

Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc
Transforming Faith to Knowledge

THE SAN BARTOLO MURALS; A CONVERSION TESTIMONY

By David B. Brown



THE STORY OF THE FOUR SONS OF MOSIAH AND OF ALMA THE SON OF ALMA IS VERY UNIQUE. THEY ARE SO MOVED BY THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL THAT THE SONS OF MOSIAH FORSAKE THEIR CLAIM TO RULE OVER ZARAHEMLA AND TRAVEL INTO DANGEROUS LAMANITE TERRITORIES IN THE HOPE OF CONVERTING THE LAMANITES TO A BELIEF IN CHRIST.

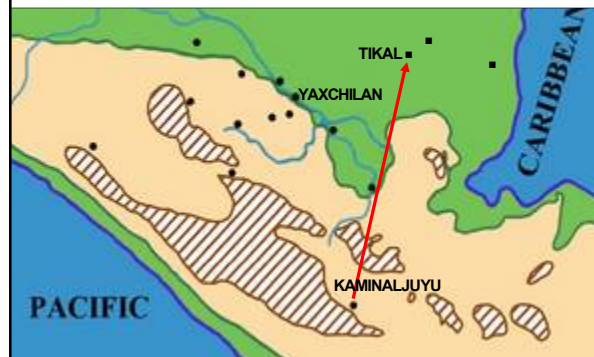
THE MISSIONARY OUTREACH OF THE SONS OF MOSIAH TOOK THEM FROM ZARAHEMLA (YAXCHILAN) SOUTH TO THE LAND OF LEHI-NEPHI (KAMINALJUJU)



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.

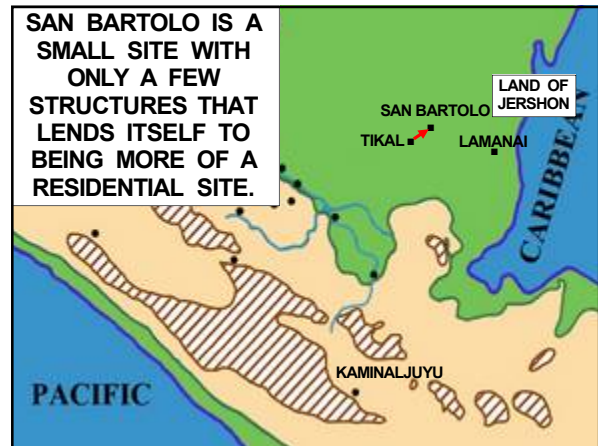
THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE IS SO PROFOUND THAT NAMES ARE CHANGED AND LAMONI'S FATHER ESTABLISHES HIS SUCCESSOR WITH A NAME THAT ANNOUNCES THE CONVERSION; KING ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI. (NOT NEPHI-LEHITES). THIS SHIFT IN DIRECTION LEAVES THE LAMANITE KINGDOM IN CHAOS.

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



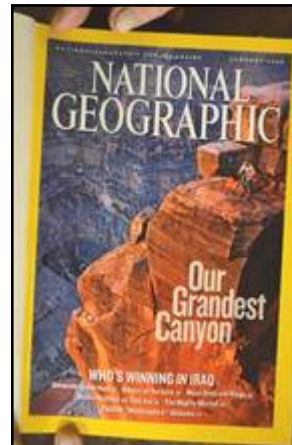
SAN BARTOLO IS A SITE LOCATED IN THE PETEN OF GUATEMALA ABOUT 30 MILES NORTHEAST OF TIKAL WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE THE BOOK OF MORMON CITY OF ANTIPARAH. ANTIPARAH MEANS “AGAINST THE FLOW” WHICH IS FITTING FOR A PEOPLE WHO ARE REPRESENTED AS A SUBMERGED CROCODILE.

SAN BARTOLO IS A SMALL SITE WITH ONLY A FEW STRUCTURES THAT LENDS ITSELF TO BEING MORE OF A RESIDENTIAL SITE.

