

Where Did The Book Of Mormon Really Take Place, and Does It Matter?

By David W. Allan

Let Us Start With What We Know

The prophets have taught that:

1. Hill Cumorah is in New York (Jonathan Neville has put together what he calls a BYU packet of all the prophet's statements regarding the Hill Cumorah being in New York)
2. We don't know where the other events took place, not because there is no evidence, but because there is too much evidence.
3. We do know from the Prophet Joseph that Zeph's mound is real and the statements there to were received by revelation, which statements are in the Annotated Edition of The Book of Mormon.
4. We also know from Joseph that the Nephi altar at Adam-ondi-Ahman is real.
5. Joseph also names the City Manti and its location in Missouri, which is documented in four places in the Annotated Edition of The Book of Mormon.
6. Lastly, we have the Lord's revelation for the name of the city across from Nauvoo being Zarahemla. Jonathan Neville's book, *The Lost City of Zarahemla*, does a great job discussing this important topic.

Now Consider God's Basic Premise:

Where the Book of Mormon takes place matters greatly because the Lord has said through the prophet Moroni, who saw our day: "For behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore **he that doth possess it shall serve God** or shall be swept off; for it is the **everlasting decree of God**. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are **swept off**." (Ether 2:10; bolding is mine throughout the text) If we believe the Book of Mormon record, let us give serious attention to the Lord's **everlasting decree**.

An Apostle of the Lord, Elder L. Tom Perry, has proclaimed, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is truly a world-wide Church. Nevertheless, it is important to realize that the Church could never have become what it is today without the birth of a great nation, the United

States of America. The Lord prepared a new land to attract the peoples of the world who sought liberty and religious freedom...

“The United States is the promised land foretold in the Book of Mormon, a place where divine guidance directed inspired men to create the conditions necessary for the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was the birth of the United States of America that ushered out the Great Apostasy, when the earth was darkened by the absence of prophets and revealed light. It was no coincidence that the lovely morning of the First Vision occurred just decades after the establishment of the United States.”

If Elder Perry is right, and I believe he is, **then it is critical that the people of the United States repent and serve God, or they will be “swept off.”** How much more clear can it be? Yet many say the geography for the Book of Mormon doesn't matter. <https://itsabouttimebook.com/americasgreatestneedrepentance/> In my early years in the Church, I believed like most of the members that Mesoamerica explained the geography of the Book of Mormon. Decades ago, our son Sterling first woke me up that it could be otherwise and that the Great Lakes area had a large number of artifacts consistent with the Book of Mormon geography. Since then, I have gotten to know many researchers who have opened my eyes to the Heartland model for Book of Mormon historicity, archaeology, and geography. I could make a very long list, but the work and research of the following have been enormously valuable and much of what I share here is from their research efforts; for them I am extremely grateful: Wayne May (who is a convert to the Church), Rod Meldrum, Amberli Nelson, Jonathan Neville, Timothy Ballard, Ryan Fisher, Steve Smoot, Richard Moats, and many others showing the consistency of the Heartland model while giving evidence that the Mesoamerica model doesn't match the historicity, the geography, nor the archaeology of the Book of Mormon message.

How Can You Know Something is True?

Because of the importance of Elder Perry's bold proclamation as a prophet, as a scientist and as a devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have studied the evidence around his statement. You cannot prove a theory or hypothesis is true, but you can prove it false, if you have sound experimental evidence to the contrary. We learn this from logic. So, we have a sure way to know if something is false. Only if God reveals it can we know something is true. In studying the evidence, I have used reasoning -- both deduction and induction. I extract the following from my book: www.ItsAboutTimeBook.com.

My good friend, Paul Rimmasch, author of the book, *The Lost Stones*, has shared the following useful perspective. Paul is an expert forensic scientist and crime scene

investigator. Basically, there are two different ways for a scientist to ascertain the Truth of something: deduction and induction.

Deduction is a top-down approach: one has an idea, a theory, or a hypothesis and then from experiments one observes whether the data fit or not. There is a danger with the deductive approach. If one has a pet theory, then there may be a tendency to pick the data so that they fit the theory. We see that integrity here is extremely important and to not be prone to cater to our pet ideas. If we know God's word is true and trust in it — and we will give you very good evidence that you can trust in His word — then this knowledge helps in the deduction approach. The deduction approach will be used where we know or strongly believe we can trust the theory or hypothesis.

The Savior is suggesting the deductive approach to us in John: "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out... my teaching comes from God." "If ye continue in my word, ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," respectively. (John 7:17 (NIV) and 8:31-36 (KJB)). These scriptures are true for individuals and for nations.

