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THE BOOK OF  
MORMON  
=  
THE KEYSTONE  
**WORDS OF  
MORMON**

Elder Eric English  
November 2023

**The  
Book of Mormon**



**The  
Keystone  
of Our  
Religion**

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## Summary

- 1 chapters; 27 verses
- Comments from Mormon as abridging Nephite history
- Covers < 1 year (~384AD)
- 0.3% of the BoM
- Takes place near Hill Cumorah
- Written by Mormon

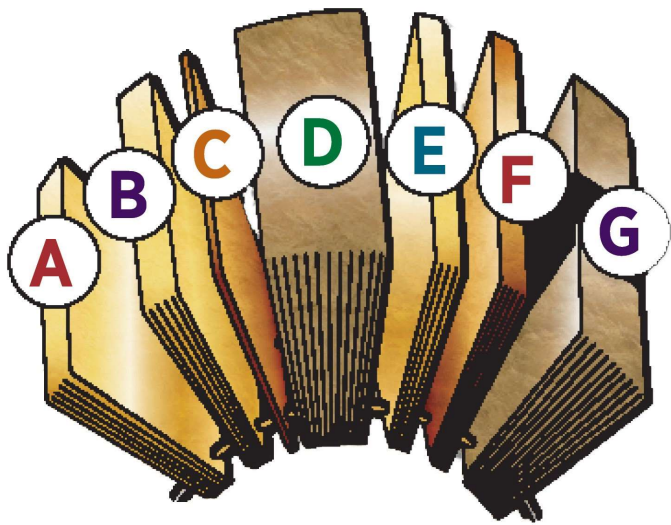
# Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)



Hill  
Cumorah

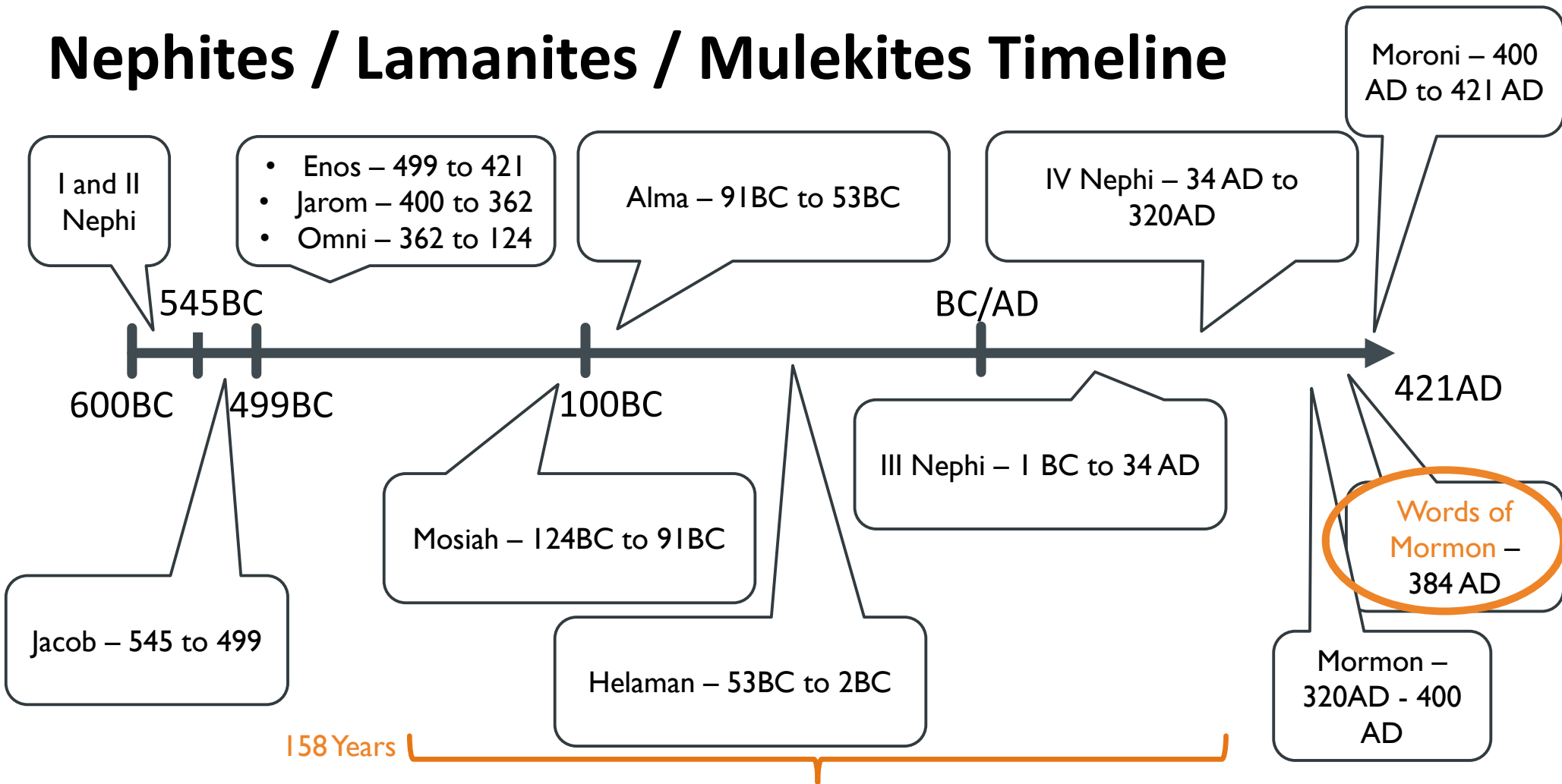
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# THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE PLATES



