
THE BOOK OF
MORMON
=
THE KEYSTONE

II NEPHI

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**The
Book of Mormon**



**The
Keystone
of Our
Religion**

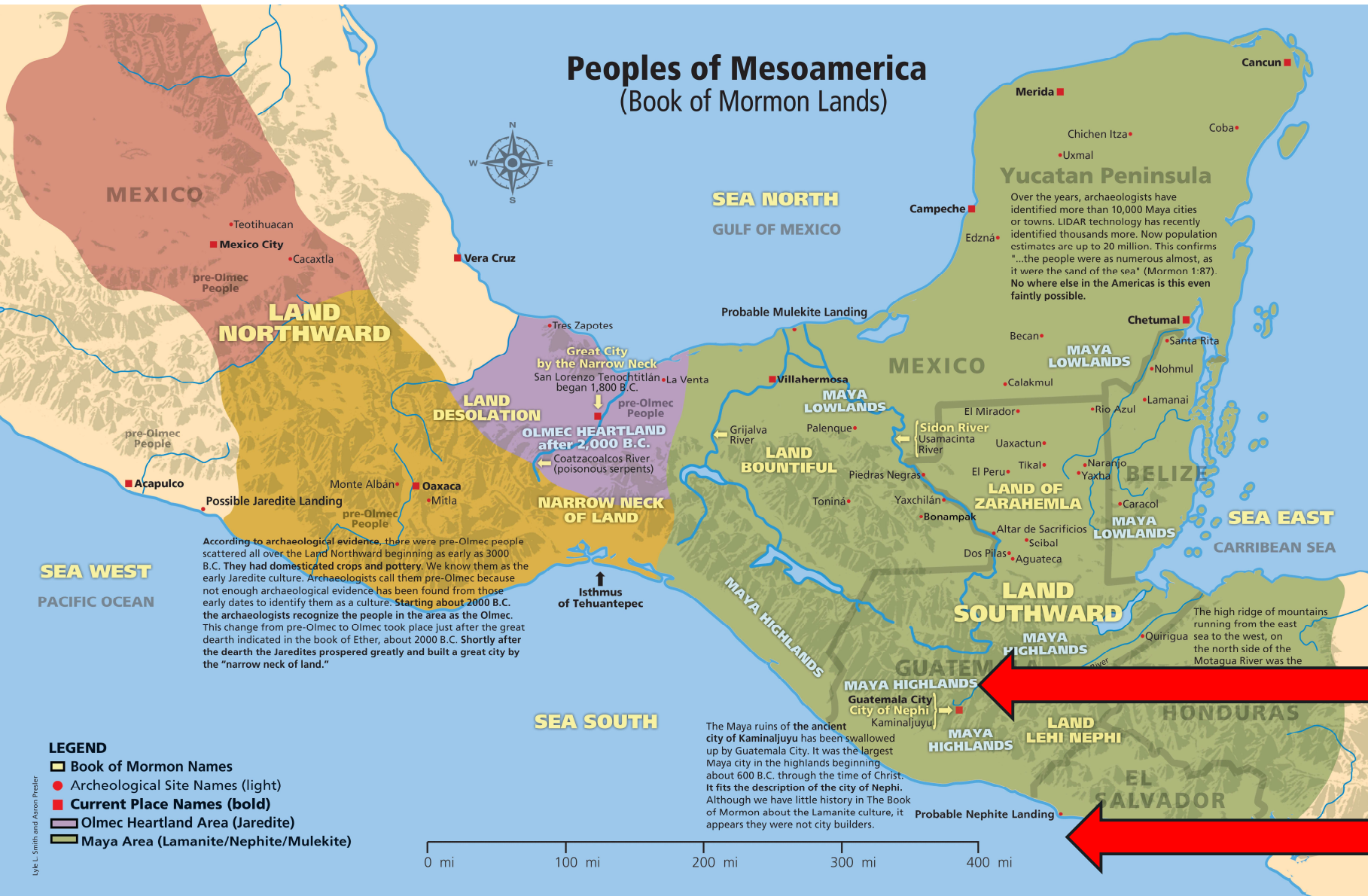
LESSONS FROM II NEPHI

- Lehi teaches/prophesies – 4 sons, Zoram, Jacob, Joseph, Sons of Ishmael
- Lehi dies
- Nephi's Psalm
- Brothers rebel against Nephi
- Nephi warned to escape into wilderness
- The journeys of the Nephites
- Nephi includes a sermon by Jacob
- Nephi includes more references from Isaiah with explanations