Induction, on the other hand, is a bottom-up approach. One observes all of the relevant data and then after patterns, trends, or reasonable models seem to fit all of the data, then an idea modeling the data, a hypothesis or theory that seems appropriate is developed that fits all of the data. We can then look at the implications of this theory or hypothesis. This process often allows us to refine the theory or hypothesis.

Induction is the approach the Savior suggests when he tells us how to know false prophets: "You will know them by their fruits... every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit." (Matthew 7:15-20 (NAS)) In this remarkable scripture we have both a necessary and a sufficient condition to know if a prophet and his teachings are true or false. For me, using the Savior's criteria Joseph Smith is a prophet of God.

The induction approach is also very powerful in ascertaining Truth. We will visit the inductive-correlated reasoning approach later on in the article with fascinating information.

Deduction is the main approach in science today with the theory of evolution and the big-bang theory being very important cases in point – both of which have been proven false. In forensics, they use induction to avoid the danger of unfounded biases coming from the high level of emotions involved with those associated with a crime scene.

Based on deductive and inductive reasoning, we can make the following truth table.

THEORY	Deductive Evidence Proving Theory is False	Inductive Evidence Correlation is not Validation*
Heartland Model	The Data fit the Model; No Evidence to falsify the theory	Data Match the Model
Mesoamerica Model	Significant data showing The Model to be False**	Some Data Match the Model And Some Data don't

*Again, correlated evidence does not give validation of a theory

**Next I list examples of data showing the Mesoamerica Model to be false:

Evidences Showing the Mesoamerica Theory to be False**

There are numerous evidences proving the Mesoamerica theory for the Book of Mormon historicity and geography to be false. Realize, it only takes one reliable source of data to prove a theory false, but here I share several poignant ones:

§ The DNA of the aborigine Mesoamerica peoples are mainly Asian. House of Israel DNA shows up mainly in North America's Heartland.

§ The Book of Mormon peoples practiced the Law of Moses; the necessary items to observe this law didn't exist in Mesoamerica.

§ Mesoamerica is not a "choice land, saith God unto me, above all other lands." (2 Nephi 10:19)

§ Mesoamerica did not produce the promise that the, "Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered." (1 Nephi 22:7) This clearly was the United States.

§ Mesoamerica has never been, "A chosen land, and the land of liberty." (Alma 46:17) The Statue of Liberty is a USA symbol.

§ Mesoamerica has never been promised the New Jerusalem after the flood "this land... became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; wherefore the Lord

would have that all men should serve him who dwell upon the face thereof; And that it was the place of the New Jerusalem.” (Ether 13:2-3)

§ In the dedicatory prayer for the Kirtland Temple, Joseph Smith identifies the United States as the “Gentile Nation,” and Nephi prophesies that England will fight against us (the Revolutionary War). This violates the Mesoamerica theory. (1 Nephi 13:17)

§ Nephi prophesies that the Bible was to be carried forth to this Gentile nation, and the Bible was the most important book for the creation of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. (1 Nephi 13:18-25) Again, this violates the Mesoamerica theory.

§ Nephi further prophesies, “these things [The Book of Mormon] shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles [USA], by the gift and power of the Lamb.” (1 Ne. 13:35) This happened with the Hill Cumorah, and clearly did not happen in Mesoamerica.

The Scriptures Tell Us How To Not Be Deceived

If God reveals something, then we can know it is true. We have the sure promise in the scriptures: “And whoso treasureth up my word, shall not be deceived, for the Son of Man shall come, and he shall send his angels before him with the great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together the remainder of his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (JS-M 37) He is the word (John 1:1), and I have a whole chapter in my book, “What is God’s word?” We live in a world where credentials seem to be more important than inspiration. Well did Jacob counsel: “O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing **they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness** and it profiteth them not, And they shall perish. **But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God.** (2 Nephi 9:28-29)

Perspectives from Our Prophets

§ Joseph Smith, Jr., in describing the Book of Mormon in the famous Wentworth letter, states, “In this important and interesting book the history of ancient America is unfolded, from its first settlement by a colony that came from the Tower of Babel, at the confusion of languages to the beginning of the fifth century of the Christian Era. We are informed by these records that America in ancient times has been inhabited by two distinct races of people. The first were called Jaredites, and came directly from the Tower of Babel. The second race came directly

from the City of Jerusalem, about six hundred years before Christ. They were principally Israelites, of the descendants of Joseph. The Jaredites were destroyed about the time that the Israelites came from Jerusalem, who succeeded them in the inheritance of the country. The principal nation of the second race fell in battle towards the close of the fourth century. The **remnant are the Indians that now inhabit this country**. This book also tell us that our Savior made His appearance unto **this continent** after His resurrection; that He planted the Gospel here in all its fullness, and richness, and power, and blessing,” (Joseph Smith Jr. *Times and Seasons*, 1 March 1842, vol. 3, no. 9 p. 707). Joseph Smith, a prophet of God, who knew better than anyone where the Book of Mormon took place, is clearly sharing that it is “**this continent**” (North America) where the resurrected Savior appeared as described in the Book of Mormon.

