

Cumorah Messenger

The Teotihuacán Tunnel Project

By Neil Steede © 2016

In February of 2016 Gary Woods, Elrey Goheen, Terry Scott and I traveled to Mexico City to once again visit the Tunnel B project at Teotihuacán. As most readers know, we have been involved in the tunnels at Teotihuacán for more than 18 years. The specific tunnel that we were visiting this trip is called Tunnel B. It is found underneath the Citadel of Quetzalcoatl. This tunnel is a mirror of Tunnel A that is beneath the Pyramid of the Sun just a few hundred yards north on the same site.

Because of my long-standing personal association and friendship with archaeologist Sergio Gomez, I have been given special access to the tunnel and its exploratory results. This access is not

open to anyone else in the world. While, yes, there have been a few dignitaries and news people allowed limited access, mine is not limited in any way. Because of my blindness and my crippled state Sergio allows the friends that accompany me into the tunnel so that they may relate to me what they see. There are not allowed to take pictures. They are not allowed to relate to the public anything that they see or hear. This is done so that Sergio might have his exclusive first publications which are scheduled to take place in about the year 2018. All archaeologists protect their projects in this manner. So, the fact that Sergio allows me and my colleagues access to such an incredi-

ble dig is actually amazing. It attests to the marvelous friendship that Sergio and I enjoy. Because of this situation, neither my friends nor I will betray this trust. That is to say, the things that we have been told to keep quiet will be kept quiet. I asked the readers to comprehend the great trust that is being expressed to all of us on the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team.

It is important to understand that we began our exploration of the Teotihuacán tunnels with Tunnel A under an agreement with Alejandro Sarabia who is another esteemed archaeologist at this site. As reported elsewhere, we have demonstrated that Tunnels A and B are a mirror of one another. In my personal opinion

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The Culture of Teotihuacán

By David B Brown © 2016

Who are the people that built and inhabited the ancient city of Teotihuacán? We believe they are remnant Jaredites. When Book of Mormon believers hear this answer they often ask, "I thought the Jaredites were completely wiped out with the epic battle between Coriantumr and Shiz?" Certainly the scriptures give the impression that the Jaredite nation had been destroyed. But, we believe what was destroyed with that battle was the bloodlines that could lay claim to the kingship—therefore, the cultural identity of the Jaredite

nation through its royal bloodlines had gone extinct and the remaining cultural centers were left in a fractured and fragmented state with no cultural vision to keep them unified.

We have adopted this belief from our observation of other cultures and how they cope with war. Those families who do not "have a dog in the fight" are not tempted to participate in the cultural war, but their preservation instinct for themselves and their families compel them to move away from the wars and settle in outer regions. We see this

very same migration occurring later in Book of Mormon history with the Ammonites who, because of their vows of non-aggression and the impending Nephite battles with Amalickiah, determined to travel northward to escape the ravages of war. This was the migration movement that in-

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The Culture of Teotihuacán *continued*

cluded the ships of Hagoth. We believe the same is true of the remnant Jaredite culture—they took their cultural baggage and traveled into outlying areas to avoid the conflict that eventually destroyed those who were the royalty of the Jaredite nation.

Once the cultural centers that housed the royalty were vacated and the royal lines destroyed, we surmise that many of the artisan class began to relocate in the cities because there would be greater opportunity for industry in larger groups of people. We apparently had this movement happening at Cuicuilco (Central Mexico City) until a large volcanic eruption overtook the city and drove the population northeast across the large lake in the Mexico City Valley.¹ It was on the northeast shores of this lake that the foundations for Teotihuacán began to be established.

Neil Steede has theorized that the volcanic activity that was destroying Cuicuilco in the Mexico City area was probably related to a series of events that created the shaking of the earth event that freed Nephi and Lehi from the prison in the City of Nephi when they had gone to the land to convert the Lamanites. Once those Lamanites at the City of Nephi were converted, they then travel northward with Nephi and Lehi, but the scriptures say that they did not meet with any success.