Summary

- 15 chapters; 1172 verses
- Unabridged from the Small Plates of Nephi
- Covers ~ 42 years (588BC – 546BC)
- Begins at original landing spot, also Land / City of Nephi
- Written by Nephi
- Recorded 30 years after leaving Jerusalem

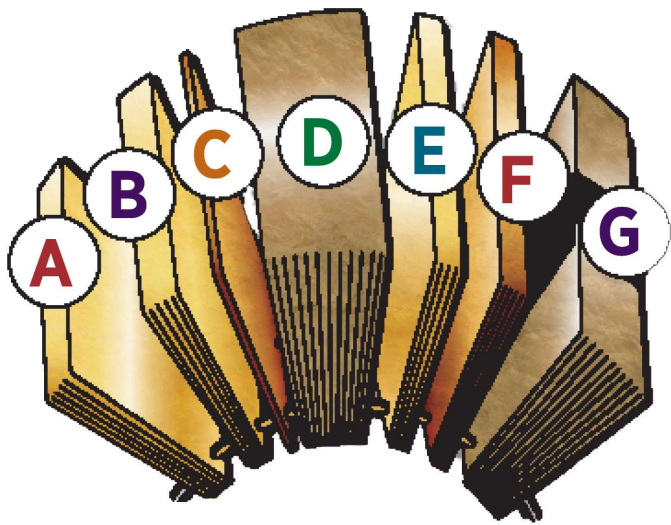
Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