§ In a letter Joseph wrote to Emma while they were traveling in **Zion’s Camp**, he stated, “The whole of our journey, in the midst of so large a company of social honest and sincere men, **wandering over the plains of the Nephites**, recounting occasionally the history of the Book of Mormon, roving over the mounds of that once beloved people of the Lord, picking up their skulls and their bones, as a proof of its divine authenticity, and gazing upon a country the fertility, the splendor and the goodness so indescribable, all serves to pass away time unnoticed.” (Letter to Emma Smith [4 June 1834, 57 The Joseph Smith Papers) This 900 mile march from Kirtland, Ohio to Clay County, Missouri included the “**plains of the Nephites.**”

§ On that trip they unearthed a burial on a mound and “discovered the skeleton of a man, almost entire, and between his ribs the stone point of a Lamanitish arrow, which evidently produced his death... subsequently the visions of the past being opened to my understanding by the Spirit of the Almighty I discovered that the person whose Skeleton we had seen was a white Lamanite, a large thick set man, and a man of God. His name was Zelph. He was a warrior and Chieftain under the great prophet Onandagus, who was known **from the eastern sea, to the Rocky Mountains... He was killed in battle, by the arrow found among his ribs, during a great struggle with the Lamanites.**” (*The Joseph Smith Papers*, History. 1838-1856, Volume A-1 [23 December 1805 – 30 August 1834], 482-483.) Eight others in Zion’s Camp wrote in their journals of this experience and how the Spirit of revelation showed in Joseph’s countenance as he shared this fascinating piece of history. It is now called Zelph’s Mound; we have been there. The Church has the “stone point” in their archives.

§ Letter VII was written by President Oliver Cowdery of the First Presidency with the assistance of Joseph Smith, Jr. And we read from it the extremely important message regarding Book of

Mormon geography, as Oliver is describing the view to the west of the Hill Cumorah: “At about one mile west rises another ridge of less height, running parallel with the former, leaving a beautiful vale between. ...**when one reflects on the fact, that here, between these hills, the entire power and national strength of both the Jaredites and Nephites were destroyed... Moroni... deposited... all the records in this same hill, Cumorah.**

§ “**By commandment from God,**” the Prophet Joseph Smith wrote a letter to Noah C. Saxton, 4 January 1833, stating, “**The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians... containing the word of God, which was delivered unto them...** By it, we learn that our western tribes of Indians are descendants from that Joseph that was sold into Egypt, and that the **land of America is a promise land unto them.**” (*The American Revivalist, and Rochester Observer*, Rochester, New York, [2 Feb. 1833])

§ President Marion G. Romney profoundly testifies, “I will give you a lesson today that the Lord has taken great pains to bring to us... In the western part of the state of New York near Palmyra is a prominent hill known as the “**hill Cumorah.**” (Mormon 6:6) On July twenty-fifth of this year, as I stood on the crest of that hill admiring with awe the breathtaking panorama which stretched out before me on every hand, my mind reverted to the events which occurred in that vicinity some twenty-five centuries ago – events which brought to an end the great Jaredite nation... Thus perished at the foot of Cumorah the remnant of the once mighty Jaredite nation, of whom the Lord had said, ‘There shall be none greater... upon all the face of the earth.’ (Ether 1:43) As I contemplated this tragic scene from the crest of Cumorah and viewed the beautiful land of the Restoration as it appears today, I cried in my soul, How could it have happened?... This second civilization to which I refer, the **Nephites**, flourished in America between 600 B.C. and A.D. 400. Their **civilization came to an end for the same reason, at the same place, and in the same manner as did the Jaredites. I bear you my personal witness that I know that the things I have presented to you today are true** – both those pertaining to past events and those pertaining to events yet to come.” (President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency, 145th Semiannual Conference, Saturday Morning Session, October 4, 1975)

§ More recently, President Ezra Taft Benson proclaimed, “This was the place where Adam dwelt: this was the place where the Garden of Eden was; it was here that Adam met with a body of high priests at Adam-ondi-Ahman shortly before his death and gave them his final blessing, and the place to which he will return to meet with the leaders of his people (D&C 107:53-57). **This was the place of three former civilizations:** that of Adam, that of the Jaredites, and that of the Nephites. This was also the place where our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ,

appeared to Joseph Smith, inaugurating the last dispensation. The Lord has also decreed that **this land should be ‘the place of the new Jerusalem** which should come down out of heaven and the holy sanctuary of the Lord (Ether 13:3. Here is our nation’s destiny!” (October 1979 General Conference.)