Helaman 2:123 *“Yea, and many did preach with exceeding great power and authority, unto the bringing down many of them [Lamanites] into the depths of humility, to be the humble followers of God and the Lamb. [124] And it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did go into the land northward; and also Nephi and Lehi went into the land northward, to preach unto the people.”*

Helaman 3:1 *“Behold, now it came to pass in the sixty and ninth year of the reign of the Judges over the people of the Nephites, that Nephi, the son of Helaman, returned to the land of Zarahemla, from the land northward: for he had been forth among the people who were in the land northward, and did preach the word of God unto them, and did prophesy many things unto them; [2] And they did reject all his words, insomuch that he could not stay among*

them, but returned again unto the land of his nativity;”

It has been determined that the destruction of Cuicuilco probably took place somewhere between 100 BC and 1 BC.¹ This begs the question, were the prophets sent to warn the people of Cuicuilco and the surrounding communities of the impending doom, and was their rejection of this gospel an act that sealed their fate? Certainly these are questions that we long to have answered.

This much we know, the people of the Mexico City Valley had the knowledge to build stone structures. They had done it extensively at Cuicuilco. How long would it take a fairly large society to rebuild an infrastructure that would eventually lead to the construction of Teotihuacán? This is a question that perhaps has no knowable answer because it depends on extenuating circumstances of which we have no information. How many artisans and laborers are relocating to the same area? How long will it take to establish drinking water supplies, fields for planting and harvesting of food, an organized physical structure of society that will allow a focused effort to erect such an incredible series of edifices? It didn't happen in 10 years, perhaps it could happen in 20 years, but there must be a central focus within the culture that provides the motivation for such a large endeavor.

At 34 AD the Book of Mormon tells us that there was a great destruction throughout the entire region that changed the face of the land and the make-up of society. Only those who are easy to be entreated (righteous) and moldable for a unified social order are left after this destruction. Then they have an encounter with the Risen Christ and a new social order is conceived. It is based on the honoring of and protection of personal sacredness. No one is compelled to adopt a particular belief system against their will, but why would you? Harmony and peace are ever-present; there is no place for willfulness or selfishness. This is a society that is connected in Christ and whose only desire it to maintain their connection with the divine and to serve

their fellows as they were shown. The Book of Mormon tells us that this unity was throughout ALL THE LAND. There were no more “ites” or divisions within the social order. All were equal members of the organism that was the Body of Christ.

Neil Steede has theorized on several occasions concerning the event of the children being blessed by Christ and then encircled with fire while angels came down out of heaven and ministered to the children. Have you wondered what the content of that ministry might be? What was communicated to these children of the new order? Were they challenged to testify of the Christ in a manner that would endure the ages and the destructive ravages of time and wars? Were they commissioned from On High to be the builders of the next century—the ones who fashioned their sacred concepts in stone and then left them for a distant generation to discover?

We believe that is exactly what happened throughout the Mesoamerican region. The reason there are so many temples, stelae, murals and pottery that speak of the Christ is because once in His Presence, these children were overpowered by a Heavenly motivation to make their lives matter—to those whom much is given, much is expected. How could they give any less than their very best to express their personal experience with the Christ?

So, while Teotihuacan is NOT a Book of Mormon city, nor is it a city built by the Nephite people, it is a city built by remnant Jaredites whose structures testify of the events surrounding the birth, death and resurrection of their Savior. It is a sacred place built by a people who saw no separation within their social order. Each gift, each gender, each family, each lineage was lovingly interwoven into the fabric of their heritage and the expression of their faith. The culture of Teotihuacan is the culture of Mesoamerica. This was the motivation that cemented the survivors of Cuicuilco and set them on a pathway to build sacred structures that leave us in awe even today.

1. Cummings; Cuicuilco, University of New Mexico, 1922.

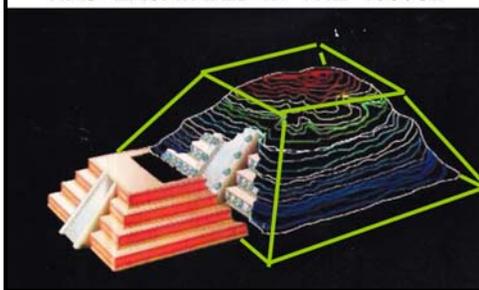
The Teotihuacán Tunnel Project *continued*

this is because one represents the physical aspect of man while the other represents his spiritual aspect.

