

# Phoenicia-



## Sidon, Lebanon to River Sidon, Iowa



Connecting the Semitic, Phoenician, Hebrew, Lamanite, and Native American



# Phoenicia-

River Sidon, IA

Sidon, Lebanon



Connecting the Semitic, Phoenicians, Hebrews, Lamanites, and Native Americans



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**HEARTLAND**  
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Editor: Rian W. Nelson



PHOENICIA 3



# Phoenician a Semitic Race, Resembling Hebrew

“The coastland extending from the Philistine territory to the mouth of the Orontes. The Phoenicians were a Semitic race, their language closely resembling Hebrew. They were a great commercial people, distributing the wares of Egypt and Babylon, and having trading stations all over the Mediterranean, Carthage being the most important. Their territory was never conquered by the Israelites, but many Israelite kings, including David, Solomon, and Ahab, entered into alliances with them for purposes of trade. Phoenicia consisted of a number of small states ruled by the kings of the great cities, but the Hebrews had most to do with the people of Tyre and Sidon. It was partially conquered by Assyria and Persia and was finally merged in the empire of Alexander the Great. Phoenician religion (see Ashtaroth; Baal) was a nature worship of a very sensuous kind, and its influence over the Israelites was disastrous, especially after the marriage of Ahab to Jezebel, a Phoenician princess. See Tyre; Zidon.” *Phoenicia, LDS Bible Dictionary*

“Shem was the traditional ancestor of the Shemitic or Semitic races, a group of kindred nations, which includes the Arabs, the Hebrews and Phoenicians, the Arameans or Syrians, the Babylonians and Assyrians. The languages spoken by these various nations were closely related and were known as the Semitic languages.” *Shem, LDS Bible Dictionary*

## Understanding the Word Sidon

### Etymology

“Since the Book of Mormon river SIDON passed through ZARAHEMLA, a city that was first settled by Mulekites, it is likely that this GN is of Mulekite origin. If it does derive from the biblical name for the Phoenician city SIDON (Hebrew sidon, Phoenician sdn EGYPTIAN dwn3, ASSYRIAN şiduna), as most commentaries suggest, this may denote the presence of Phoenician influence among the Mulekites.” *SIDON - Book of Mormon Onomasticon*

## The Naming of the Mississippi River

While it is generally accepted that “Mississippi” is an Indian word meaning “**the Father of Waters,**” yet one seldom hears a discussion with reference to its real meaning nor to which Indian language it belongs, there being more than two hundred and fifty tribes or bands of Indians living in the United States, each having its own language or dialect.

There is a story among the Choctaws, who lived in the Lower Mississippi country before the tribe came to Oklahoma, that they and their kinsmen, the Chickasaws, migrated from a far western country long, long ago. (continued)

The Lamanites, “...did keep the Law of Moses.” (Alma 25:15)

“Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shall thou mar the corners of thy beard” – Leviticus 19:27.  
 “And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes” – Exodus 13:9.  
 “And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes” – Exodus 13:16.



Payot is the Hebrew word for sidelocks or sidecurls worn by Orthodox Jews.<sup>1</sup> A head Tefillin is a form of a phylactery box worn by Orthodox Jews on their forehead containing verses from the Law of Moses in order to have God always on their minds.<sup>2</sup> The photos below depict a few selected American Indian tribes displaying similar sidelocks and sidecurls along with forehead braids placed in a similar position to a head Tefillin.



Horse Capture (Algonquian) 1908  
 (http://www.fsc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.38.00538)

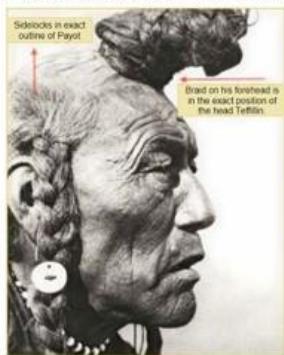


Photo: Library of Congress/Edward S. Curtis Collection  
 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Blackfoot\_-\_Bear\_-\_Full.jpg)



Big Ox (Bishetsidi-sash) – Crow  
 (http://enrtribes.proboards.com/thread/278)

<sup>1</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payot  
<sup>2</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tefillin

*Annotated Book of Mormon pg 253.* There are many similarities between the Lamanite, the Native American, the Hebrew and the Semitic Phoenician. Similar dress, speech, celebrations, and rituals.

When their leaders, the wise prophets of the two tribes, reached the great river, in the van of the people, they contemplated its broad waters and exclaimed, “Misha sipokni!” Misha in Choctaw means “beyond,” with the idea of far beyond; and sipokni means “age,” conveying the idea of something ancient. Therefore, the words of the Choctaw and the Chickasaw prophets meant in substance, “Here is a river that is beyond all age,” or “We have come to the most ancient of rivers.”

**Editors Note:** In the Bible what are the most ancient rivers called? In the Topical guide we read under RIVER: “river running out of Eden waters garden, parts into four heads—Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, Euphrates, Moses 3:10–14 (Abr. 5:10).“

As we know Adam was placed in Missouri near Independence, that would also mean these ancient rivers spoken of in the Old Testament were indeed the Upper and Lower Mississippi, the Ohio, and Missouri river as well.”  
*Muriel H. Wright. Chronicles of Oklahoma Volume 6, No. 4 December, 1928 Page 529-530*

This Pink section is the Heartland of the United States River System:  
 Mississippi, Upper and Lower with the Missouri and Ohio Rivers, just like in Genesis.

## Where Adam & the Nephites Lived!

“And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted and became into four heads.” Genesis 2:10

Narrow Strip of Wilderness  
 Missouri, Mississippi & Ohio & Allegheny Rivers

WORKS of Joseph.com

“The Native American communities that used the river for transportation and food long before any European knew of its existence called the massive river “The Father of Waters,” or Misi Sipi (Big River). For a time, Spanish explorers trying to find the river’s headwaters called it Rio Grande (also translated as “Big River”), an apt name for a river that discharges 600,000 cubic feet of water per second when it empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The source of the river is Lake Itasca, near Bemidji, Minnesota.” *Almanac.com*



## Mississippi 3- River Divisions

The importance of the Mississippi river in the history of the Native Americans goes without saying. It could be called three different rivers as explained below and it could be the four rivers described in Genesis flowing out of Eden.

