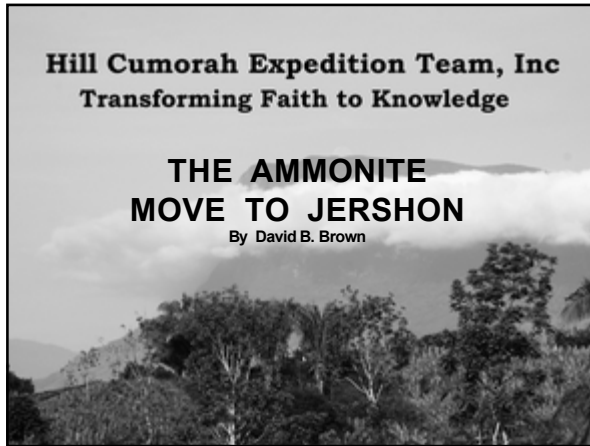


Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc
Transforming Faith to Knowledge

**THE AMMONITE
MOVE TO JERSHON**

By David B. Brown



IN THE BOOK OF MOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF ALMA WE READ THE EPIC STORY OF FOUR PRINCES OF ZARAHOMLA AND THE SON OF THE HIGH PRIEST WHO ARE SO TRANSFORMED BY THE VISITATION OF AN ANGEL, THAT THEY FORSAKE THEIR CLAIMS TO RULE OVER ZARAHOMLA AND TRAVEL INTO DANGEROUS LAMANITE TERRITORIES IN THE HOPE OF CONVERTING THE LAMANITES TO A BELIEF IN CHRIST.

THEY WALK IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY ARE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THE ROYALTY OF THE LAMANITE TERRITORY REVERSES THEIR BELIEF SYSTEM. FIRST THE CONVERSION OF KING LAMONI FOLLOWED BY THE CONVERSION OF HIS FATHER WHO IS KING OVER ALL OF THE LAMANITES.

THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE IS SO PROFOUND THAT NAMES ARE CHANGED AND LAMONI'S FATHER ESTABLISHES HIS SUCCESSOR WITH A NAME THAT ANNOUNCES THE CONVERSION; KING ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI. (NOT NEPHI-LEHITES) THEY NOW SEE THEMSELVES AS SONS OF AN INCREDIBLE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE THROUGH THEIR GRANDFATHER LEHI, JUST NOT THROUGH THE LINEAGE OF NEPHI. AND, THEY COMPLETELY DROP THEIR LINEAGE ASSIGNMENT TO LAMAN.

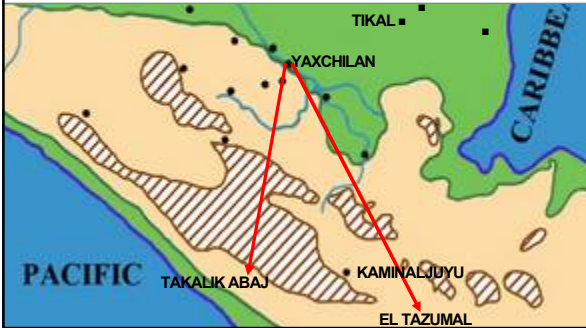
WITH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US THROUGH THE BOOK OF MORMON CONCERNING THIS REVERSAL OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF, CAN WE FIND EVIDENCE OF THESE SOCIAL UPHEAVALS IN THE MESOAMERICAN REGION?

ABSOLUTELY, WE DO. THIS PRESENTATION FOCUSES ON THE EVIDENCES OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE AMMONITES AND ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI.

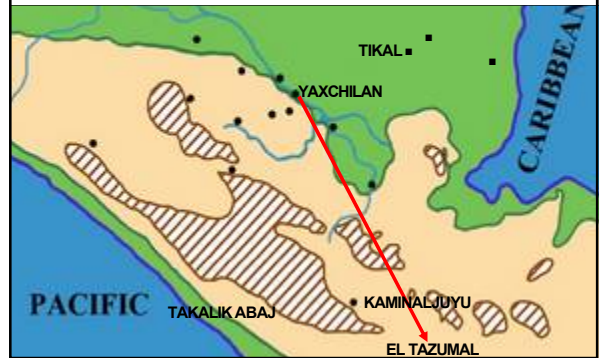
THE MISSIONARY OUTREACH OF THE SONS OF MOSIAH TOOK THEM FROM ZARAHOMLA (YAXCHILAN) SOUTH TO THE LAND OF LEHI-NEPHI (KAMINALJUYU)



AMMON WENT TO THE CITY OF ISHMAEL AND AARON WENT TO MIDDONI. OUR RESEARCH PLACES THESE AT EL TAZUMAL FOR AMMON AND TAKALIK ABAJ FOR AARON.



