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# THE BOOK OF MORMON = THE KEYSTONE

## OMNI

Elder Eric English  
November 2023

## The Book of Mormon



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## Summary

- 1 chapters; 54 verses
- Unabridged from the Small Plates of Nephi
- Covers ~ 238 years (~362BC – ~124BC)
- 0.6% of the BoM
- Takes place at Land of Nephi and then Land of Zarahemla
- Written by 5 authors

# Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)

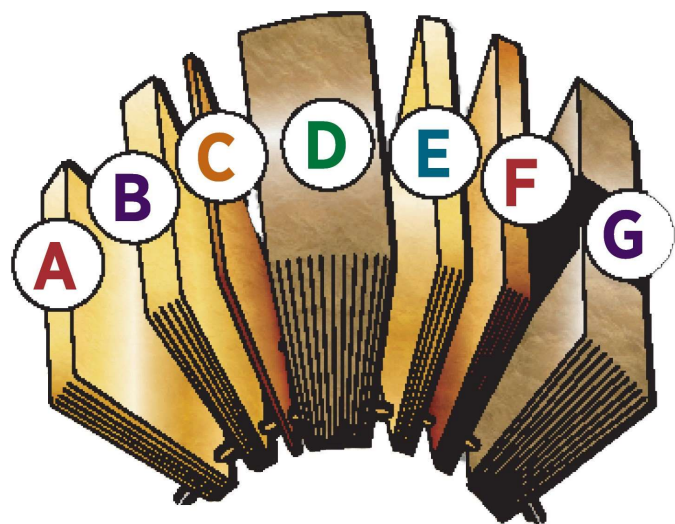


Land of  
Zarahemla

City of  
Nephi

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# THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE PLATES



- A – Lost abridgement

***Last Of***

- B – Small plates of Nephi (unabridged)

- C – Words of Mormon

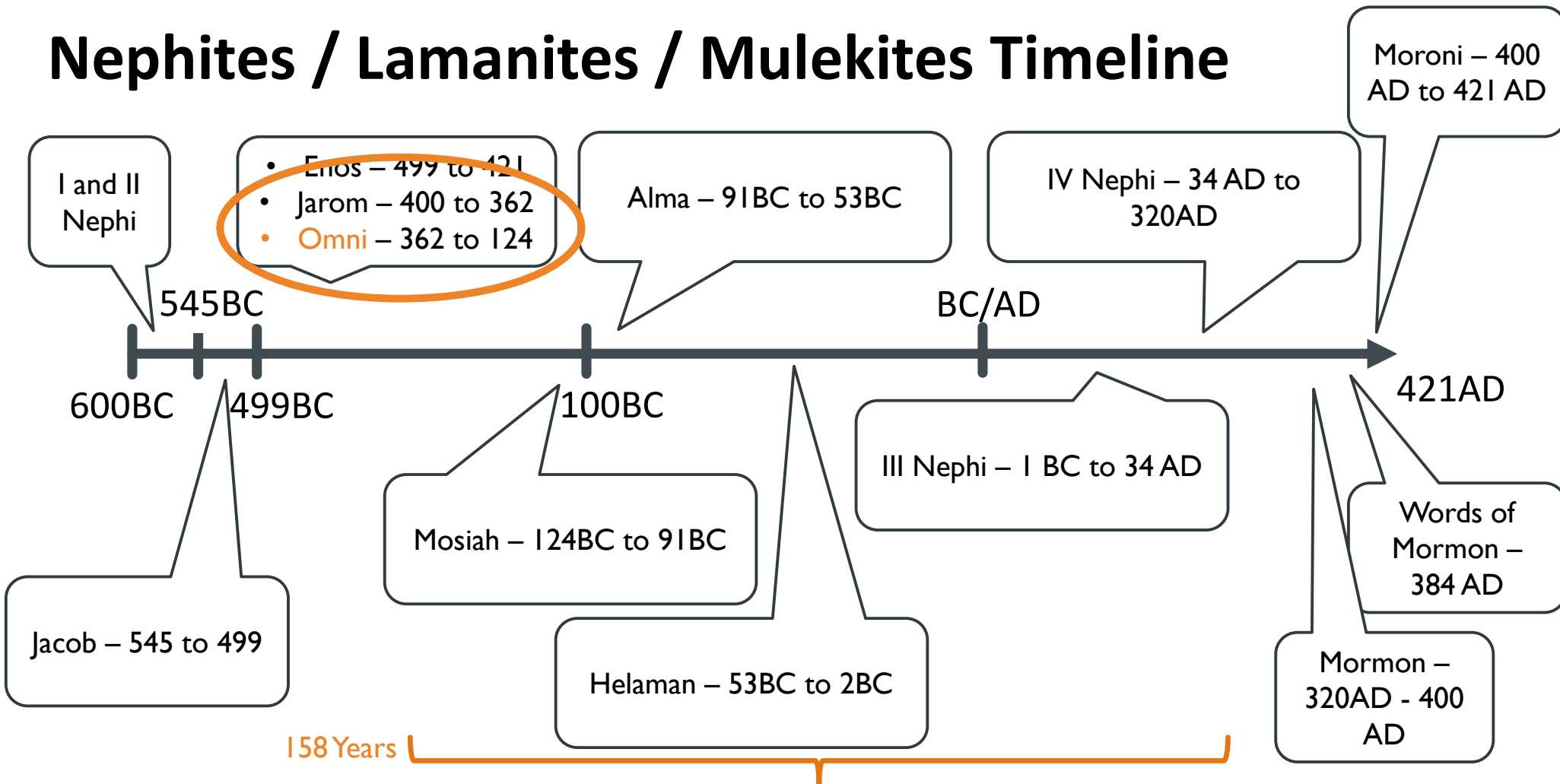
- D – Large plates of Nephi (abridged)