The Mississippi River can be divided into three sections: the Upper Mississippi, the river from its headwaters to the confluence with the Missouri River; the Middle Mississippi, which is downriver from the Missouri to the Ohio River; and the Lower Mississippi, which flows from the Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico. Source

Named by Algonkian-speaking Indians, Mississippi can be translated as “Father of Waters.” The river, the largest in North America, drains 31 states and 2 Canadian provinces, and runs 2,350 miles from its source to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River is truly one of the great forces that has shaped the United States into the country it is today. Although its role has changed over the past few centuries, the Mississippi has always been important to those who lived along its banks. Indigenous peoples fished its waters and depended on the waterway for transportation. Explorers and traders traveled the river in hopes of conquering more land and obtaining wealth for their countries. Settlers moved close to take advantage of the rich farmland the river provided.

All of these pursuits resulted in a trade industry that brought about a social and economic transformation, when news and goods made their way downriver and livelihoods were provided. In fact, the Mississippi River’s economic and strategic value was so important that when Ulysses S. Grant won the siege of Vicksburg and control of the river during the Civil War, the Confederacy was dealt a serious blow. Today, although still used to transport goods, the river has taken on yet another identity: that of entertainer. Literature, pleasure boats, and floating casinos all showcase a new dimension of this magnificent river.” *The Mississippi River: Father of Waters* By James L. Shaffer and John T. Tigges

## Connecting the Semitic, Phoenician, Hebrew, Lamanite, and Native American

**When I type in an internet search for, *Where is the Garden of Eden?* This is the first option that comes up: “Mesopotamia”**

The Garden of Eden is considered to be **mythological by many scholars**. [Wow this is how some of the same scholars feel about the Book of Mormon]. Among those who consider it to have been real, there have been various suggestions for its location: at the head of the Persian Gulf, in southern **Mesopotamia** (now **Iraq**) where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers run into the sea; and in Armenia.

Most Bible commentaries state that the site of the Garden of Eden was in the Middle East, situated somewhere near where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are today. This is based on the description given in *Genesis 2:8–14*: The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden. . . .

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The name of the first is Pishon . . . . The name of the second river is Gihon. . . . The name of the third river is Hiddekel [Tigris]. . . . The fourth river is the Euphrates.

**Give these four rivers some thought** as the great rivers spoken of in Genesis where the Garden of Eden happened in Missouri of North America. It would make sense that the 4 Ancient Rivers would be located in North America. Could the Great Mississippi River of today be the same river called Pishon of the Old Testament and the River Sidon in the Book of Mormon? That is some food for thought don’t you think? **The map on the previous page seems logical with these ancient rivers going out of Eden in Missouri.**

## River Sidon is the Mississippi River

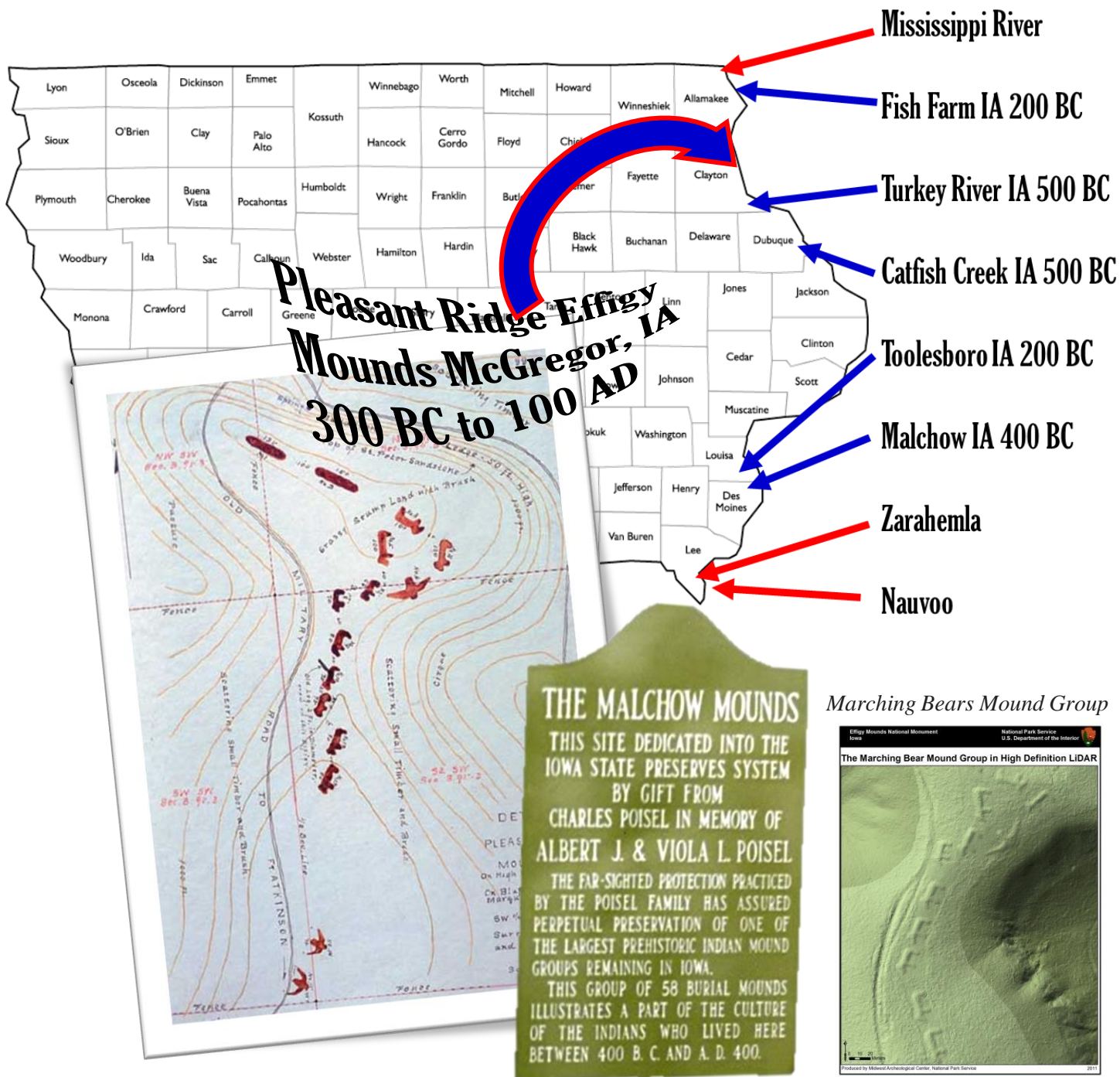
1. I looked up the word sea in Biblical Hebrew concordances. Strong's Concordance transliterates the Hebrew as yam, with the number 3220. The NAS Exhaustive Concordance defines yam as sea and notes variations., including seacoast, west, west side, and westward. Brown-Driver-Driggs offer usages in context, including the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee- and “a mighty river.”
2. The example given for “a mighty river” is the Nile River. The Hebrew term yam is used in Isaiah 19:5 and Nahum 3:8 (twice in one verse), both in connection with Thebes, or the modern Luxor. Alternate translations show the term is translated as either sea or river. If Biblical translators used the English word sea for the Hebrew term yam, even when it clearly referred to the Nile River, then Joseph Smith could have done the same when referring to a mighty river.
3. The lower Mississippi is considered a separate river from the upper Mississippi... The lower Mississippi was originally part of the Gulf of Mexico...
4. The similarity between the Nile and the Mississippi was so apparent that European settlers gave names, such as Memphis, Cairo, Themes and Metropolis to cities along the Mississippi and its tributaries. Lower Illinois is still known as “Little Egypt”
5. [These maps below] “depict the discharge rate, not the physical dimensions of the rivers, but it shows that the lower Mississippi River is significantly larger than any of its tributaries.” *Jonathan Neville Moroni's America page 33-35*



