
THE BOOK OF
MORMON
=
THE KEYSTONE

OMNI

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**The
Book of Mormon**



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

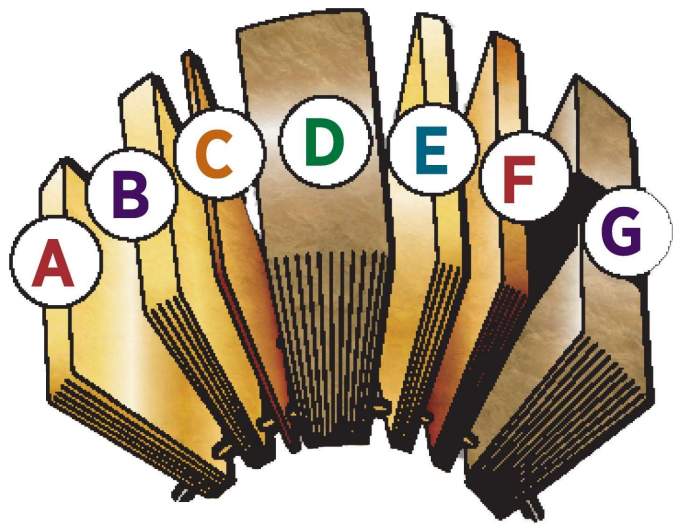
Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



Land of
Zarahemla

City of
Nephi

THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE PLATES



- A – Lost abridgement

Last Of

- B – Small plates of Nephi (unabridged)

- C – Words of Mormon

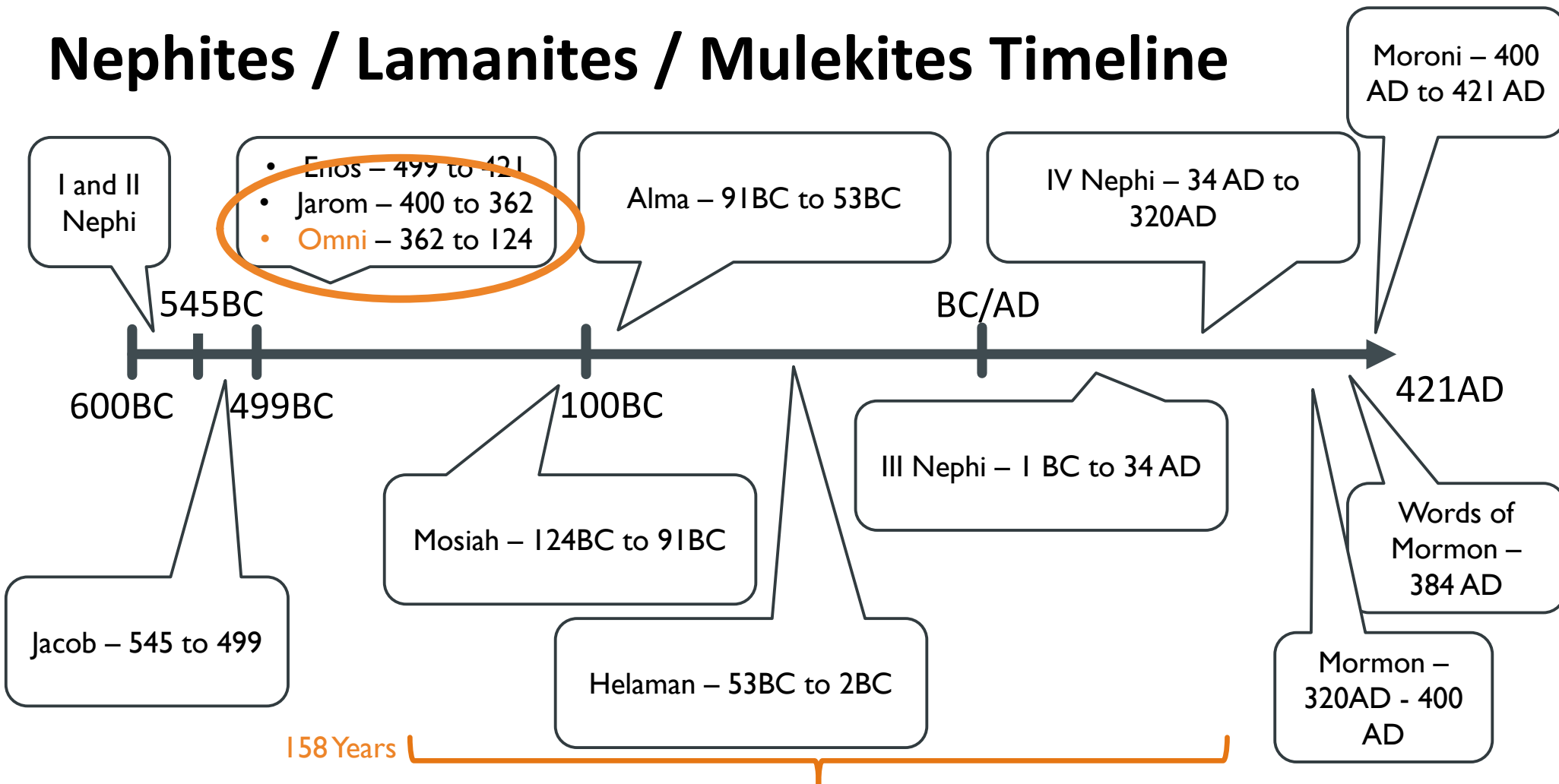
- D – Large plates of Nephi (abridged)