§ As if the above were not enough, finally by way of testimony I share the words of our current living Prophet, Russell M. Nelson, “The Book of Mormon reveals the inheritance of Joseph, son of Israel, who was not forgotten when land was distributed to the tribes of Israel. This was promised in the Abrahamic covenant. Because... Joseph’s inheritance was to be a **land choice above all others**. Choice because it was chosen to be the repository of sacred writing on golden palates from which the Book of Mormon would one day come. Choice because it would eventually host the world headquarters of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ in the latter days. And it was choice because it was a **land of liberty** for those who worship the Lord and keep His commandments.” (*Yes, Mormons are Christians*, Legends Library [2017], 60)

Here is a hard question: If the people of this PROMISED LAND do not repent and they are swept off, can they then tell the Lord? “Had we known this was the PROMISED LAND, we would have repented!” BUT HE HAS TOLD US!

Why do some Members Believe in the Mesoamerica Model for Book of Mormon Geography?

Physically, historically, and archeologically evidences are now accumulating rapidly that North America is the Promised Land. Why, in the past, have so many members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believed otherwise? Jonathan Neville uncovered the reason why. Read Jonathan E. Neville’s books, *Brought to Light* (24 Dec.2015), *The Lost City of Zarahemla*, (1-11-16). Neville gives convincing evidence that the Mesoamerica theory for where the Book of Mormon took place started on a false premise, and the Prophet Joseph tried to stop it. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught and never said otherwise than that the Book of Mormon history took place in the heartland of America – the Promised Land and the place of the restoration.

Here I share Neville’s insightful perspective:

In 1842, a zealous, committed Mormon [Benjamin Winchester] invented a way to gain more converts. All he had to do was link the Book of Mormon to popular books, including a national bestseller, about Mesoamerica. This proof would be irresistible to the public. Except the prophet disagreed with the tactic. Convinced he was right, he

battled Joseph Smith. Formally suspended and silenced, he fought back. He arranged for the publication in the *Times and Seasons* of articles that specifically linked the Book of Mormon to Mesoamerica. The consequences? Joseph Smith resigned from the paper. The champions of the Mesoamerican theory apostatized from the Church. And the Mesoamerican theory would undermine faith in Joseph Smith's role as prophet, seer and revelator for the next 174 years. This man's zeal and subterfuge have remained a secret despite the devoted efforts of historians, educators, and church leaders to uncover the truth. Until now.

If all the saints were to read Jonathan Neville's books, I believe we would make major progress toward understanding and being united as regards Book of Mormon geography and historicity.

Scholars have spent enormous amounts of money and time authenticating the geography and historicity of the Bible with great success. We are on the verge of giant strides in this regard for the Book of Mormon, which will also validate Joseph Smith as the Lord's prophet of the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times when, as Peter and Paul share, there will be a restitution of "all things." (Acts 3.21; Ephesians 1:10) That is happening "as we speak."

Hugh Nibley summarized the situation well:

What most impressed me last summer on my first and only expedition to Central America was the complete lack of definite information about anything Book of Mormon. (Hugh Nibley, *The Prophetic Book of Mormon* [Salt Lake City and Provo: Deseret Book Co., Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, 1989], 265.)

The Book of Mormon is a history of a related primitive church, and one may well ask what kind of remains the Nephites would leave us from their more virtuous days. A closer approximation to the Book of Mormon picture of Nephite culture is seen in the earth and palisade structures of the Hopewell and Adena culture areas than in the later stately piles of stone in Mesoamerica. (Hugh Nibley, *The Prophetic Book of Mormon* [Salt Lake City and Provo: Deseret Book Co., Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, 1989], 272.)

Respectively, the Hopewell and Adena cultures mirror the Nephite and Jaredite cultures well in time line (historicity), in archaeology, and in geography.

Data giving further evidence, I share the following:

We have the Nephite Altar identified by the Prophet Joseph and witnessed by others at Adam-ondi-Ahman, We have interesting inductive evidence witnesses in three occurrences of the Ten Commandments being found in North America written in ancient Hebrew. My wife's cousin, James Saline, made an imprint of the one in New Mexico. Near Newark, Ohio, in 1860 David Wyrick and others excavated a mound in the center of twelve other mounds and found a stone in a box along with a large skeleton. On the stone is inscribed the Ten Commandments around a figure with the translated name of Moshe (the ancient name of Moses). The writings are readable by Rabbis in ancient "block Hebrew." We visited the museum in Ohio where this stone is kept. There, we also saw the "Holy Stone." The translations of the inscriptions, also in ancient Hebrew, on the four sides of this stone are, "Laws of Yahweh, Holy-of-Holies, Word of Yahweh, and King of the Earth." The stone is pointed and the angle of its sides is 23.5 degrees, which is the inclination of the earth's spin axis to its orbital plane.