- 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 WORDS OF MORMON

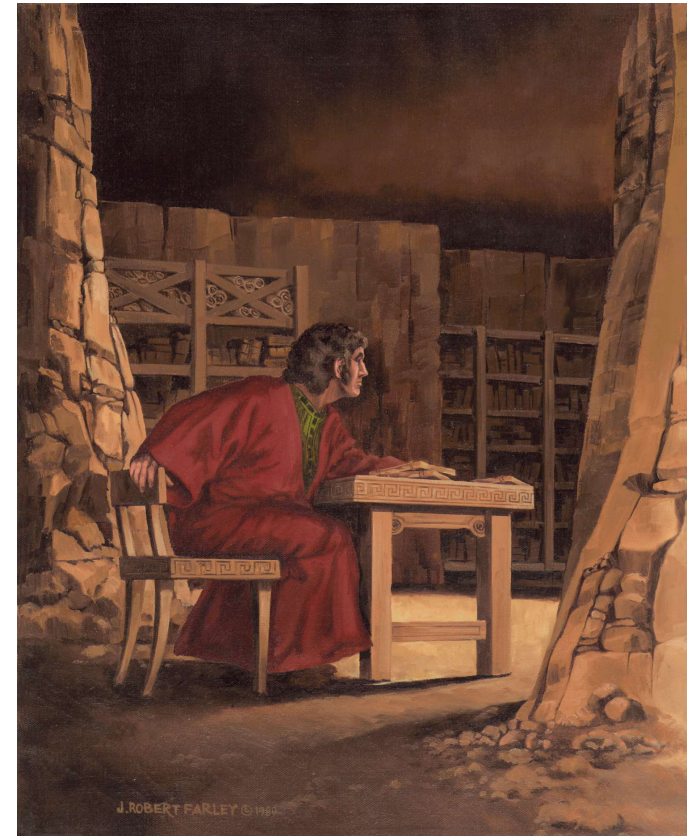
- The Purpose Principle
- Explanation of the records combined together to form the final plates -> Book of Mormon
- Nephite final destruction is imminent
- Inkling of what was in Lost Translation
- Mormon's desire for the Lamanites
- Events during King Benjamin's reign

# MORMON

4 And now I speak somewhat concerning that which I have written, For after that I had made an abridgment from the plates of Nephi down to the reign of this King Benjamin of which Amaleki spake,

5 I searched among the records which had been delivered into my hands, And I found these plates which contained this small account of the prophets from Jacob down to the reign of this King Benjamin, and also many of the words of Nephi.