Tunnel A was looted in the 1970s by the archaeological team excavating it. Fortunately, Sergio Gomez is in charge of Tunnel B. This tunnel was found to have been sealed in ancient times and its contents were still intact. More than 144,000 objects have been found within this sealed tunnel. Many of the objects are absolutely breathtaking. Unfortunately, we cannot expand on the details of these objects until Sergio has published his reports on this find.

In this article we will discuss only the possible metaphoric meaning of Tunnel B. We want it to be understood that much of what is written here is agreed upon between Sergio and myself. However, some of the views that I express here will be mine alone. I will endeavor to distinguish between the two. And I must say that though there are several reasons that I have the beliefs I do, at this time I cannot reveal more than what I am revealing here.

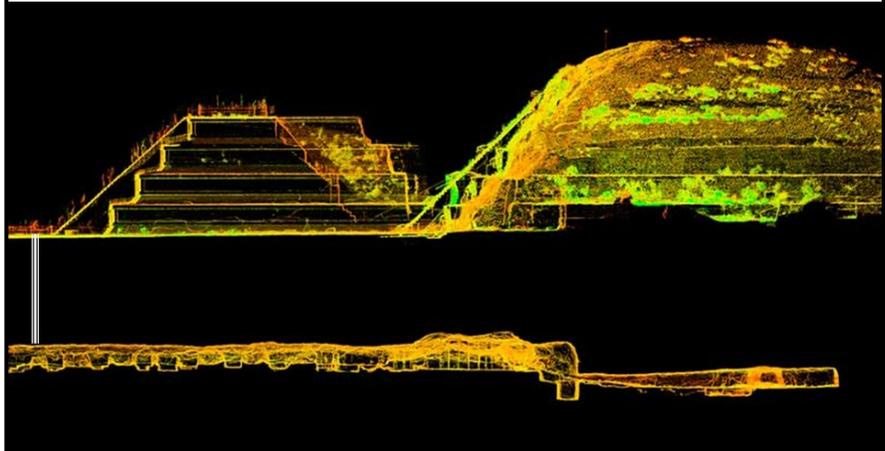
THE PYRAMID OF QUETZALCOATL WAS EXCAVATED IN THE 1900S..



In the illustration above, the green outline depicts how the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl looked in the early 1900s. By 1910 the crumbling outer layer of the pyramid had been stripped away revealing the very ornate original pyramid structure with detailed carvings of shells and serpents, above which were alternating busts of Quetzalcoatl serpents heads and the rain god known as Tlaloc. This was a fascinating find. They believed that they had found all that was going to be found, but after the turn of the century in 2000, all that was about to change.

In the rainy season of 2003, a depres-

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, THE TUNNEL WAS DISCOVERED THROUGH A VERTICAL SHAFT.



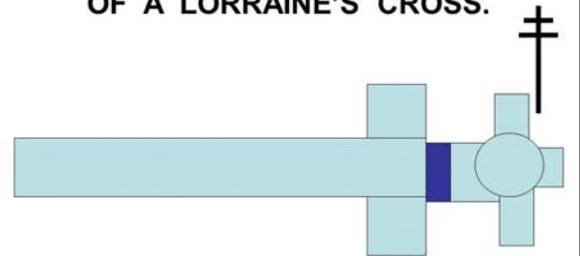
sion began to develop in front of the four-step pyramid apron, and before long a circular stone that had sealed the shaft for millennia fell into a hole revealing a polished shaft over 30 feet deep. (White line on the left side of the above photo).

Over the following years, archaeologists began exploring the opening and found that it was another long tunnel 40-feet below the earth's surface, similar to Tunnel A found beneath the Pyramid of the Sun. However, Tunnel B was built on a much grander scale and very straight in comparison. As the archaeologists have approached the last of their findings in the tunnel, they have begun to release specifics about its design.

It appears that the basic shape of the tunnel is similar to a Lorraine's Cross. There are two sets of alcoves on either side of the main tunnel with a room situated at the terminal point on the east end. The question for us to consider here is why is the tunnel designed and sectioned as it is?