## Sidon is a Greek Name

“Sidon is the Greek name (meaning ‘fishery’) for the ancient Phoenician port city of Sidonia (also known as Saida) in what is, today, Lebanon (located about 25 miles south of Beirut). Along with the city of Tyre, Sidon was the most powerful city-state of ancient Phoenicia and first manufactured the purple dye which made Tyre famous and was so rare and expensive that the color purple became synonymous with royalty. The area of Sidon was inhabited as early as 4,000 BCE and Homer, in the 8th century, notes the skill of the Sidonians in producing glass. Glass production made Sidon both rich and famous and the city was known for being very cosmopolitan and ‘progressive’. The Princess Jezebel, who later would become Queen of Israel (as related in the biblical Books of I and II Kings) was the daughter of the King of Sidon, Ethbaal in the 9th century BCE, and married King Ahab of Israel to cement ties between the two kingdoms. The city is mentioned a number of times throughout the Bible and both Jesus and St. Paul are reported to have made visits there. Sidon is considered the ‘seat’ of the Phoenician Civilization in that most of the ships which would ply the seas and spread Phoenician culture were launched from this city’s port. Sidon was overthrown during the conquest of Phoenicia by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE and, like the rest of the fractured Phoenician civilization, was eventually absorbed by Rome and, finally, taken by the Arab Muslims.” *Joshua J. Mark*

# Iowa Hopewell Sites on the Mississippi River 500 BC To 400 AD



1. Much of the action in Alma takes place along this (Mississippi/Sidon) river. Several archaeological sites dating to this time period have been found in the area; the shifting rivers have likely flooded or buried many other sites.
2. This diagram depicts a few known sites and shows the relative location of Zarahemla and Nauvoo.
3. Today, the Toolesboro site has seven burial mounds, but anciently there were more that have been destroyed in modern times.
4. A marker at the Malchow site shows occupation dates of 400 BC to 400 AD which is a good fit for the Mulekites and Nephites.

*Moroni's America page 146-7*



## Ancient Script

Written in Paleo-Hebrew and used from 1000 BC – 400 AD, יהוה represents the name “Jehovah”, or the tetragrammaton. All throughout the Old Testament, the word ‘LORD’ (all small caps), replaced the sacred name “Yahweh” as described above. “I Am” in Hebrew is “Yahweh” and “Adonai” is the Hebrew word for LORD.

יהוה

יהוה

יהוה

1000 BC to 135 AD YHWH in the Phoenician Script יהוה

1000 BC to 400 AD YHWH in the Canaanite Script יהוה

400 AD to Present YHWH in the Hebrew Script יהוה

*Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said, “Because of this reverence for titles and the meanings they conveyed, the name Jehovah, sometimes transliterated as Yahweh, was virtually unspoken among that people. This was the unutterable name of Deity, that power by which oaths were sealed, battles won, miracles witnessed. Traditionally, he was identified only through a tetragrammaton, four Hebrew letters variously represented in our alphabet as IHVH, JHVH, JHWH, YHVH, YHWH...”*

Repentance and faith, service, and compassion—now is always the right time for these. The past is to be learned from, not lived in, and the future is to be planned for, not paralyzed by. God has declared himself in the present tense. I am the Great I AM.

The prescribed method for coming to knowledge (and subsequent freedom) is to “give diligent heed to the words of eternal life” (D&C 84:43), yet many of us spend precious little time with those words.” *Whom Say Ye That I Am? Jeffrey R. Holland Ensign Sept. 1974.*

Janne M. Sjö Dahl, Swedish convert & church prolific editor, writes that the conclusions of modern research of the mound builders coincides with the Book of Mormon account of the Jaredite people. “Modern archaeologists conclude that the Indians are of one race, their migrations were from south to north, the original inhabitants of America bear an unmistakable relationship to the Semitic branches of eastern culture and Egypt.” *J. M. Sjö Dahl "Archaeology and the Book of Mormon," in Millennial Star, February 26, 1925, pp. 132-34.*

“Scholars here today were inclined to believe the recent finds have established the origin of the American Indian. The relics, they say, furnish indisputable evidence that the Indian is of Semitic origin.

It is claimed, moreover, that the discovery of the relics has definitely established that a race of early Mediterranean people crossed the Atlantic to America, and either subjugated or allied themselves with the natives to such an extent that a powerful province of the Roman Empire was formed and ruled over by them for several centuries.” *James Talmage*