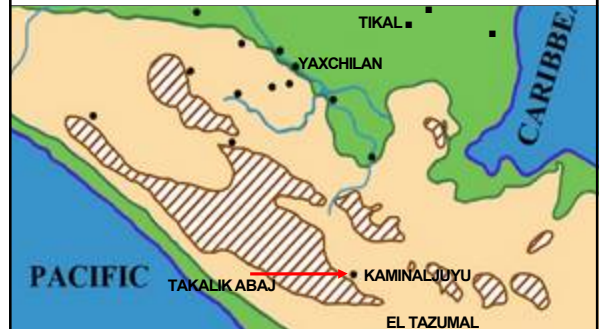
AMMON WAS THE FIRST TO SUCCEED IN CONVERTING THE VASSEL KING NAMED LAMONI.



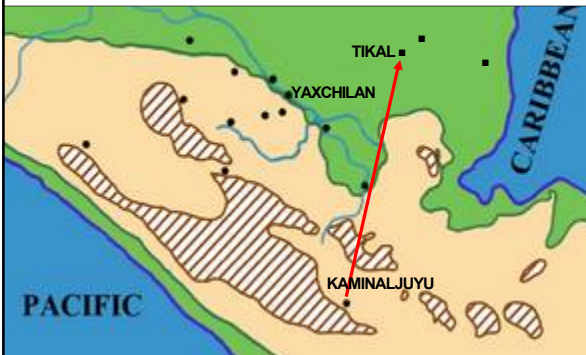
WHILE AMMON AND KING LAMONI WERE JOURNEYING TO MIDDONI TO FREE THEIR FELLOW MISSIONARIES FROM PRISON, THEY ENCOUNTERED KING LAMONI'S FATHER WHO WAS KING OF ALL THE LAMANITES.



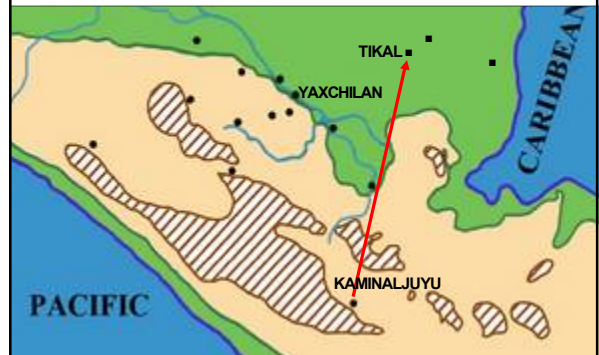
WHEN AARON WAS FREED, HE WENT TO THE CITY OF LEHI-NEPHI (KAMINALJUJU) TO TALK WITH THE KING OF THE LAMANITES AND THIS KING WAS ALSO CONVERTED.



AFTER HIS CONVERSION, WE BELIEVE THE KING OF THE LAMANITES TRANSFERRED THE LAMANITE POWER CENTER TO TIKAL.



THIS MOVE WAS DONE TO BE CLOSER TO THE NEPHITES, LEARNING THEIR LANGUAGE AND THEIR SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS.



THIS ACTUALLY PLACED THE LAMANITE KING VERY CLOSE TO CALAKMUL—THE MULEKITE CITY OF JUDEA WHICH HAD BEEN THE MULEKITE CAPITAL CITY FOR MANY GENERATIONS.

TO SHOW THE COMPLETE CHANGE HE HAD MADE, THE KING OF THE LAMANITES RENAMED THE CITY ANTIPARAH—MEANING “AGAINST THE FLOW.”

