
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

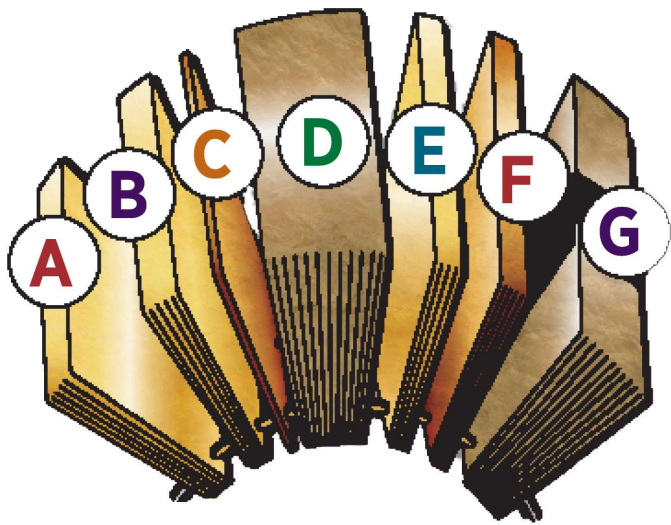
Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



City of
Nephi

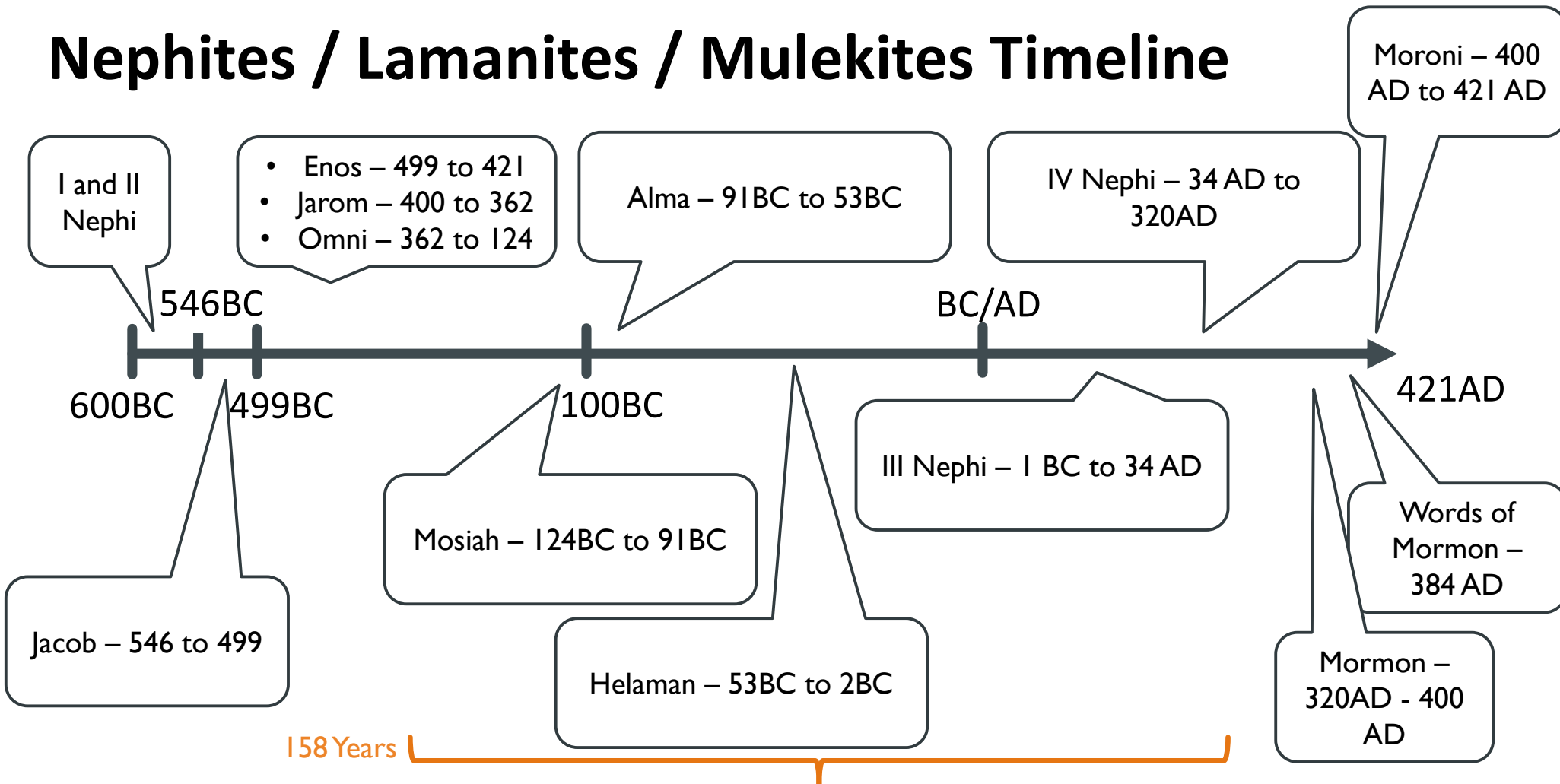
Landing

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**

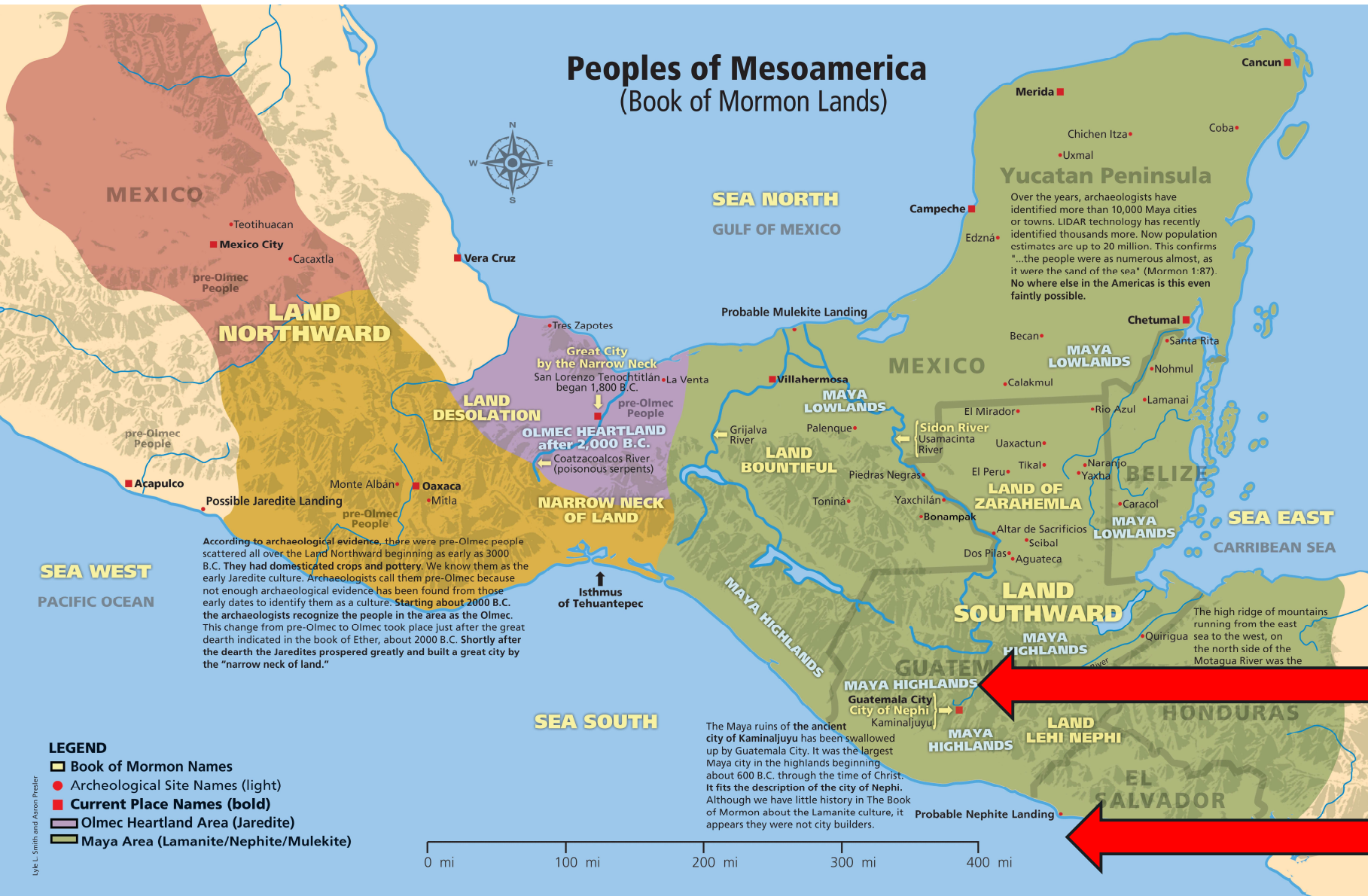
- 29 - Ponder on the Scriptures
- 31 – O wretched man that I am (temptations and sins)
- 34,35 – Trust in God
- 42 - I've seen great things, so why should I be sad and give in to sorrow?
- 47 – Why do I let in the enemy of my soul?
- 56 – God, put your robe of righteousness on me
- 61 – I will trust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

Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



City of
Nephi

Landing

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

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