the creation itself, but rather the moral quality of the actions of men who do 'good' things.

Webster gives several definitions of good, but two that seem appropriate for the scriptural context here are "complete or sufficiently perfect in its kind,"

relating to the use of good to define the original creation, and "having moral qualities best adapted to its design and use, or the qualities which God's law requires; virtuous; pious; religious; applied to persons, and opposed to bad, vicious, wicked, evil." which is relevant to Moroni's use regarding men's deeds.

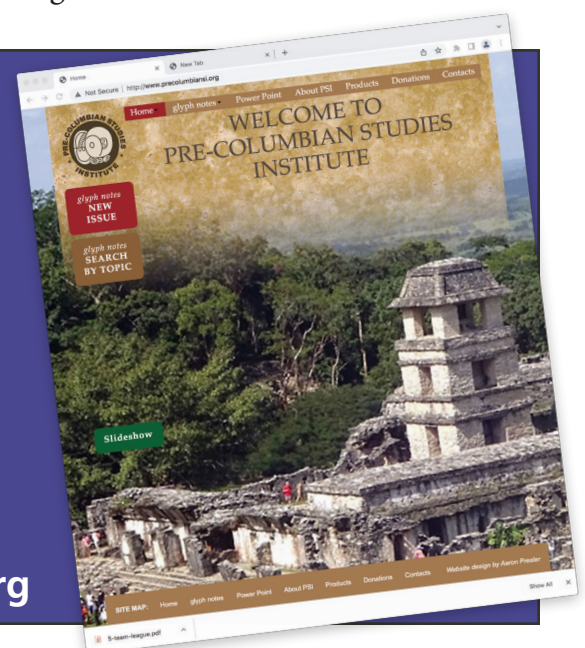
Perhaps you've seen the billboards that have popped up around the country in the last decade or so that say, "No God? No problem. Be good for goodness' sake" or "Are you good without God? Millions are." The obvious intent of these billboards is to try to convince that morality isn't based on God. In past centuries, atheists would typically agree that without God, there is no basis for morality. However, more recently, this premise has been under attack. The existence of morality has long been one of the foundational arguments for the existence of God. It's typically structured something like, "If there is no God, there is no morality. However, morality exists. Therefore, God exists." However, we have been seeing a complete rejection of objective morality in our society which is now leading to a rejection of objective reality. This leads some to believe that they can choose their own reality. As our nation continues down this path, we'll continue to see more of the consequences promised in The Book of Mormon for this chosen land. Let's collectively try to encourage others to embrace the truths that we find in The Book of Mormon such as this one that all good comes from God. 

Introducing Our New Website

Though it's been a long time coming, Precolumbian Studies Institute is proud to launch our new website. Materials available to download include:

- Searchable past issues of *glyph notes* dating back to Jan/Feb 2005. (Issues dating back to Nov/Dec 1994 available soon.)
- Book of Mormon Studies PowerPoint presentations by Lyle L. Smith described on Page 1 of this issue.
- *The Adventures of Beezrum*, Stories and Activities from The Book of Mormon for Kids!

www.precolumbiansi.org



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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO 1016

Pre-columbian Studies Institute
e-mail address:
precolumbiansi@gmail.com

*Five Major Book of
Mormon Studies*
*Where Do We Find Jaredite
History in the New
World? MESOAMERICA*
*Jaredite/Archaeology Time
Line*
glyph quotes
*Become a Book of Mormon
Indiana Jones!*


glyphnotes PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • JANUARY—APRIL 2023 • VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1

Become a Book of Mormon Indiana Jones!

My mother always dreamed of being a church missionary to Africa, but life had a way of getting in the way of her dream. When I began traveling to Africa in 2014 for missionary work, she was thrilled. Her age and health were the barriers now for her to go in person, but she delighted in donating what she could to help my missionary efforts. Through her donations over the years, she felt like she was part of that mission, and she continues that support today. “How does this relate to *glyph notes*?” you may ask.

Within the pages of *glyph notes* are found interesting, and often surprising, correlations between The Book of Mormon and Mesoamerican archaeology, especially within the Maya and Olmec civilizations. You may have dreamed about exploring for yourself these fascinating cultures, climbing pyramids in vast jungles, attending archaeology conferences to hear of the most recent discoveries, and digging into libraries to find supporting evidence—like a Book of Mormon Indiana Jones! But life has a way of getting in the way of your dream, too. However, there is a way to participate.

We invite you to be a part of this great adventure through your generous contribution. Your support for Precolumbian Studies Institute is needed to help us bring updates, new discoveries, Book of Mormon/archaeology correlations, and to inform our readers through *glyph notes*, our periodic newsletter.

If you dream a little about being a Book of Mormon explorer, or if you just love reading *glyph notes*, consider a donation. We thank you! ~ by Aaron Presler 



glyphnotes is published quarterly by Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI), a 501(c)3 nonprofit research and education organization.

E-mail Address: precolumbiansi@gmail.com
Membership & Annual Subscription to newsletter is \$25.
Send to: Pre-Columbian Studies Institute
P.O. Box 477, Independence, MO 64051

Editorial Committee: Lyle L. Smith, Acting Editor; Patricia J. Beebe, Ellen Winston, and Christina Schrunk
Board Officers: Lyle L. Smith, President; Sallie Presler, Vice President; Gena Martin, Secretary; and Ted Combs, Treasurer
Design: Aaron Presler, Signature Marketing Group, LC

Articles and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the view of the Editorial Committee. All materials submitted may be edited for clarity and space. © 2023 Pre-Columbian Studies Institute