
THE BOOK OF
MORMON
=
THE KEYSTONE

JACOB

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**The
Book of Mormon**



**The
Keystone
of Our
Religion**

Summary

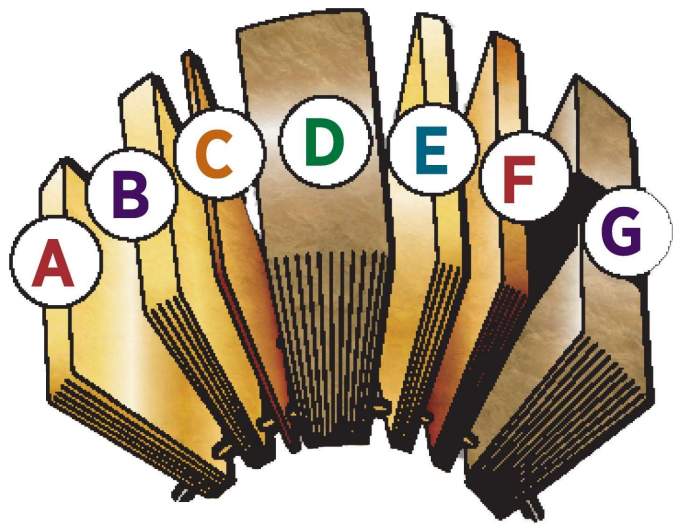
- 5 chapters; 309 verses
- Unabridged from the Small Plates of Nephi
- Covers ~ 46 years (545BC – 499BC)
- Takes place at Land of Nephi
- Written by Jacob

Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



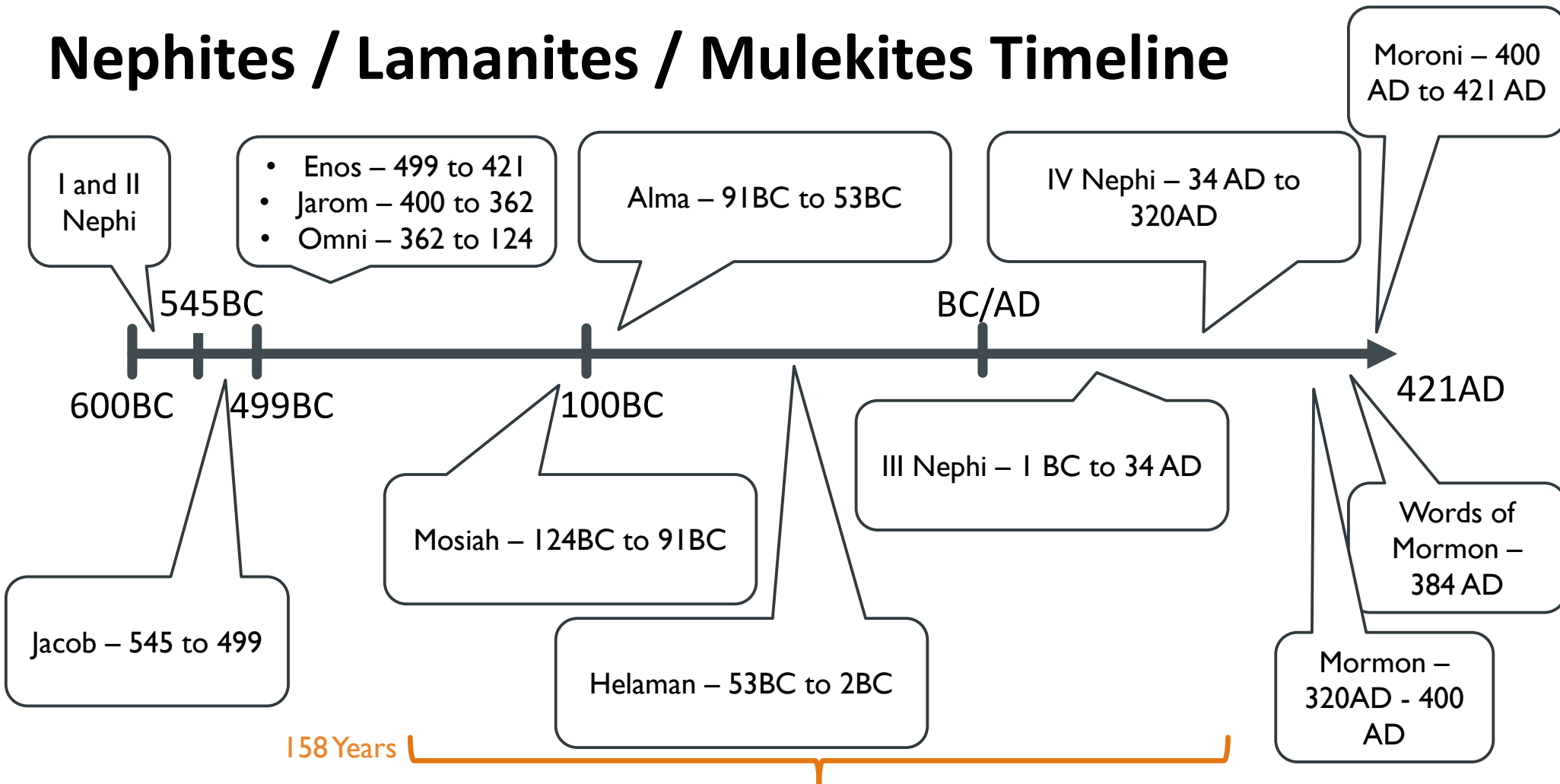
City of
Nephi

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



LESSONS FROM JACOB

- Nephi dies
- Jacob and Joseph take over spiritual leadership
- Oblation guidance
- No polygamy
- What sins are you teaching your kids?
- Zenos' parable of the Olive Tree
- Jacob & Sherem
- Two goodbyes / adieu

SMALL PLATES OF NEPHI -> JACOB



- 55 years since leaving Jerusalem
- Nephi handed over record keeping responsibility
- Purpose principle and guidance on what to include – Jacob 1:2-4

“ENGRAVEN THE HEADS OF THEM”

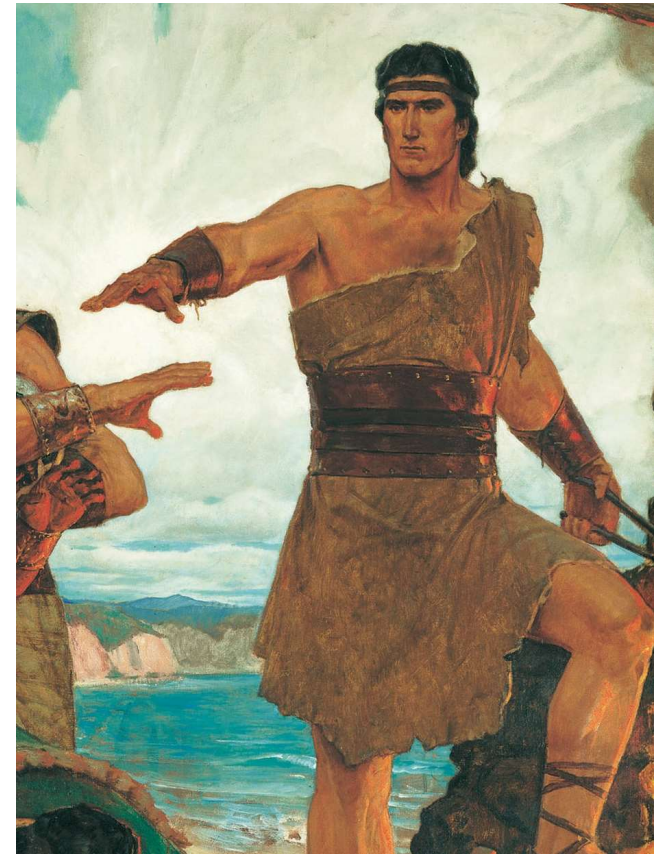
- Jacob 1:4
 - Hebraism: best, foremost, uniquely finest
 - Hebrew root - *rosh*
 - Source: Theological Wordbook
 - 1 Nephi 5:223
-
- *Recent Book of Mormon Developments, vol 2 ; page 42*



NEPHI DIES / KINGS AFTER NEPHI

- Nephi died – Jacob 1:12
- Nephi anointed someone to be king after he died
- We don't know who the next king was
- The Nephite naming convention for their kings – Jacob 1:10,11

Nephites	Lamanites
Nephites	Lamanites
Jacobites	Lemuelites
Josephites	Ishmaelites
Zoramites	