THE EMBLEM GLYPH FOR TIKAL SYMBOLIZES THE LAMANITE CONVERSION PRESPECTIVE. IT ILLUSTRATES WATERFLOW THAT REVERSES DIRECTION BOUND BY A KNOT TO REPRESENT A BOND OR CONVENANT. THEREFORE, THEIR PROMISE TO THE GOSPEL REVERSED THEIR DIRECTION ON THE RIVER OF LIFE—ANTIPARAH.

THE KING OF THE LAMANITES THEN ANNOUNCED THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD BE KING ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI.

WE BELIEVE THIS ROYAL FAMILY MADE THEIR HOME IN SAN BARTOLO WHERE THEY RECORDED THEIR CONVERSION TESTIMONY IN MURALS

WE WILL SEE MORE OF THESE MURALS IN A LATER PRESENTATION, BUT THE BOOK OF MORMON INDICATES THAT THERE WAS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS NEW KING AND THE NEW LAMANITE DIRECTION.

ARCHAEOLOGY RECORDS THAT IT WAS THE VASSEL KING FROM DOS PILAS WHO INVADED SAN BARTOLO, BEHEADED KING ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI AND MADE HIMSELF THE NEW KING.

A map of the Yucatan Peninsula showing the locations of several cities: Calakmul, San Bartolo, Antiparah, Yaxchilan, Dos Pilas, Kaminaljuyu, and the Pacific Ocean. A red arrow points from Dos Pilas to San Bartolo.

AT SAN BARTOLO ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND THE HEAD OF A KING WITH NO BODY BURIED IN A WELL WITH THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. AND, THERE IS A HEADLESS BODY BURIED IN A TOMB AT TIKAL.

A map of the Yucatan Peninsula showing the locations of several cities: Calakmul, San Bartolo, Antiparah, Yaxchilan, Dos Pilas, Kaminaljuyu, and the Pacific Ocean. A red arrow points from Dos Pilas to San Bartolo.

STELA 31 AT TIKAL ILLUSTRATES A KING CALLED "LORD STORMY SKY" WHO IS SHOWN HOLDING A SEVEN-LINK CHAIN IN HIS RIGHT HAND AND THE HEAD OF A KING IN THE CRADLE OF HIS LEFT ARM. WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE KING OF DOS PILAS WHO WAS FAITHFUL TO BRINGING THE SEVEN CONVERTED CITIES BACK INTO SUBMISSION AND KILLED HIS BROTHER TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK.

A detailed line drawing of Stela 31 at Tikal, depicting a king standing and holding a seven-link chain in his right hand and a severed head in the cradle of his left arm.

THESE INSCRIPTIONS AT DOS PILAS TELL US THAT THE KING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR "POOLS OF BLOOD AND PILES OF HEADS" WHEN HE ATTACKED TIKAL.

A photograph showing stone steps or a platform at an archaeological site, likely Dos Pilas.

IT APPEARS THAT THIS TOOK PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE ASSAULT ON KING LAMONI AND HIS PEOPLE AT THE CITY OF ISHMAEL.

A map of the Yucatan Peninsula showing the locations of several cities: Calakmul, San Bartolo, Antiparah, Yaxchilan, Dos Pilas, Kaminaljuyu, El Tazumal, and the Pacific Ocean. Red arrows point from Dos Pilas to San Bartolo and from Dos Pilas to El Tazumal.

RECENT FINDINGS INDICATE THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER CITIES INVOLVED IN THIS COORDINATED ATTACK ON THE CONVERTED LAMANITE VASSEL KINGS.

A map of the Yucatan Peninsula showing the locations of several cities: Calakmul, San Bartolo, Antiparah, Yaxchilan, Dos Pilas, Kaminaljuyu, El Tazumal, Takalik Abaj, and the Pacific Ocean. Red arrows point from Dos Pilas to San Bartolo, from Dos Pilas to El Tazumal, and from Dos Pilas to Takalik Abaj.

