

**WHAT IS THE BOOK OF
MORMON?**

**THE BOOK OF MORMON IS NOT
A SINGLE RECORD FROM THE
PEOPLE OF THIS LAND.**

**IT IS AN ABRIDGEMENT;
A COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL
INFORMATION FROM MANY
DIFFERENT AUTHORS, FILTERED
THROUGH THE EDITORIAL LENS
OF TWO COMPILING EDITORS;
MORMON AND MORONI**

**THE BOOK OF MORMON IS NOT
A RECORD OF ONE CULTURE.**

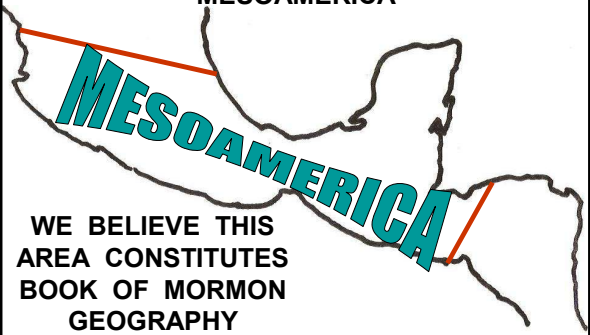
**IT IS A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW
OF THREE DIFFERENT CULTURES
FROM TWO DIFFERENT TIME
PERIODS. THE JAREDITES WHO
ARRIVED IN THE AMERICAS AT
ABOUT 2200 BC, THE NEPHITES
AT ABOUT 591 BC, AND THE
MULEKITES AT ABOUT 586 BC.**

**UNDERSTAND THAT THE
MULEKITES DEVELOPED
SEPARATELY FROM THE
NEPHITES FOR THE FIRST 300
YEARS THAT THEY WERE IN THE
AMERICAS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL
MOSIAH VENTURED OUT OF THE
CITY OF NEPHI THAT THE
NEPHITES THEN MERGED WITH
THE MULEKITES.**

**AND, ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT
THE BOOK OF MORMON IS
WRITTEN FROM THE NEPHITE
PERSPECTIVE.**
**THE JAREDITE PERSPECTIVE, THE
LAMANITE PERSPECTIVE AND
THE MULEKITE PERSPECTIVE
WILL ALL VARY. WHO IS A
HERO TO THE NEPHITES MOST
LIKELY IS NOT A HERO TO THE
LAMANITES.**

ALL OF THIS PROVIDES A CONTEXT FOR THE CULTURES WE EXPECT TO FIND WHILE WE LOOK FOR THE ANCIENT CULTURE OF THE NEPHITES.

BELOW IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA KNOWN AS: "MESOAMERICA"



WE BELIEVE THIS AREA CONSTITUTES BOOK OF MORMON GEOGRAPHY

IN SEARCHING FOR THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON, SEVERAL ASPECTS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

HERE ARE SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS

THE BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIBES A CULTURE THAT IS VERY HIGHLY DEVELOPED.

MESOAMERICA HAS THE MAYA CULTURE WHICH WAS VERY HIGHLY DEVELOPED.

THE BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIBES A VERY COMPLEX ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE WITH KINGS, HIGH PRIESTS AND JUDGES.

THE MAYA CULTURE OF MESOAMERICA HAS KINGS, INDIVIDUALS FUNCTIONING AS SACRED LEADERS, AND THEY HAD JUDGES.

THE BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIBES A CULTURE WITH A HIGHLY DEVELOPED CURRENCY AND COMPLEX EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

THE MAYA HAD A COMPLEX WEIGHT AND EXCHANGE SYSTEM ESTABLISHED ON CORN.

THE BOOK OF MORMON IS STRANGELY SILENT CONCERNING EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS. THERE IS NO MENTION OF ICE, SNOW, OR DEALING WITH INCLIMATE WEATHER. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO SNOW IS A SIMILI WHERE THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE WAS "AS WHITE AS THE DRIVEN SNOW."

THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE NOT PRESENT, BUT IT DOES LEND ITSELF TO BEING IN A MODERATE CLIMATE ZONE AS OPPOSED TO A MORE NORTHERN LOCATION SUCH AS MOST OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE BOOK OF MORMON CULTURE IS MULTI-FACETED; THERE ARE COUNTLESS WARS BETWEEN TWO OPPOSING FORCES; TWO OPPOSING ASPECTS WITHIN A SINGLE SOCIETY.

THE MAYA ARE PRESENTLY SEEN AS MULTIPLE CITY-STATES DUE TO THE NUMBERLESS RECORDED WARS AND STRUGGLES

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE MAYA ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO BASIC TYPES; THE HIGHLAND MAYA AND THE LOWLAND MAYA. WE BELIEVE THAT IN PRE-CLASSIC TIMES THE LOWLAND MAYA WERE THE MULEKITES. LATER, THE LOWLAND MAYA BECAME WHAT WE KNOW AS THE NEPHITES ONCE MOSIAH'S PEOPLE MINGLED WITH THE MULEKITES.