- 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

AUTHORS

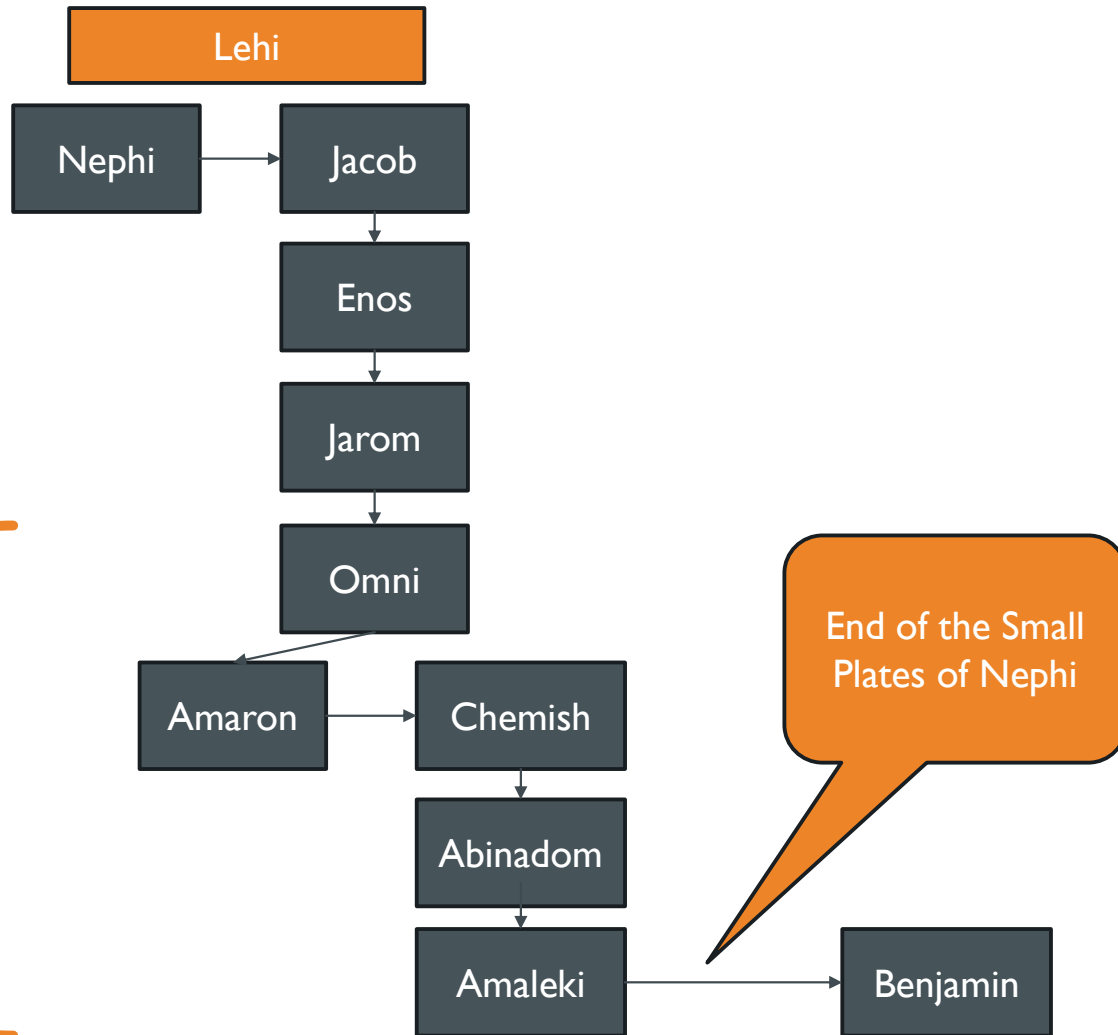
Verses Authored:

