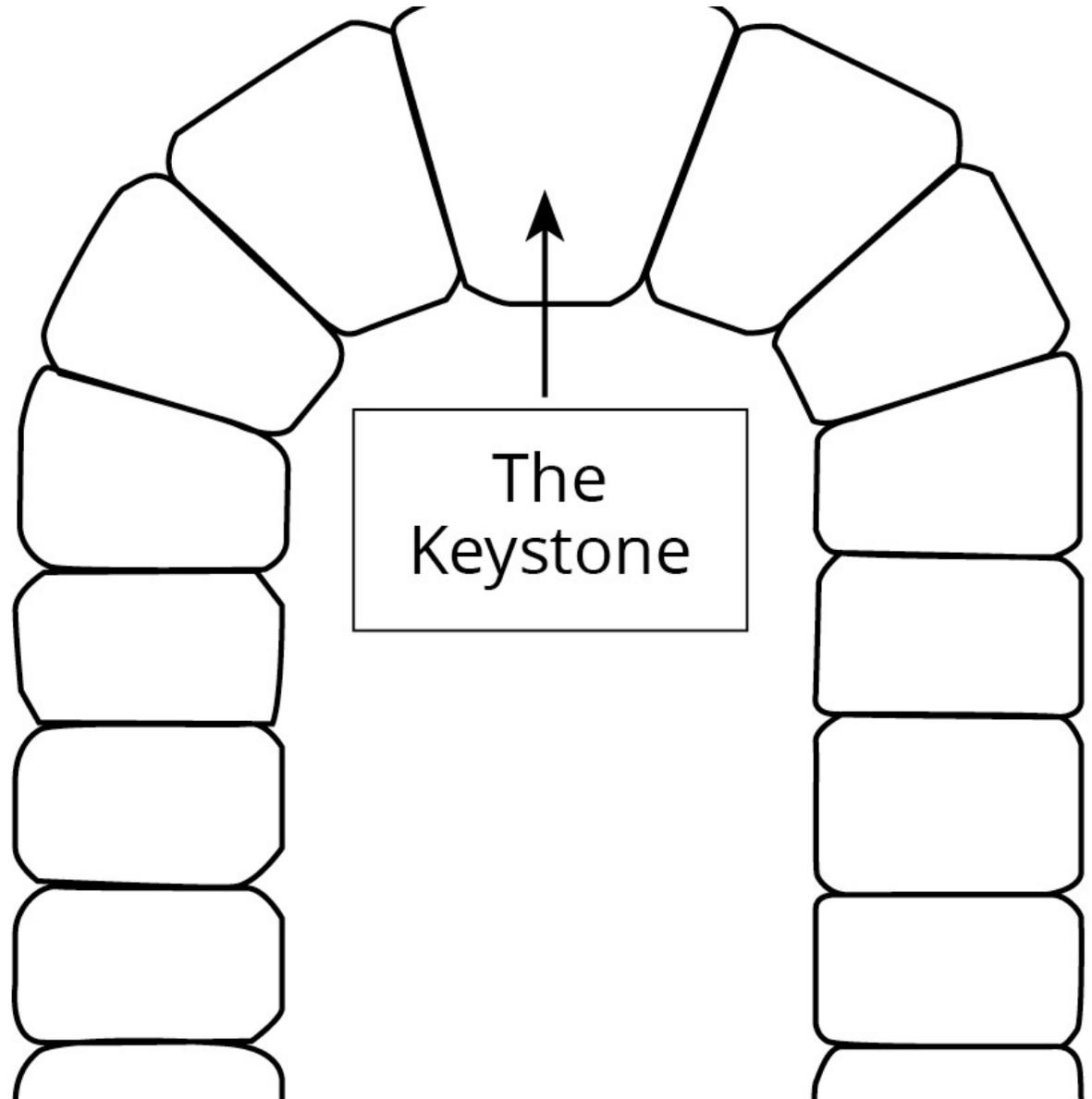

THE BOOK OF MORMON = THE KEYSTONE

Elder Eric English
January 2023



“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the **keystone of our religion**, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”

