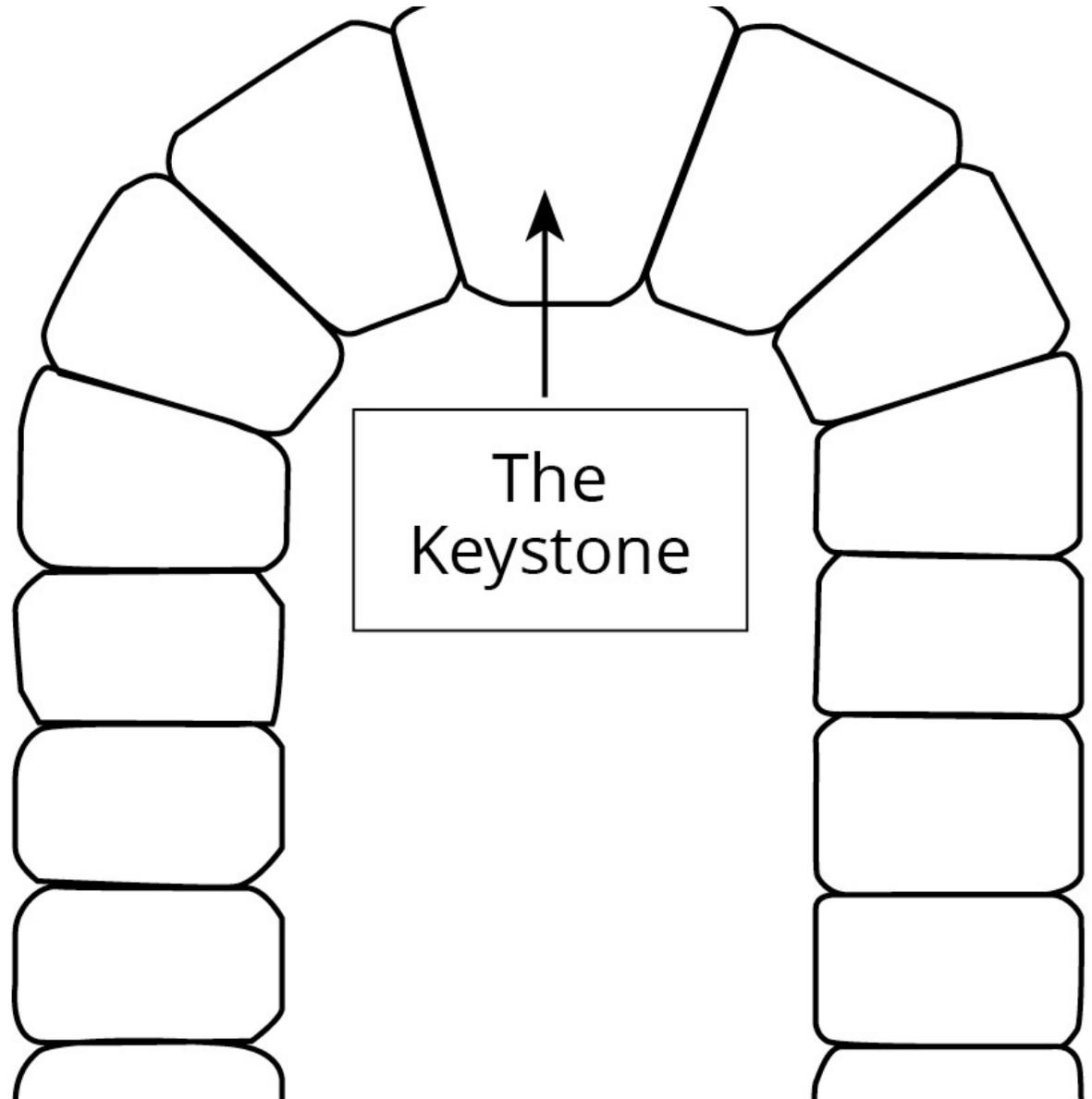


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# THE BOOK OF MORMON = THE KEYSTONE

Elder Eric English  
March 2023



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“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

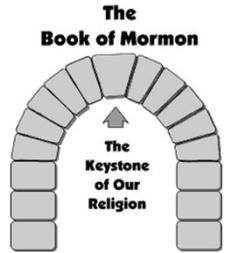
## The Book of Mormon



The  
Keystone  
of Our  
Religion

# LESSONS FROM ETHER

- Ties to the beginning
- Everlasting Decree
- The miracle at Mount Zerin
- The finger of God
- Don't get comfortable in the wrong place
- Kings, Kingdoms, and Secret Combinations
- Moroni's Hall of Faith and 1 of his 3 farewells
- Ether, God's man
- The purpose of including Ether



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## Summary

- 6 chapters; 489 verses
- Abridged / translated by Moroni from the 24 plates of Ether
- Covers almost 3000 years
- Begins at the Tower of Babel, approximately 800 years after the Flood (~7 generations from Noah)
- We have <1% of the Jaredite history or records

# The People Groups

## Jaredites

*Book of Ether*

3000BC?