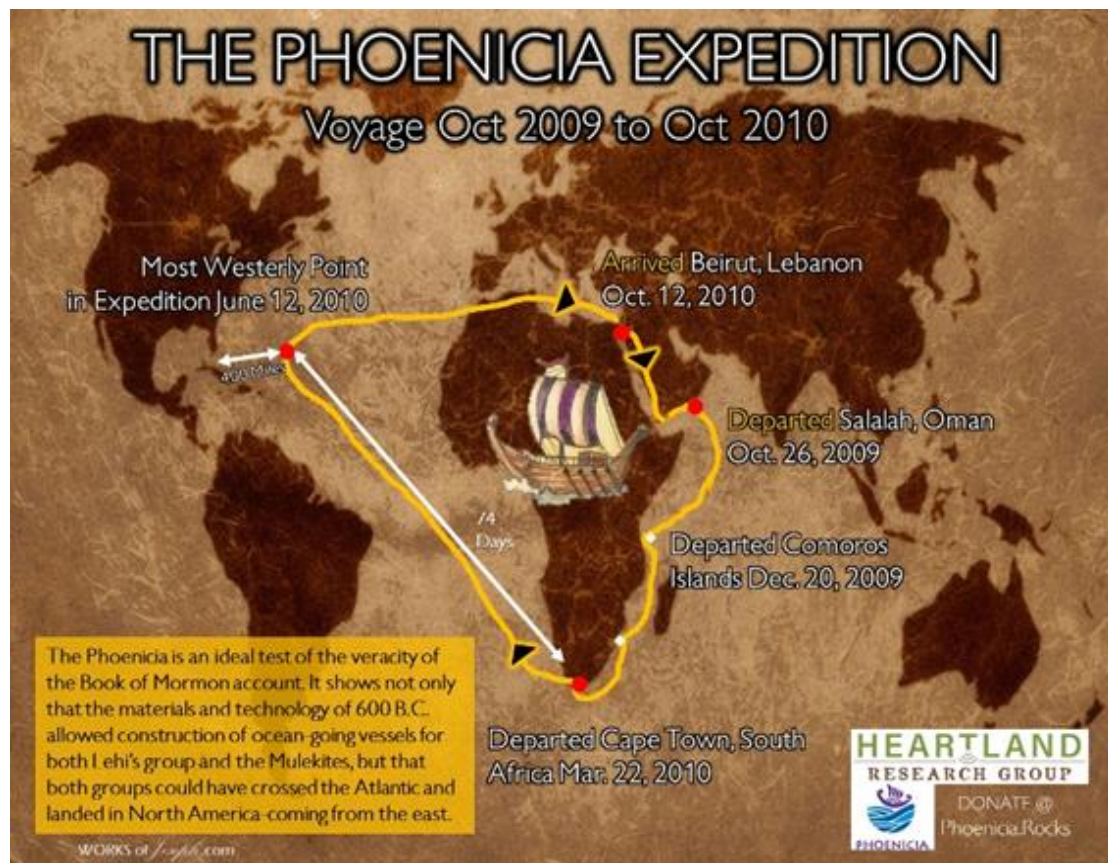
## Lehi- Principally Israelites, of the Descendants of Joseph

Speaking about Lehi’s people, “Joseph [Smith] wrote, “They were principally Israelites, of the descendants of Joseph.” It is possible that Joseph Smith was referring to Zoram after all, clarifying he was not a Jew. He may have been referring to those who accompanied the Mulekites (presumably Phoenicians). But it is also possible that he was referring to others who accompanied Lehi. *(continued)*



To summarize: I think Lehi brought servants and landed in a mostly uninhabited area in Florida, among a small population of hunter/gatherers who lacked a well-organized society." *Moroni's America page 84-86*

"I would say to the Lamanites, if I could speak to them understandingly, that you are also a branch of the house of Israel, and chiefly of the house of Joseph, and your forefathers have fallen through the same examples of unbelief and sins, as have the Jews, and you, as their posterity, have wandered in sin and darkness for many generations; and you, like the Jews, have been driven and trampled under the foot of the Gentiles, and put to death through your wars with each other, and with the white man, until you are almost destroyed. But there is still a redemption and salvation for a remnant of you in the latter days." *History of His Life and Labors By Wilford Woodruff*



"A great nation (the United States of America) shall be set up... by the power of God, so that the gospel may be restored, the Book of Mormon come forth, its message go to the American remnant of Jews, that the eternal covenants of the Lord with his people might be fulfilled." "The remnant of Jacob, including the Lamanites in the Americas", will assist in the gathering of Israel to the promised land New Jerusalem." *McConkie, Bruce R., Mortal Messiah, Book 4, 1981, pp. 348-349, 358*

"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." *Elder L. Tom Perry Ensign Dec. 2012*

## Phoenicia Voyages

The *Phoenicia* Voyages by Captain Philip Beale and Team are an ideal test of the veracity of the Book of Mormon account. It shows not only that the materials and technology of 600 B.C. allowed construction of ocean-going vessels for both Lehi's group and the Mulekites, but that both groups could have crossed the Atlantic and landed in North America, coming from the east.

As you see in the map titled "The *Phoenicia* Expedition 2009-2010 here, you will see the *Phoenicia* Ship Expedition has now demonstrated unequivocally that Lehi's voyage could have left the Arabian Peninsula and sailed around Africa to Florida, rather than attempting to cross the earth's largest ocean, the Pacific at its widest point, as proposed by many Mesoamerican theorists. In 2009, the *Phoenicia* Expedition supports our vision, that Lehi's Voyage to America was very possible.

# Connecting the Semitic, Phoenician, Hebrew, Lamanite, and Native American

The picture below titled, "Phoenicians Before Columbus Expedition 2019-2022", you can see the *Phoenicia* Ship Expedition has demonstrated an additional and plausible route that Zedekiah's son, Mulek may have used to escape the Babylonians, and could have left the area of Jerusalem on a Phoenician, 600 BC style ship, which may have sailed to the new world and continued near Florida, and up the Mississippi (Sidon) River, and landing in present day Montrose, Iowa, across the river from Nauvoo, Illinois.



	PORT/COUNTRY	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
1	Carthage, Tunis, Tunisia		28th September 2019
2	Algiers, Algeria	4th October 2019	8th October 2019
3	La Línea (Spain), No. Gibraltar (UK)	12th October 2019	16th October 2019
4	Cadiz, Spain	17th October 2019	20th October 2019
5	Essaouira, Morocco	24th October 2019	2nd November 2019
6	San Miguel, Tenerife, Spain Canary Is.	7th November 2019	23rd November 2019
7	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	31st December 2019	18th January 2020
8	Fort Lauderdale, USA	4th February 2020	

This one replica 600 BC ship has proven possible then, two very important voyages testified about in the Book of Mormon that were accomplished. The *Phoenicia* has sailed over 30,000 nautical miles in the past 10 years or so, and the Heartland Research Group now owns this amazing ship.

After its last voyage in 2020, the *Phoenicia* was deconstructed in early 2022 for safe storage into two large containers in Florida where it sat as Captain Beale had just shipped one container back to England for safe keeping and was preparing to send the second one. He hadn't received any interest in purchasing the ship.