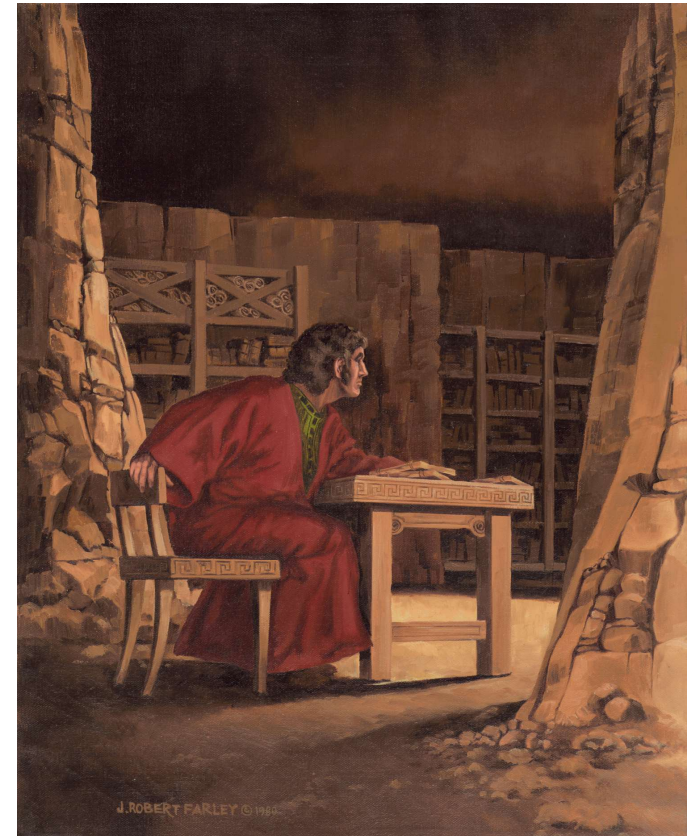
6 And the things which are upon these plates pleasing me because of the prophecies of the coming of Christ....



## MORMON (CONT.)

8 Wherefore, I chose these things to finish my record upon them, which remainder of my record I shall take from the plates of Nephi; And I cannot write a hundredth part of the things of my people.

9 But behold, I shall take these plates which contain these prophesyings and revelations and put them with the remainder of my record, For they are choice unto me and I know they will be choice unto my brethren;



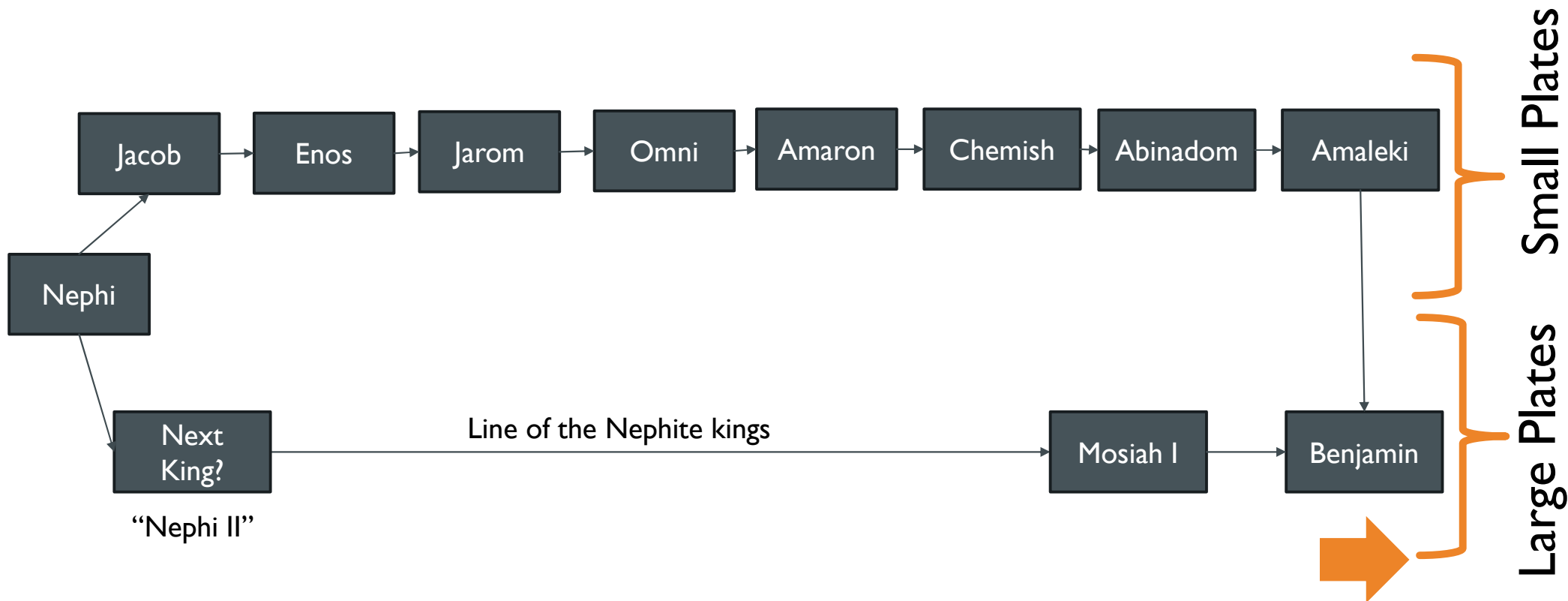
Small Plates



Large Plates

# PLATES

Plates kept together from Benjamin forward until Mormon





# THE PURPOSE PRINCIPLE

WHAT'S IN THE  
BOOK OF  
MORMON IS  
THERE ON  
PURPOSE

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# The Purpose Principle

- **What's in the book is there for a purpose**
  - How do we know? Because the major writers told us so (Nephi, Mormon, Moroni)
- Important to always ask the question when studying the BoM – **why is this included?**
- “Written by way of commandment, And also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation” ~ Moroni, Title Page

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## The Purpose Principle

10 And I do this for a wise purpose, For thus it whispereth me according to the workings of the Spirit of the Lord which is in me.