Well, there are several things to consider. First and foremost, could the linear design be a time line similar to the interpretation we have placed on the Avenue of the Dead some 40-feet

THE BASIC TUNNEL SHAPE IS THAT OF A LORRAINE'S CROSS.

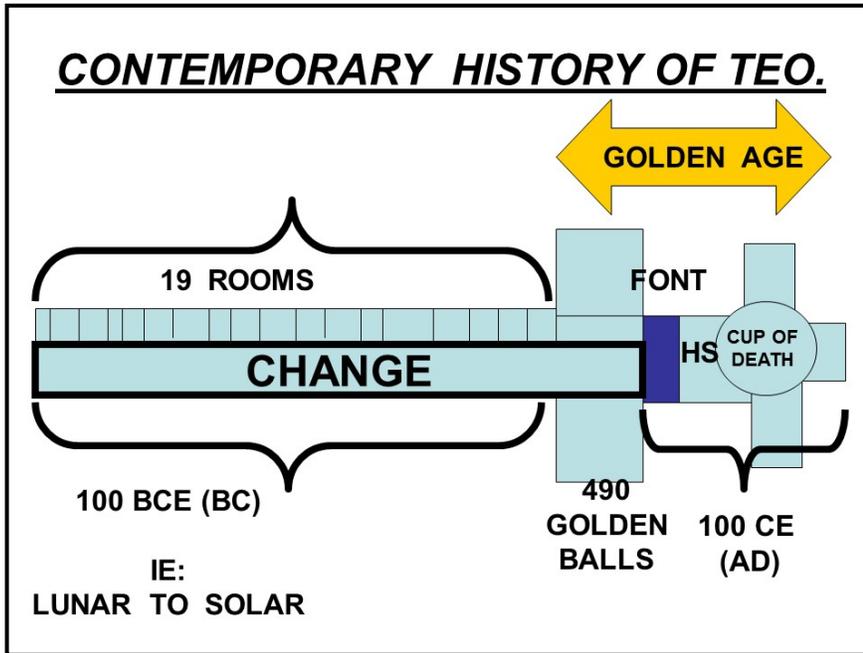


above on the surface of the site? If it is a time line, then what is it charting? Is it the historical time line of the people who built the pyramid and fashioned the tunnel? Is it a creation time line as reflected from the Popol Vuh? Perhaps there are nuggets of prophecy for those of us living today? We will explore these possibilities in brief.

The contemporary theory (a timeline for the people who built it) could be indicating that they went through a series of personal and cultural changes. Note that one of the rooms at the first set of alcoves (moving from left to right) has 490 golden balls in it. Golden balls apparently represent a "Golden age" for Teotihuacán. We suspect that this area of the tunnel represents the time when the tunnel was built. The rooms before the first set of alcoves

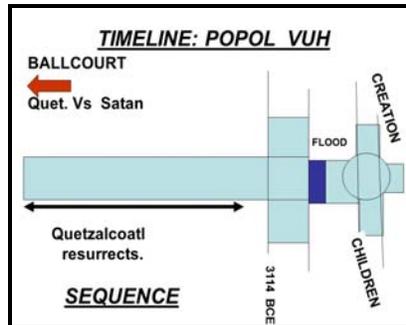
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The Teotihuacán Tunnel Project *continued*



seemingly represent things that the people of Teotihuacan had already changed with possibly everything to the east beyond this alcove representing the changes they wanted to accomplish. For example, it does appear as though Teotihuacán changed from a lunar to a solar calendar.

Sergio and I are in solid agreement that the tunnel represents the Popol Vuh timeline. The Popol Vuh (Book of the People) was written during the Spanish conquest of Central America. In college I was taught that the Mayan who had recited the Popol Vuh had

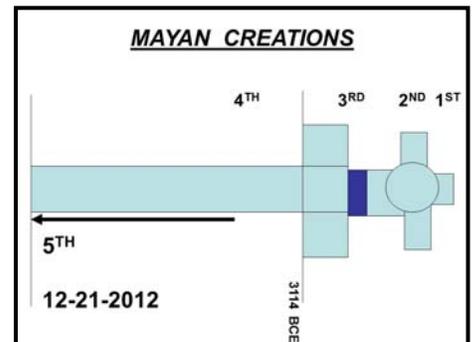


made it sound a lot like the Bible in order to impress his Spanish masters. Therefore, I was informed, we should not accept the Popol Vuh as an authentic Mesoamerican document because of biblical influences. However, this tunnel disproves that concept. In the illustration on the left, the tunnel is preceded by an ancient ball court. This ball court is mentioned in the Popol Vuh and the sequence of events in the book match the apparent sequence metaphorically represented by the tunnel.