~ Joseph Smith, Jr

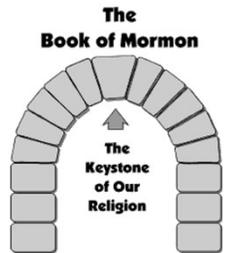
The Book of Mormon



The
Keystone
of Our
Religion

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

- Overview of the class
- Coming forth of the Book of Mormon
- The witnesses and authorship
- The Story – the peoples, lands, travels, languages, and records
- The Test
- The purposes of the Book of Mormon
- The title page of the Book of Mormon





THE STORY

THE RECORDS



The Book of Mormon is a collection of ancient sacred writings written between about 3000 BC and 420 AD. It tells about God's dealings with three groups of people who He led out of the Old World to a Promised Land in the New World.

In addition, it foretells the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, predating His coming by nearly 3,000 years; records His personal visitation; presents His great plan of salvation and prophecies concerning the restoration of all the house of Israel.

STATISTICS ABOUT THE BOOK

15

Books

102

Chapters

~300k

Words

>26

Centuries

24

Authors

2

Abridgers

1

Translator

180

New Proper
Nouns

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

1. Nephi
2. Lehi
3. Jacob
4. Enos
5. Jarom
6. Omni
7. Amaron
8. Chemish
9. Abinadom
10. Amaleki
11. Benjamin
12. Mosiah
13. Alma
14. Alma
15. Helaman
16. Shiblon
17. Helaman
18. Nephi
19. Nephi
20. Nephi
21. Amos
22. Ammaron
23. Mormon
24. Moroni