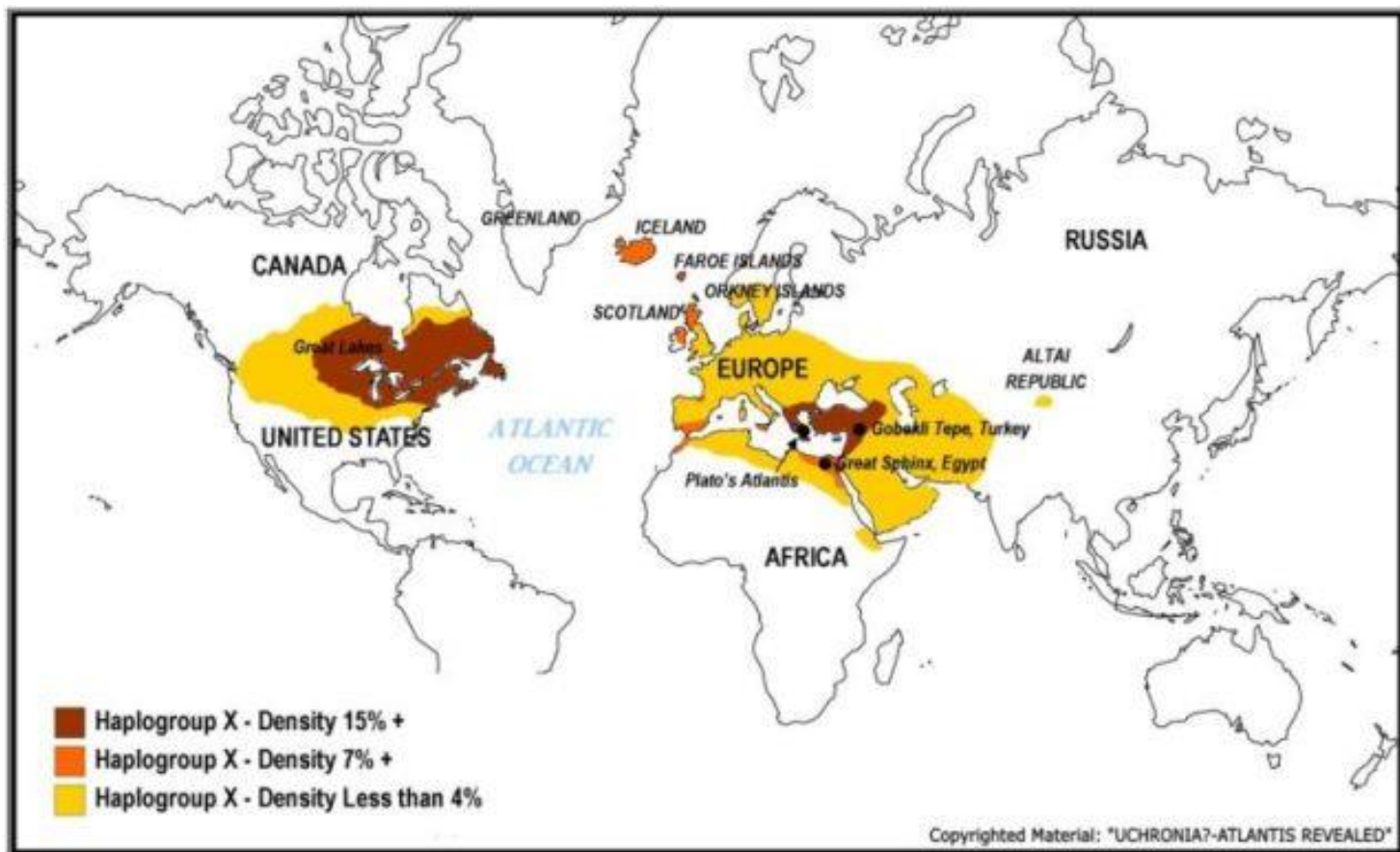


I have two great Native American friends, Mike (Chippewa) and Betty (Navajo) LaFontaine who have been enthralled with this ship ever since they first heard about it many years ago from myself and other people of the Heartland Group. Mike and Betty who live in Florida, had the opportunity to look over that second container while near their home, and fell in love with it. Mike as a professional carpenter and Betty as a very wise lady felt a kinship with the Phoenicia.

In my opinion the Native Americans on this land of the United States are related by blood with the Phoenicians and Hebrews of the Old World. I sincerely feel this spiritual connection with Betty and Mike and their ancient ancestors, is indeed the biggest reason this ship was put into their hands with the Lord's blessings. This was an answer to prayers of a project the LaFontaine's have been led to, and they will share their joy with the world.

## Haplogroup X Plausibility in Relation to the Book of Mormon

Rod Meldrum of Firm Foundation said, "Is there any possible correlation of Haplogroup X with the Book of Mormon and Mulek's or Lehi's group? Can we narrow down the potential connections? Is it possible, or even probable, that there will ever be any evidence in favor or support of the Book of Mormon's claim of being a historical account of real people? The understanding, of course, is that DNA cannot "prove" the historicity of the Book of Mormon, but rather a case is being built that may support its authenticity. After reading the information presented here it should be clear that each of these questions may now be answered with a resounding "Yes!"



*Rod continues,* "In human genetics, Haplogroup X is a mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) haplogroup. The sequences of haplogroup X diverged about 30,000 years ago to give two sub-groups, X1 and X2, found in Europeans and Native Americans. Unlike the four main Native American mtDNA haplogroups (A, B, C, D), X is not at all associated with East Asians but is associated with Europeans. *(continued)*

Research into DNA studies continues to show new evidence that many Native Americans east of the Mississippi have the same Haplogroup X as many in western Eurasia. As the experts continue to try and explain away this evidence, the more I become excited about it. Those in the scientific arena continually want to push the narrative of their great theories about Evolution, Climate Change, Old Earth, Noah's Flood Myth, etc." *Rod Meldrum Rediscovering the Book of Mormon Remnant through DNA 2009*

With the information from Firm Foundation's recent book, *The Annotated Edition of the Book of Mormon*, I am excited to continue the path of learning. I am finding some amazing things about DNA and a connection between the Lamanites and the Hebrews. It just makes sense that they are related as we know the Mulekites were from Jewish and Hebrew lines, and they surely left evidence of the Native Americans in North America, didn't they? We have also found much evidence of the Hebrew language and Hebrew artifacts in North America. See my blog with additional articles at [bookofmormonevidence.org/blog](http://bookofmormonevidence.org/blog). Also see a 2013 National Geographic article titled, *Great Surprise"—Native Americans Have West Eurasian Origins*.

There is a clear connection to the Phoenician people from accounts found in the Bible. As you look at the connection between our wonderful Native American's, the Hebrew, and the Phoenician's, you will see this story of their similarity in DNA, is a key to bring the Old World of Jerusalem to the New World, where the Native America Lamanites will assist in building the New Jerusalem in Independence, Missouri. Those in Central and south America have Asian DNA.