11 And now I do not know all things, but the Lord knoweth all things which are to come, Wherefore, He worketh in me to do according to His will;

13 And now I, Mormon, proceed to finish out my record which I take from the plates of Nephi, And I make it according to the knowledge and the understanding which God hath given me.

# Divine Control over the BoM Content

Writer	Instruction	Subject	Reference
Nephi	Leave out	“the remainder of the things which I saw”	I Nephi 3:252
Nephi	Put in	“the ministry, and the prophecies, the more plain and precious parts of them”	I Nephi 5:223
Mormon	Put in	The small plates of Nephi	Words of Mormon 1:9-10
Mormon	Put in	“the things which have been commanded me of the Lord”	III Nephi 12:5
Mormon	Leave out	The rest of the words of Jesus	III Nephi 12:5
Moroni	Put in	The sealed portion	Ether 1:98
Moroni	Put in	“the words which were commanded me, according to my memory”	Ether 2:1
Moroni	Put in	Information about the secret combinations	Ether 3:80-102
Moroni	Leave out	The rest of the prophecies of Ether	Ether 6:14

\* Recent Book of Mormon Developments, Volume 2 pg 172

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# PLATES

King  
Benjamin

Handed down through  
many generations

Mormon

# KING BENJAMIN

(VRS 18-27)



- Had to deal with internal contentions
- Fought against the Lamanites, with the sword of Laban
- Drove the Lamanites out of the land of Zarahemla
- False christs, prophets, preachers
- King Benjamin was a holy man
- Established peace in the land

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## HINTS AT WHAT WAS LOST

- Book of Lehi – could have included Lehi's writing or more likely an account by Nephi of Lehi's experiences including what Nephi told us he DID NOT write about in the small plates
- Lehi exodus at Passover?
- Lehi's tabernacle in the wilderness?
- Lineage of the 'tribes of Lehi' – Laban, Ishmael, Zoram?
- Nephi's temple?
- Aminadi – Alma 8:1-3
- More of the lost middle era – Mosiah, Benjamin



# 1830 EDITION PREFACE

- Joseph described the 116 pages which had been lost and at least a passing reference that it had included the Book of Lehi, abridged by Mormon

## ***PREFACE.***

### TO THE READER—

As many false reports have been circulated respecting the following work, and also many unlawful measures taken by evil designing persons to destroy me, and also the work, I would inform you that I translated, by the gift and power of God, and caused to be written, one hundred and sixteen pages, the which I took from the Book of Lehi, which was an account abridged from the plates of Lehi, by the hand of Mormon; which said

account, some person or persons have stolen and kept from me, notwithstanding my utmost exertions to recover it again—and being commanded of the Lord that I should not translate the same over again, for Satan had put it into their hearts to tempt the Lord their God, by altering the words, that they did read contrary from that which I translated and caused to be written; and if I should bring forth the same words again, or, in other words, if I should translate the same over again, they would publish that which they had stolen, and Satan would stir up the hearts of this generation, that they might not receive this work: but behold, the Lord said unto me, I will not suffer that Satan shall accomplish his evil design in this thing: therefore thou shalt translate from the plates of Nephi, until ye come to that which ye have translated, which ye have retained; and

