

MORMON & THE FALL OF THE NEPHITES

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, November, 2000

1. Where, in the Book of Mormon, do we find the Writings of Mormon?

Words of Mormon 1:1-18

1:1-2 Mormon about to deliver the plates to Moroni.

1:3-8 He included the small account of the prophets (v. 3b) for an unknown purpose:

D& C 10:8-19 *The plot*

D& C 10:38-42 *The solution*

1:9-18 Historical Bridge: Amaleki delivered up “the plates” to King Benjamin (Omni 1:23-25), who put them with the “other plates.” King Benjamin established peace in the land. (279-130 B.C. = 149 years)

3 Nephi 5:8-26 Mormon tells of his origin, his role as abridger and as a disciple of Christ.

Mormon 1-7 Mormon’s account of the fall of the Nephites to the Lamanites.

Moroni 7-9 Moroni quotes Mormon’s writings on faith, hope and charity; infant baptism; and his final letter and admonition to Moroni.

2. Important Editorial Explanations Made by Mormon:

Alma 22:27-34 He defines the lands of (1) *Nephi* [27-29], (2) *Zarahemla* [27-29], (3) *Bountiful* (29-33), and *Desolation* [30-32] as they were between 90 and 77 B.C.

Nephi *The southernmost of the four lands*

* Bordered to the sea, east and West [27]

* Divided from the land of Zarahemla by a narrow strip of wilderness

* from the sea east to the sea west,

* bordering the seashore,

* and on the north by the land of Zarahemla

* through the borders of Manti,

* by the head of the River Sidon, running from east to west) [27]

* Lamanites lived in the west of the land of Nephi, in the borders by the seashore, *in the place of their father’s first inheritance* [28] (Lehi & his family)

* There were many Lamanites on the east of the land of Nephi by the seashore, where the Nephites had driven them [29]

* The Nephites had taken possession of the northern parts of the land, bordering on the wilderness, at the head of the River Sidon, from east to west [28]

* The land was nearly surrounded by water [32]

Zarahemla *Mulekite-Nephite territory north of the land of Nephi*

* Lamanites lived on the west of the land of Zarahemla, in the borders by the seashore [29]

* The Nephites had taken possession of all the northern parts of the land until they came to the land Bountiful [29]

* The land was nearly surrounded by water [32]

* Nephite armies kept the Lamanites contained in the land of Nephi and the

wilderness round about [33-34]

Bountiful *Nephite territory north of Zarahemla*

- * Bordered upon the land of Desolation [30]
- * South of Desolation [31]
- * The wilderness is filled with wild animals, some of which had come from the land northward for food [31]
- * A day-and-a-half's journey for a Nephite, at the Bountiful-Desolation border, to cross from the east to the west sea [32]
- * There was a small neck of land between the land northward and the land southward [32]
- * The Nephites had inhabited the land Bountiful [33]

Desolation

- * Was so far northward that it came into the land which had been peopled and destroyed, of whose bones we have spoken (Mos. 8:7-12, 28:11-19; Omni 1:20-22), the place of the people's (the Jaredites) first landing [30]

3. Study Items from the Index to the Triple Combination

The Four Lands: (listed from North to South)

Desolation, Land of (p. 79) - *north of the land Bountiful*

Alma 22:30 place of first landing of people of Zarahemla (Mulekites)

Mormon 3:5 Mormon causes people to gather to the land of Desolation

Bountiful, Land of (p. 35) - *Nephite territory north of Zarahemla*

Zarahemla, Land of (pp. 412-13) - *region around city of Zarahemla, also area from southern wilderness to land of Bountiful on north*

Nephi, Land of (p. 243) - *land of Lehi's first inheritance, also a smaller part of that land, sometimes called the land of Lehi-Nephi*

The Hill and Surrounding Area With Three Names:

Cumorah, Land and Hill of (p. 69) (*See also Ramah, Hill of*)

(Morm. 6:2-4) Nephites gather at Cumorah; (6:4) land of many waters; (6:5) ***Nephites at Cumorah by A.D. 385***; (6:6) Mormon hides the records in the Hill Cumorah; (6:11) ***all but 24 Nephites slain at Cumorah***; (D&C 128:20) glad tidings from Cumorah; (JS-H 1:42, 50-54, 59) Joseph Smith takes the plates from Hill Cumorah

Shim, Hill (p. 329) *in land Antum*; (Morm.1:3) Ammaron deposited records in hill called Shim; (4:23) Mormon takes records from hill Shim; (***Eth. 9:3 Omer and family travel near hill of Shim and place where Nephites were destroyed***)

Ramah, Hill (p. 289) *Jaredite name for Hill Cumorah (See also Cumorah, Land and Hill of)* (***Eth. 15:11 army of Coriantumr pitch tents by hill Ramah, where Mormon hid records***)

People, Other Lands:

Mormon (pp. 230-31) Nephite prophet, general, record keeper, abridger (c. A.D. 333)

Moroni (pp. 231-32) son of Mormon, last of the Nephites (c. A.D. 421)

Mulek (p. 235) son of Jewish king Zedekiah (c. 589 B.C.)

Jaredites (p. 172) descendants of Jared, his brother and his friends

Lands: **Antum** (p. 15); **Moron** (p. 231); **Mulek** (p. 235)

Where Did the Last Nephite-Lamanite Battles Take Place, from A.D. 345 to A.D. 385?

See Mormon 2:17; 2:27; 2:28-29; 3:5; 4:2; 4:8; 4:13; 4:15; 4:23; 5:4-5; 6:1-5—all in the known area of the Nephite civilization.

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