- E – 24 Gold Plates (abridged)

- F – Moroni's writing

- G – Sealed Portion

# Nephites / Lamanites / Mulekites Timeline



## LESSONS FROM OMNI

- The Lord fulfills His covenants
- Even Nephite priestly lineage degenerates
- Continued warfare with the Lamanites
- Authors don't take their responsibility seriously
- All we know of Mosiah I is here
- Nephite migration north / down
- Nephites merge with Mulekites
- The small plates begin and end with Come Unto Christ

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# AUTHORS

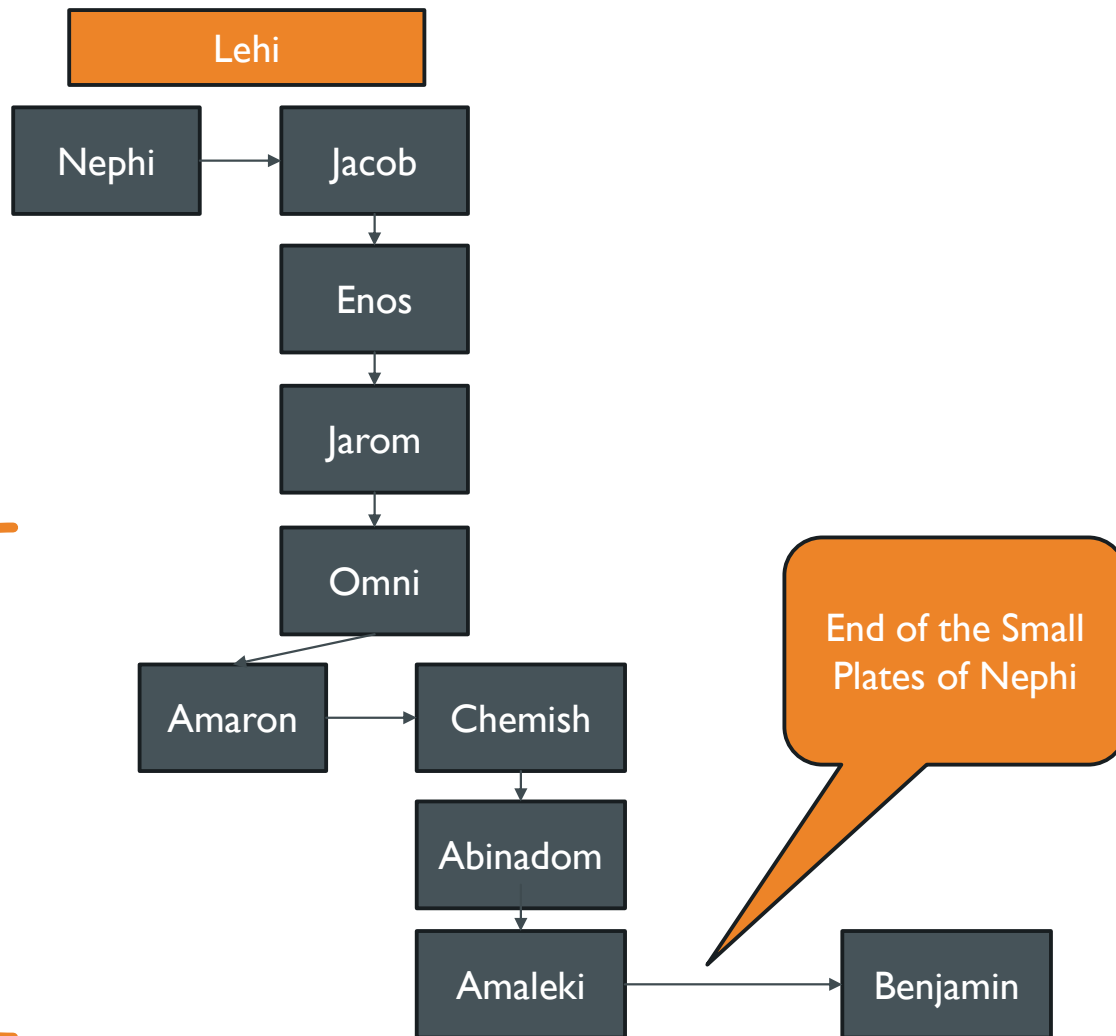
## Verses Authored:

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| ■ Omni - great, great grandson of Lehi | 1-5   |
| ■ Amaron – son of Omni                 | 6-10  |
| ■ Chemish – brother of Amaron          | 11-12 |
| ■ Abinadom – son of Chemish            | 13-17 |
| ■ Amaleki – son of Abinadom            | 18-54 |

*Perhaps, should have been called the Book of Amaleki*

# AUTHORS

Book of  
Omni



600BC

~124BC



# OMNI

- 1 Behold, it came to pass that I, Omni, being commanded by my father Jarom, that I should write somewhat upon these plates to preserve our genealogy,
- 2 Wherefore in my days, I would that ye should know that I fought much with the sword to preserve my people the Nephites from falling into the hands of their enemies, the Lamanites.
- 3 But behold, I, of myself, am a wicked man and I have not kept the statutes and the commandments of the Lord as I ought to have done.



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# AMARON

## *The Lord Always Fulfills His Covenants*

- 6 And now I, **Amaron**, write the things whatsoever I write, which are few, in the book of my father;
- 7 Behold, it came to pass that three hundred and twenty years had passed away and the more wicked part of the Nephites were destroyed,
- 8 For the Lord would not suffer - after He had led them out of the Land of Jerusalem and kept and **preserved them from falling into the hands of their enemies** - Yea, He would not suffer that the words should not be verified which He spake unto our fathers, saying that, "Inasmuch as ye will not keep My commandments, ye shall not prosper in the land."
- 9 **Wherefore, the Lord did visit them in great judgment**; Nevertheless, He did spare the righteous, that they should not perish, but did deliver them out of the hands of their enemies.
- 10 And it came to pass that I did deliver the plates unto my brother Chemish.