200BC

Origin:  
Tower of Babel

## Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites

600BC

Destruction of  
Jerusalem  
~ 586BC

421AD

---

# Chapter Summary of Ether

- 1 Great tower to the coast
- 2 Moroni prophesies of the witnesses and coming forth
- 3 Ocean voyage, beginning of their civilization, origin of secret combinations in the new world
- 4 The majority of the Jaredites history, culture, events are summarized
- 5 Moroni's Hall of Faith and his second 'sign off'
- 6 Prophecy of the last days and the final ending of the Jaredite nation

# Ether's Lineage

#	Person	Descendant
1	Ether	Descendant
2	Coriantor	Son
3	Moron	Son
4	Ethem	Son
5	Ahah	Son
6	Seth	Son
7	Shiblon	Son
8	Com	Son
9	Coriantom	Son
10	Amnigaddah	Son
11	Aaron	Descendant
12	Heth	Son
13	Hearthom	Son
14	Lib	Son

#	Person	Descendant
15	Kish	Son
16	Corom	Son
17	Levi	Son
18	Kim	Son
19	Morianton	Descendant
20	Riplakish	Son
21	Shez	Son
22	Heth	Son
23	Com	Son
24	Coriantum	Son
25	Emer	Son
26	Omer	Son
27	Shule	Son
28	Kib	Son
29	Orihah	Son
30	Jared	

## Ties to the beginning

- The 24 Plates had the early account of Genesis, but Moroni did NOT include
- Book of Remembrance and the Book of Generations of Adam (Gen 6:5-9) likely went with the Jaredites
- 8 Generations from Noah to Jared/Brother

Person	Event	Timeline
Noah	Born	600BF/4600BC
Shem	Born	~100BF/4100BC
	Flood	4000BC
Arphaxad	Born	2AF / 3998BC
Cainan	Born	137AF / 3863BC
Salah	Born	267AF / 3733BC
Eber	Born	397AF / 3603BC
Peleg	Born	531AF / 3469BC
Reu	Born	704AF / 3296BC
Jared & Bro	Est Born	720AF / 3280BC

*From:Voices from the Dust, pg 14*

# Confusion at the Great Tower

- ① Don't confound us
- ② Don't confound our friends
- ③ Where do we go?

Genesis 11:1-6  
Ether 1:7-14

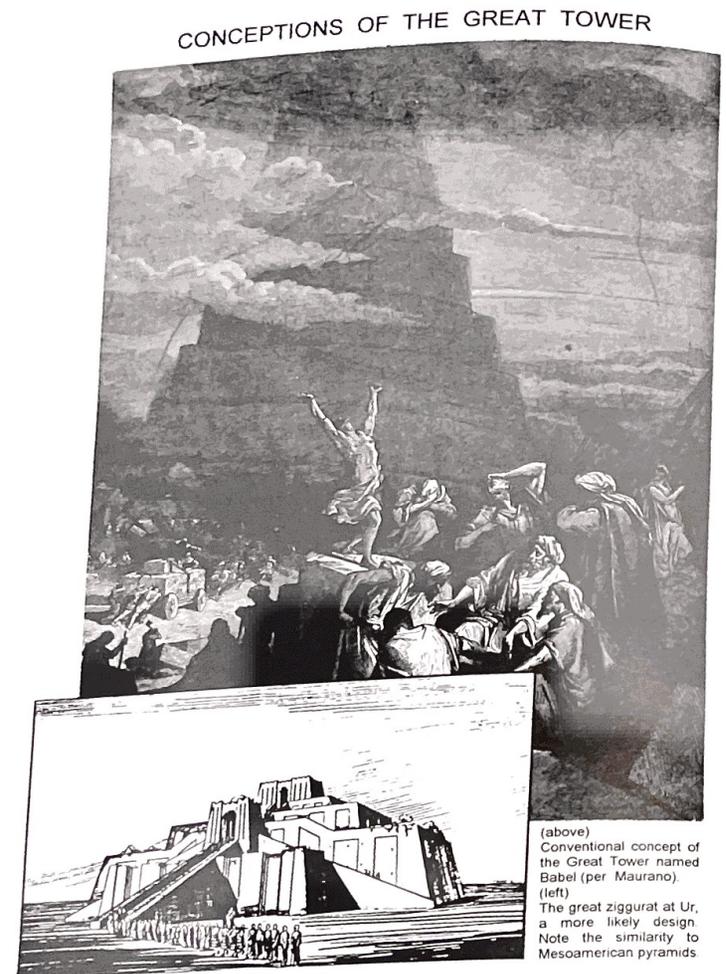


Figure 5.