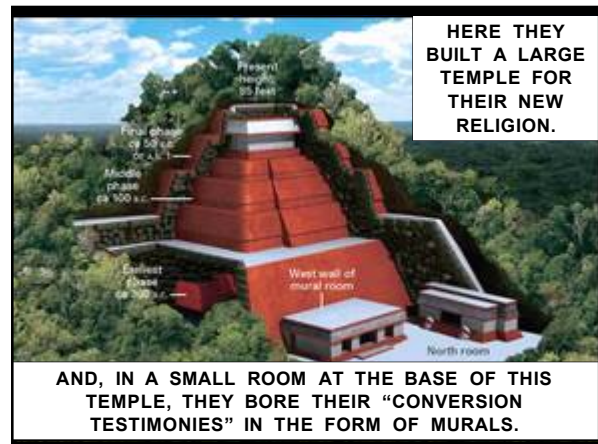


SAN BARTOLO WAS THE RESIDENTIAL AREA FOR THE KING OF TIKAL.

...AND, IT WAS HERE THAT WE BELIEVE LAMONI'S FATHER CHOSE TO COMMISSION A SET OF MURALS TO ILLUSTRATE THE CONVERSION THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD EXPERIENCED.



MOST OF THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION PRESENTED HERE IS FOUND IN ARTICLES PRINTED IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BETWEEN THE YEARS 2003-2013. THEREFORE, MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION IS ACCEPTED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY



HERE THEY BUILT A LARGE TEMPLE FOR THEIR NEW RELIGION.

AND, IN A SMALL ROOM AT THE BASE OF THIS TEMPLE, THEY BORE THEIR “CONVERSION TESTIMONIES” IN THE FORM OF MURALS.

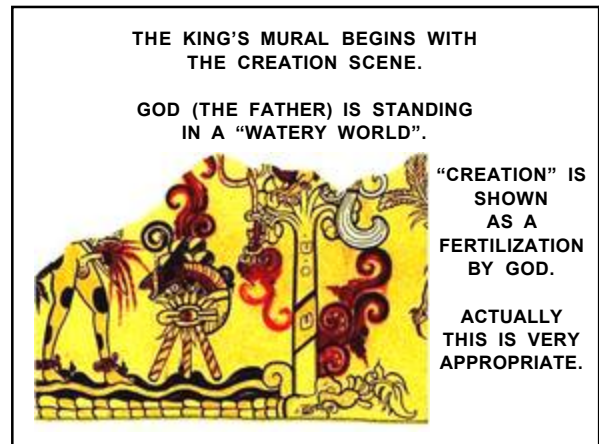


UNDERSTAND THAT THESE MURALS WERE CREATED ABOUT 100 BC, BUT THEY ARE CLEARLY JUDEO-CHRISTIAN IN CONCEPT.


FOR MOST PEOPLE EVEN THE CONCEPT OF PRE-JESUS CHRISTIANITY IS UNBELIEVABLE, NOW ADD THE FACT THAT IT IS EXPRESSED HALF A WORLD AWAY AMONG THE MAYA.

HOW DID JUDEO-CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AT 100 BC, AND WHY ARE THEY EXPRESSED AMONG THE MAYA?

THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WE WILL PROPOSE TO ANSWER IN THIS SLIDESHOW, BUT FIRST LET'S REVIEW THE CONCEPTS EXPRESSED IN THE MURALS.



MAN IS SHOWN AS A FISH THAT IS ALREADY DEAD AT HIS CREATION. MAN IS A TWO-DIMENSIONAL BEING IN A THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORLD.




SO, GOD ASKS TWO DIFFERENT BEINGS TO PRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE "PLANS OF SALVATION" FOR THIS NEW CREATION.

IN MAYA COSMOLOGY THESE TWO BEINGS ARE TWINS.

THE OFFERINGS OF EACH ENTITY IS VERY DIFFERENT.

TWIN 1


TWIN 2



THE TWINS ARE VERY SIMILAR EXCEPT FOR THEIR CREATION TACTICS.

THE TWO BEINGS EACH PRESENT A DIFFERENT "PLAN OF SALVATION".

THE FIRST DIES FOR PEOPLE, BUT THE SECOND HAS PEOPLE DIE FOR HIM.



NOTE THE DEER OFFERING VERSES THE OSCILLATING TURKEY OFFERING.



AS WE LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT THE PLANS WE NOTE THAT THE GOOD TWIN (SYMBOLICALLY REPRESENTED AS A DEER) IS OFFERING HIMSELF FOR SACRIFICE.