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# CHEMISH

## *The Lord Always Fulfills His Covenants*

- 11 Now I, Chemish, write what few things I write in the same book with my brother; For behold, I saw the last which he wrote, that he wrote it with his own hand, And **he wrote it in the day that he delivered them unto me;**
- 12 And after this manner we keep the records, for it is according to the commandments of our fathers; And I make an end.
- *Shortest author / contributor to the Book of Mormon*

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*No revelations; sound familiar to us today?*

## ABINADOM

- 13 Behold, I, Abinadom, I am the son of Chemish;
- 14 Behold, it came to pass that I saw much war and contention between my people the Nephites and the Lamanites;
- 15 And I with mine own sword have taken the lives of many of the Lamanites in the defense of my brethren;
- 16 And behold, the record of this people is engraven upon plates which is had by the kings, according to the generations;
- 17 And I know of no revelation, save that which has been written, neither prophecy; Wherefore, that which is sufficient is written; And I make an end.

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# AMALEKI

- Last author in the Book of Omni and of the small plates of Nephi
- Contributes the majority of the book (more than the other authors combined) and SIGNIFICANT information that is crucial to the rest of the Book of Mormon
- He was born during the reign of Mosiah 1; unclear if born in the Land of Nephi or the Land of Zarahemla

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# MAJOR EVENTS WE LEARN FROM AMALEKI

1. All we know about Mosiah I
2. Nephite migration (after 280BC and before 124BC; ~200BC)
3. We learn of the People of Zarahemla and Land of Zarahemla (Mulekites)
4. Nephite merger with Mulekites
5. Mulekite encounter with Coriantumr and some Jaredite information
6. Two Nephite efforts to return back to the land of their inheritance
7. An invitation to Come to Christ

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## TIME TO DEPART

- 19 Behold, I will speak unto you somewhat concerning Mosiah, which was made king over the Land of Zarahemla;
- 20 For behold, he being warned of the Lord that he should flee out of the Land of Nephi, And as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord should also depart out of the land with him into the wilderness.
- Fulfills prophecy of Jacob – Jacob 2:53

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## NEPHITE MIGRATION NORTH (DOWN)

“One of the most important events that happens is the migration of the Nephites, led by King Mosiah I, from the southern highlands to the northern lowlands where they join the Mulekites.”