City of
Nephi

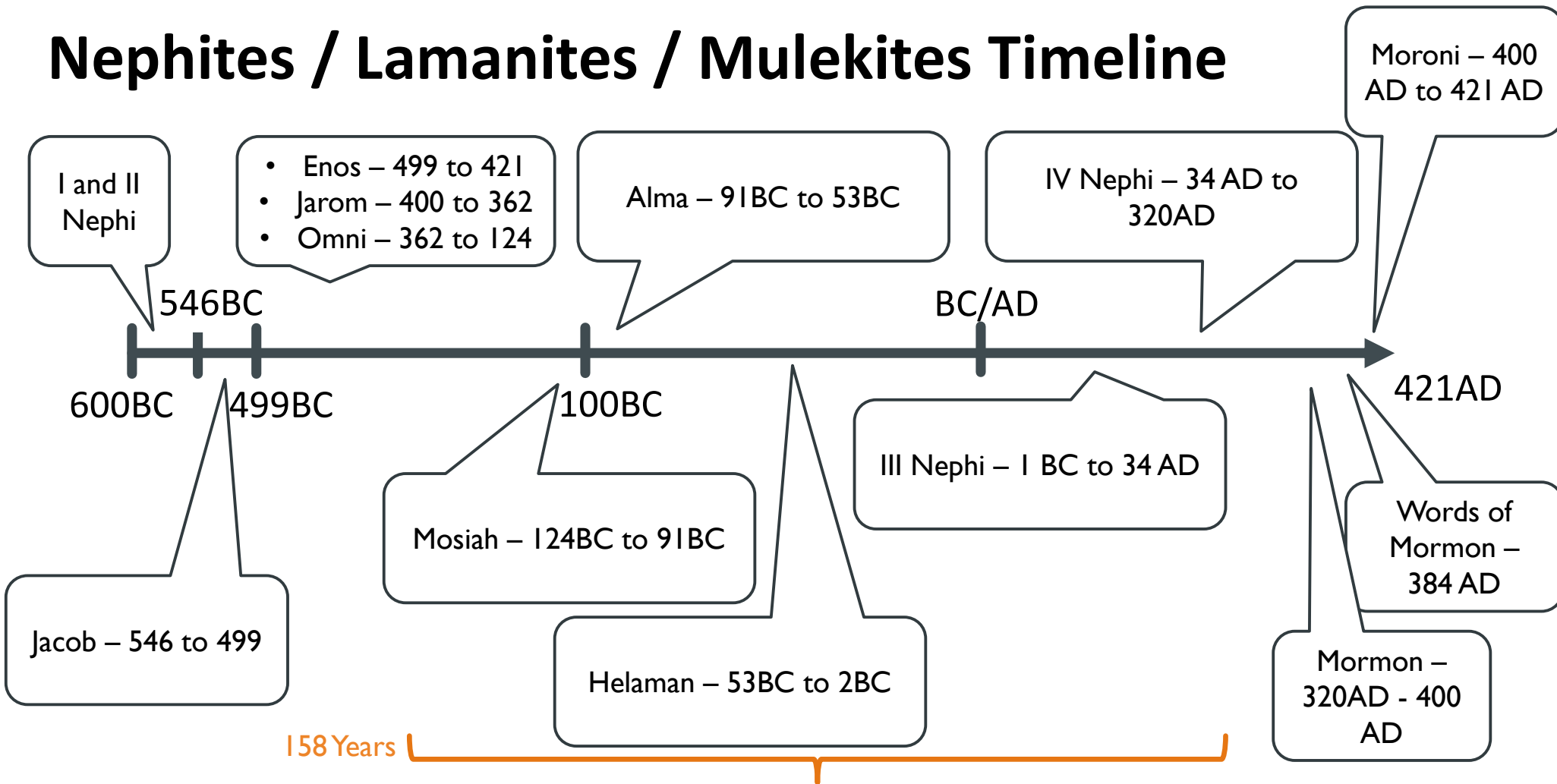
Landing

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

Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites Timeline



II Nephi – Chapter Overview

1. Lehi sharing wisdom with his sons, Zoram
2. Lehi shares with Joseph ; quotes Joseph of Egypt
3. Lehi finishes his instruction to descendants, dies; Nephi's Psalm
4. The big split - Origin of Nephites & Lamanites
5. Jacob quoting Isaiah
6. Jacob explaining Isaiah quotes
7. Jacob continues his teaching the next day
8. Nephi quotes Isaiah
9. Nephi quotes Isaiah
10. Nephi quotes Isaiah
11. Nephi commentary on Isaiah
12. Nephi prophecies and expounds
13. Nephi teaches on the doctrine of Christ (Chapters 13 – 15)

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

1:4 For, behold, said he, I have seen a vision, in which **I know that Jerusalem is destroyed;**

1:5 And had we remained in Jerusalem, we should also have perished.



Fall of Jerusalem – 586BC

PROPHECIES AND PROMISES (II N 1:1-25)

- I have seen Jerusalem's destruction in vision, and we have obtained a land of promise.
- This land is consecrated to those who the Lord leads to it.
- If the inhabitants of this land keep the commandments, it will be a land of liberty unto them; failure to keep the commandments will bring captivity.
- This land has been kept from other nations, as a place of inheritance.
- Blessing will follow those who keep the commandments.
- Unbelief and rejection of Christ will lead the judgement of God.
- Other nations will come into the land, take away the inheritances, and initiate violence.

FATHERLY COUNSEL (II N I:26-58)

- Awake and arise, hear the words of a dying parent, who is redeemed of the Lord and encircled by his love.
- Keep the commandments, and don't let your hard hearts lead to the cursing of the Lord coming upon you.
- Don't become cursed; keeping the commandments will lead to prosperity in the land.
- Put on the armor of righteousness, and arise from the dusty darkness.
- Don't rebel against Nephi : he has been an instrument in the hands of God.
- I fear that Laman and Lemuel will again rebel against Nephi, at their own eternal peril.
- Nephi's sharpness has been nothing less than the truth, which you have taken to be so hard.
- The power of God is with Nephi, and the Spirit gives him commandments.
- Lehi counsels all of his sons and sons-in-law to pay heed to Nephi, that they may all be blessed.
- To Zoram, Lehi gives the blessing of Nephi, and promises that Nephi and Zoram's posterities may both be secure in this land.

AWAKE AND ARISE

- Vrs 27 – **Awake**
- Vrs 27 – Awake from a deep sleep; **shake off the awful chains of sin**
- Vrs 28 – Arise from the dust
- Vrs 36 – Arise from the dust and be men!
- Vrs 36 – **Be determined**
- Vrs 38 – Awake, put on the armor of righteousness
- Vrs 39 – Shake off the chains of sin, arise from the dust

OPPOSITION IN ALL THINGS – CHOOSE WISELY!