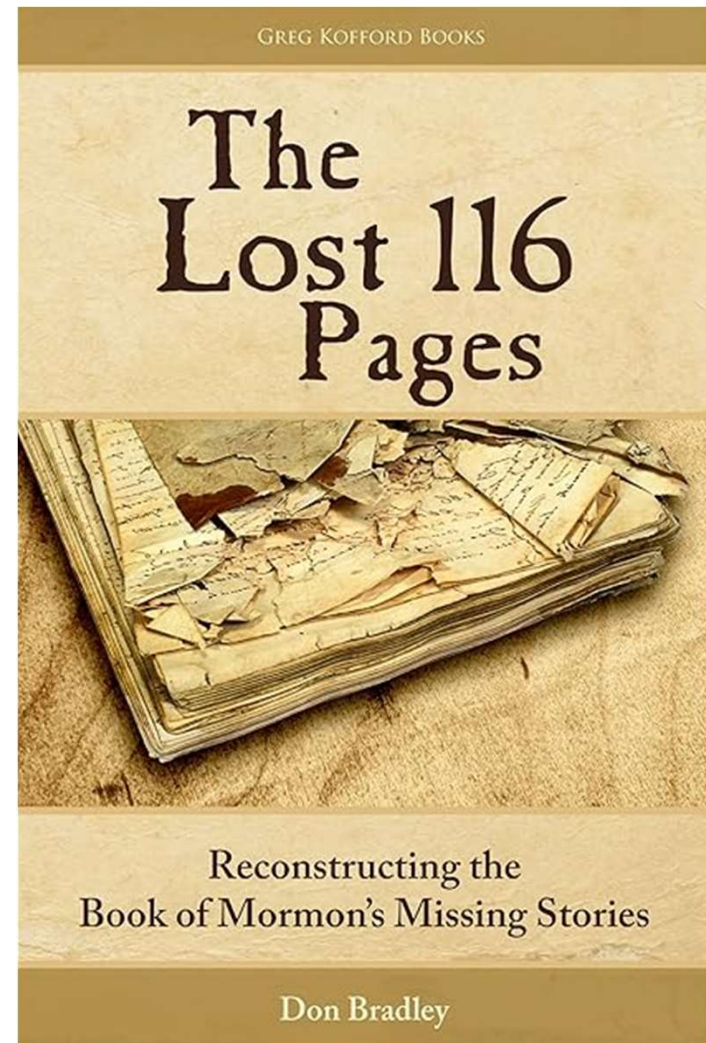
behold ye shall publish it as the record of Nephi; and thus I will confound those who have altered my words. I will not suffer that they shall destroy my work; yea, I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the Devil. Wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, I have, through his grace and mercy, accomplished that which he hath commanded me respecting this thing. I would also inform you that the plates of which hath been spoken, were found in the township of Manchester, Ontario county, New-York.

THE AUTHOR.

The Book of Lehi was part of the lost 116 pages

# THE LOST 116 PAGES

- By: Don Bradley
- Speculation and theories regarding what might have been list
- Not an endorsement, but interesting ideas to think about and consider





# Appendix

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THE BOOK OF  
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THE KEYSTONE

**MOSIAH**

Elder Eric English  
December 2023

## **The Book of Mormon**



**The  
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## Summary

- 13 chapters; 1072 verses
- Abridged account of King Benjamin and Mosiah II reigns, institution of system of the judges
- Covers 33 years (~124BC – 91BC)
- 12.3% of the BoM
- Takes place primarily in the Land of Zarahemla with expedition in Land of Nephi
- Written by Mormon