THERE IS NO ERROR IN THIS UNDERSTANDING.



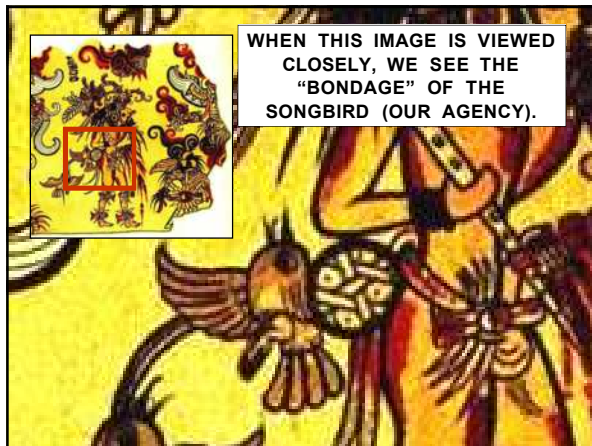
THE GOOD TWIN & THE EVIL TWIN

THE EVIL TWIN DOES NOT SACRIFICE HIMSELF, BUT RATHER SACRIFICES THE OSCILLATING TURKEY (MANKIND). NOW THE SONGBIRDS (OUR SPIRITS) ARE ENSLAVED.

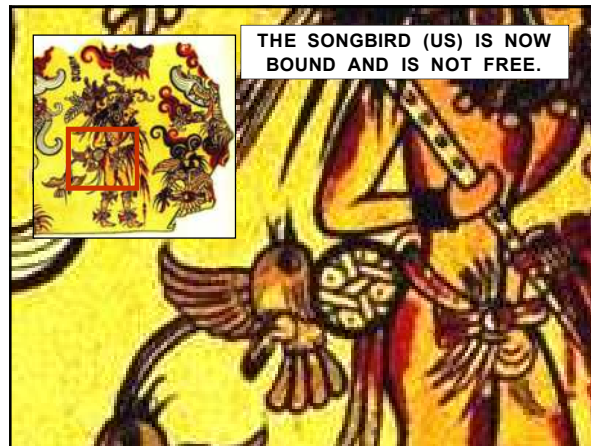
THIS VERSION OF THE GOSPEL STORY IS UNIQUE TO THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT.



THE GOOD TWIN & THE EVIL TWIN



WHEN THIS IMAGE IS VIEWED CLOSELY, WE SEE THE "BONDAGE" OF THE SONGBIRD (OUR AGENCY).



THE SONGBIRD (US) IS NOW BOUND AND IS NOT FREE.



THIS VERSION OF THE REDEMPTION PLAN IS NOT NEW TO MEMBERS OF THE RESTORATION. BUT, EPIGRAPHERS DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THIS.

TWIN 1

TWIN 2



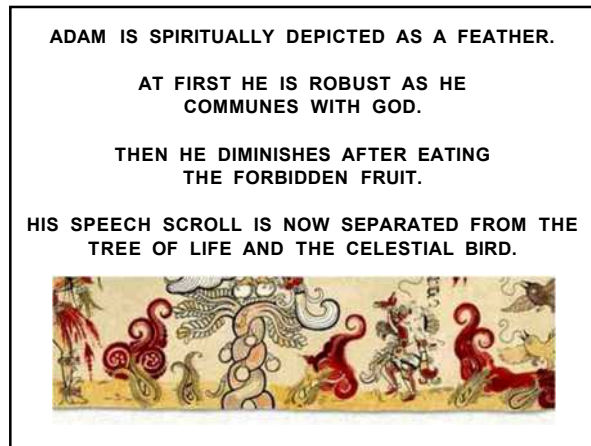
THE SALVATION PLAN SCENE IS FOLLOWED BY A "GARDEN OF EDEN" SCENE. THIS SCENE DEPICTS THE GOOD TWIN CREATING THE GARDEN WITH TWO TREES.



THE TWO TREES ARE: "THE TREE OF LIFE" AND "THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL".

THESE ASPECTS ARE ALSO RESTORATION GOSPEL SPECIFIC.

NOTE THE CONSUMED FRUIT THAT IS PRESENT AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE TREE TRUNK.