As the illustration above demonstrates, the sequence given in the Popol Vuh also occur in the tunnel, reading from right to left. Creation is on the far right and then the advent of children, followed by a great flood and then another catastrophe which causes the earth to be created anew. After the great flood Quetzalcoatl had to resur-

rect. After resurrecting, then Quetzalcoatl had to play a ball game with his evil twin. This sequence of events all occur here within this tunnel just as they did in the Popol Vuh. This is compelling evidence that the concepts in the Popol Vuh were as least as ancient as this tunnel at Teotihuacán. It should be noted that similar aspects that date even earlier were found at El Mirador.

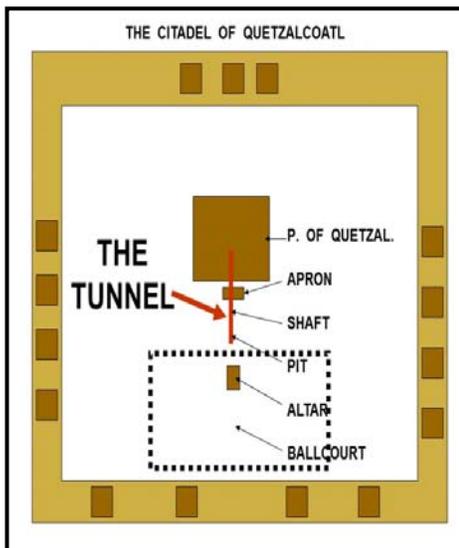
We can also observe the Mayan creations sequence in this tunnel. In this sequence most people are familiar that the fourth creation began at 3114 B.C.E. (BC). Apparently, there were at least three creations before this one. As you all know, the fifth creation began on December 21, 2012.



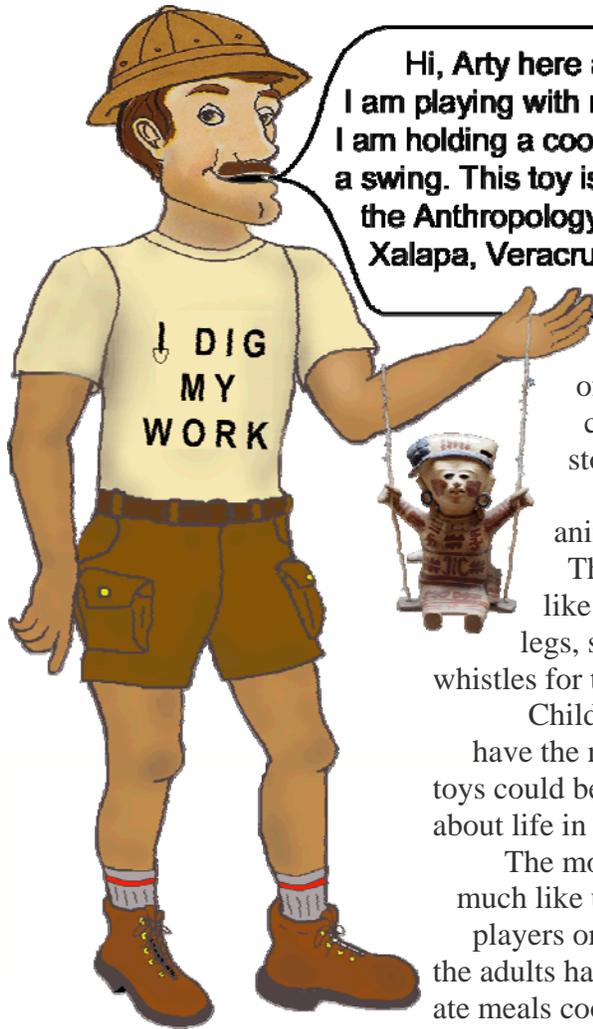
In the illustration above we see one version of how the Maya traditional creations might fit. Theoretically, the opening of the tunnel onto the ball court would be when the fifth creation began December 21, 2012. Interestingly, it is that about this time that excavations on the tunnel began; coincidence?