~ Sherrie Smith

**Nephites**

Led by Mosiah

**Land of Zarahemla**

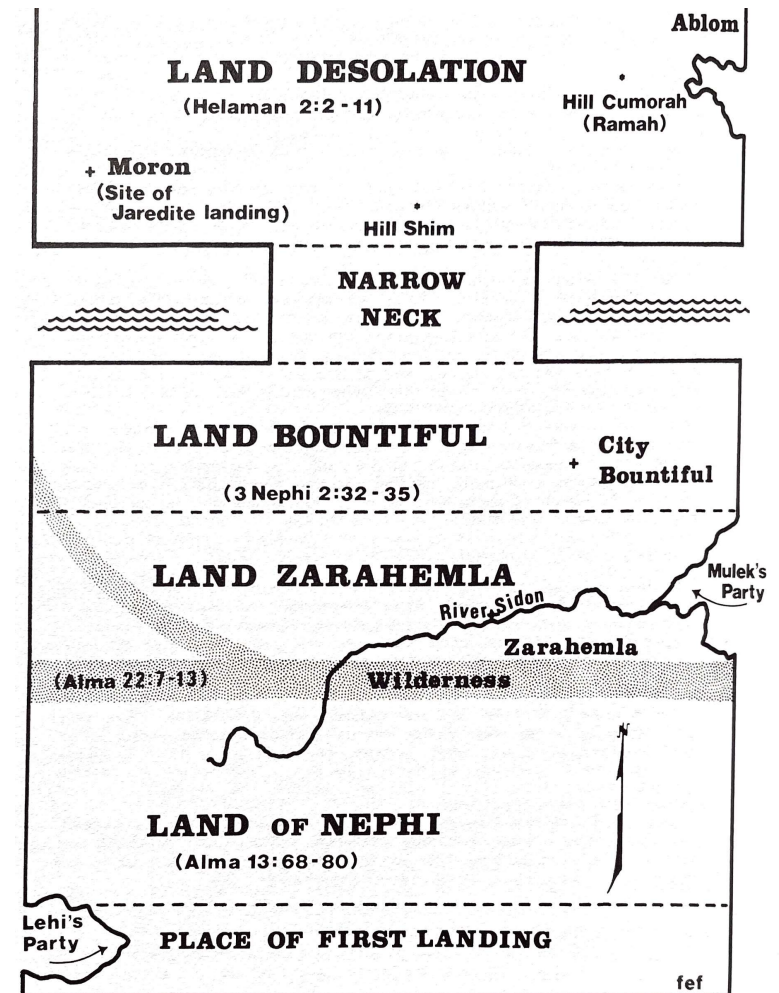
*Not all Nephites migrated*

[www.precolumbiansi.org](http://www.precolumbiansi.org)



# GENERIC GEOGRAPHY CORRELATION

- For correlation, relationship only
- From “People, Places, and Prophecies”
- Verneil Simmons
- Pg 110



# Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



Land of  
Zarahemla

City of  
Nephi

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# THE LAND OF ZARAHEMPLA

- Homeland of the Mulekites for almost 400 years
- Nephites join the Mulekites here around 200 BC; Mosiah I chosen king
- This is the heart of Nephite culture until close to their destruction (for the next 500-600 years)
- Located north of the Land of Nephi, with sea on the east, wilderness on the west and south, and Land Bountiful to the north and northwest; part of the Land Southward
- Lower in altitude than the Land of Nephi; referred to as “down to the Land of Zarahemla”

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# THE PEOPLE OF ZARAHEMLA

- Their leader was named Zarahemla, they called themselves the People of Zarahemla, and they called their land the Land of Zarahemla
- Zarahemla was happy to see Mosiah and that he had the brass plates
- Left Jerusalem when Zedekiah carried away captive to Babylon
- Traversed the ocean to arrive here
- Quite numerous, more than Nephites



- Descendant of Mulek / Zedekiah
- Mosiah 11:78; Helaman 3:55-57

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# THE PEOPLE OF ZARAHÉMLA - CONTINUED

- Context: II Kings 25:1-7
- How did they escape and get to the New World?
- Theories:
  1. Perhaps his mother was pregnant and he wasn't born until later
  2. After Jerusalem's wall was breached and Zedekiah and his family escape; quite possible that they separated
  3. Mulek and his guardians may have escaped to Sidon (the only unconquered port on the Mediterranean coast at that time) and caught a ship to the New World with the Phoenicians
  4. Perhaps Jeremiah helped secure escape and passage



# THOR HEYERDAHL

- Its Possible!
- Ra II Journey in 1970
- From west Africa to Barbados



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# THE PEOPLE OF ZARAHENLA - CONTINUED

What we learn about their history:

1. They had many wars – civil wars? With indigenous peoples?
2. Their language was corrupted
3. They brought no written records with them
4. They denied God, appear to be atheistic
5. They couldn't communicate with the Nephites, had to learn their language so they could communicate

Omni 1:29-31

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# MOSIAH I

- All we know about him is from Amaleki's writings in Omni
- First named king since Nephi; assume a descendant of Nephi?
- He was righteous and listened for the voice of the Lord; had preachings and prophesyings in his day / "led by the power of His arm"
- Why did Mosiah become the king when the peoples united?
  - Mulekites were more numerous than Nephites (Mosiah 11:78)
  - Zarahemla was a descendant from Mulek, son of the king of the Israelites (ie royalty)
  - Did Zarahemla pass away shortly thereafter? Did Mosiah marry a daughter or widow of his?