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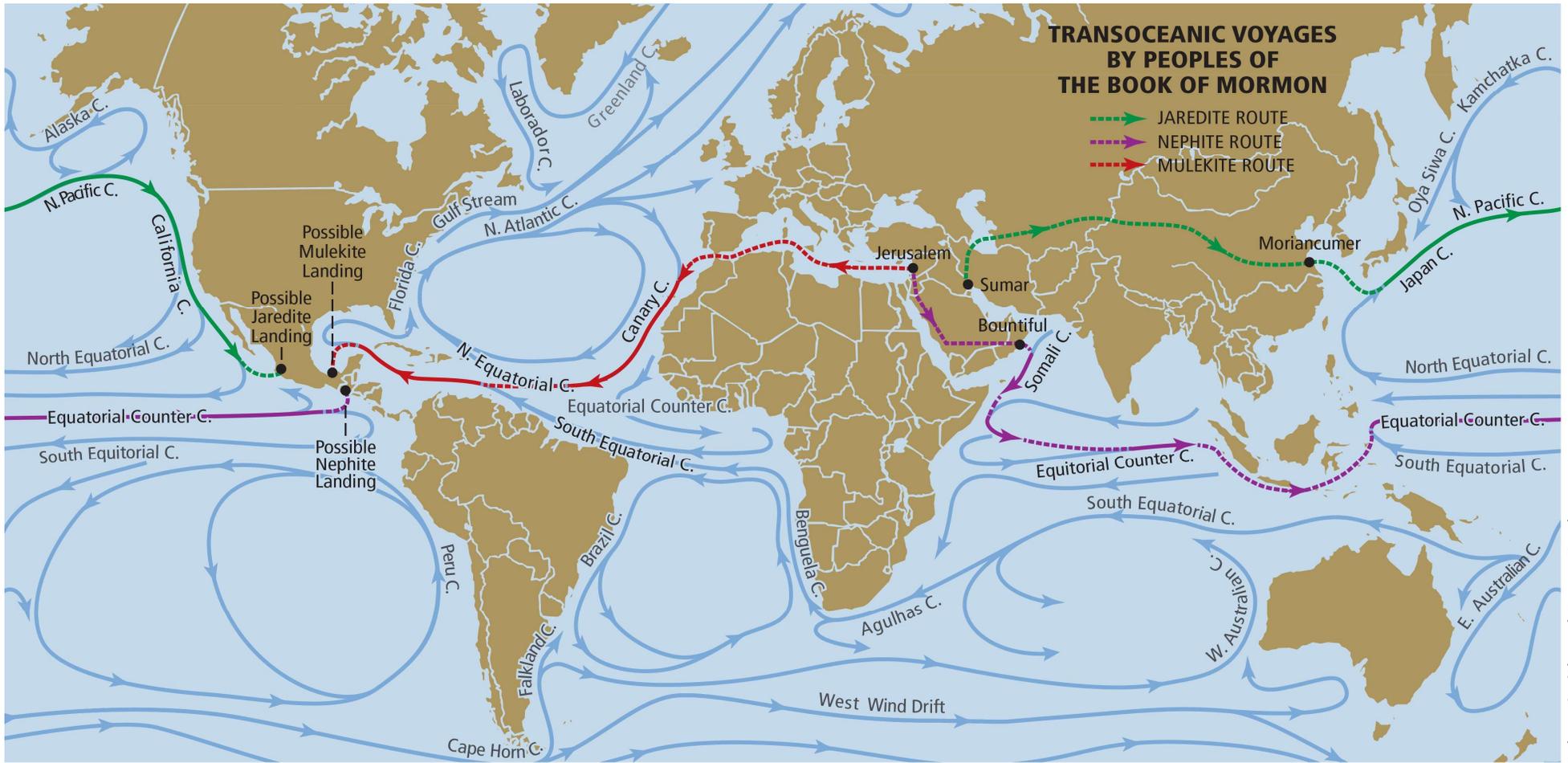
## Promises to Jared and his Brother

- ① God will go before them on a great journey
- ② God will lead them to a choice land, above all others
- ③ God will raise up a mighty nation, none greater at that time

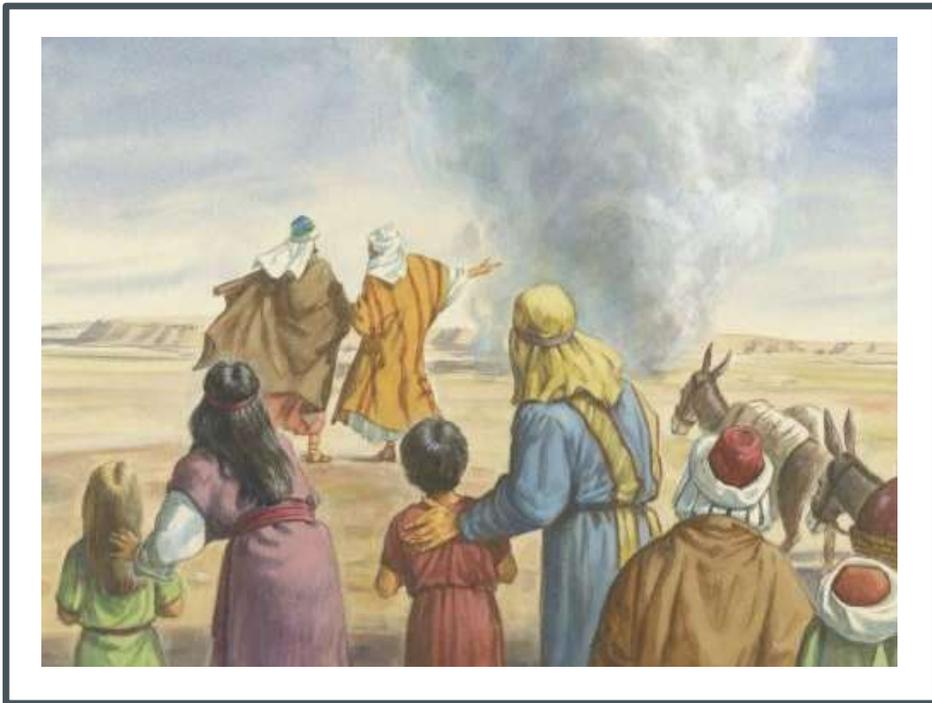
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# The Journey – why included and why so much detail?