Now, I must be clear that all the above is at this time theoretical and not set in stone. There are many details that Sergio and I yet have to work through. It must be made clear that this article is my personal view, and not intended to be a reflection of Sergio's perspective.

The comprehension of these views are extremely important to the context of Mesoamerican history. For example, the fact that the Popol Vuh can metaphorically be expressed in this tunnel is an essential part of Mesoamerican history. Thanks to archaeologists like Sergio, a far greater comprehension and understanding of Mesoamerica is occurring.



Hi, Arty here again. Today I am playing with my Mayan toys. I am holding a cool Mayan doll on a swing. This toy is on display at the Anthropology Museum in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.



Mayan Toys
Mayan children had pull toys and action figures too, just like children today.

Because plastic and other modern materials had not been invented yet, all of their toys were made from materials easily found close to home. They used clay (ceramic), wood or stone for their toys. Many of their toys were painted. Their toys were often were made to look like local animals such as dogs, jaguars, monkeys, bats or birds. Their pull toys were animals mounted on wheels just like today. They also made toys with moving arms and legs, some of children and some of animals. They made whistles for their children too, most in the shape of animals.

Children in every known culture in the past and present have the need to play. Just like our toys today, some of their toys could be educational. They helped the children understand about life in the world around them as they grew up.

The more we learn about the Maya, we realize they lived much like us today. They did not have electronics like music players or computers, but the children played with toys and the adults had regular jobs. They lived in houses, slept on beds, ate meals cooked on stoves, had pets and worshiped God too.



Mayan articulated doll - Modern articulated doll



Mayan Dog pull-toy - Modern Dog Pull-toy



Mayan Cat pull-toy - Modern Cat pull-toy



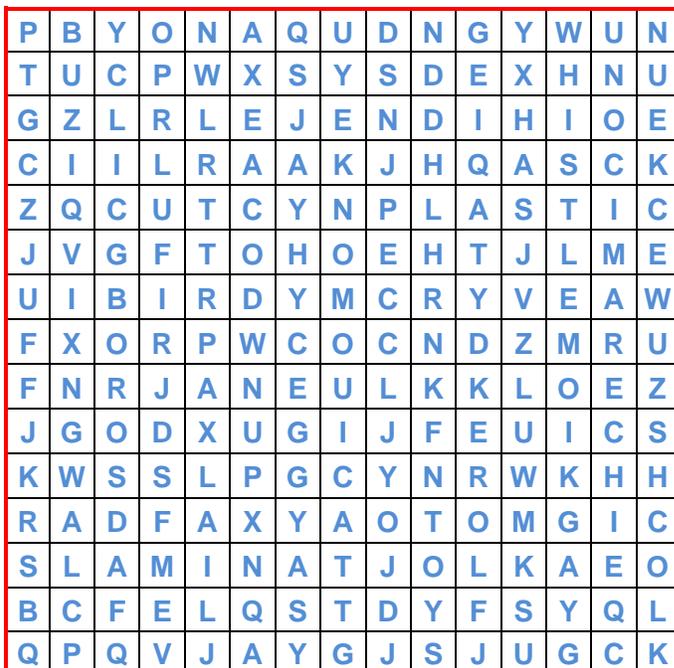
Mayan animal whistle - Modern animal whistle



Mayan articulated Monkey - Modern Articulated Monkey



Misc. Mayan animal figures - Misc. Modern animal figures



WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the
Maya Ball Game
words from the story:

