

# INSIGHTS ON THE BOOK OF ETHER

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, December 2000

## 1. Some basic Book of Mormon history:

A. **Mosiah** was warned by the Lord that he and his people should flee out of the land of Nephi. They came down into the **land of Zarahemla**. [Omni 1:12-13] (between 279 and 130 B.C.)

B. They found the **Mulekites**, living in their city of Zarahemla. [Omni 1:14-18]

C. Mosiah's people and the people of Zarahemla united, and **Mosiah was named king**. [Omni 1:19]

D. In King Mosiah's days, a large stone, previously found by the Mulekites, was brought to him. It was the account of **Coriantumr**, the last of the **Jaredites**, who survived the last Jaredite battle to live with the people of Zarahemla for nine moons. [Omni 1:20-22]

E. **Zeniff** led a group of the descendants of Mosiah back to live in the **land of Nephi**, and they came to be subjugated to the Lamanites. [Mos. 9; Omni 1:27-29] (about 200 B.C.)

F. Zeniff conferred his kingdom upon his son, **Noah**, who was a wicked king. [Mos. 11:1] [About 160 B.C.]

G. King **Limhi**, son of Noah, was made a puppet king by the Lamanites, who exacted harsh tributes. [Mos. 19:16, 26] (between 145 and 122 B.C.)

H. King **Mosiah** [son of King Benjamin, grandson of King Mosiah] **sent Ammon** [a descendant of Zarahemla; *not Ammon, one of the four sons of King Mosiah*] and 15 others to learn about Zeniff's group who went to live in the land of Lehi-Nephi. [Mos. 7:1-16] (about 121 B.C.) They found King Limhi and his people after wandering for **40 days**. [Mos. 7:5]

I. **King Limhi's expedition**, sent from the land of Nephi to search for the land of Zarahemla so they could escape from the Lamanites, found a record of a people who had been destroyed, though they didn't find Zarahemla. They were lost in the wilderness for **many days**. [Mos. 8:7-11; 21:25-27] (about 121 B.C.)

J. King Limhi told Ammon about the gold plates his people had found on their expedition. Ammon told him that **King Mosiah was a seer** who could translate the plates. [Mos. 8:12-18; 21:28; 28:13-16]

K. After escaping from the Lamanites in the Land of Nephi and bringing his people to Zarahemla, **King Limhi gave the 24 plates to Mosiah** (son of King Benjamin, grandson of Mosiah). [Mos. 28:11] (about. 92 B.C.)

L. King Mosiah **translated the 24 gold plates**, and conferred them upon Alma [son of Alma]. (about. 92 B.C.) [Mos. 28:10-20] The plates were passed down to **Mormon**.

M. Mormon's son, **Moroni**, gave an account of those ancient inhabitants who were destroyed by the hand of the Lord in the north country, doing so after the last major battle of the Nephites and Lamanites. [Eth. 1:1] (after A.D. 385)

## 2. Descriptions of the contents of the 24 gold plates [the record of the Jaredites]:

A. An account of the people who were destroyed [the Jaredites] from the time of their destruction back to the building of the great tower, and from that time back to the creation of Adam. [Mos. 28:17]

B. The first part of the record speaks of the creation of the world, and of Adam, and from his time down to the great tower [of Babel]. [Eth. 1:3-5]

C. Alma's comments to his son, Helaman, concerning the 24 plates: [Alma 37:21-31]

1. Keep these plates, that the secret works of darkness of those people who have been destroyed, may be manifest unto this people. [21-22]
2. I will prepare unto my servant a stone: interpreters, that I may discover unto my people who serve me their works of darkness, wickedness and abominations. [23-24]
3. The interpreters were prepared to fulfill the prophecy that God will bring forth from darkness to light all their secret abominations, and except they repent I will destroy them. [24-25]
4. Keep their secret oaths and abominations from this people. [27]
5. ***There is a curse upon all this land***, forever, to those workers of darkness and secret combinations, except they repent before they are fully ripe. [28, 31]

D. Moroni: I have written on these plates the very things which the Brother of Jared saw. When the Gentiles shall become sanctified in me, ***I will manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw***. [Eth. 4:4-7, 15-17] *Compare Nephi (1 Ne. 11-15; John the Revelator [see 1 Ne. 14:20-27; Eth. 4:16], Enoch [Moses 6:31-36], Moses 1-6], Joseph Smith, etc.*

E. Ether told them of ***all things***, from the beginning of man; ***a new heaven and a new earth***, and the ***return the New and the Old Jerusalem***. [Eth. 13:1-13. *Compare Rev. 21:1-21.*]

### 3. The concept of the Americas as a choice land and a land of promise:

A. Who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth? [Eth. 1:38]

B. I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the lands of the earth. [Eth. 1:42]

C. There shall be none greater than the nation which I shall raise up unto me of thy seed. [Eth. 1:43]

D. Come forth unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people. [Eth. 2:7]

E. God had sworn that ***whoso should possess this land of promise, forever, should serve him*** [the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ: v. 12], or be swept off when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them. [Eth. 2:8, 12]

F. The decrees of God concerning this land: ***it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when they are ripened in iniquity***. [Eth. 2:9]

G. This is a land which is choice above all other lands; he that doth possess it shall serve God or be swept off. It is the everlasting decree of God. [Eth. 2:10]

H. My Spirit will not always strive with man; if ye shall sin until ye are fully ripe ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord. It shall be a land choice above all other lands. [Eth. 2:15]

I. They did land upon the shore of the promised land. [Eth. 6:12. See Alma 22:30, Eth. 7:6]

J. Prophets warned: wickedness and idolatry was bringing a curse upon the land, and they should be destroyed if they did not repent. [Eth. 7:22, see 11:1, 6, 12]

K. Whatsoever nation shall uphold ***secret combinations*** until they spread over the nation shall be destroyed, for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of the saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him for vengeance. [Eth. 8:18-25]

L. The Lord began to take the curse from off the land, and commanded that whosoever should possess the land should possess it unto the Lord. [Eth. 9:16, 20]

M. *Wars, contentions, famines, pestilences, a great destruction* such as had never been known upon the face of the earth. [Eth. 11:7] Copyright © December 2000 by Duane S. Crowther.