Not only is the United States of America the Promised Land, but the "Promised Land" given to the Jaredites and to the Lehites. Rod Meldrum has outlined from the scriptures, that this Promised Land was determined in pre-mortal time to be a sacred and special place.

§ The place for the Garden of Eden;

§ The place where Adam and Eve began the human family;

§ The place where Adam (at Adam-ondi-Ahman), three years prior to his death, bestowed "his last blessing" upon his faithful patriarchal sons and others of the faithful;

§ The place where the Adamic language has been spoken more than any other place – for more than 3,000 years with Adam's family and the Jaredites;

§ The Promised Land where the Jaredites, Lehites and Mulekites were led by the Lord;

§ The place where a free nation (The United States of America) was born to bless all the nations of the earth;

§ The place where the fullness of gospel was restored;

§ The place where Adam will return and where the keys of the Kingdom will be given back to Christ to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords for a thousand years;

§ The place where the New Jerusalem will be built; and

§ The place from whence shall go forth the Law during the great millennial epoch.

It is important to realize that the Jaredites lived here for over 1600 years and the Lehaites for nearly a thousand years. When we look at what has happened in the 400 years since the Pilgrims first came to America, we should not be surprised to see evidence of both Jaredite and Lehaitite peoples throughout the Americas. Both Mormon and Moroni said they only could write a hundredth part of the history of their people.

Recently, a friend of ours, Duane Erickson, was in our home. He has been promoting the Heartland Model for decades; he shared with us and showed us pictures of the work of two scientists who have found evidence in Utah that the Aztecs left from Utah. (Cicilio Orosco of California State University, Fresno, and Alfonso Rivas-Salmon, a respected Mexican anthropologist at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, show Aztec origin to be in Utah with migration occurring about 502 B.C.) For their inheritance, the Lord gave the seed of Joseph the land of the "everlasting hills," (North, Central, and South America, see Genesis 49:22-26 and JST Genesis 50:24-38).

When Duane learned that I had been invited to St. Petersburg, Russia, to give a talk at an International Navigation Conference, he drove all the way down from Evanston, WY, to let me borrow a stone that had been given to him by Russell E. Burrows, who discovered the Burrows cave in Illinois. Experts say the findings there are a hoax, Burrows not being an expert archaeologist. Duane knew Russell and can vouch for him. On one side the stone showed the nail marks on the Savior's hand and wrist; on the other was a face profile of the Savior. In addition, the mystic symbol was inscribed, as shown below, which is interpreted to be the name of their God, "Yod Hey Vau" (Jehovah).

Regardless of what people say, from the data, because I have seen several occurrences of this kind of stone in the Heartland. Wayne May told me he knows of about 80 of these stones in the Heartland and none in Mesoamerican. It gives one the feeling that these are folks who witnessed the Savior's visit and made these stones in memory of that sacred event. I showed this stone to my colleagues at the conference in St. Petersburg that they might know Christ had visited America after His resurrection. Some say the five nails in the mystic symbol represent the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost talking to prophets to redeem fallen man. Five nails were used to crucify Christ.

There is also a large amount of evidence of ancient Christian activity in Central and South America that is totally consistent with the Jaredites and Lehaites landing in North America given

the amount of time their civilizations existed. For example, read the book, *He Walked the Americas* by L. Taylor Hansen.

Wayne May's *This Land* five volume set validating Mormon and Moroni's writings in the Book of Mormon have sold 35 thousand copies, and his Book of Mormon Geography DVDs have sold 45 thousand copies. Rod Meldrum's work has been extremely helpful as well in addressing the question of validating the historicity and geography of the Book of Mormon. His book, *Exploring The Book of Mormon in America's Heartland, A Visual Journey of Discovery*, has sold well over 40,000 copies, and he has sold around 250,000 DVDs acquainting people with the Heartland model. In 2010, my wife and I were privileged to go on one of his tours, and it was a life-changing experience.

Keith Merrill, the writer and director of the profound movies *Legacy* and *The Testaments*, went on Rod Meldrum's tour and had a change of heart from the Mesoamerica model to the Heartland model. He would love to redo the movie *The Testaments* in the correct place.