THE PEOPLES

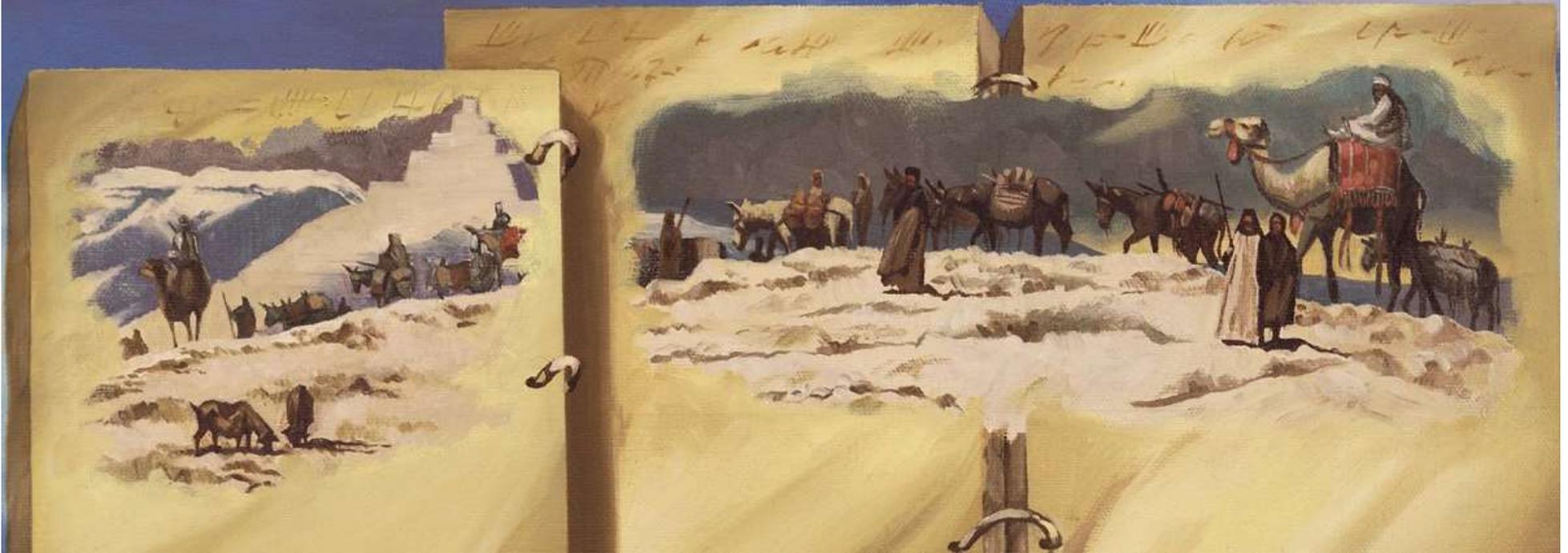
JAREDITES
NEPHITES
MULEKITES



Jaredites

Nephites

Mulekites



The People Groups

Jaredites

Book of Ether

3000BC?