NEPHITES BEGIN TO HARDEN THEIR HEARTS

- Jacob 1:15-17
- Under the second king, began to harden their hearts
- Began wicked practices
- Multiple wives and concubines like David, Solomon of old
- Searching for gold and silver
- Became very proud

JACOB CALLS OUT THE NEPHITE ERRORS

- Jacob 2
- Jacob allowed to know their thoughts (vrs 5)
- Called them out in front of their kids (vrs 7)
- “enlarge the wounds of those which are already wounded” (vrs 9)
- **First chastisement – Pride** (vrs 16)
- Searching for gold and silver, puffed up in pride, think they are better than others because of their possessions

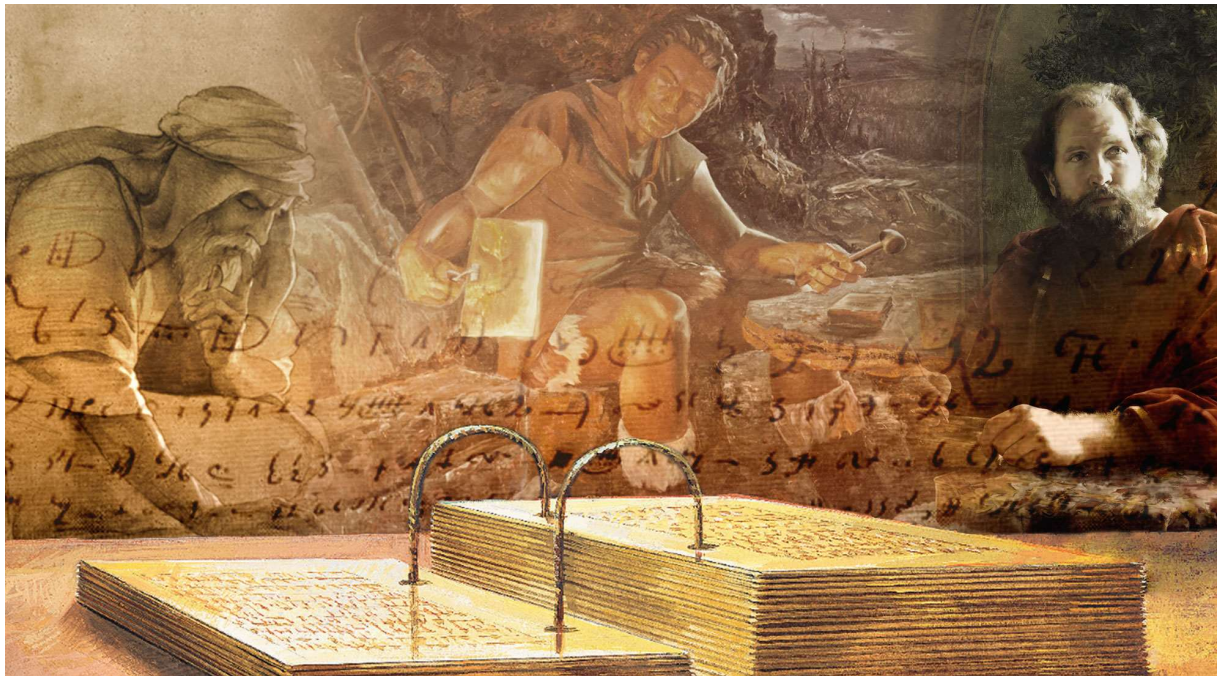
CORRECT VIEW ON MONEY / OBLATION

- Jacob 2: 21 And, O that ye would listen unto the word of his commands, and let not this pride of your hearts destroy your souls.
- 22 **Think of your brethren, like unto yourselves**, and be familiar with all, and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you.
- 23 But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God.
- 24 And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and **ye will seek them, for the intent to do good**; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted.

SECOND CHASTISEMENT - GROSSER CRIME

- Jacob 2:29+
- Polygamy of David and Solomon was abominable to God (vrs 33)
- Greater iniquity than the Lamanites (vrs 45)
- Broken your wives' hearts and lost confidence of your children (vrs 46)
- Advice to those who are abused – verse 49, 50
- What sins are you teaching your children? (vrs 62,63)
- Shake yourselves, that you'll wake up from the slumber of death (vrs 64)

THE PLATES OF JACOB?