The new *Annotated Edition of The Book of Mormon* edited by David R. Hocking and Rod L. Meldrum, with contributions from Jonathan Neville, Boyd J. Tuttle, Rian Nelson, Amberli Nelson, and several others, is having great success since being published in 2018, with several thousand copies being sold already. The five thousand printed for the September 2018 Book of Mormon Evidence conference sold out almost immediately. There is a significant shift in acceptance of the general Church membership of the Heartland model as evidenced in a new book (2019), "...most scholars support a Mesoamerican setting for the Book of Mormon. But **the general membership of the Church, those who actually take an interest, seem to have an affinity for this North American theory – what has become known as the 'Heartland Theory.'**"

"This theory, set mainly in the eastern United States, has probably the largest 'following' of your average everyday Latter-day Saint. In their favor they have had a lot of press and exposure in recent years. And, also in their favor they have this little hill in New York that a long-standing tradition **says is the actual hill Cumorah that we read about in the Book of Mormon.**" (CUMORAH, The Journal of Book of Mormon Geography, p 41)

For me, the model that Rod laid out for us, over those two weeks, fits hand in glove with what we read in the Book of Mormon. Everything from the "Waters of Mormon" to Zarahemla, the River Sidon, and the Land Bountiful felt right and looked right. It was like when we visited the Holy Land with Daniel Rona and had the Bible story laid out before us in a most inspiring way –

including details of the Savior's life and where He worked out the infinite atonement. <https://itsabouttimebook.com/the-infinite-atonement-of-jesus-christ/> We have also been privileged to see some of the ruins in Central America, and we fully agree with Hugh Nibley's assessment quoted above.

I have heard several of Wayne May's talks and have his five volume set of books entitled, *This Land*. The Hebrew relics he has shared and the Book of Mormon evidence he has compiled are most compelling, as well, for North America being the Promised Land where both the Jaredites and the Lehtes first landed and which they both called the "**Promised Land**."

Bruce Porter's book entitled, *An Everlasting Decree – Ensuring a Title of Liberty for the Promised Land*, has direct scriptural evidence that North America is the Promised Land. He further shows that it matters greatly to know that and for all of us to help bring about the repentance so critically needed that she may fulfill her destiny of helping to prepare the Bride to meet the Bridegroom at His coming. <https://itsabouttimebook.com/americasgreatestneedrepentance/> *Prophecies & Promises* by Bruce Porter & Rod Meldrum provides major insights regarding North America being the Promised Land spoken of in the Book of Mormon.

The DNA studies, mentioned above, also point to North America being the land of the Lehtes, where haplogroup X2 – common among the Hopewell Native Americans – ties back to the Middle East. When the first studies of DNA were made on Native Americans, scientists labeled them A, B, C, and D, which tie back to Asia and Siberia. The anti-Mormons picked up on this immediately and propagated the tale that the Book of Mormon is false because the people in Mesoamerican were not Israelite DNA.

That there were other populations present in the Americas seems evident from current data. In the DVD *Lost Civilizations of North America* is documented that anciently there was significant commerce between the continents.

The Book of Mormon clearly tells of the Savior visiting other groups. As He went from the Promised Land to visit them, so now our missionaries go from the Promised Land to share the gospel with remnants of Israel, which is one of the main signs before the Lord's coming. (Matt. 31, JS-M)

We read in apocryphal literature that when the Ten Tribes were taken captive by the Assyrians around 721 BC they subsequently traveled into the north – including both Europe and Asia. There is other evidence including scriptures that support this hypothesis.

Another good friend of ours, Keith Chandler, served his mission in Finland. He shared with us that the Fins have an oral tradition that lines up beautifully with the Savior anciently having visited them as well. In that regard, it is interesting that haplogroup X, which is also found among the Hopewell Indians, ties to Finland, Italy and the Holy Land. In some of Rod Meldrum's original research, he has a picture of a Native American who looks much like an Italian.

The Lord Turns Evil into Good to Draw Us Closer to Him and Believe in His Word

Everything the Lord does is in the loving intent to help us draw closer to Him. If we ask, "Why did the Lord instruct the Prophet Joseph to name the city, across from Nauvoo, Zarahemla?" (D&C 125:3) we arrive at some interesting answers. It is particularly interesting that the Lord gave Joseph a map of how the city was to be laid out, which included a temple facing the Nauvoo Temple – like book ends across the Mississippi (Sidon) River. Recently, Wayne May has found evidence of an ancient temple facing the Nauvoo Temple in the area the Lord so designated.

The Lord's promise in D&C 121:26-32 "Which our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times, which their minds were pointed to by the angels, as held in reserve for the fulness of their glory" is rapidly coming about. It is also interesting, that before the Des Moines dam was built, and Nauvoo was the first place one could cross the Mississippi River on foot. One hypothesis is the Mulekites navigated up the Mississippi to this point and settled Zarahemla.