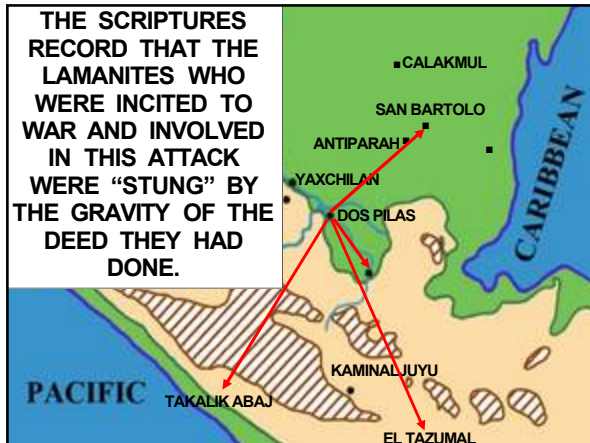
THIS RITUAL BATH AT CANCUEN BECAME A GRAVESITE FOR 31 MEMBERS OF A ROYAL FAMILY WHO WERE KILLED AND HONORABLY LAID TO REST IN THIS CISTERN.



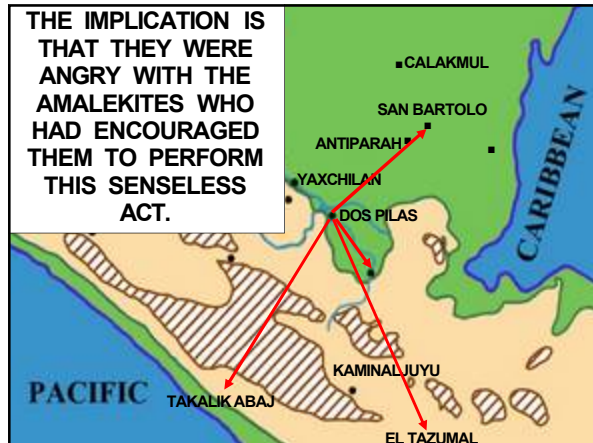
THIS STELA FROM TAKALIK ABAJ TELLS OF A CONFRONTATION WITH 1,005 WHO DIED, AND THIS IS JUXTAPOSED BY THE NUMBER 2,351. PERHAPS THE KING LAMONI EVENT TOOK PLACE HERE.



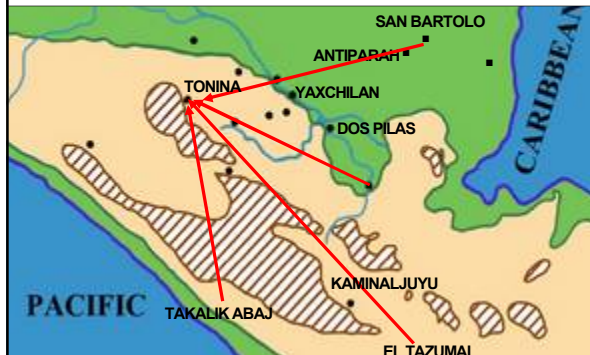
THE SCRIPTURES RECORD THAT THE LAMANITES WHO WERE INCITED TO WAR AND INVOLVED IN THIS ATTACK WERE "STUNG" BY THE GRAVITY OF THE DEED THEY HAD DONE.



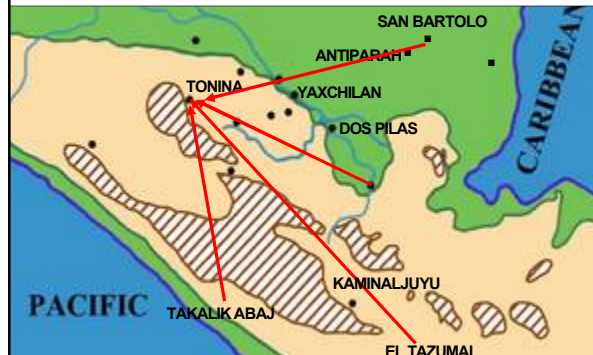
THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THEY WERE ANGRY WITH THE AMALEKITES WHO HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO PERFORM THIS SENSELESS ACT.