200BC

Origin:
Tower of Babel

Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites

600BC

Destruction of
Jerusalem
~ 586BC

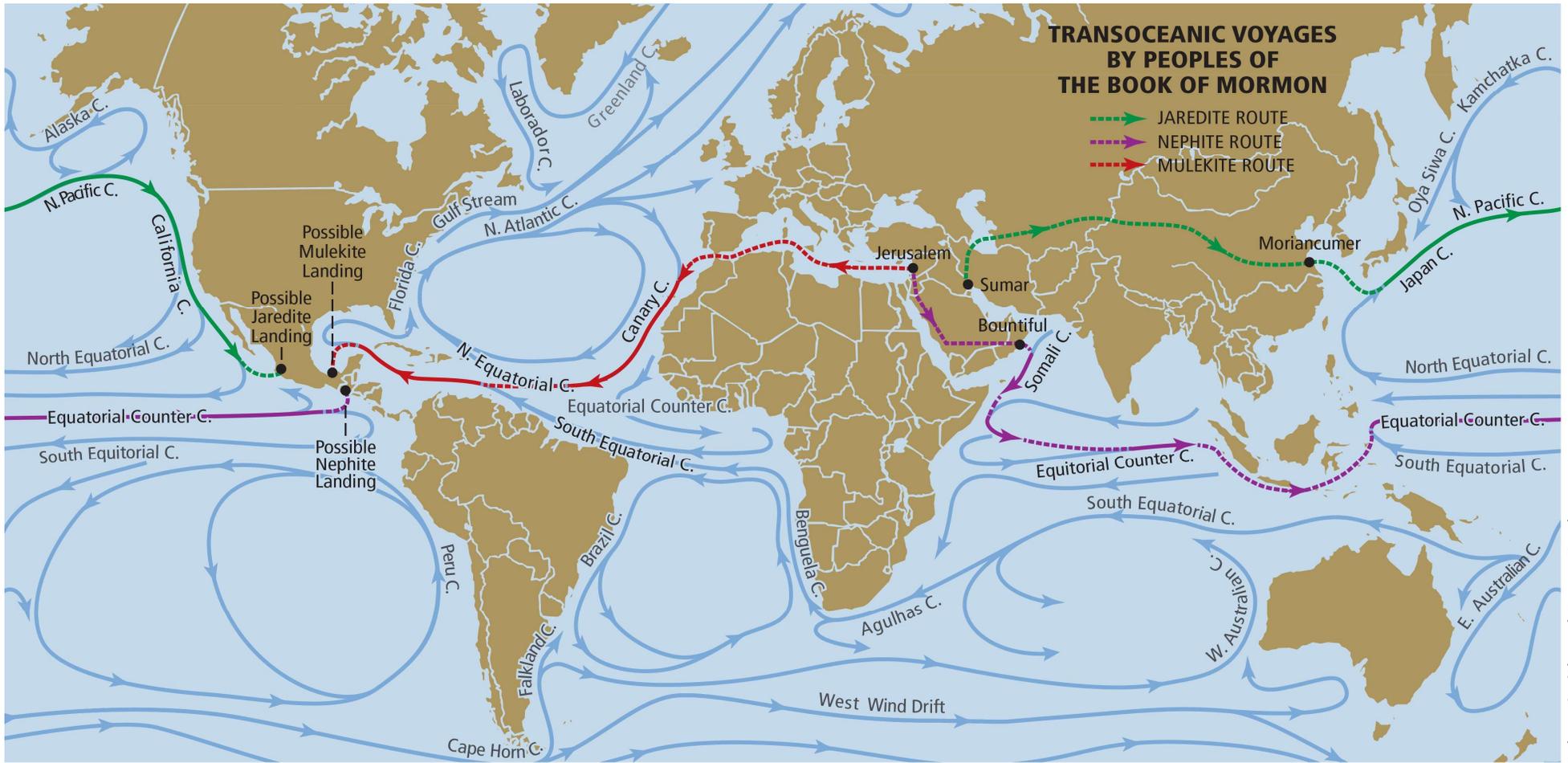
421AD



THE TRAVELS

3 GROUPS MAKE
MAJOR JOURNEYS
ACROSS THE
EARTH TO REACH
THE PROMISED
LAND





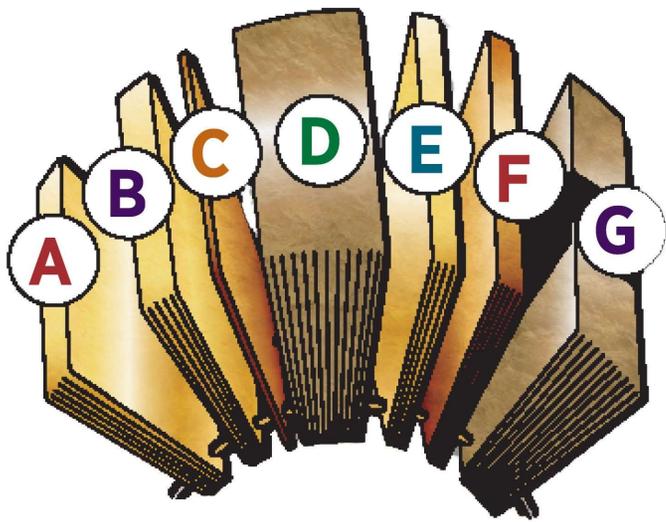


THE RECORDS

THE VARIOUS
RECORDS KEPT
AND
ABRIDGEMENTS
MADE
&
THE LANGUAGE
USED

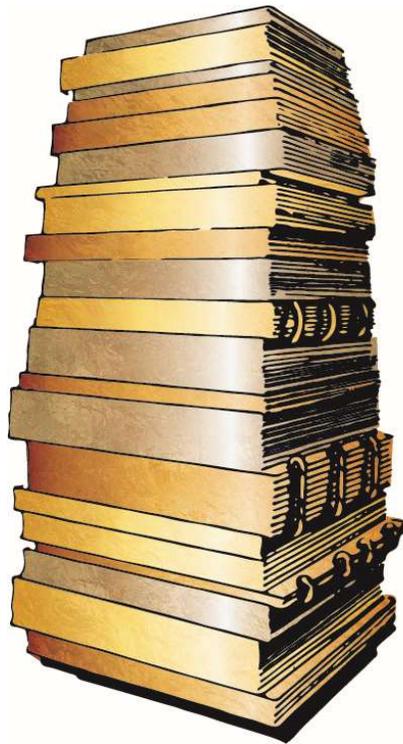


THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE PLATES



- A – Lost abridgement
- B – Small plates of Nephi (unabridged)
- C – Words of Mormon
- D – Large plates of Nephi (abridged)
- E – 24 Gold Plates (abridged)
- F – Moroni's writing
- G – Sealed Portion