- Reminders: 1) Purpose Principle, and 2) BoM for our day
- Often used allegory of a journey compared to our “journey” through life
- So that we can ascertain that The Land of Promise was referring to the New World (Western Hemisphere) – inclusive of the promises and consequences



## THE LAND JOURNEY – WHAT DO WE KNOW?



- Go into the wilderness; into the quarter where man hadn't been
- God went before them in a cloud and spoke to them for directions
- Built barges along the way
- Crossed many waters
- Traveled many years
- Took a lot of provisions with them (flocks, birds, fish, bees, seeds, etc.)
- Mt Zerin was moved from their path

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## The Miracle of Mount Zerin

“Thou workest unto the children of men according to their faith; For the brother of Jared said unto the mountain Zerin, ‘Remove!’ And it was removed...”

**Ether 5:30**



# The Miracle of Mount Zerin

Dzungarian Gate



From: Voices from the Dust, by Glenn Scott, pg 30,31

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## The Everlasting Decree – Ether 1:29-35

- 31 And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.
- 32 And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for **it is the everlasting decree of God.**

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# The Everlasting Decree – BoM Deeps Vol 2

- **Daniel Webster**, in an eloquent speech on Washington's birthday in 1852 before the New York Historical Society, after painting a glorious future for our country, adds a note of warning in these words, "But, if we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions or morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us, that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity."
- Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's call for a National Day of Prayer: **All point to the need to serve God in this land**

## Lessons from past great empires:

- Bondage -> Faith -> Courage -> Liberty -> Abundance -> Selfishness -> Complacency  
Complacency -> Apathy -> Dependency -> back to Bondage again

*Can the sequence be broken?*

---

# Moriancumer – Don't get comfortable in the Wrong place

- They arrived to the seashore (the Pacific Ocean)
- Went up to 4 years without praying to God
- 3 hours of chastisement from God to the Brother of Jared
- “My Spirit will not always strive with man”
- D&C98:3b – If we are slow to listen to God's voice, He may be slow to answer our prayers when we're in trouble
- Do we get comfortable along the journey in places that aren't meant to be our destination?

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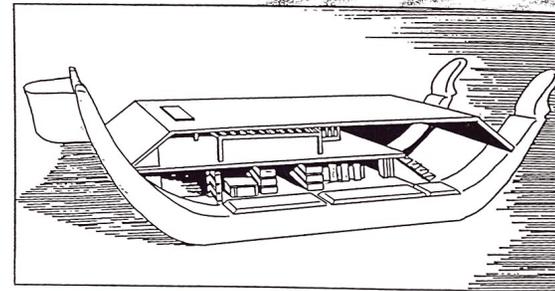
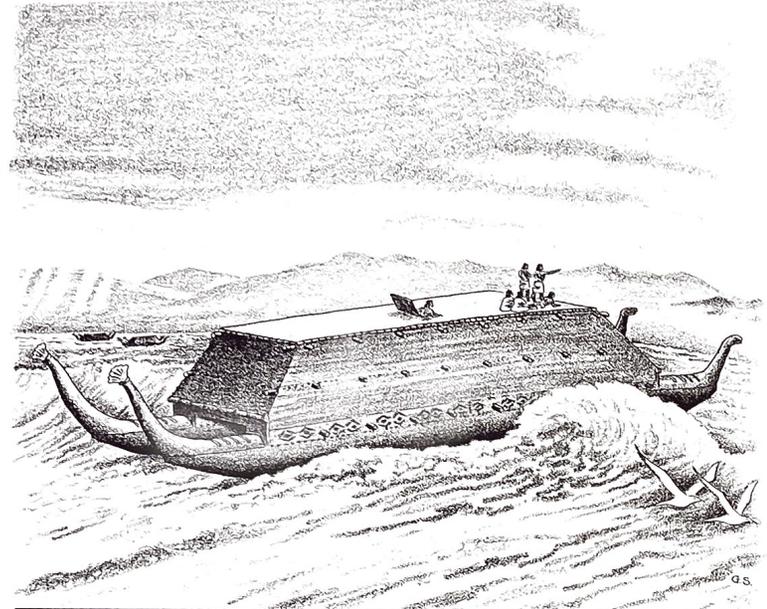
## The Brother of Jared – his name?