THIS TRANSLATES AS THE FOLLOWING:

THE MULEKITES ARE THE LOWLAND MAYA
 THE LAMANITES ARE THE SOUTHERN HIGHLAND MAYA.
 THE NEPHITES ARE THE NORTHERN HIGHLAND MAYA UNTIL THEY MERGE WITH THE MULEKITES AND BECOME LOWLAND MAYA ALSO.



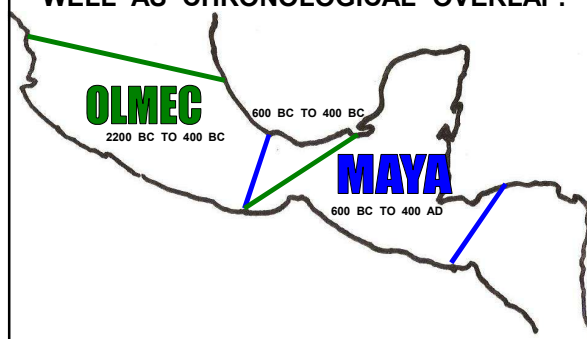
THE BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIBES A LARGE AND SUCCESSFUL CULTURE NAMED THE JAREDITES THAT PRECEDED THE NEPHITES.

PRIOR TO THE MAYA, THE OLMEC WAS THE HIGH CULTURE OF THE MESOAMERICAN REGION.

THERE IS VERY LITTLE SOCIAL INTERACTION BETWEEN THE JAREDITE AND NEPHITE CULTURES; CORIANTUMR IS THE ONLY KNOWN OVERLAP BETWEEN THE TWO.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS KNOW THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE OLMEC AND THE MAYA; ALTHOUGH THE MAYA DID RE-ESTABLISH MANY OF THE OLMEC CITIES ALONG THE GULF OF MEXICO.

NOTE THAT THE MAYA AND THE OLMEC HAVE VERY LITTLE GEOGRAPHICAL AS WELL AS CHRONOLOGICAL OVERLAP.



THE BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIBES A CULTURE THAT WRITES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES; REFORMED EGYPTIAN AND HEBREW ARE NAMED.

SIMILAR TO THE EGYPTIANS, THE MAYA USED HIEROGLYPHS. IT CAN ALSO BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY HAD ACCESS TO HEBREW SCRIPTURE CONCEPTS.

THE BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIBES A CULTURE THAT BUILDS TEMPLES AND HAS CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENTS WORKING IN CONCERT WITH THEIR SACRED LEADERS.

THE MAYA WERE CLEARLY TEMPLE BUILDERS AND PLACED THEIR GOVERNMENT IN THE MIDST OF THEIR SACRED CENTERS.

ONE OF THE STRONGEST ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE MAYA BEING THE BOOK OF MORMON CULTURE IS THE ISSUE OF THE DATES ASSIGNED TO THE CULTURE.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE MAYAN CLASSICAL PERIOD IS THE GOLDEN AGE IN THE BOOK OF MORMON.

THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANY CULTURE OCCURS WHEN THE PEOPLE ARE UNIFIED AND HAVE A CLEAR VISION OF THEIR PURPOSE. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MAYA OCCURRED BETWEEN 50 AND 300 AD, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE GOLDEN AGE.

BUT, THE DATES ASSIGNED TO THE MAYAN CLASSICAL PERIOD RUN FROM 600 TO 900 AD.

THIS IS APPROXIMATELY 500 YEARS LATER THAN THE BOOK OF MORMON GOLDEN AGE.

ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE MEANS WE MUST EXAMINE ALL OF THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE.

**WE WILL CONSIDER TWO CATEGORIES OF THIS EVIDENCE:
JAREDITE DATES
AND
MULEKITE/NEPHITE DATES**

GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE JAREDITE DATES FIT WITH THE MESOAMERICAN OLMEC CULTURE.

MANY EARLIER STUDIES STATE THAT THE OLMEC CULTURE RAN FROM 1800 TO 400 BC.

BUT NOW THOSE DATES HAVE CHANGED.

IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT THE OLMEC CULTURE RAN FROM 2200 TO 400 BC.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE BOOK OF MORMON TIMELINE.

IT SEEMS THAT MOST OF THE BOOK OF MORMON EVENTS OCCURRING IN BC DATES DO COINCIDE WITH MAYA EVENTS. IT IS THE AD DATES THAT ARE CONSISTANTLY OFF. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE TIME GAP COINCIDES WITH THE ADVENT OF CHRIST.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS MERELY COINCIDENCE.