ABRIDGEMENTS LEAD TO GREAT CONSOLIDATION



>2500 years of
Jaredite records



24 Gold Plates
of Ether



Moroni's abridgement
to the book of Ether

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES

- Joseph's description from Times and Seasons Vol 3, pg 707
- They had the appearance of gold
- They were about 6" X 8", the whole volume was about 6" thick
- Pages or sheets were a little thinner than ordinary tin
- They were held together, like a book, by three rings running through the whole
- They were skillfully engraved with very small characters, on both sides of the plates
- Part of them were sealed

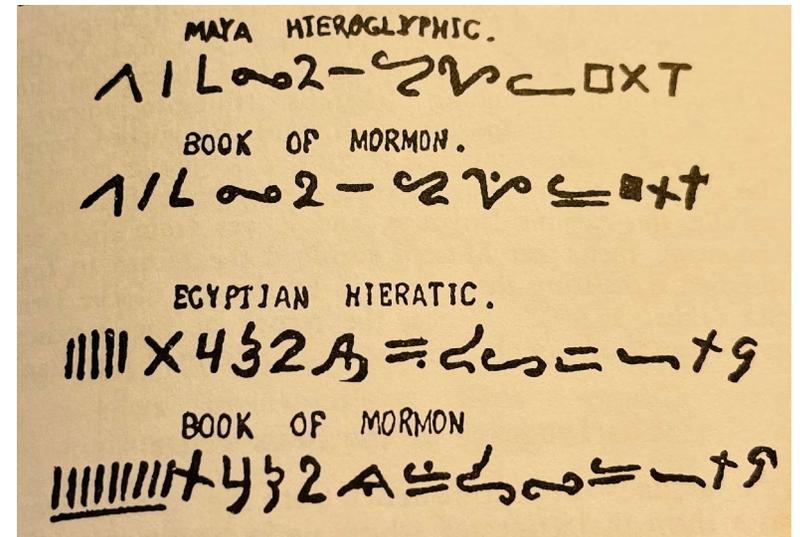
THEIR LANGUAGE

The Nephites

- Spoke Hebrew language (language in Jerusalem at the time that they and the Mulekites left)
- Recorded in reformed Egyptian

The Jaredites

- Their language was NOT reformed Egyptian
- Presumably the language of Adam



Thelona Stevens

LANGUAGE (CONT.)

I I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days -- nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days; yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians.

~ 1 Nephi 1:1

- ① Learning of the Jews = Hebrews
- ② Language of the Egyptians = Egyptian

LANGUAGE (CONT.)

98 And now behold, we have written this record according to our knowledge in the characters, which are called among us the reformed Egyptian, being handed down and altered by us, according to our manner of speech.

99 And if our plates had been sufficiently large, we should have written in the Hebrew; but the Hebrew hath been altered by us also; and if we could have written in the Hebrew, behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record.

100 But the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also that none other people knoweth our language, and because that none other people knoweth our language, therefore he hath prepared means for the interpretation thereof.

~ Mormon 4:98-100

LANGUAGE (CONT.)

5 And then began these men to call upon the name of the Lord; and the Lord blessed them; and a book of remembrance was kept in the which was recorded in the language of Adam, for it was given unto as many as called upon God, to write by the Spirit of inspiration;

6 And by them their children were taught to read and write, having a language which was pure and undefiled.

Genesis 6:5,6

RECORDS BROUGHT TO THE PROMISED LAND

The Brass Plates

- Brought by the Nephites after obtaining in Jerusalem
- Written in Egyptian
- Contain 5 books of Moses
- Include law of Moses
- 1 Nephi 1:158-166; 6:2,3

Ancient records from the very beginning

- Brought by the Jaredites
- Ether 3:80
- Likely Book of Remembrance and original Book of Generations of Adam (Gen 6:5,9)
- Enoch also wrote a book (D&C 104:29)
- If you accept this, it explains the context for D&C 22 and why Moses was given the original information directly from God for the first books