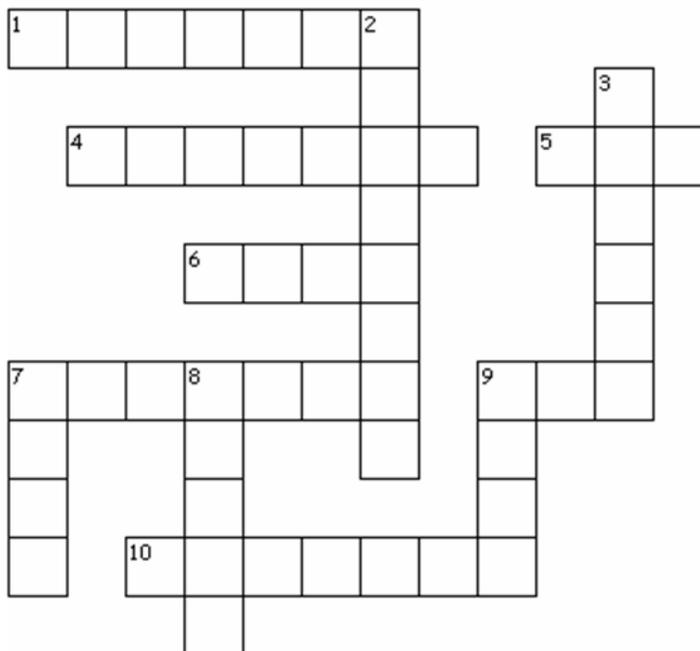
Action
Animal
Bird
Ceramic
Children
Dog
Figures
Jaguar
Monkey
Plastic
Play
Pulltoy
Stone
Toys
Whistle
Wood

Across

- comes from clay
- modern material
- not a cat but a _ _ _
- winged animal
- blow into for sound
- what you play with
- creatures

Down

- not adults
- animal with 4 hands
- comes from trees
- comes from rock
- play with these



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OTHER SITES OF INTEREST

http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/science/archaeology/

http://research.history.org/Archaeological_Research/KidsPage.cfm

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2007/08/maya-rise-fall/map-interactive>

<http://www.digonsite.com/drdig/mesoamerica/15.html>

<http://www.smm.org/sln/ma/index.html>

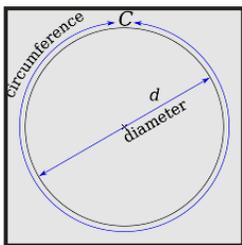
<http://archaeology.la.asu.edu/teo/>

For questions e-mail me at tscott75@sbcglobal.net



This testimony is written on “National Pi Day” March 14, 2016. Scriptures from the Doctrine and Covenants (D & C) seem very prophetic, when comparing them to what has been discovered in science and mathematics, since they were given by Joseph Smith in the early 1800’s. From D & C Section 2:1, *“The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths; neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; therefore his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round.”* This testimony came ‘round to me on Pi day.

Pi is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant—the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter—which is approximately 3.14159.... Pi is an irrational and transcendental number, meaning it will continue indefinitely without repetition or pattern. The nature of Pi is infinite, but constant. No matter how big the circle, the ratio is the same, which makes it a constant. God to me is infinite and eternal, constant and trustworthy, and without



repetition of pattern. He keeps us guessing and is mysterious, but loving and good. He is not boring with repetitions of patterns, but has depth and dimensions that are beyond our understanding. I can’t speak for everyone, but most of us love a good piece of pie,

cookies, or pizza—all round foods that satisfy our food cravings. Likewise, spiritual food is cyclical similar to the cycles of nature. We go through the cold of winter knowing that spring is on the horizon. Then there is the natural repentance cycle if we allow ourselves to go through it. The unfortunate falling away in sin, which hopefully leads us to repentance, and the beauty of feeling forgiven by a God that is merciful and loving. Hopefully, by going through these repentance cycles we smooth off the rough edges and become more well-rounded individuals.

D & C Section 2:1,
“The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated,... therefore his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round.”