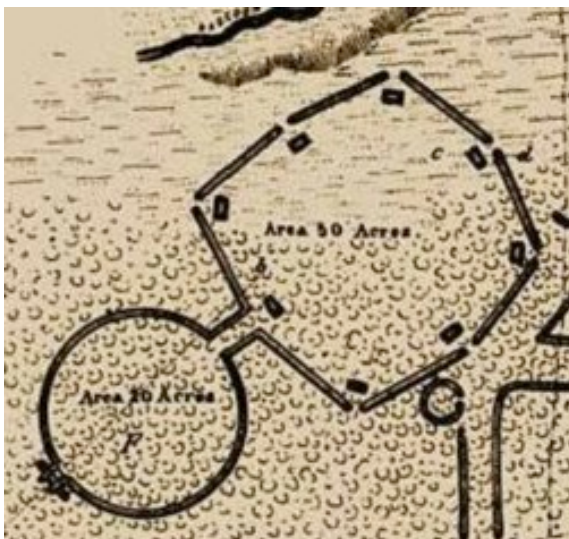
I find it fascinating that the revelation, (D&C 125:3) naming a city Zarahemla to be built across from Nauvoo, was given by the Lord just before the controversy began between the Prophet Joseph and Benjamin Winchester regarding Book of Mormon geography. It is as if the Lord – anticipating this controversy – gave the revelation to bring understanding and harmony to those who had eyes to see and ears to hear His word. Winchester persisted and would not leave the Mesoamerica model alone for the geography of the Book of Mormon. This controversy is well documented in Jonathan Neville's most recent books, *The Lost City of Zarahemla*, and *Brought to Light*.

Joseph prophesied that Winchester had "a rotten heart" that he would "apostatize, and injure the Church as much as he could." That is exactly what happened, but the Lord will turn all of that into good, as we will see. My wife, Edna, has a fascinating idea regarding the perspective by the general church membership that the Book of Mormon took place in Mesoamerica. The Lord knew what would happen and that the general acceptance of the Mesoamerica model would dominate LDS thinking for 174 years. He knew the Church members would take the gospel to

the folks in Central and South America with more vigor believing this model than they would have otherwise. He loves all of His children. Now it is time for the true Lamanites to blossom as a rose as the First become the Last in preparation for the Lord's coming. (See Chapter 23 of my book, (<http://ItsAboutTimeBook.com>))

I taught institute for the Moroni Stake for eleven years following our mission to the Ivory Coast ('97-'99), where we also saw evidence of the scattered tribes of Israel. It was interesting to me to see the change in the Book of Mormon institute manual during those eleven years. The old manual had many pictures from Mesoamerica; the new manual has none. Recently, the Church released a new film following General Conference depicting the Savior's coming to America following His resurrection. The old film depicted it occurring in Mesoamerica; the new one depicted it amongst the mounds of the Hopewell Indians – many of which are in the Mississippi drainage – the great Sidon River – and consistent with the Heartland model.

For me, as a scientist, the data are very convincing. Watch the DVD, *Lost Civilizations of North America*. Beginning in 1991, Dr. Roger Kennedy, then director of the Smithsonian, became aware of what he calls, "Hidden Cities." Like him, the more you learn of it the more you will be astounded. Experts estimate that there were more than 200,000 mounds and structures built by the Hopewell civilization along the Ohio and Mississippi drainages. The ancient city of Cahokia, IL, across from St. Lewis, was larger than London or Rome. Chillicothe, Missouri, is a Shawnee word for "big town." Only about 1,000 of these mounds remain (0.5%). The rest have been destroyed because of the colonizer's attitude of "manifest destiny" – feeling the natives were savages, and to redeem these lands from them was their right as a superior-evolved race.



As an example, the Great Octagon and Great Circle are part of a larger Newark, the Ohio Earthworks complex which is about 4 ½ square miles. The octagon portion of the Great Octagon is large enough to house four Roman coliseums and combined with the other portions of this complex, make it the largest and most sophisticated earth mound structure on earth. The angle of the Great Pyramid at Giza from the baseline to the apex is 51.8 degrees. The angle of the Great Octagon through the centers of the Octagon and adjoining circle to true North is also