# Peoples of Mesoamerica (Book of Mormon Lands)

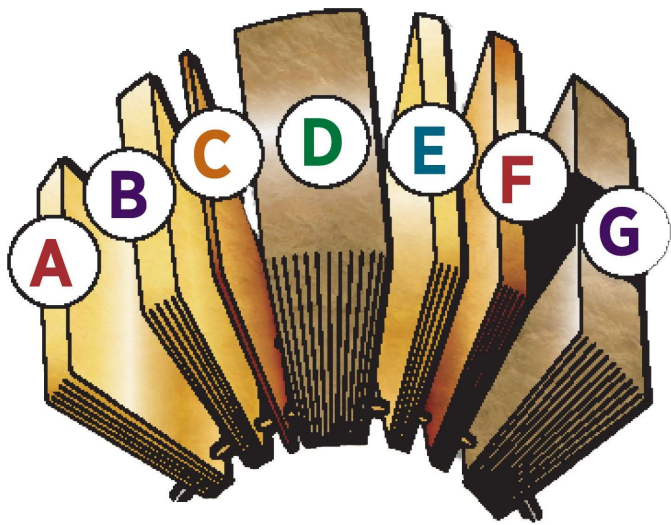


Land of Zarahemla

City of Nephi

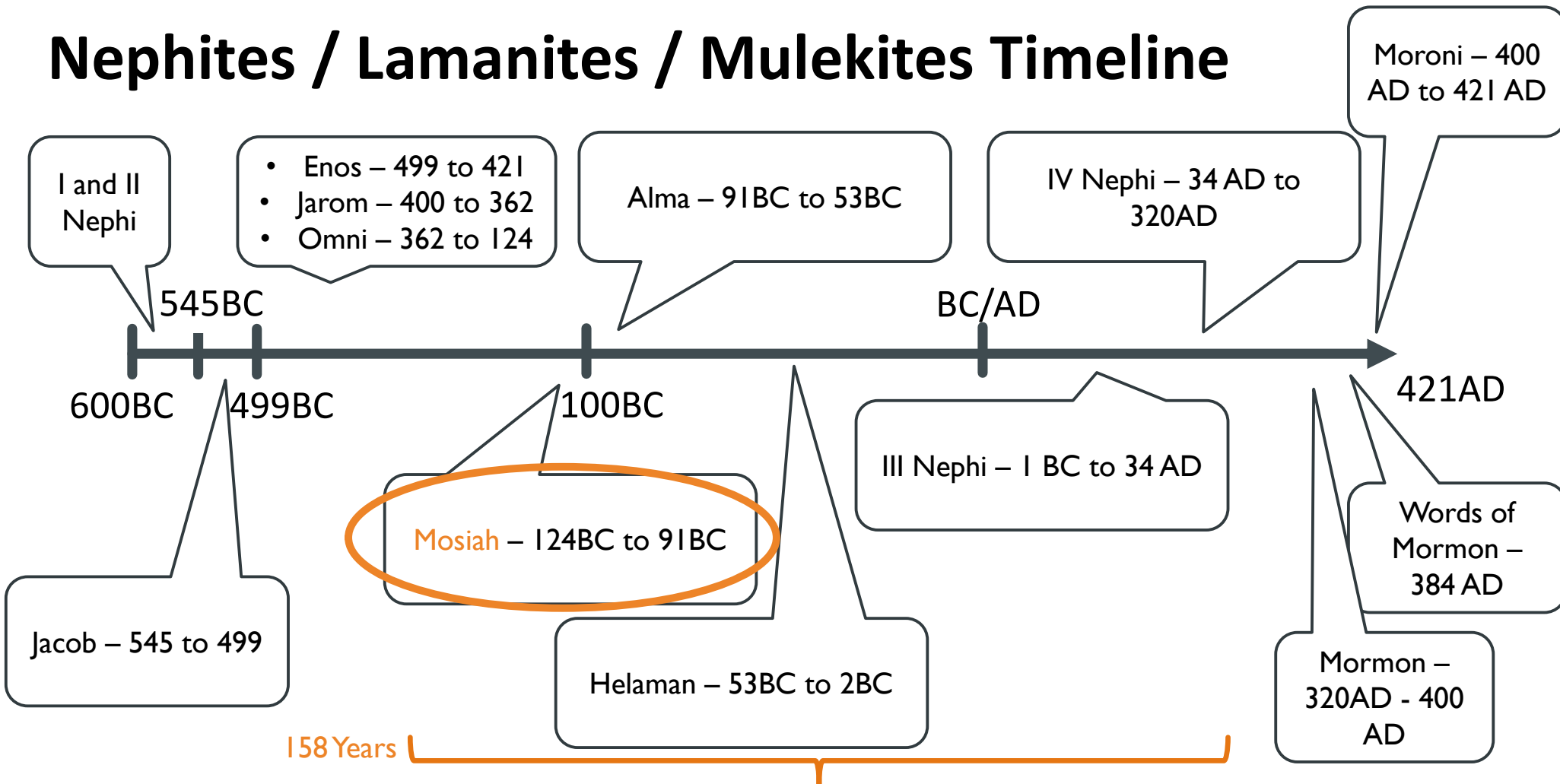
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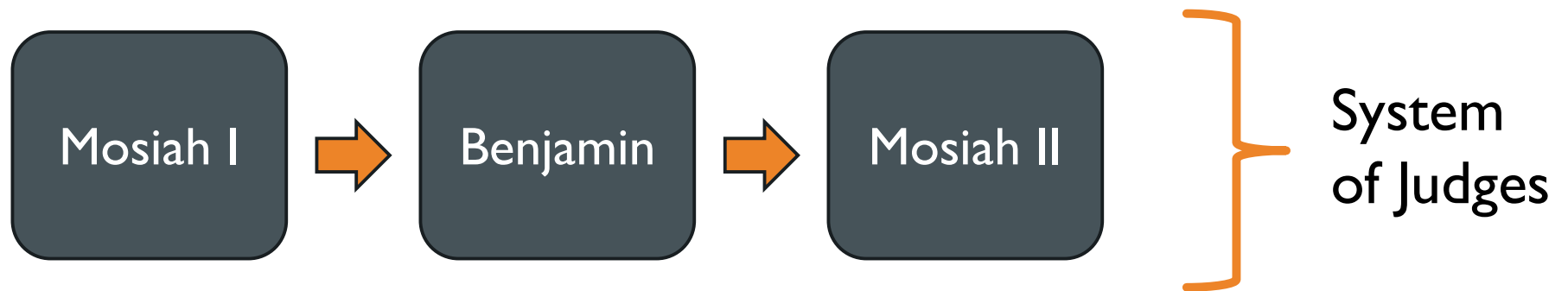