Another scripture that seems very prophetic to me, written before its time, is from D & C Section 85:9-10. *“All kingdoms have a law given; and there are many kingdoms; for there is no space in the which there is no kingdom; and there is no kingdom in which there is no space, either a greater or lesser kingdom. And unto every kingdom is given a law; and unto every law there are certain bounds also, and conditions.”*

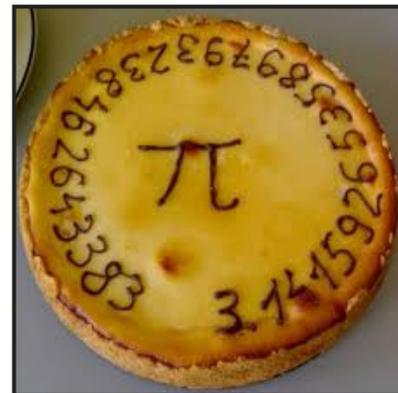
A couple of scientific discoveries since this revelation was given are the Krebs cycle, that takes place within the cells of our body and the Heme cycle that delivers oxygen to the tissues in our body. The Krebs cycle in an extremely simplified explanation is the breakdown of fats, proteins, and carbohydrates into a usable form of energy called the ATP molecule. In addition to the energy produced by the Krebs cycle, enzymes are also formed that help other cyclical processes within the body. All these functions are being performed without any awareness on our part, but they are necessary for healthy life to be continued. All of these many kingdoms abiding by the laws given and operating in spaces that are vital to life itself. A round about way of saying that God’s design is fascinating to say the least.

Section 85 of the D & C was given to the church at a time when there was friction between the leadership in Kirtland and Independence. It is called the “Olive Leaf... the Lord’s message of peace to us.” How does that apply to my spiritual life today? Comparing my spiritual life to that of the Krebs cycle or the Heme cycle within the body, I have to ask myself, What are the by-products of my faith? Am I putting out energy that helps the body of Christ? Am I putting out enzymes that help feed the good within other people? Am I properly disposing of the waste products that are natural by-products of the

process? Am I interacting in peaceful and healthy ways toward others? Sometimes we use the phrase “what goes around comes around”.

When I feel encircled by His arms and encircled by my faith community I feel safe, warm, and secure and loved in immeasurable and infinite ways.

So as we celebrate “National Pi Day,” I am going to find a good piece of pie and feed my physical craving and become more rounded around the waist while I contemplate the scripture from D & C Section 85:10c: *“he comprehendeth all things, and all things are round about him; he is above all things, and in all things, and is through all things, and is round about all things; and all things are by him, and of him; even God for ever and ever.”*



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Children's Page by Terry and Chris Scott

Teotihuacán *A Testimony by Terry Scott © 2016*

My first visit to Teotihuacán was ten years ago in 2006. At that time I was impressed by the engineering of the site. Our group just came back from visiting Teotihuacán in February of this year and I continue to be amazed.

My years as a construction engineer have colored the way I view these ancient Mesoamerican sites. I first notice how the buildings are constructed; the quality of stone and mortar work and the squareness of each building. Teotihuacán didn't let me down. The construction is first rate. Then I usually try calculating the man hours it must have taken to build each structure.

This trip I spent about seven hours with one of my travel partners named Elrey Goheen; it was his first time at Teotihuacán. As we walked the length of the site, I tried to answer all his questions. We climbed the 260-foot high Pyramid of the Sun. Elrey made it to the top first, since I stopped at each level to take pictures. When I arrived,

huffing and puffing, he applauded me causing a group of teenage school girls to join the applause and congratulate me on my success.

When I visited the site this February I noticed something different. The grandeur and majesty of the site was almost



overwhelming. This realization struck me with force; unlike most other sites ancient sites, this one had been conceived and built all at once. Most Mesoamerican sites were built, little by little, over time, adding more buildings as the site grew. The layout of this site was a single master plan, clearly they were trying to make some kind of statement. (*See artist concept of what the Pyramid of the Moon*

must have looked like).

I believe this site was a monument, or testimony, to their view of God. They must have felt that only by building on such a grand scale could they express the greatness and majesty of God. In years to follow, even after it was abandoned, nearby communities referred to it as a holy city. "Teotihuacán is actually the Aztec name for the city, meaning 'Place of the Gods'; unfortunately, the original name is yet to be deciphered from surviving name glyphs at the

site."¹

No one knows exactly why the city was ultimately abandoned. It is only a mystery as to why the Aztecs or some other group did not re-occupy it. Maybe, they too sensed its holy purpose and out of reverence and awe chose to respect it and leave it alone.

Footnote:

1. <http://www.ancient.eu/Teotihuacan/>