ADAM IS SPIRITUALLY DEPICTED AS A FEATHER.

AT FIRST HE IS ROBUST AS HE COMMUNES WITH GOD.

THEN HE DIMINISHES AFTER EATING THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

HIS SPEECH SCROLL IS NOW SEPARATED FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND THE CELESTIAL BIRD.

THERE IS AN EGG-SHAPED OBJECT THAT APPEARS TO BE DROPPED FROM THE CELESTIAL BIRD IN THE HEAVENS.

THE SYMBOLIC CONTENT OF THE "EGG" ARE THE HEBREW TAU AND SHIN, WHICH ARE THE CROSS AND HOLY FIRE. THIS IS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GOSPEL, WHICH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR FALLEN MAN TO BE REDEEMED.



NOW THE PREVIOUSLY BOUND SONGBIRDS ARE FREE.

THEIR "JOYFUL" SONGS ARE SHOWN BESIDE THEM.

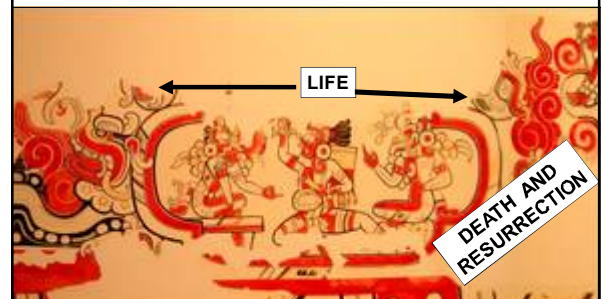
AGAIN, THE SONGBIRDS ARE OUR SPIRITS AND WE ARE THANKFUL FOR HAVING REGAINED OUR AGENCY.



THE NEXT SEGMENT OF MURAL DEALS WITH THE MESSIAH'S BIRTH. REMEMBER, THIS IS BC.



HERE WE SEE THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE ENTITY PORTRAYED. WE MUST EXAMINE THE "DEATH" IN DETAIL.



NOTE THAT THE MESSIAH IS KILLED BY A SERPENT AND NOT BY CRUCIFIXION AS WE WOULD EXPECT IF THIS WAS A DEPICTION OF JESUS.

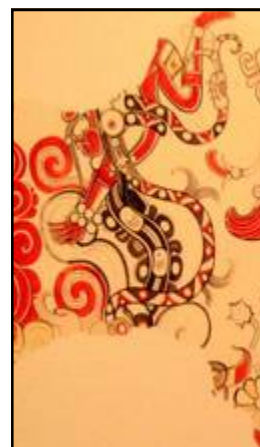
THIS SERPENT IS A 15-20 FOOT LONG CORAL SNAKE—A METAPHORIC EXPRESSION OF THE POWER OF DEATH.

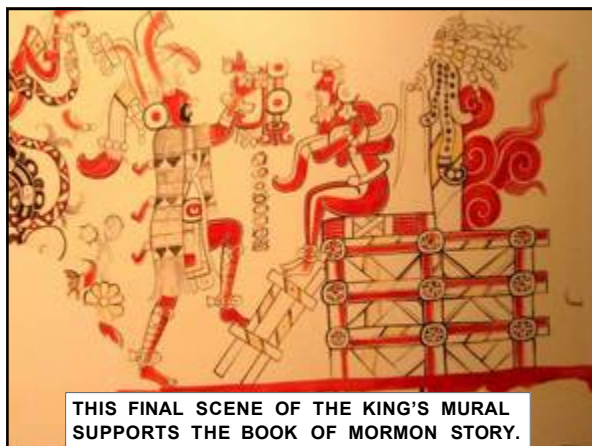
WHY WOULD THIS TYPE OF DEATH BE SHOWN ?



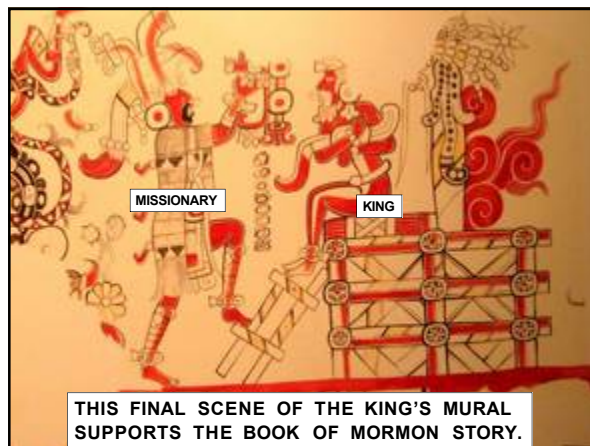
THIS DEPICTION OF A SERPENT AS THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS ACCURATE.