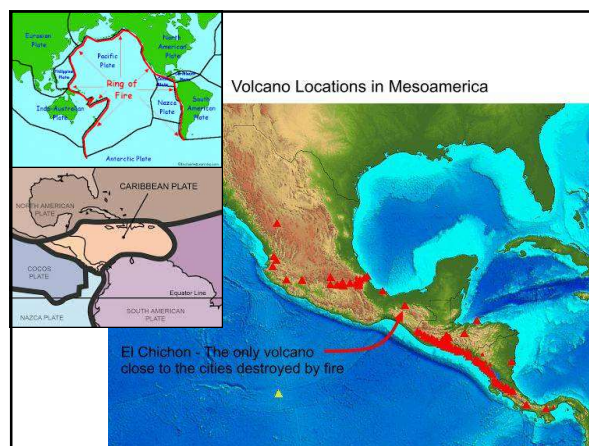
IT IS AT 34 AD THAT THE BOOK OF MORMON RECORDS MASSIVE DESTRUCTION JUST PRIOR TO CHRIST APPEARING IN THE AMERICAS.

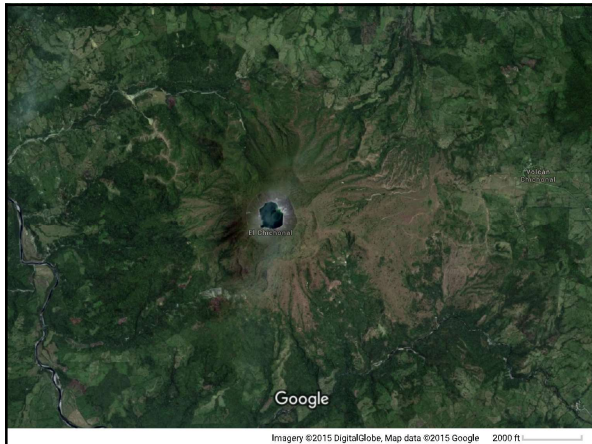
IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE HOW ALL OF THE RECORDED DISASTER EVENTS CAN BE EXPLAINED BY ONE CAUSE:

A SHIFT OF THE TECTONIC PLATES RESULTING IN EARTHQUAKES AND CAUSING A CATAclySMIC VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

THE REDISTRIBUTION OF MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS;
THE ATMOSPHERIC BLOCKING OF THE SUN;
THE RELEASE OF WATERS FROM THE DEEP;
FIRE FALLING FROM THE SKY;
AIR SO THICK THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO START A FIRE;

ALL OF THIS IS CLEARLY POSSIBLE IN MESOAMERICA BECAUSE THE REGION SITS ON TOP OF FAULT-LINES FROM FOUR TECTONIC PLATES; PACIFIC, CARIBBEAN, NORTH AMERICAN, AND COCOS. THE VOLCANOES THROUGHOUT THE REGION TESTIFY TO ITS VOLATILITY.





WE BELIEVE THAT A “RADIOACTIVE VOLCANO” ERUPTED DURING THIS DESTRUCTION EVENT AND DISRUPTED THE C-14 TIMELINE.

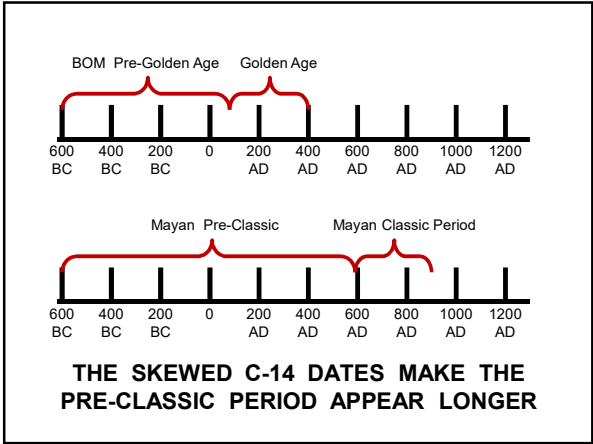
WE MUST STRESS THAT THIS IS SPECULATIVE THEORY, BUT IT IS ALSO FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE.

IF A “RADIOACTIVE VOLCANO” ERUPTED DURING THIS TIME, THEN IT WOULD HAVE INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVITY FOUND IN ORGANIC MATERIALS THAT WERE EXPOSED TO THE EVENT.

THIS INCREASE IN RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES WOULD THEN SKEW THE C-14 DATING SCALE.