- Jacob 2:69
- Nephi made the small plates, but Jacob took over recording responsibilities along with his descendants

ZENOS AND THE PARABLE OF THE OLIVE TREE



THE BOOK OF MORMON QUOTES MANY PROPHETS

- Known prophets from the O.T. – Moses, Isaiah, and Jeremiah
- Unknown prophets – Zenos, Zenock, Neum, and Esaias
- Needed the Brass Plates to teach their children the truth
 - Mosiah 1:5,6
 - 1 Nephi 1:159-163



Helaman 3:53-54

After Moses and
before Isaiah

WHO WAS ZENOS?

Lehi, Nephi, Jacob, Alma, Samuel the Lamanite, and Mormon all quoted from Zenos

- 2nd most quoted prophet after Isaiah
- Zenock usually mentioned with Zenos, perhaps they lived as contemporaries like Lehi and Jeremiah
- Can't prove when they lived or where, but we do know they were both of seed of Joseph – III N 4:70-73
- Likely lived and ministered to their brethren in the northern kingdom
- Prophesied of the scattering and a remnant of the House of Joseph; foretold of Jesus and that He would be rejected and die on the cross
- Alma gives the only glimpse into the life and times of Zenos – Alma 16:178-184
 - He had enemies, lived in a turbulent time, and was martyred for his testimony (A 16:189; Hel 3:53)

ZENOS' PARABLE OF THE OLIVE TREE

- Jacob inspired to make a copy of the parable on the small plates
- The culmination of the parable is in the latter days and Jacob knew he was writing to our day and future descendants



ZENOS' PARABLE OF THE OLIVE TREE

Jacob 3:30 Behold, my brethren, do ye not remember to have read the words of the prophet Zenos, which spake unto the house of Israel, saying: Hearken, O ye house of Israel, and hear the words of me, a prophet of the Lord:

31 For behold, thus saith the Lord, **I will liken thee, O house of Israel, like unto a tame olive tree, which a man took and nourished in his vineyard: and it grew, and waxed old, and began to decay.**



TERMS IN THE PARABLE

- Tame olive tree – House of Israel
- Master or Lord of the vineyard – Jesus Christ
- Servant – the prophet or priesthood
- Gentiles – the wild olive tree
- Tame fruit – those who are saved in Christ's kingdom through covenant
- Wild or evil fruit – other churches
- Bad branch – Lamanites at certain times in history
- Good branch – Nephites at certain times
- Hidden branches – part of the tribes of Israel who have been scattered or led away



MAIN EVENTS IN THE PARABLE

- Vrs 32-36 = top of the tree is dying, Master of the Vineyard doesn't want to lose the tree, so a grafting process is begun from a wild olive tree
- Vrs 37-49 = the servant attended to the 'grafting in' process while the Lord of the vineyard took the tender branches and hid them in the 'nethermost parts of the vineyard'
- Vrs 63-69 = describes four of these far away plantings
- Vrs 58-72 = the Lord of the vineyard visits the nethermost parts of the vineyard
- Vrs 72-100 = after a long time, the Lord of the vineyard and his servant come again to visit the vineyard and gather the fruit



MAIN EVENTS IN THE PARABLE (2)

- Vrs 109-124 = a solution is proposed to save all the trees in the vineyard, a grafting in program
- Vrs 112-117 = the grafting in program is spelled out
- Vrs 118-225 = the culmination of the parable, the intent of the grafting in program is so that all of the trees will eventually produce only tame fruit
- Vrs 145-153 = parable ends with the assurance that all of the House of Israel will be restored and experience the millenium where the Lord will enjoy the fruit of the vineyard



TIMELINE OF THE PARABLE



Tame olive tree is
beginning to decay

Grafting in of wild
olive branches

Young tender
branches hidden in
nethermost parts

*Long
time
passes*

Captivity and
split of the
House of Israel
represented
decay of the tree

Gentile Romans
are the wild olive
branches
Romans 11:17-26
II N 12:77-78

Four groups
taken and planted
in other places.
Lehi's group was
one of them

TIMELINE OF THE PARABLE CONTINUES



The second visit to the vineyard

Visit the natural branches in other parts of the vineyard

Grafting program for the whole vineyard – bring them back together

Grafted in wild branches now full of wild fruit (New Testament church)

The plantings have become corrupt. Clear that one group is Lehi – Jacob3:93-94

In the latter days, the branches will be brought back together with the tree

Time is running out

This last time mentioned many times