THE "GREAT SERPENT" ALSO KNOWN AS "THE ADVERSARY" (OR 'SATAN'), IS TRULY THE "CAUSE OF DEATH".





THIS FINAL SCENE OF THE KING'S MURAL SUPPORTS THE BOOK OF MORMON STORY.

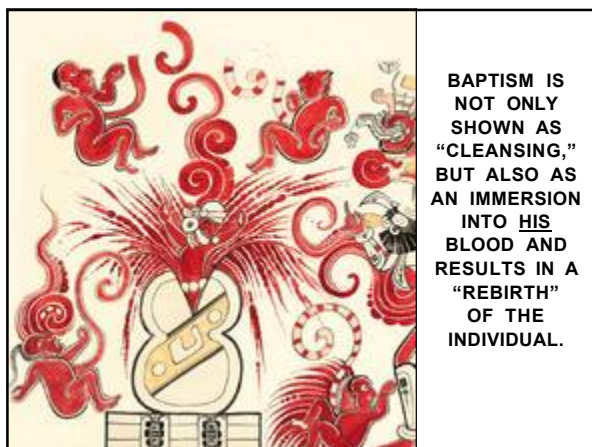


THIS FINAL SCENE OF THE KING'S MURAL SUPPORTS THE BOOK OF MORMON STORY.

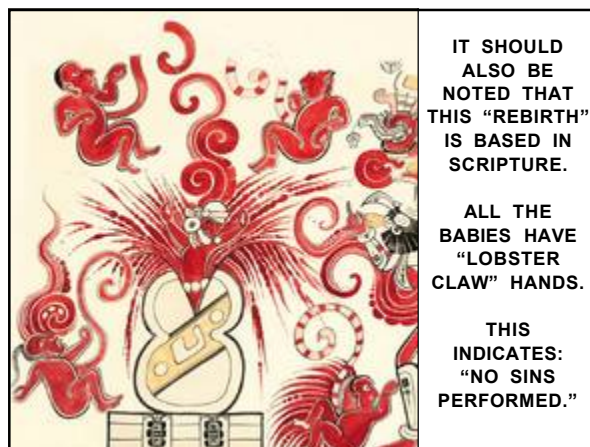
NOW, THE QUEEN'S MURAL RELATES THE "NEW" CONCEPTS AND BELIEFS HELD BY THIS "NEW" RELIGION.

IT IS INTERESTING THAT WHILE ALL OF THESE CONCEPTS CAN BE SHOWN TO EXCLUSIVELY CO-EXIST WITH JESUS THEY ALSO EXISTED BEFORE JESUS WAS BORN.

A VARIETY OF CONCEPTS ARE PRESENTED HERE. BUT, IT TAKES SOMEONE WHO IS VERSED IN RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS TO SEE THEM. WE WILL EXAMINE SEVERAL OF THESE.



BAPTISM IS NOT ONLY SHOWN AS "CLEANSING," BUT ALSO AS AN IMMERSION INTO HIS BLOOD AND RESULTS IN A "REBIRTH" OF THE INDIVIDUAL.




IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THIS "REBIRTH" IS BASED IN SCRIPTURE.

ALL THE BABIES HAVE "LOBSTER CLAW" HANDS.

THIS INDICATES: "NO SINS PERFORMED."

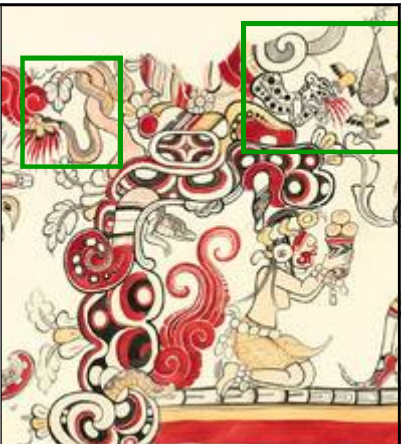
THE FOLLOWING SCENE SHOWS THAT SATAN IS ETERNALLY PRESENT AND READY TO "PICK-OFF" ANY NEWBORNS THAT STRAY.