## LESSONS FROM MOSIAH

- Continuation of Words of Mormon and King Benjamin's reign
- Benjamin appoints Mosiah II
- King Benjamin's famous speech (Ch 1-4)
- Discover what happened to Zeniff's group that left (Ch 5)
- Flashback (Ch 6-9) ; Parallel timeline occurring in Land of Nephi
- Escape to return to Zarahemla (Ch 10)
- Alma and the church escape to Zarahemla (Ch 11)
- Alma Jr and the Sons of Mosiah conversion
- Great missionary efforts (Ch 12)
- Shift to system of Judges (Ch 13)

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## NEPHITES: REIGN OF THE KINGS

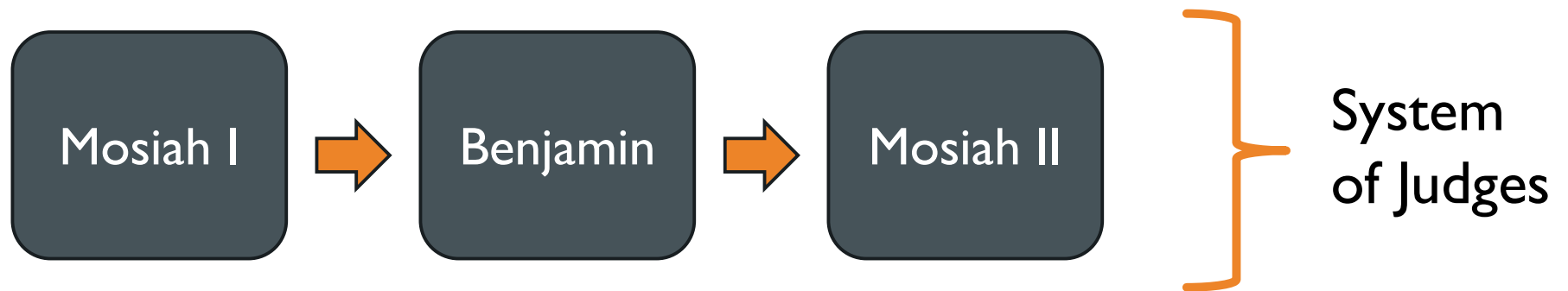


REIGN OF THE KINGS (570 BC to 91 BC) - 2 Nephi 4:27 to Mosiah 12:14

- From King Nephi in 570 BC to King Mosiah 2 in 91 BC.
- Last three kings: Mosiah I, Benjamin, Mosiah 2, then reign of the Judges.

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## NEPHITES: REIGN OF THE JUDGES

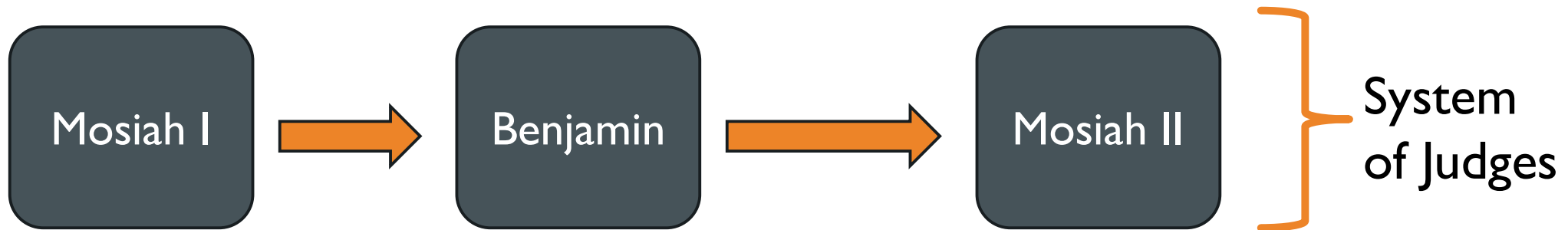


REIGN OF THE JUDGES (begins in 91 BC) - Mosiah 12:14–13:68

- 1 Nephi 3:4 – Messiah would come 600 years from time Lehi left Jerusalem.
- Mosiah 13:67 – King Mosiah 2 died 509 years from time Lehi left Jerusalem.