### Similar Latitudes

#### **People of Zarahemla (Hebrew)**

<i>Zarahemla/Montrose, IA</i> 40.530610	<i>Chattanooga, TN/Lehi-Nephi</i> 35.244
<i>Jerusalem, Israel</i> 41.804508	<i>Sidon, Lebanon</i> 33.344490

The people of Zarahemla came from Jerusalem. "Behold, it came to pass that Mosiah discovered that the people of Zarahemla came out from Jerusalem at the time that Zedekiah, king of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon." *Omni 1:15*

Ammon was a Mulekite (Hebrew)"And it came to pass that on the morrow they started to go up, having with them one Ammon, he being a strong and mighty man, and a descendant of Zarahemla; and he was also their leader." *Mosiah 7:3*. Limhi was also a Mulekite (Hebrew) "And he said unto them: Behold, I am Limhi, the son of Noah, who was the son of Zeniff, who came up out of the land of Zarahemla to inherit this land, which was the land of their fathers, who was made a king by the voice of the people." *Mosiah 7:9*

#### **Obtaining the Ship/Donate**

Dr. John Lefgren, PhD, with Mike and Betty LaFontaine, in obtaining the replica 600 BC ship from Philip Beale, called *Phoenicia*, is and will be a life changing moment. The *Phoenicia* has been sailed over 30,000 nautical miles by Captain Philip Beale, retired British Navy. Captain Beale took a 2009 voyage from Jerusalem around the Horn of Africa and back to Israel. His goal was to prove the ancient mariner Herodotus could circumvent the African Continent in a trade route. On this voyage the *Phoenicia* came within 400 miles of Florida and could have easily landed there, where we believe Lehi of the Book of Mormon most likely landed. Instead, Captain Beale took the northern Tradewinds and then through Gibraltar, and back to Lebanon, as he wanted to prove the complete route.

By purchasing the *Phoenicia*, Heartland Research Group have made it possible, for each of us to participate in an incredible opportunity. We can join them in Montrose, Iowa the place we believe is the City of Zarahemla of the Book of Mormon (*D&C 125:3*) to make history. In Iowa, the Heartland Group is re-assembling the replica 600 BC ship that Captain Beale sailed, so the legacy of the *Phoenicia* can live on the Mississippi River, "into the land where Mosiah discovered them" Montrose, IA, where the ship of Mulek landed. (*Omni 1:16*)



Join us at the Phoenicia Museum just across the river from Nauvoo. Enjoy a few hours reconstructing the ship and enjoy the gift shop and get acquainted with the amazing people in Montrose. Donate at *Phoenicia.Rocks*.

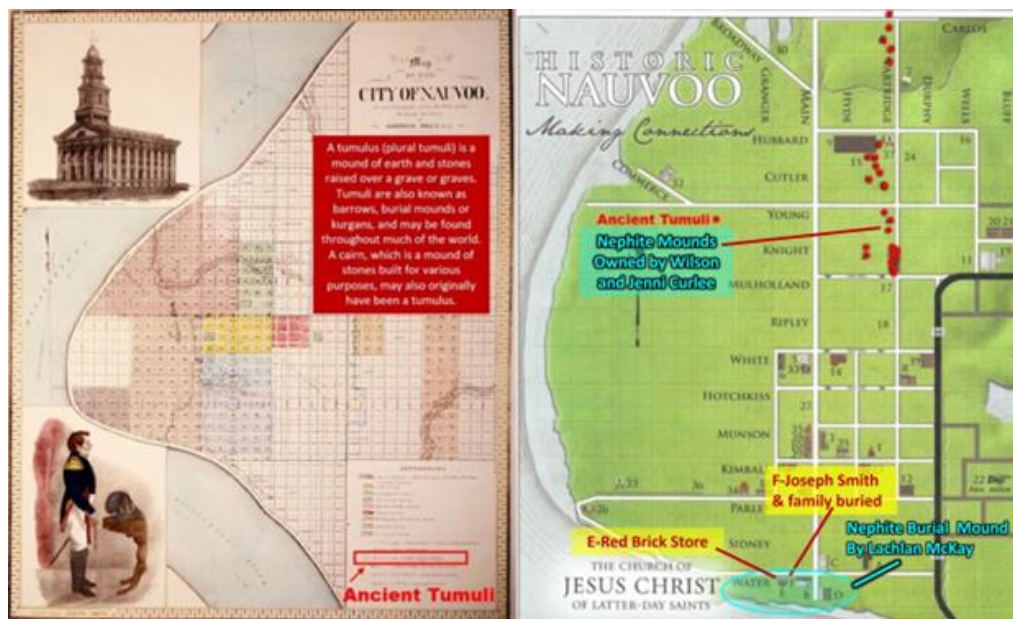
We are looking for funding or donations to save the Phoenicia and rebuild it and display it near Joseph Smith's amazing city of Nauvoo. The ship's location will advance your visit to the Nauvoo area each time you come.

## Did you know Joseph Smith was buried in a Hopewell Mound?

“The increasing awareness of the numerous Hopewell mounds in the Nauvoo area may give renewed attention to the connection between Mormons and the mounds. When workers dug a utility trench between the Red Brick Store and the Joseph Smith Homestead, the equipment churned up Hopewell bones and artifacts. This area is adjacent to the Smith Family Cemetery, leading to the possibility that Joseph Smith, his wife Emma, his brother Hyrum and his parents are buried in a Hopewell burial site.” *The Mormons and the Mounds - Jonathan Neville Mormon History Association June 2017*

Wilson Curlee, owner of Nauvoo Hopewell Mounds in a conversation in with Lachlan McKay, Historian of the Community of Christ Church said, “In the early 1970's, when they were re-building Joseph's Red Brick Store, while digging a trench for spotlight wiring, they hit some artifacts, which resulted in calling in the archaeologists who then unearthed more artifacts and bones, all carbon dated to the Hopewell civilization of at least 2000 years ago. He also said the 1840's map of Nauvoo has the legend showing ancient “tumuli” within the city of Nauvoo at that time. (See map below)