AND THE THREAT BY THE ADVERSARY DOES NOT END HERE.




THE FOLLOWING SCENE SHOWS TWO INSTANCES OF ADVERSARIAL ENTRAPMENT OF THE "REBORN".

BOTH VICTIMS ARE SONGBIRDS, WHILE THE ADVERSARY IS DEPICTED AS A SNAKE AND A JAGUAR.



THE "VEHICLE" FOR THE DELIVERY OF THESE ORDINANCES IS PORTRAYED IN THESE MURALS AS A LARGE SERPENT.

THIS IMAGERY IS A PRECURSER TO THE WELL-KNOWN PLUMBED SERPENT OF QUETZALCOATL.




THE "VEHICLE"

SO, WHILE BAPTISM BRINGS US INTO THE VEHICLE, ALL OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES SHOWN IN THIS MURAL OCCUR WITHIN THIS VEHICLE OF SACRED RELATIONSHIP.




THE FIRST SCENE IN THE SACRED RELATIONSHIP IS THE PORTRAYAL OF THE QUEEN RECEIVING HEAVENLY FOOD AND THE RESULT OF THIS ORDINANCE.



THE PARTAKING OF, AND GOD'S SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF, THE SACRED SUPPER RESULTS IN CLEANSING AND REBIRTH.

NOTICE THAT THE SINS ARE SHOWN AS SPIRITUAL DARKNESS "LIFTING" AND THERE IS A RELEASE OF BONDS.



THE FINAL PART OF THE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE CHURCH IS THE COMMISSIONING.

NOW, THE MEMBER IS FOLLOWED BY HAVING EVENTS RECORDED IN ONE OF TWO BOOKS.



NOW, THINK ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THESE MURALS, AND THINK ABOUT THEIR AGE.

THEY DATE FROM BC TIMES.

MOREOVER THEY WERE FOUND IN ANCIENT AMERICA.

FOR ABOUT TWO CENTURIES THE RESTORATION GOSPEL HAS DECLARED THAT CHRISTIANITY WAS IN ANCIENT AMERICA.

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER:
SCIENCE AGREES.

PLEASE CONSIDER WHY THESE MURALS WERE COMMISSIONED, WHO COMMISSIONED THEM, AND THEIR INCREDIBLE MESSAGE.

REMEMBER THE EXPERIENCE THAT BOTH LAMONI AND HIS FATHER HAD WHERE THEY WERE "STRUCK DOWN IN THE SPIRIT" AND WHEN AWAKENED THEY TESTIFIED OF THE SAVIOR?

IF YOU WERE THESE MEN OR WOMEN, HOW WOULD YOU COMMEMORATE YOUR INCREDIBLE CONVERSION?

WOULD YOU NOT RECORD IT IN SOME FASHION? WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE LANGUAGE OF THE LAMANITES?

THEY DID NOT HAVE A WRITTEN LANGUAGE. HOW THEN WOULD YOU TEACH THE IMPORTANT POINTS OF YOUR SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE?

PICTURES PAINT A THOUSAND WORDS

WE BELIEVE THEY RECORDED THEIR EXPERIENCE BY PAINTING MURALS THAT TEACH THE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS OF SPIRITUAL REALITY THAT WAS REVEALED TO THEM WHILE THEY WERE IN THE SPIRITUAL PRESENCE OF THE DIVINE.

THESE MURALS TAUGHT THE LAMANITES THEIR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE FROM CREATION TO THE COMING MESSIAH AND HOW THEY SHOULD SUBMIT TO THE SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS OF THIS GOD.

THIS NEW BELIEF SYSTEM WAS A THREAT TO THE POWERFUL AND GREEDY GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE OF THE LAMANITES. THOSE WHO EMBRACED THIS NEW GOSPEL WERE ABOUT TO PAY A PAINFUL PRICE.

Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc
Transforming Faith to Knowledge

**THE SAN BARTOLO MURALS;
A CONVERSION TESTIMONY**

By David B. Brown