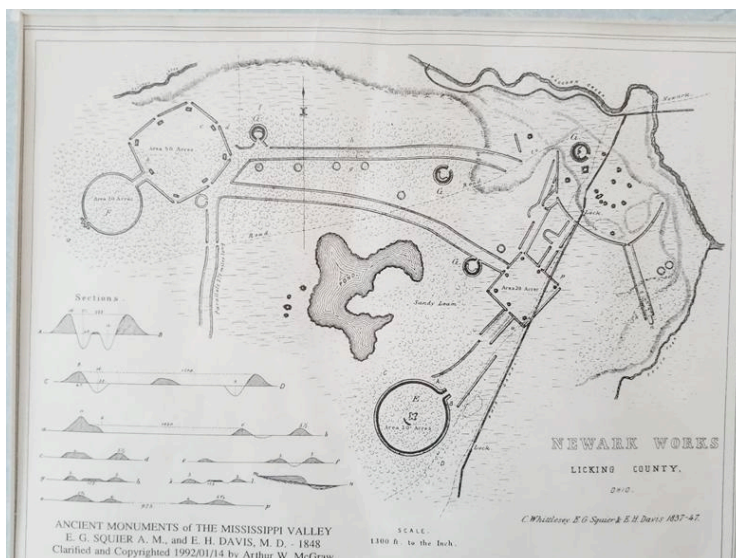
51.8 degrees. Encoded in the eight nodes of the Great Octagon are all eight of the moons lunar

alignments over its entire 18.6 year cycle – consistent with Hebrew calendar dating. Dr. Bradley T. Lopper, curator of the Ohio historical society says, “This is as inspiring as sending a man to the moon,” and rivals any other architectural achievement.”

The 51.8 degrees angle forms what is called “The Divine ratio.” If you measure the distance from the base of the Giza Pyramid to the apex divided by the distance from the edge of the base to the center of the base, you obtain the Divine ratio. The Divine ratio is also found in the five pointed star, as illustrated. The ratio of b/a can be shown equal to $(b+a)/b$ uniquely for the five pointed star, which is the Divine ratio.

The Great Octagon has been carbon dated to about 100 to 150 AD, and was evidently a time of great peace and of a highly sophisticated civilization with science and religion integrated, as there were no defense networks around it. From Rodney Meldrum’s work, this correlates with the “Land Bountiful” in the Book of Mormon, which is where the Savior appeared to them. It clearly was a very sacred place for them. This civilization ended about 400 AD according to archaeologists – matching the Book of Mormon account. Recent archeological digs give evidence that the Nephites built this magnificent structure over what the Jaredites had built.

This new finding has great significance because the brother of Jared was shown the whole history of the earth when the Lord visited him, and they were the greatest civilization to ever be on the earth. We only have the Book of Ether giving a sketch of their magnificence.



Amberli Nelson points out, when studied carefully, this amazing 4 ½ square-miles of earth works shown below maps out God’s plan of salvation. (Documented by Squire and Davis in 1848) For example, the 30 acre circle at the bottom has a water trench on the inside denoting a womb – representing where we were born as spirit children of our Heavenly Parents. Note the birth canal, going from the circle toward the square, is larger than the birth canal attached to the square; the latter denotes our physical birth into mortality. The symbolism shows us being given physical birth into the 20 acre square area (denoting the four corners of

the earth). The birth canal attached to the square; the latter denotes our physical birth into mortality. The symbolism shows us being given physical birth into the 20 acre square area (denoting the four corners of

the earth). Note additionally that by the ratio of the areas (30 acres/20 acres) represents the third part of the children of God who also came to earth but were denied physical bodies – the angels who fell following Lucifer. Not to elaborate further here, but other details of Heavenly Father’s perfect plan of happiness can be seen. This gives further evidence that this was the Land Bountiful, and was very sacred to them. REJOICE, as we see God’s truths unfold as inspiring signs of the times. I have found 25 correlations in these earth works documented by Squire and Davis with the Plan of Salvation. I feel these folks had constructed these amazing representations of the Plan of Happiness in deep gratitude to their Creator and for the Nephites for the Savior’s visit to them and sharing how to be a Zion, pure-in-heart, society, which they were for over 200 years, and inviting us to do the same.

Let us Take the Evidence, Build our Faith, and Come to Christ.

We know the main purpose of the Book of Mormon is to bring us to Christ and to be along with the Bible another witness of Him and his infinite atonement: <https://itsabouttimebook.com/the-infinite-atonement-of-jesus-christ/> But we also see from the above the importance of knowing that North America is the PROMISED LAND. The United States is the “Promised Land” spoken of in the Book of Mormon – exactly as Elder Perry stated. Unfortunately, The United States, the Promised Land, has turned her back on God with enormous consequences because the “Everlasting Decree” is in place, and her people will be “swept off” unless there is massive repentance. Hence, we see the great importance both of knowing that this is the “Promised Land,” and of sharing the vital message of the gospel to bring this people and all people back to the God of this land, who is Jesus Christ, with the goal to come to know the Father and the Son, which is Eternal Life – the greatest of all the gifts of God. <https://itsabouttimebook.com/americasgreatestneedrepentance/> <https://itsabouttimebook.com/who-are-the-gentiles-message-from-ancient-prophet/>