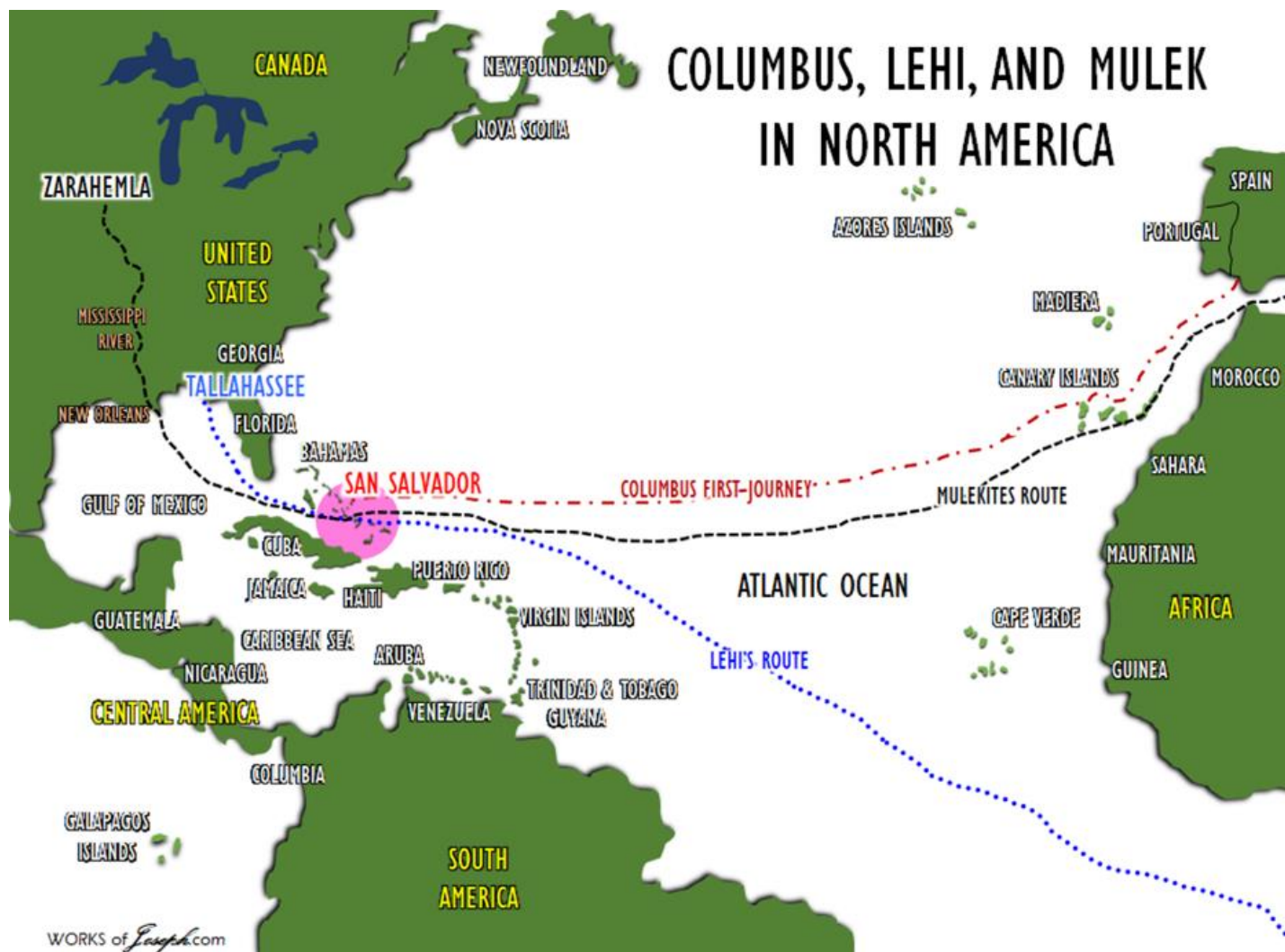
Jenny said, “When Wilson [Curlee] got home he shared this information with me, and you would know for a certainty that I went right over to talk to Lach myself and to buy a copy of that map! We talked for about an hour, and he brought out two binders that were given to them from the University of Missouri that detailed the dig, sketching out the artifacts. He said most of the artifacts were still with the university, but that they held a real treasure in their vault, which was a Cardinal Platform Pipe, which was dated to middle woodland, or Hopewell era (100 BC to 400AD).



He said the bones were sent off to the Archaeology Museum in Kampsville, which is a very small village on the Illinois River, not far from Zeph's mound. (One you need to visit). I found out by researching it that there are major archaeology digs around that area because of the high density of ancient mounds on the Illinois River, so Kampsville is a summer training place for students, and they have a nice little museum there.” *Jenny Curlee*

# Columbus

In this map below titled, Columbus, Lehi, and Mulek in North America, shows Columbus' route of discovery. "Nephi does not describe the "man among the Gentiles" making multiple voyages. He refers only to the first voyage that took him to "the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land." For that reason, I focus on the first voyage. The red line in the map is Columbus first journey to the Americas. The black line is the route of the Mulekites. The blue line is Lehi's route. I think Lehi landed in Florida for all the reasons I've explained in Moroni's America. He may have sailed south of Cuba to get there because of ocean currents and wind, but it's interesting that Mulek, Lehi and Columbus converge on the same areas. (see San Salvador in the pink circle)" Jonathan Neville Moroni's America



## Route of Mulek and Lehi

The Mulekites c. 589 BC may have found the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River and may have continued up the Mississippi and settled upriver at Montrose, IA or Zarahemla. (D&C 125:3). Why stop there? At Keokuk, Iowa on the Mississippi were the Des Moines Rapids, where no ship could navigate. This would be a good place for the Mulekites to stop and set up a village near Montrose Iowa just north of those rapids, as a good protection point against invaders from the south.



Landing c. 591 BC at the Land of First Inheritance was possibly near Tallahassee Florida. Nephi could then travel up the Chattahoochee River to its source at Unicoi Gap, GA. The source of the Hiwassee River could then take the Nephites where the first temple may have been built in Chattanooga, TN.

This is a possible location for the Nephite settlement. The rivers most likely were the highways of the Nephites. The Land in Tennessee is higher in elevation than Zarahemla (Montrose, IA) and that is why in the scriptures you will always hear of Nephites traveling “up to” the Land of Nephi and “down to” Zarahemla, as it is a reference to elevation not direction. The Moccasin Bend Archaeological District is rich in head plates, breastplates of copper, and other artifacts dating from 3000 BC to 1500 AD. Today from the top of Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, you can see 7 different states. *'Mosiah 11:12* relates that King Noah, Zeniff’s son, built ‘a very high tower, even so high that he could stand upon the top thereof and overlook the land of Shilom, and also the land of Shemlon, which was possessed by the Lamanites, and he could look over all the land round about.’