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## THE LAST 3 NEPHITE KINGS



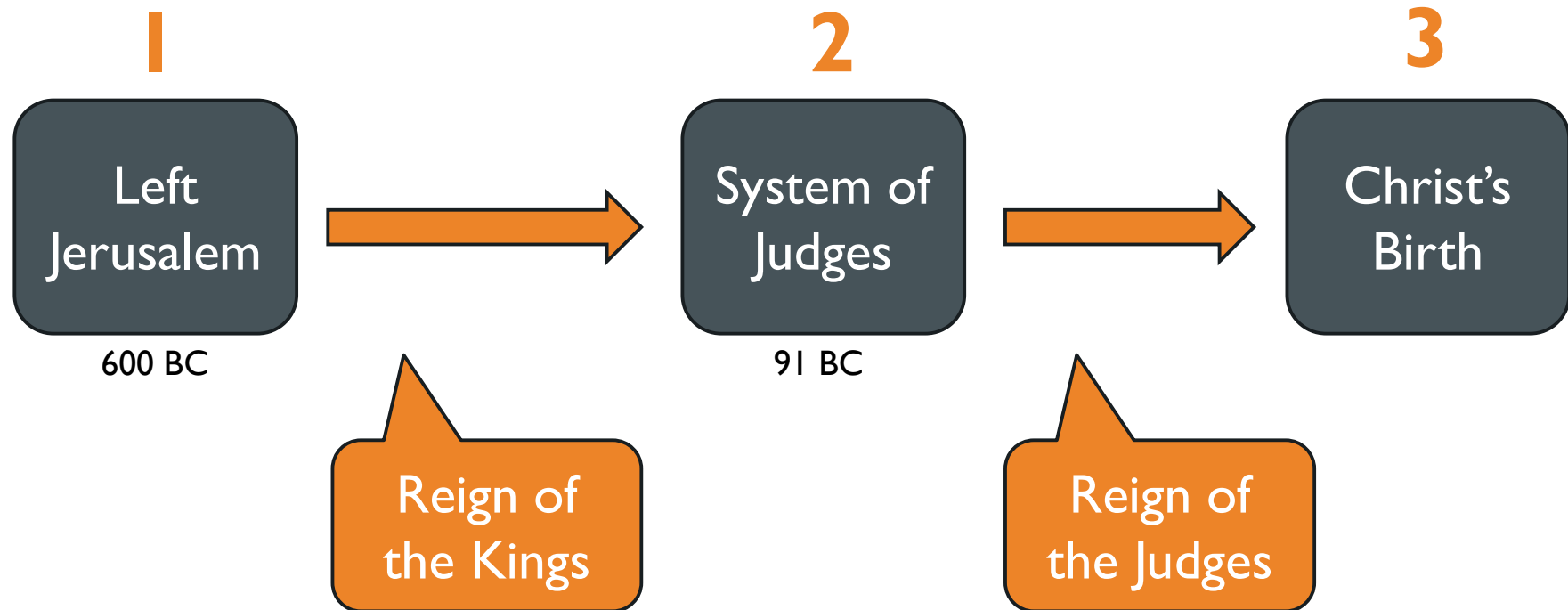
The only existing record of this king is 22 verses found in the “Amaleki section” of the book of Omni (Omni 1:19-40).

- First introduction to this king is in Omni 1:40.
- Most of what we know about him is in: Omni 1:40-43, Words of Mormon 1:15-27, Mosiah 1-3
- Benjamin passed away in Mosiah 4:7

- Begins to reign in Mosiah 4:5.
- Last of the Nephite kings
- With his death in Mosiah 13:67 the Reign of the Judges begins in 91 BC

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# KEEPING TIME – 3 CALENDAR RECKONINGS



## TIMELINES IN 3 LANDS

Dates (BC)	Nephite Kings in Zarahemla	Zeniff's Colony in Land of Nephi	Lamanite Kings in Land of Nephi
200 – 180	Mosiah I	Zeniff (self made king)	Laman
150	Benjamin	Noah (king) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abinadi</li><li>• Alma I</li></ul>	Laman II
124	Mosiah II	Limhi (king) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alma I (prophet)</li></ul>	Laman II <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amulon (priest of Noah)</li></ul>

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# THE SONS OF BENJAMIN

1. Mosiah II

2. Helorum

3. Helaman

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# THE SONS OF BENJAMIN – THEIR TEACHING

- Language
- Plates of Brass

## Remember:

- Plates helped avoid ignorance, understand God's mysteries, and remember His commands (1:4)
- God's sayings and the records are true (1:9)
- Search God's messages (1:11)