# THE LARGE STONE

- A large, engraved stone is brought to Mosiah I
- Mosiah I interpreted (with interpreters or not?)
- Coriantumr was found by the people of Zarahemla
- He lived with them for “9 moons”
- Told that his people came from the great Tower and God’s judgments upon them in the Land Northward



- Example of a large stone carving from San Bartolo (dated to 799AD; later than BoM times)
- [psi\\_news\\_jul-dec2022.pdf](https://www.precolumbiansi.org/psi_news_jul-dec2022.pdf) ([precolumbiansi.org](https://www.precolumbiansi.org/))

# TANGENT – AND IT CAME TO PASS

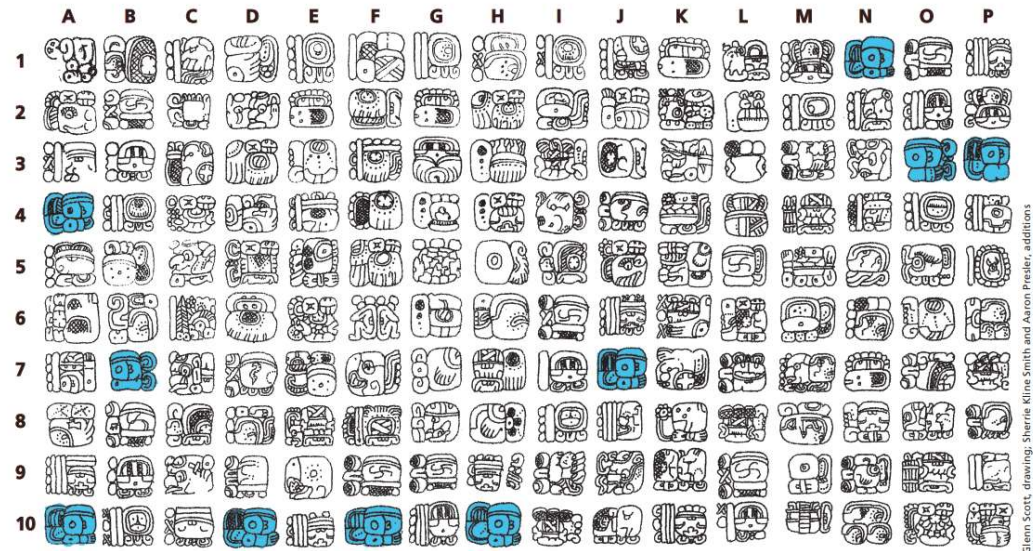
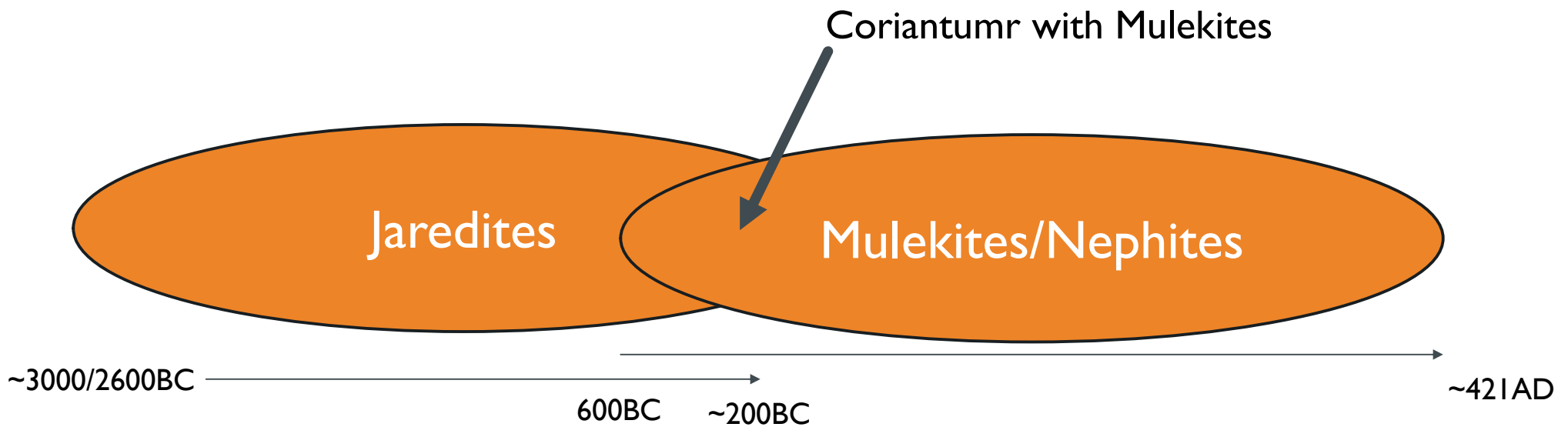