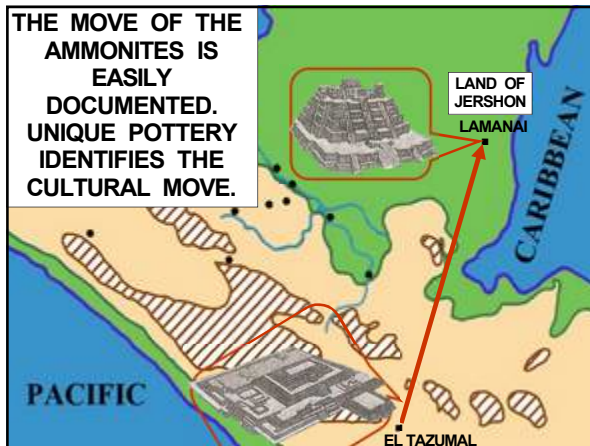
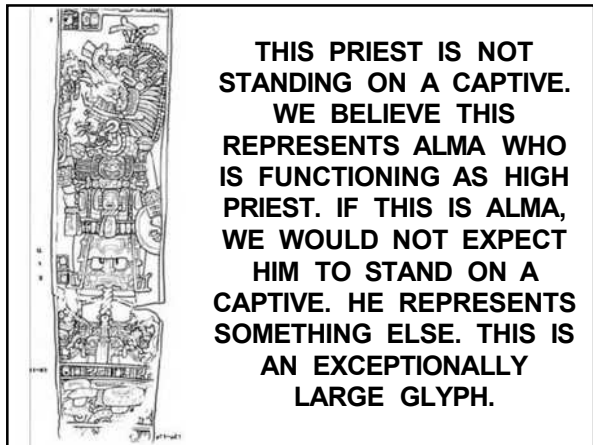
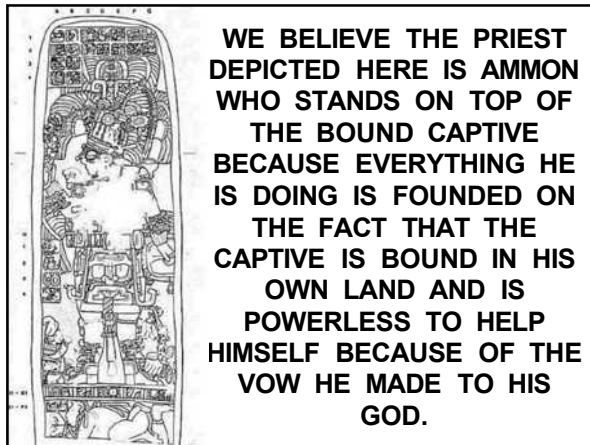
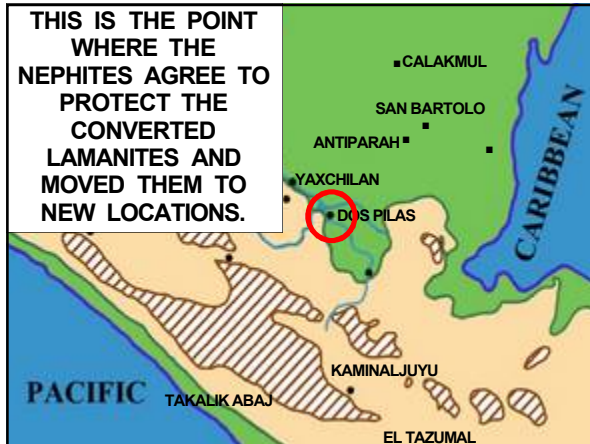


WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ANGRY GROUP OF LAMANITES THEN EXACTED REVENGE ON THE AMALEKITES BY ATTACKING AMMONIAH.



THE MODERN SITE OF TONINA DISPLAYS ALL OF THE TESTIMONIAL EVENTS THAT THE BOOK OF MORMON RECORDS FOR AMMONIAH.





HE WAS A VASSAL KING UNDER ONE IDENTITY WHEN SERVING UNDER HIS FATHER IN THE CITY OF ISHMAEL.