- MUST be an opposition in all things (vrs 81)
- God created all things
- Forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life
- God gave to man that he should act for himself; enticed by both
- God and the devil
- Life became a probationary state (vrs 108 ; II N 7:40-44)
- Adam fell that men might be, and men are, that they might have joy
- Men are free to act for themselves – choose liberty and eternal life or captivity and death

LEHI'S GUIDANCE TO THE SONS

- **Laman and Lemuel** – pleaded with them to not rebel against God and to listen to the words of Nephi
- **L&L, Sons of Ishmael, Sam** – if they would listen to Nephi they would not perish (II N 1:52-54+)
- **Zoram** – true friend to Nephi, will be blessed like him
- **Jacob** – Firstborn in the wilderness; he will dwell in safety with Nephi and his days will be spent serving the Lord; he will be saved because of his belief in the Messiah
- **Joseph** – Lastborn in the wilderness; still young; inherit the land with his brothers if keep the commandments; shared prophecy of prior Joseph

PROPHECY OF JOSEPH OF EGYPT (II N 2:1-44)

- Lehi a descendant of Joseph of Egypt (Manasseh)
- God had promised his descendants would be a righteous branch (vrs 7,8)
- Joseph knew of Moses and how he would deliver the Israelites (vrs 15)
- Choice seer different from Moses (vrs 17)
- Writings of Joseph & Judah will grow together (vrs 19-23)
 - Confounding false doctrine
 - Ending contention
 - Establishing peace
 - Knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; knowledge of the covenants of God

II NEPHI 2 CHIASTIC STRUCTURE

- Center points of the chiasm / chapter are verses 22, 23
- Bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days,
- And also to the knowledge of My covenants, saith the Lord

2 Nephi 2: Lehi's Blessing to Young Joseph

Verse #	Text
1	A speak
3	B thy brethren
4	C Joseph
	D may the Lord bless thee
	E thy seed shall not be utterly destroyed
6	F covenants
	G Joseph
	H Joseph
8	I remembered in the covenants
9	J unto them
	K in the latter days
10	L a seer shall the Lord my God raise up which shall be a choice seer
	unto the fruit of my loins
11	M Thus saith the Lord unto me
15	N Moses
16	O I have said I would raise up
17	P Moses
	Q power
20	R bring forth my word
21	S fruit of thy loins
	T confounding
	U bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers
	U' and also to the knowledge of my covenants
	T' confounded
27	S' fruit of thy loins
30	R' the thing which the Lord shall bring forth
	Q' power
31	P' Moses
32	O' the Lord hath said I will raise up
	N' Moses
36	M' the Lord said unto me also
	L' I will raise up unto the fruit of thy loins and I will
	make for him a spokesman
40	K' after many generations have gone
	J' by them
43	I' remembering of my covenant
44	H' Joseph
	G' my father
45	F' covenant
	E' thy seed shall not be destroyed
48	D' blessed art thou
	C' Joseph
49	B' thy brother
49	A' spoken

Figure 1. The chiasmic center point (U & U') emphasizes the covenant made to the seed of Joseph of Egypt.

56

LEHI PROPHESED TO HIS SONS/GRANDKIDS (3:1-21)

- **Laman's kids** – God will continue to show mercy to your seed (vrs 13)
- **Lemuel's kids** – Not be utterly destroyed, will still be blessed (vrs 16)
- **Sons of Ishmael and children** – Nephi didn't record
- **Sam** – your descendants numbered with Nephi's and blessed (19-21)
 - Only son to not head a tribe – Jacob 1:13; Mormon 1:8

LEHI DIES

3:22 And it came to pass after my father Lehi had spoken unto all his household, according to the feelings of his heart, and the Spirit of the Lord which was in him, he waxed old.

3:23 And it came to pass that he died, and was buried.