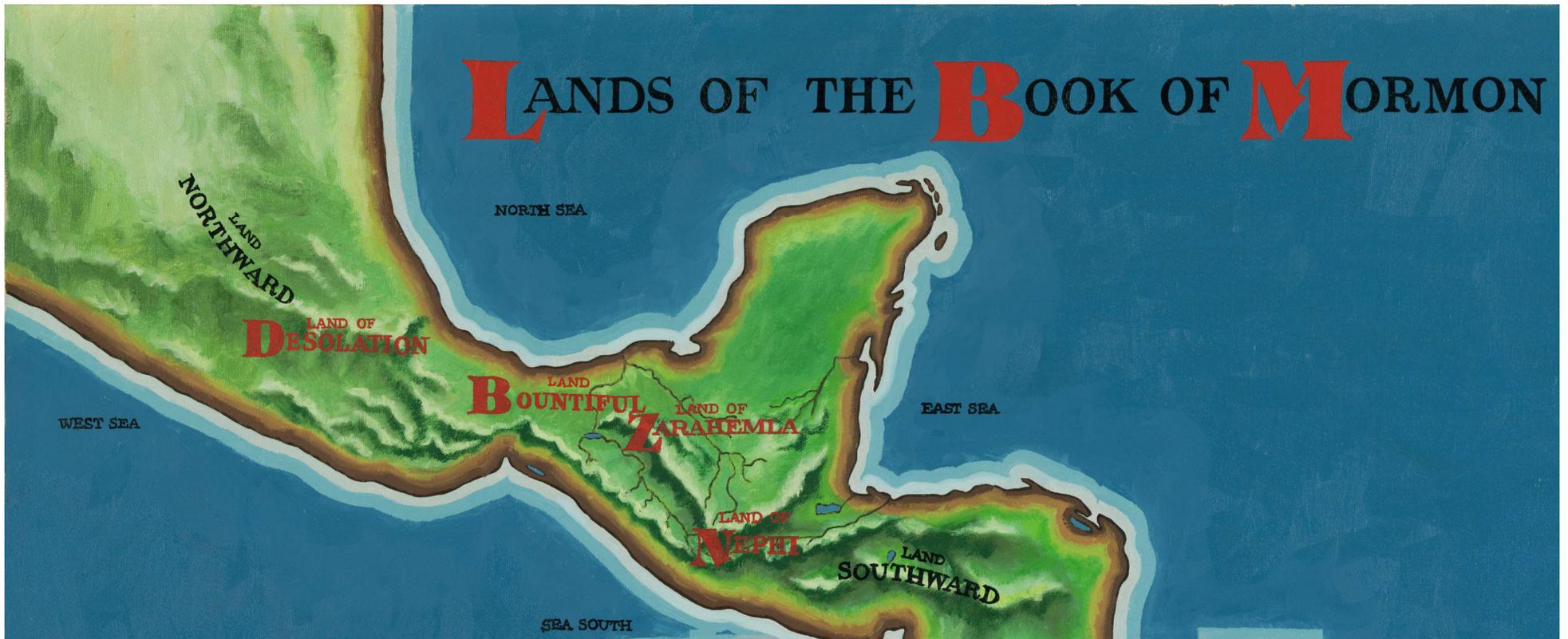


THE LANDS

LANDS OF THE
BOOK OF
MORMON



LANDS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON



- Land of Desolation
- Land Bountiful
- Land of Zarahemla
- Land of Nephi



THE TIMELINE

TIMELINE OF THE