- What was his name and why isn't it written in the record?
- Speculation that it was **Moriancumer** or possibly **Mahonri Moriancumer**
  - Moriancumer reference comes from Oliver Cowdery in a letter to WW Phelps in April 1835 (Messenger and Advocate source)
  - Other Mormon references tell a story from the Kirtland era of Joseph announcing that his name was Mahonri Moriancumer (~1834, but written many years later)
  - **Dwelling place on the seashore of the Pacific – Moriancumer (E 1:37)**

# Barges for the Journey

- They had already built barges
- Small and light on the water; water tight and able to withstand large waves
- **Barge** – isn't powered; not always steerable
- **Ship** – powered by a sail, engine, or other and is steerable (1 Nephi 5:70)

JAREDITE BARGES



(above)  
The Jaredite barges are shown as they arrive in the New World -3114 BC.  
(left)  
The Interior of a Jaredite barge as conceived by F. E. Butterworth in his book, "Pilgrims of the Pacific." This is the only practical design for a ship with a hole in the bottom.

Figure 8

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## Agency vs Inspiration

- Ether 1:47+
- 3 design complaints – light, steering, breathing
- God avoided one altogether, gave inspiration for one, and flipped one back on the Brother of Jared to work on and come up with a solution

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**Are we willing to suffer if called to?**

“Behold, O Lord, **wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this  
great water in darkness?**”

Ether 1:54

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# God prepares us for what lies ahead

“And behold, **I prepare you against these things**”

Ether 1:58

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## Brother of Jared meets the Christ

- Ether 1:66+
- Sees the finger of God
- The veil was removed – the veil of unbelief (vs 111)



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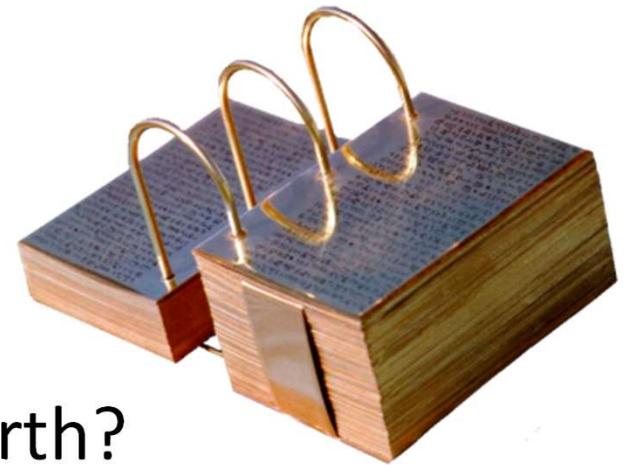
## Interpreters

- Ether 1:88 – Two stones given to the Brother of Jared on Mount Shelem
- Mosiah 12:18-21
- D&C 15:1

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## The Vision of the Brother of Jared

- Ether 1:90-91
- When will the sealed portion come forth?
  - Ether 1:100-101
  - Be careful what we wish for – no greater things (vs102) ; will be knowledge at that point and not faith



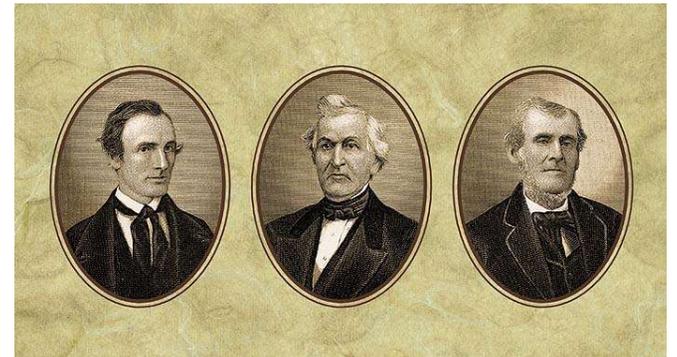
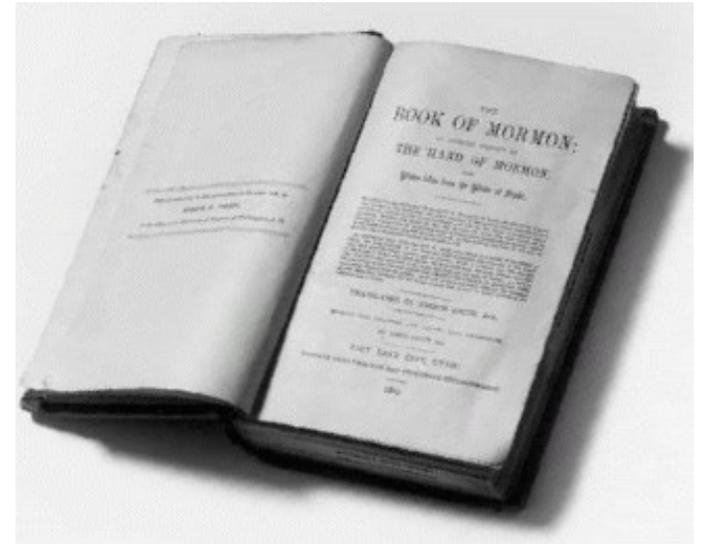
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# The Limitations of Unbelief