■ 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.



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.

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*

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.

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

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

Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)

LEGEND

- Book of Mormon Names
- Archeological Site Names (light)
- Current Place Names (bold)
- Olmec Heartland Area (Jaredite)
- Maya Area (Lamanite/Nephite/Mulekite)

MEXICO

LAND NORTHWARD

Teotihuacan
Mexico City
Cacaxtla
pre-Olmec People
Acapulco
Monte Albán
Oaxaca
Mitla
pre-Olmec People

LAND DESOLATION

Tres Zapotes
Great City by the Narrow Neck
San Lorenzo Tenochtitlán
La Venta
pre-Olmec People
Olmec Heartland after 2,000 B.C.
Coatzacoalcas River (poisonous serpents)

LAND BOUNTIFUL

Villahermosa
Grijalva River
Palenque
Toniná
Piedras Negras
Yaxchilán
Bonampak
Dos Pilas
Altar de Sacrificios
Seibal
Aguateca

LAND OF ZARAHEMLA

Sidon River
Usamacinta River
Uaxactun
El Peru
Tikal
Naranjo
Yaxha
Corcorán
MAYA LOWLANDS

LAND SOUTHWARD

Guatemala City
City of Nephi
Kaminaljuyu
MAYA HIGHLANDS

LAND LEHI NEPHI

Quirigua

Yucatan Peninsula

Merida
Cancun
Chichen Itza
Uxmal
Coba
Campeche
Edzná
Becan
Chetumal
Santa Rita
Nohmul
Lamanai
Rio Azul

SEA NORTH
GULF OF MEXICO

SEA WEST
PACIFIC OCEAN

SEA SOUTH

SEA EAST
CARRIBEAN SEA

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

THE ISTHMUS OF TEHUANTEPEC

THE HIGH RIDGE OF MOUNTAINS

The high ridge of mountains running from the east sea to the west, on the north side of the Motagua River was the

THE MAYA RUINS OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF KAMINALJUYU

The Maya ruins of the ancient city of Kaminaljuyu has been swallowed up by Guatemala City. It was the largest Maya city in the highlands beginning about 600 B.C. through the time of Christ. It fits the description of the city of Nephi. Although we have little history in The Book of Mormon about the Lamanite culture, it appears they were not city builders.

THE JAREDITE PEOPLE

According to archaeological evidence, there were pre-Olmec people scattered all over the Land Northward beginning as early as 3000 B.C. They had domesticated crops and pottery. We know them as the early Jaredite culture. Archaeologists call them pre-Olmec because not enough archaeological evidence has been found from those early dates to identify them as a culture. Starting about 2000 B.C. the archaeologists recognize the people in the area as the Olmec. This change from pre-Olmec to Olmec took place just after the great dearth indicated in the book of Ether, about 2000 B.C. Shortly after the dearth the Jaredites prospered greatly and built a great city by the "narrow neck of land."

THE MAYA LOWLANDS

Over the years, archaeologists have identified more than 10,000 Maya cities or towns. LIDAR technology has recently identified thousands more. Now population estimates are up to 20 million. This confirms "...the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea" (Mormon 1:87). No where else in the Americas is this even faintly possible.

THE MAYA HIGHLANDS

Probable Mulekite Landing

THE MAYA LOWLANDS

Probable Nephite Landing

0 mi 100 mi 200 mi 300 mi 400 mi

Lyke L. Smith and Aaron Prester

Motagua River was the

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”

THE PEOPLE OF ZARAHEMPLA

- 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



THE PEOPLE OF ZARAHMLA - 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

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

MOSIAH I

- All we know about him is from Amaleki's writings
- 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)