NEPHI'S PSALM (II NEPHI 3:29-66)

**How to resist
temptation –
vrs 42-53**

- 29 - Ponder on the Scriptures
- 31 – O wretched man that I am (temptations and sins)
- 34,35 – Trust in God
- 42 - I've seen great things, so why should I be sad and give in to sorrow?
- 47 – Why do I let in the enemy of my soul?
- 56 – God, put your robe of righteousness on me
- 61 – I will trust thee forever
- 65 – God is the Rock of my righteousness

DEPARTING INTO THE WILDERNESS – II N 4



- Laman & Lemuel don't want Nephi to lead; plot to kill him
- Nephi warned to depart
- Those who fled: Nephi, Zoram, Sam, Jacob, Joseph, Sisters & families
- Took with them: Brass plates, sword of Laban, Liahona
- Establish land and city of Nephi
- Built a temple; made small plates

CITY OF NEPHI

- Many days journey from First Inheritance (including in the wilderness)
- Named the place Nephi
- Took their tents and everything else they could transport
- Grew crops; raised flocks
- Made other swords like Sword of Laban for defense
- Built buildings (wood and metal)
- Built a temple like Solomon's

Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



City of
Nephi

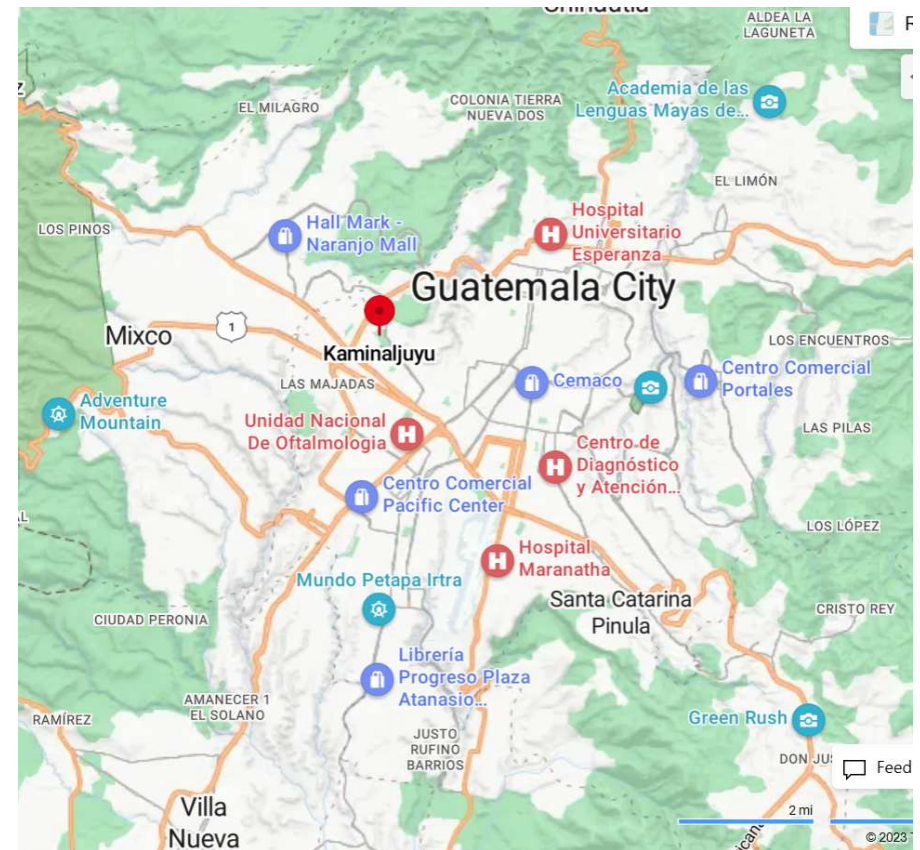
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KAMINALJUYU – CITY OF NEPHI?

- Fits the right location for a Mesoamerican archaeology model
- Fits the right timeline
- Fits other markers
 - Close to the headwaters of two major rivers (Grijalva and Usumacinta)
 - Nearby options for other referenced cities – Shilom, Shemlon
 - Mosiah 5:33; 7:16
 - Could be Frutal and Solano

KAMINALJUYU

- The known parts of Kaminaljuyu lie on a broad plain beneath **roughly the western third of modern Guatemala City**. Soils are rich because of frequent volcanic eruptions; volcanic ash in the form of hardened tuff reaches depths of several hundred meters in and around Kaminaljuyu, and deep clefts or barrancos mark the landscape.
- There are many mysteries, in addition to size and scale, that likely will remain unanswered about Kaminaljuyu. **These questions are mainly about the role of the city as the greatest of the Southern Maya area (SMA) in Preclassic times, particularly during the Miraflores period, c. 400–100 BC.**[7] The SMA is long believed to have been seminal in the development of Maya civilization.