- Ether 1:109-111
- Unbelief limits:
  1. Knowledge
  2. God's promises and blessings for us
  3. Keeps us in an awful state of wickedness
  4. Causes our hearts to remain hard
  5. Causes our minds to remain blink

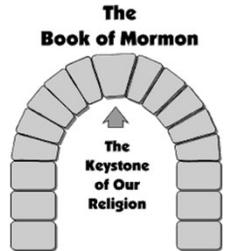
## Ether 2 – Counsel to Joseph

- Joseph instructed not to touch the sealed portion
- Vrs 2 – Moroni prophecies of the 8 witnesses and the 3 witnesses
- 3 Witnesses and this work will stand against the world at the last day



## LESSONS FROM ETHER 3,4

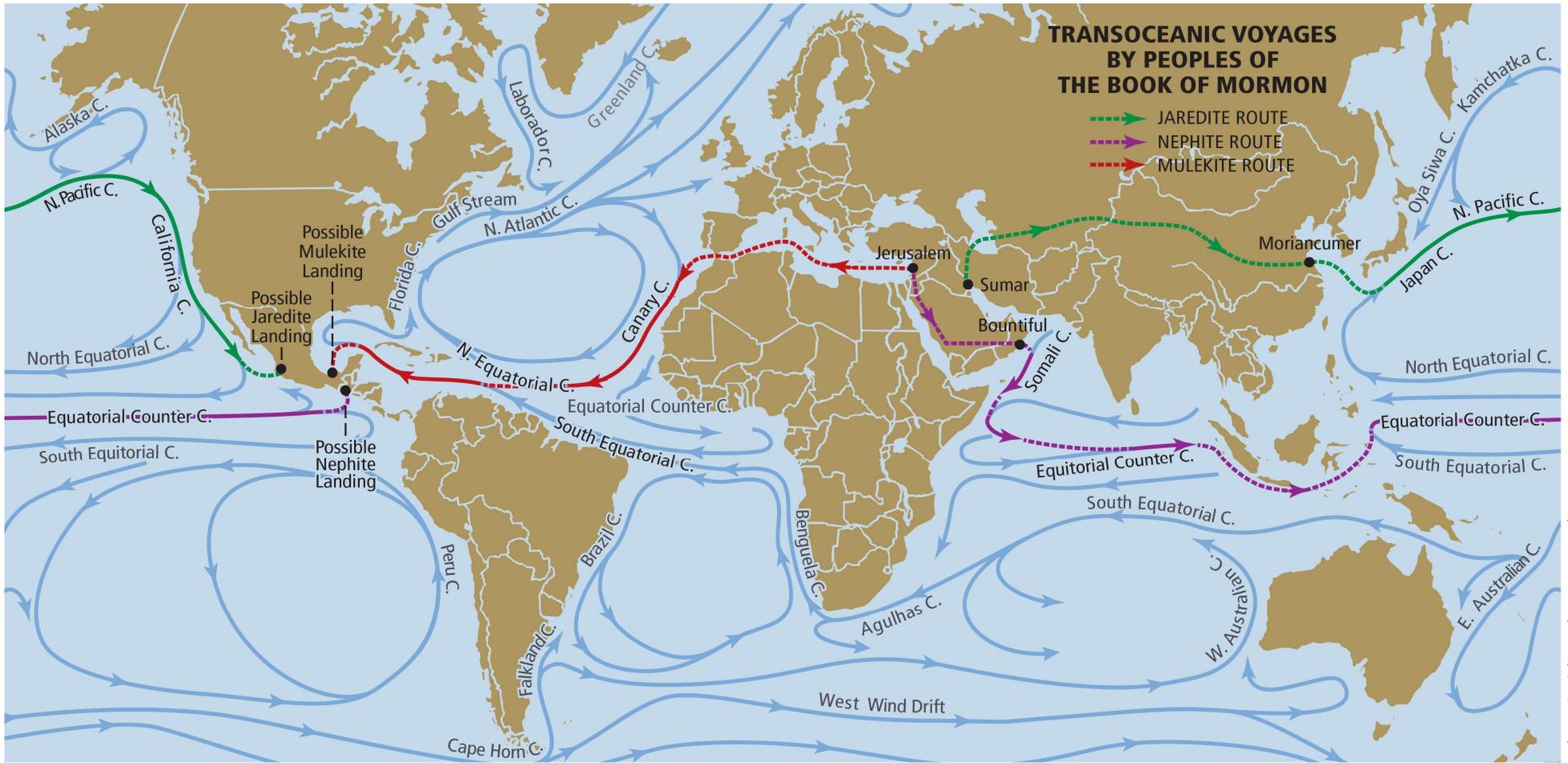
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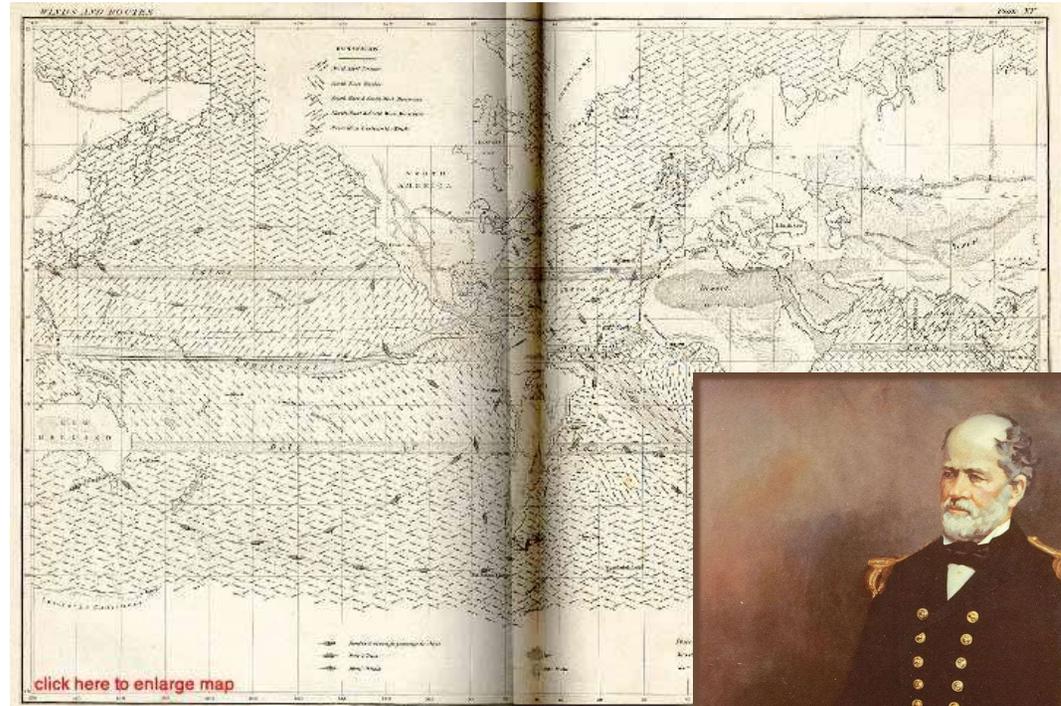
# The voyage across the ocean