BOOK OF
MORMON





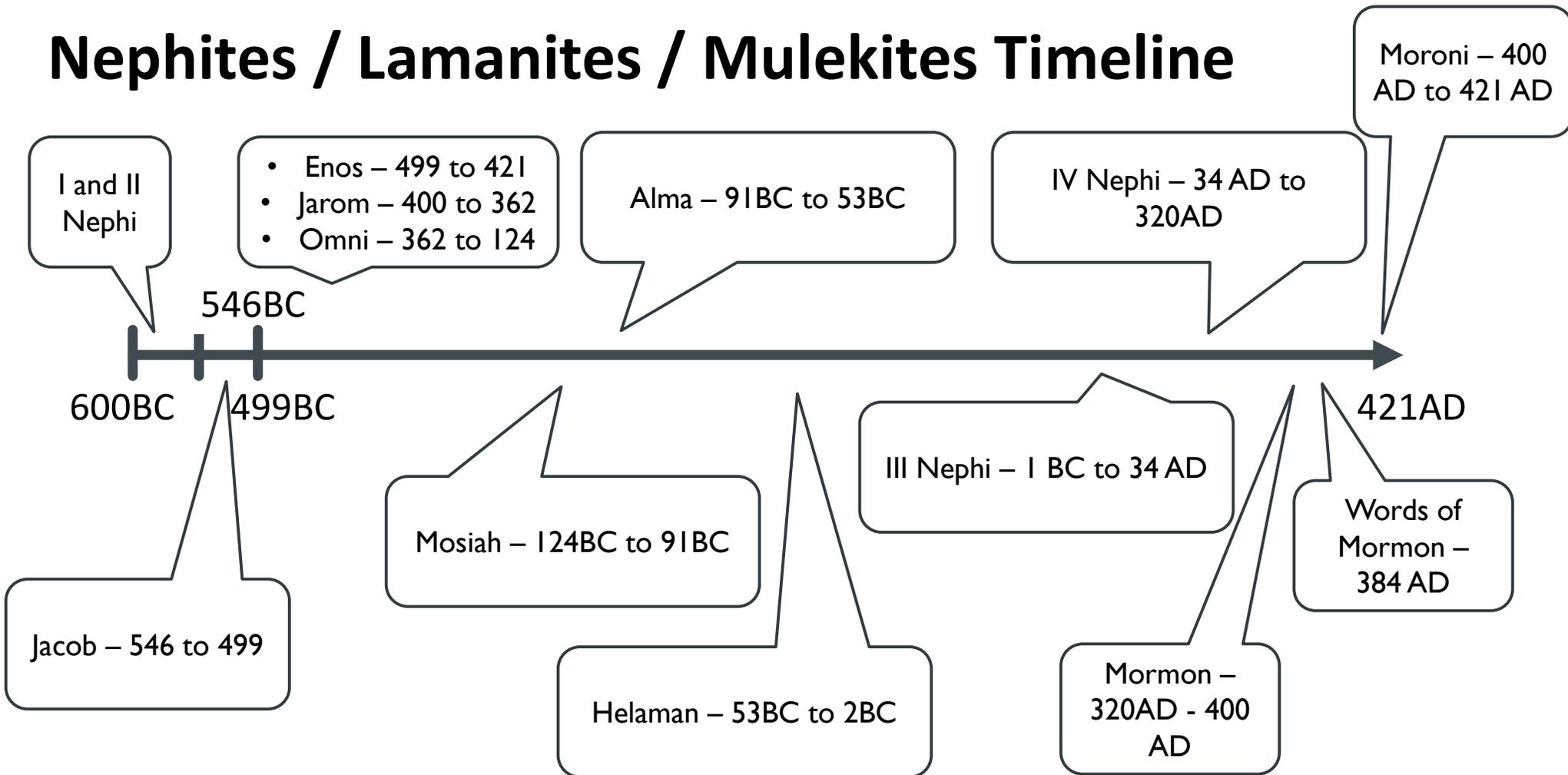
Jaredites



Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites



Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites Timeline





THE TEST

COULD YOU
WRITE THE BOOK
OF MORMON?



COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

1. You must be between twenty-three and twenty-four years of age.
2. You cannot be a college graduate. In fact, you can have only three years of formal schooling.
3. Whatever you write must be on the basis of what you know and not what you learn through research.
4. You must write a history of an ancient country, such as Tibet, covering a period from 2200 B.C. to 421 A.D.
5. You must write a book with 102 chapters, twenty-five of them about wars, ten about history, twenty-one about prophecy, thirty-two about doctrines, five about missionaries, and nine about the mission of Christ.

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

6. You must include in your writings the history of two distinct and separate nations, along with histories of different contemporary nations or groups of people.
7. Your writings must describe the religious, economic, social, and political cultures and institutions of these two nations.
8. You must weave into your history the religion of Jesus Christ and the pattern for Christian living.
9. When you start to produce this record covering a period of over twenty-six hundred years, you must finish in approximately eighty days.
10. When you have finished, you must not make any changes in the text. The first edition must stand forever (this does not include grammatical errors, etc).

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

11. After pauses for sleep and food, if you are dictating to a stenographer, you must never ask to have the last paragraph or last sentence read back to you. You must start right where you stopped previously.
12. Your history or record must be long, approximately 777 pages with over 500 words per page.
13. You must add 180 proper nouns to the English language (William Shakespeare added thirty).
14. You must announce that your "smooth narrative" is not fiction, but true—yes, a sacred history.
15. In fact, your narrative must fulfill the Bible prophecies; even in the exact manner in which it shall come forth, to whom given, and its purpose and accomplishments.

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

16. You must publish it to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, declaring it to be the Word of God.
17. You must include with the record itself this marvelous promise: "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."
18. Tens of thousands must bear record to the world for the next 178 years that they know the record to be true. Because they put the promise to the test, the truth is manifested to them by the power of the Holy Ghost.

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

19. Thousands of great men, intellectual giants, and scholars, must subscribe discipleship to the record of its movement, even to the point of laying down their lives.
20. There can be no flaw, whatever, in the entire book (except in grammar, or other errors of man in transcribing, etc.).
21. Your descriptions of the cultures in these civilizations, of which you will write about, is not known when you publish your manuscript.

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

22. Yet, you must not make any absurd, impossible, or contradictory statements.
23. Even so, many of the facts, ideas, and statements given as true in your record must be entirely inconsistent with, even the direct opposite of, the prevailing belief of the world. Yet very little is even claimed to be known about these civilizations and their thousands of years of history.
24. You must invite the ablest scholars and experts to examine the text with care. You must strive diligently to see that your book gets into the hands of all those most eager to prove it a forgery and who are most competent to expose any flaws in it.
25. After 178 years of extensive analysis, no claim or fact in the book is disproven, but all are vindicated. Other theories and ideas as to its origin rise and fall, leaving your claims as the only possible ones.

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

26. Thorough investigation, scientific evidence, and archaeological discoveries for the next 178 years must verify your claims and prove even the minutest details of your history to be perfectly true.
27. Internal and external prophecies must be confirmed and fulfilled in the next 178 years.
28. Three honest, accreditable witnesses must testify to the whole world that an angel from heaven appeared to them and showed them the ancient records from which you claim your record was translated.
29. You must hear out of heaven the voice of the Redeemer declaring to you and those three witnesses that your record is true, and that it is their responsibility to bear testimony of it—and that they do.

COULD YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF MORMON?

30. Eight other witnesses must testify to the world that they saw the ancient records in broad daylight, and that they handled them and felt the engravings thereon.
31. The first three and the second eight witnesses must bear their testimony, not for profit or gain, but under great personal sacrifice and severe persecution, even to their deaths.
32. You must talk a friend into financing your book with the understanding that he or you will never receive any monetary remuneration from it. This person must mortgage his farm to have it printed. You must sell the book at cost or less.
33. Finally, after suffering persecution and revilement for twenty-four years in the process of producing and defending this book, you must give, willingly, your own life for your testimony that the record is of God.