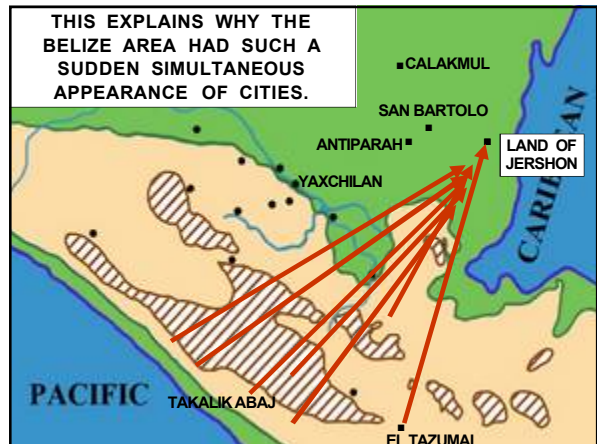
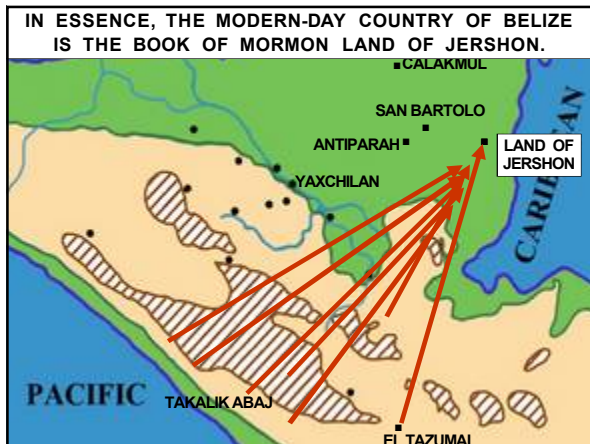
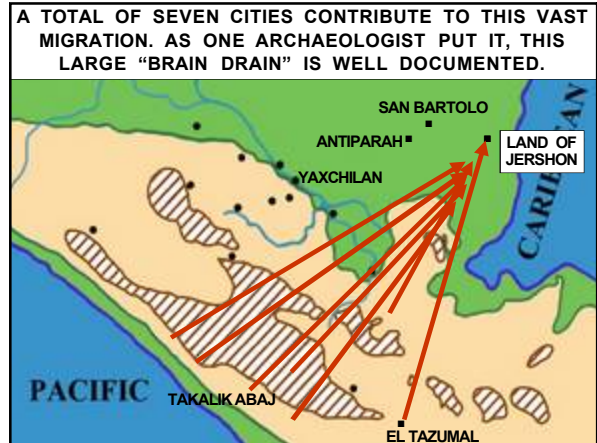
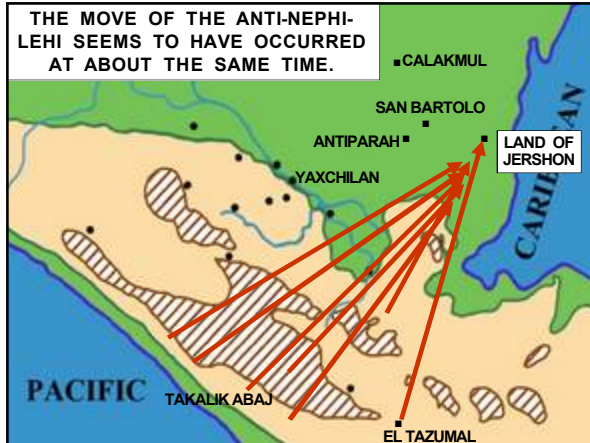
BUT, WITH HIS CONVERSION, HIS CONVICTION TO DIE IF HE MUST TO REMAIN TRUE TO HIS PROMISE, AND THEN THE MOVE INTO JERSHON, HE NOW RULED HIS PEOPLE AS A DIFFERENT PERSON WITH A NEW NAME; MUCH AS SAUL WHO BECAME PAUL.

THIS IS WHO WE FOUND AT LAMANAI AND THE NAME OF THE SITE BEARS HIS NAME AS WE HAVE IT IN OUR SCRIPTURES.

LAMANAI - LAMONI

ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE ONLY TWO ROYALS BURIED HERE; THIS TWO-NAME KING AND HIS WIFE.

AND, THERE IS A STELA HERE THAT SAYS THEY PAID TRIBUTE TO YAXCHILAN (ZARAHÉMLA).



AS WE GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REGION WITH OUR SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS ON THE AMMONITES, WE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE CHANGES THAT OCCUR DUE TO THE SOCIETAL SHIFTS.

WHAT IS AMAZING IS THAT WE CAN TRACE THESE CHANGES WITH CLUES FOUND AT VARIOUS SITES. THE TRAIL OF THESE CONVERTS AND THEIR SORROWFUL TRIALS ARE CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED IN MAYAN ART.