Figure 12. Cancuén Panel drawing with “And it came to pass” Glyphs Highlighted

- Example of a large stone carving from San Bartolo (dated to 799AD; later than BoM times)
- [psi\\_news\\_jul-dec2022.pdf](#) ([precolumbiansi.org](http://precolumbiansi.org))

*Teal glyphs – And it came to pass*

# CORANTUMR



*Where was Ether?*

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## CORANTUMR – PROPHECY BY ETHER

21 And in the second year, the word of the Lord came unto Ether that he should go and prophesy unto Coriantumr, That if he would repent and all his household, the Lord would give unto him his kingdom and spare the people;

22 Otherwise, they should be destroyed, and all his household, save it were himself; And he should only live to see the fulfilling of the prophecies which had been spoken concerning **another people receiving the land for their inheritance**;

23 And **Coriantumr should receive a burial by them**; And every soul should be destroyed, save it were Coriantumr.

*Ether 6:21-23*

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# JAREDITE INFLUENCE ON MULEKITE/NEPHITES

Coriantumr – last king of the Jaredites

Coriantumr – dissenter from the Nephites, descendant of Zarahemla

Morianton – Jaredite king

Morianton – rebellious Nephite leader, stirs up Nephites to go to Land Northward

Nehor – rebellious city of the Jaredites

Nehor – a large, strong Nephite who preaches heresy

Noah – Jaredite king

Noah – wicked Nephite king; son of Zeniff

Also, Corihor/Korihor, Shiblom/Shiblon, Coriantum/Corianton



# NEPHITE MIGRATIONS IN OMNI

**Land of Nephi**

**Land of Zarahemla**

1

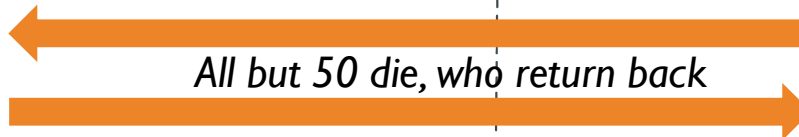
**Nephites**

Led by Mosiah



*Not all Nephites migrated*

2



*All but 50 die, who return back*

**Nephites**

Led by ??

3

**???**



*Left and not heard from again*

**Nephites**

Led by Zeniff?

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# END OF THE SMALL PLATES – COME TO CHRIST

43 And it came to pass that I began to be old; And having no seed and knowing King Benjamin to be a just man before the Lord, Wherefore, I shall deliver up these plates unto him, **Exhorting all men to come unto God, the Holy One of Israel,**

44 And believe in prophesying, and in revelations, and in the ministering of angels, and in the gift of speaking with tongues, and in the gift of interpreting languages, and in all things which are good;

45 For there is nothing which is good, save it comes from the Lord, And that which is evil cometh from the devil.

46 And now my beloved brethren, I would that ye should **come unto Christ**, which is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of His salvation and the power of His redemption;

47 Yea, **come unto Him**, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto Him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; And as the Lord liveth, ye will be saved.

***Omni 1:43-47***



# Appendix