- Preparation:
  - Put stones into the barges – 2 stones in each, one on each end
  - Packed up all kinds of food to survive the voyage
  - Packed flocks, herds ; assume also bees and seeds (E 1:22+)
- A furious wind blew them – mountain waves, terrible tempests
- Encountered monsters of the sea and whales
- 344 days journey upon the water

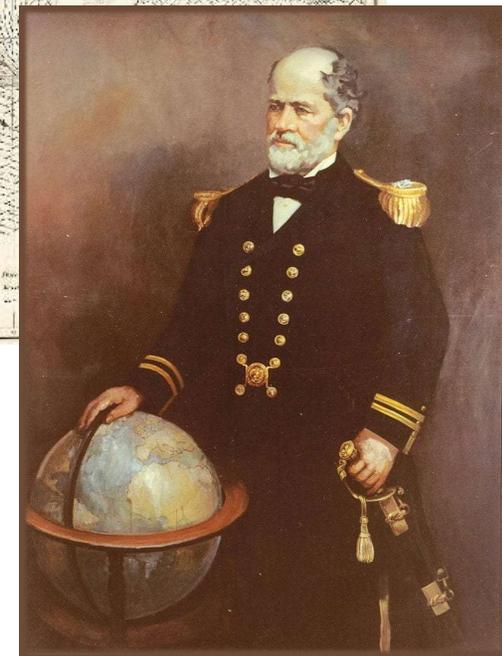


# Paths of the sea

- Matthew Maury
- Psalms 8 – “Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands... and whatsoever passeth **through the paths of the seas.**”
- Don Montel testimony



- 1847 – Wind and Current Charts
- 1855 – The Physical Geography of the Sea
- 17 years **after** the Book of Mormon



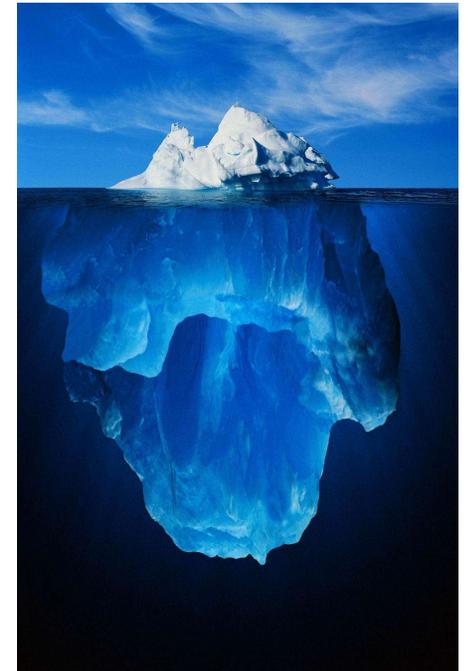
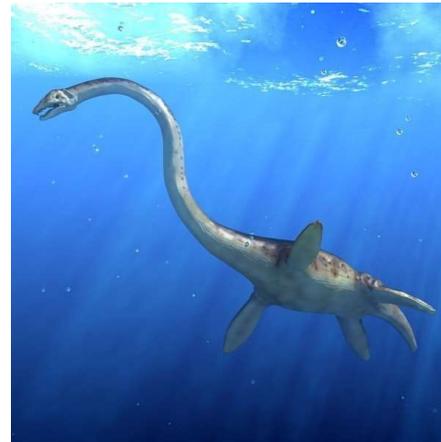
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# Monster of the Sea

“And thus they were driven forth; And no monster of the sea could break them, neither whale that could mar them...”