THE MATERIALS WILL TEST “YOUNGER” SO THAT ORGANIC MATERIAL DATES AT 600 AD INSTEAD OF 100 AD

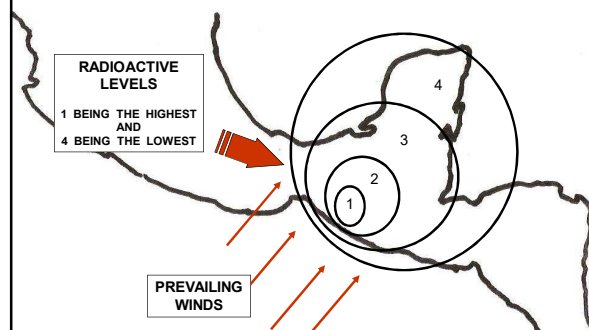
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE FIND IN THE DATING ISSUES CONCERNING MESOAMERICA. THE PRE-CLASSIC PERIOD IS EXCEPTIONALLY LONG, THEN SUDDENLY THERE IS AN EXPLOSION OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT RESULT IN THE CLASSICAL PERIOD.



MAYAN EVENT DATES AFTER THE TIME OF CHRIST VARY 500 – 800 YEARS LATER THAN BOOK OF MORMON EVENTS.

SO, IF THERE WAS AN ALTERATION IN RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASSICAL PERIOD, IT WOULD MAKE THE PRE-CLASSIC PERIOD APPEAR LONGER.

MESOAMERICA AND THE POSSIBLE AREAS AND INTENSITIES OF RADIATION LEVELS



THEREFORE, WE DO NOT FEEL CONSTRAINED BY THE AD C-14 DATES ASSIGNED TO MAYAN EVENTS FOR OUR STUDIES.

THE CARBON-14 DATING MECHANISM IS NOT AN ACCURATE MEASUREMENT WHEN THE RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES HAVE BEEN SKEWED.

RATHER, WE USE HISTORICAL FIGURES AND EVENTS IN OUR EFFORTS TO CORRELATE BOOK OF MORMON STORIES TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

AND THERE ARE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF THESE CORRELATIONS THAT SEEM TO VALIDATE OUR THEORY

WE APPROACH BOOK OF MORMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FROM THE ASPECT OF WHAT WE CALL TRENDS OR PATTERNS.

THAT IS TO SAY, WE LOOK FOR EVIDENCES OF SPECIFIC BOOK OF MORMON STORIES AND EVENTS.

BY DOING SO WE HAVE FOUND:
THE MOSIAH/MAYA MATRIX.

THIS MATRIX IS FOUNDED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MAJOR CHARACTERS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON ARE ALSO THE MAJOR CHARACTERS FOUND IN MESOAMERICA.

ALSO, THAT THE MAJOR CITIES MENTIONED IN THE BOOK OF MORMON ARE MAJOR CITIES FOUND IN MESOAMERICA.

IF THE BOOK OF MORMON IS TRUE, THEN WE EXPECT THAT THESE BOOK OF MORMON PEOPLE AND EVENTS WILL BE FOUND.

THE BOOK OF MORMON PROVIDES US WITH A LIST OF FOUR KINGS AT ZARAHENLA THAT END WITH A TRANSITION TO JUDGES.

THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THIS IS A UNIQUE PATTERN THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND IN MESOAMERICA.

WE DO NOT LOOK FOR EXACT NAME MATCHES. THE BOOK OF MORMON IS A TRANSLATED DOCUMENT. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO FIND NAMES AS THEY TEND TO CHANGE FROM LANGUAGE TO LANGUAGE. HOWEVER, PATTERNS OF NAMES SHOULD BE EMBEDDED IN THE TRANSLATION EVEN THOUGH NAMES MAY HAVE CHANGED.

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UNDERSTAND, WE RESPECT THE WORK BEING DONE BY MODERN ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND EPIGRAPHERS. THEY HAVE UNCOVERED REMARKABLE FINDS AND HAVE DEVELOPED VERY RELIABLE CONCEPTS THAT EXPLAIN SOME OF THE ANOMALIES THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED.

IN ALMOST ALL CASES WHERE WE DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN BOOK OF MORMON EVENTS WITH MESOAMERICAN HISTORY, WE BOW TO, AND RELY ON, THE WORK BEING DONE BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

OUR ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE BASED ON THE INSIGHTS THAT THE BOOK OF MORMON PROVIDES. THEREFORE, WE ADHERE TO THE BOOK OF MORMON TIMELINE BECAUSE TOO MANY OTHER PARALLELS ALIGN WHEN THE ASSIGNED DATING IS IGNORED.

A GOOD INVESTIGATOR UNDERSTANDS THAT IF THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE CORRELATES, THEN SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA ON THE TIME ASPECT.

IN THE CHAPTERS TO COME, WE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCES AS TO WHY CENTRAL AMERICA (MESOAMERICA) IS THE REGION, AND THE OLMEC AND MAYA ARE THE CULTURES DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF MORMON.

**Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc
Transforming Faith to Knowledge**

WHY IS MESOAMERICA WHERE THE BOOK OF MORMON TOOK PLACE?

By David B. Brown