Wikipedia

WHO WERE THE LAMANITES?

- Those who stayed behind – Laman, Lemuel, Sons of Ishmael
- Became an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety
- Hunted in the wilderness, darker skin
- Hearts were hardened
- Cursed because of their iniquity; Nephites told NOT to intermarry so as to avoid God's curses as well
- Will be a scourge to the Nephites whenever they forget the Lord
- Possibly intermarried with other natives

BOM PEOPLES ONLY INHABITANTS?

- “Latter Day Saints have commonly believed that all native Americans... are Lamanites. Simply stated they are not. Many tribes carry little or no evidence of ties with Israel. The Book of Mormon does not claim to be the history of all native Americans.” ~ Frank Frye
- “The descendants of Lehi were never the only people on the continent.” ~ Hugh Nibley

NEPHI MAKES THE SMALL PLATES

- II Nephi 4:43-50
- Also, ordains Jacob and Joseph to be priests and teachers of the people
- (No more mention of Joseph's ministry after this)
- By 560BC, they had already had wars and contentions with the Lamanites

ISAIAH IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

- Isaiah 48 & 49 – I Nephi 6 & 7 - Nephi to his brothers
- Isaiah 49:22 to 51:2 – II Nephi 5 - Jacob in a Sermon
- Isaiah 2 to 14 – II Nephi 8, 9, 10 – Nephi quoting
- Isaiah 29:6-32 & 11:4-9 – II Nephi 11, 12 – Nephi quoting
- Isaiah 52:7-10 & 53 – Mosiah 7 & 8 – Abinadi quoting
- Isaiah 52 – III Nephi 7 & 9 – Jesus quoting and explaining
- Isaiah 54 – III Nephi 10 – Jesus quoting

JACOB'S SERMONS QUOTED BY NEPHI

- II Nephi 5 & 6 – Jacob's first sermon
- II Nephi 7 – Jacob's second sermon



II NEPHI 5

1. II Nephi 5:1-9 – Jacob Talks About His Calling & Purpose For Speaking
2. II Nephi 5:10-15 – Jacob teaches Isaiah's Words May Be Likened Unto You
3. II Nephi 5:16-21 – Jacob Quotes Isaiah 49:22-23
4. II Nephi 5:22-40 – Jacob covers Jerusalem's Captivity, Jesus' Ministry & Second Coming
5. II Nephi 5:41-45 – Jacob Quoting Isaiah 49:24-26
6. II Nephi 5:46-69 – Jacob Quotes Isaiah 50
7. II Nephi 5:70-111 – Jacob Quoting Isaiah 51
8. II Nephi 5:112-114 – Jacob Quotes Isaiah 52:1-2

NEPHI THE PROTECTOR

2 Nephi 5:3 And having been consecrated by my brother, Nephi, unto whom ye look as a king or a **protector**, and on whom ye depend for safety

Jacob 1:10 The people having loved Nephi exceedingly, he having been a great **protector** for them, having wielded the sword of Laban in their defense, and having labored in all his days for their welfare; wherefore, the people were desirous to retain in remembrance his name

- Only times that protector appears in Scripture

JACOB TAUGHT LEHI'S MESSAGE

11 N 5:7 For I have exhorted you with all diligence; and I have taught you the words of my father;

8 And I have spoken unto you concerning all things which are written from the creation of the world.

9 And now, behold, I would speak unto you concerning things which are, and which are to come;

ISAIAH'S WORDS APPLY TO YOU (NEPHITES)