~ Ether 3:12

- Monster of the sea = Not a whale
- What could it refer to?
  1. Dinosaur / Leviathan?
  2. Icebergs?



# Did they all board the barges?

- The record DOESN'T say they all boarded the barges
- Connections to China
- Similarities in linguistics
- Cultural connections – jade, dragons/serpents, belief in sacred mountains where deity reside and magical stones
- Physiological similarities between Chinese and Olmec



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## Once they landed

- Gave thanks and shed some tears
- Began to till the earth and spread out
- Numbered the people:
  - Jared had 12 children
  - Bro of Jared had 22
  - 22 friends (likely heads of households as describes they begat and only fathers begat)
  - If 24 families of 2 parents plus and average of 12 to 22 kids =

**312 ~ 552**

---

## Choosing a King -> Lead to Captivity



“Surely, **this thing leadeth into captivity.**”

~ Ether 3:27

- Before Jared and his Brother passed, they asked their people if there was anything they wanted of them first
- **They wanted a king**
- Bro said no; Jared said yes
- First choice – Pagag ; he said no
- All his siblings said no
- All of Jared’s sons said no except the youngest - **Orihah**

---

# Kings, Kingdoms, and Secret Combinations

Orihah



Kib



Shule



Omer

- Humble king
- Was righteous
- Taught his people
- Had 32 kids – Kib was youngest

- Had Corihor
- He gathered an army and took his father captive
- Kib had Shule
- Shule overthrew his brother and gave kingdom back to his father
- Corihor repented and served in his younger brother's kingdom

- Nephew Noah took Shule captive
- Noah's cousins slew him and restored the kingdom to Shule
- Two kingdoms for a time, brought together by Nimrod
- Freedom of speech for prophets

- Son Jared rebelled
- Overthrew Omer and imprisoned him
- Jared overthrown but unlike Corihor, couldn't repent or give up thirst for power
- Jared's daughter recommends a **secret plan** to retake the kingdom

---

## Secret Combinations

“For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations.”

~ Ether 3:93

- Daughter of Jared discovered it in ancient written history brought across the sea (E3:80)
- Daughter tempts Akish
- Akish makes a pact with Jared – murder Omer so he can marry the daughter
- Swear by God, the heavens, the earth, and their own lives to keep the secret



---

## Pathetic results of these Secret Combinations

- Omer warned in a dream to escape
- Jared became king
- Akish married Jared's daughter
- Akish and his friends murdered Jared while he sat on the throne
- Akish became king
- Akish starved one of his sons
- His other sons rebelled against him and the civil war virtually wiped out the Jaredite nation

---

## Condensed history of many generations

- Omer restored at the end of his life
- Emer – 62 years reign with prosperity
- Coriantum – many mighty cities; lived to 142 yrs old
- Com – 49 years reign
- Heth – wasn't the youngest, resurrected the secret combinations, killed his father and took the throne, prophets came but the people killed them
  - Draught / Hedge of serpents – separate Jaredites from fledgling Nephite culture (E4:38)
- Shez – began to **build up again a broken people** (E4:43)

---

## Condensed history of many generations (cont.)

- Riplakish didn't follow his father Shez who was righteous
  - Instituted polygamy, heavy taxes, prison camps
  - The people themselves rebelled, killed him, drove out his descendants
  - Many years later, Morianton, a descendant retook the throne
- Morianton – public good, but private sin still causes separation from God (E4:55)
- Kim took over but his brother rebelled and imprisoned him the rest of his days; Levi born in captivity, but took throne

---

## Great Prosperity and a Game Preserve

- Under King Lib, great prosperity and expansion
  - Poisonous serpents were destroyed but they kept the land Southward for a hunting game preserve
  - All kinds of tools and inventions during this time
  - “Never could be a people more blessed than were they and more prospered by the hand of the Lord” E4:78
- Many generations born in captivity from Hearthrom on (the usurpers weren’t listed, but the line of Jared/Ether was)
- E4:94 – Brother of Shiblun killed all the prophets -> wars, famines, etc = “great destruction, such an one as never had been known...”

---

## Flip Flop at the End

- A descendant of the Brother of Jared took the throne and then passed it down to Coriantumr (the last Jaredite king)
- Moron had been overthrown, had Coriantor in prison, who had Ether
  - Ether should have had rights to be king, but he ended up be the last prophet and chronicler of the Jaredite destruction
  - This has been called by some, the “curious reversal”
- E4:113 – if don’t repent, another people will take this Land