11 N 5:10 Wherefore, I will read you the words of Isaiah.

11 And they are the words which my brother has desired that I should speak unto you.

12 And I speak them unto you for your sakes, that ye may learn and glorify the name of your God.

13 And now the words which I shall read, are they which Isaiah spake concerning all the house of Israel;

14 Wherefore, **they may be likened unto you; for ye are of the house of Israel.**

II NEPHI 5:22-40

1. The inhabitants of Jerusalem have been slain and “carried away captive.” (v. 22)
2. They will return again (v. 23)
3. Jesus Christ will manifest himself to Israel in the flesh (v. 24)
4. They will scourge him and crucify him (v. 25) – told by an angel
5. They will be scattered, smitten and afflicted (v. 26-27)
6. When they know their Redeemer, they will be gathered together again (v. 29)
7. The Gentiles will be saved, if they repent and don’t fight against Zion (v. 30-31)
8. The Messiah will recover his people a second time (v. 36)
9. The Messiah will show himself unto them in power; enemies destroyed (v. 37-38)
10. They will know that the Lord is God, the Holy One of Israel (v. 40)

II NEPHI 6 – FIRST SERMON FINISHED UP

1. II Nephi 6:1-5 – Why He Quoted Isaiah 49:22 to 52:2 in II Nephi 5
2. II Nephi 6:6-24 – Death, Resurrection, the Fall, Atonement
3. II Nephi 6:25-33 – Resurrection
4. II Nephi 6:34-44 – The Judgment
5. II Nephi 6:45-50 – The Path to Salvation
6. II Nephi 6:51-56 – Those Who Know the Law vs. Those Who Do Not
7. II Nephi 6:57-64 – The Learned & Rich
8. II Nephi 6:65-74 – Sources of Woe & Carnal Thinking
9. II Nephi 6:75-106 – Come Unto the Lord

SOME MAJOR POINTS FROM JACOB'S SERMON

- How to reconcile vrs 6 & 7 – We're all going to die but in our bodies we will see God?
- Jesus died for ALL men (brings Resurrection for all) – vrs 10
- Jesus came to save ALL men (if they listen to Him) – vrs 45
- Transgression -> Fall -> Infinite Atonement -> Resurrection (vrs 10-15)
- Body and Spirit will be resurrected (vrs 26-31 ; Body in the grave; Spirit in hell or paradise)
- Will have perfect knowledge – of our sin or of His robe of righteousness (vrs 33-35)
- Atonement covers those without the law (vrs 54)
- Sources of woe – vrs 57 - 74

TWO GATES – WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?



II Nephi 6:81-85
Helaman 2:25,26



The keeper of the gate

JACOB'S SECOND SERMON – II NEPHI 7

- II Nephi 7:1-4 – Some Will Perish; Some Will Know Christ
- 7:5-9 – Christ Will Be Crucified By The Jews
- 7:10-13 – Israel Scattered, Then Gathered
- 7:14-18 – Gentiles Will Be Blessed
- 7:19-25 – Christ As King Of Zion In This Land
- 7:26-29 – Gentiles Blessed; Numbered Among Israel
- 7:30-35 – This Is A Choice Land For Our Children
- 7:36-39 – Other Groups Led to Other Lands
- 7:40-44 – Agency, Grace, Atonement

SOME MAJOR POINTS FROM JACOB'S 2ND SERMON

- There is no other nation that would crucify their God – vrs 7
- This is a “land of liberty” and will have no kings – vrs 18
- Gentiles will be blessed – vrs 29
- Isles of the sea; others led out from House of Israel – vrs 34-38
- You are free to choose - Reconcile yourselves to God – vrs 40,41
- Only saved by grace – vrs 42
- Raised by death because of resurrection; raised from EVERLASTING death by the atonement – vrs 43

FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE MESSIAH

- Moses foretold of Christ's coming – Deut 18:15-19
- Moses lifted up brass serpent as symbol of Christ's crucifixion – Numbers 21:6-9
- His virgin birth and name Immanuel – Isaiah 7:14
- His birth in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2
- His royal lineage – Jeremiah 23:5
- His intro from one crying in the wilderness – Isaiah 40:3
- His coming riding on an ass – Zec 9:9
- Be called Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – Isa 9:6
- Called the Messiah – Daniel 9:25
- Preaching to the meek and broken hearted – Isaiah 61:1
- Feed the flock like a shepherd – Isa 40
- Open the eyes of the blind – Isa 35:5
- Be sold for 30 pieces of silver – Zec 11:12
- Hands and feet be pierced – Psalms 22