If King Noah wanted to look over all the land round about, there could hardly be a better place to do so than Lookout Mountain which rises out of the river valley above Chattanooga to a height of almost 2,400 feet. On clear days, mountains 100 miles away are visible from the summit. The tower was near the temple, but there is no description of where the temple was. It may have been enclosed in walls within the city, or it may have been built on a high place, which would explain why Noah built his tower near the temple.

## Heartlanders vs Mesoamericanists

Heartlanders believe after landing near Tallahassee, Florida, the Nephites escaped from Laman and Lemuel north possibly on the Chattahoochee River that goes all the way through Unicoi Gap, GA into Tennessee, then on the Tennessee River north to Missouri, and traveling east across what Joseph Smith called "Plains of the Nephites, (JS Papers) Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio and ended at NY Cumorah. (This is the same pattern as the Ancient Hopewell Culture who historically traveled that same route and direction from 600 BC to 400 AD). Our friend Philip Beale estimates the time to accomplish this route in a sailing ship to be 4 to 6 months. Philip has proven that on two different voyages, one in 2009 and the other in 2020 in a replica Phoenicia sailing ship. This is a far better common-sense length of time. *Philip said*, "The sailing ship could make the 18-month voyage, from Oman to the west coast of Chile, by way of the Pacific Ocean, but it would be empty with no surviving passengers."

The understanding of who the Lamanites are, and where they lived, has been a topic of interest for many years in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I was taught in the 1970's what is called the "Hemispheric Model" about the Book of Mormon. (Map below)



Meaning, that all the Lamanites lived in South America and all the Nephites lived in North America and the "Narrow Neck of Land" was Central America. That has now become obsolete to most people in the Church, whether they believe in a Mesoamerican, a Heartland, a Baja theory, or any other theory about Book of Mormon Events.

The consensus opinion of both Heartlanders and Mesoamericanists is, the Book of Mormon had to be contained into a smaller geographical area of about 800 miles east to west and 500 miles north to south. That means either the Nephites lived in the Heartland of North America from about Zarahemla (Montrose, IA) to the Hill Cumorah near Palmyra NY (800 miles across the Land Zarahemla and Bountiful) and from about Mackinaw City, Michigan in the north to the Cincinnati, OH on the Ohio River (500 miles through the Land of Zarahemla & Bountiful).  
(continued)



A "Limited Geography Model"

The distances required to make that old Hemispheric Model a reality had created an almost consensus opinion that it just doesn't make sense anymore. A "Limited Geography Model" or today what is called (Hinterland Model) is now the consensus. Either the Lehites sailed southwest from Oman and around Africa and they landed in North America near Florida to begin civilization, or they sailed southeast towards the tip of India and through the islands of Malaysia and the Philippines continuing east on the huge Pacific ocean and then landing on the west coast near Chile or Central America. My mariner friend, British Naval Captain Philip Beal from England, estimated this voyage time in a sailing vessel across the Pacific to be 14 to 18 months

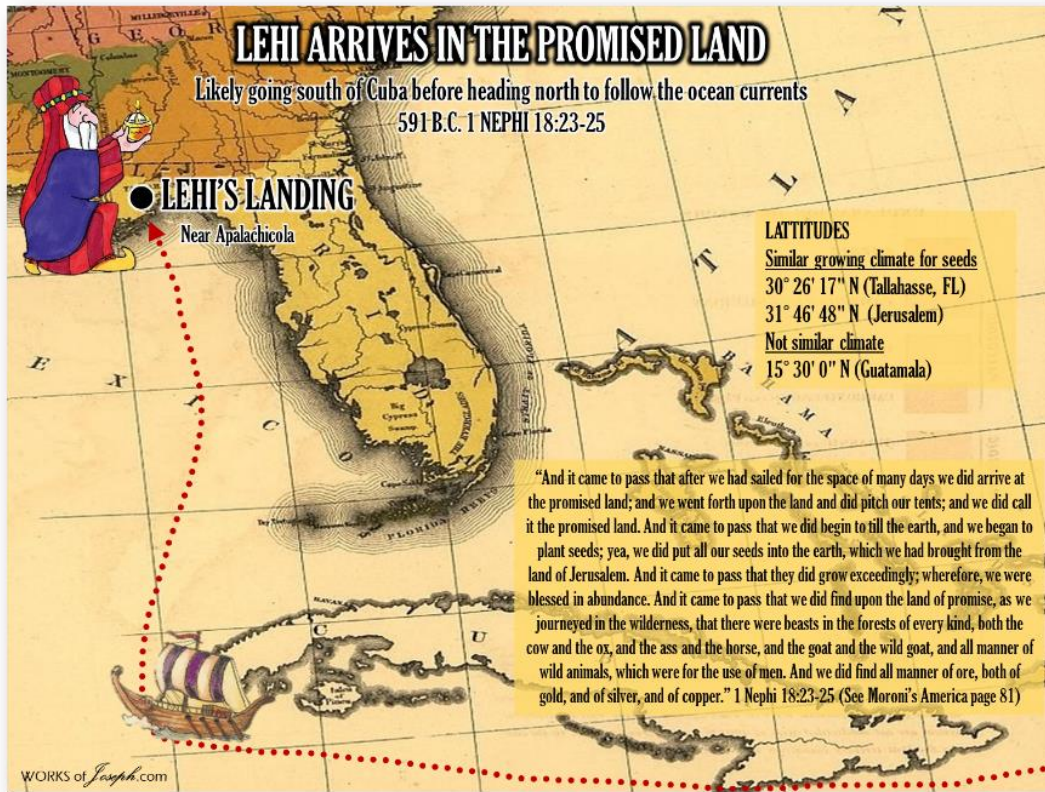
### Lehi Landed In Florida

"I think Lehi landed in Florida for all the reasons I've explained in Moroni's America. He may have sailed south of Cuba to get there because of ocean currents and wind, but it's interesting that Mulek, Lehi and Columbus converge on the same areas." *Jonathan Neville Moroni's America [On next page are some reasons the Lehites traveled southwest and not northeast]."*





# Why Routes to Florida Make Sense



1- Wind current routes across the Atlantic (in the fall when honey and fruits were available, and the natural currents in the fall, take you west) would put them somewhere in the Caribbean. This route was proven to be possible by the Phoenicia Expedition of 2009.

2- They went where the Lord directed them with the Liahona, so I don't think they would have just landed wherever the wind blew them (which would probably have been Hispaniola or maybe the East Coast of Florida or South Carolina).

3- I think it makes sense they landed about the same latitude [Similar climate for seeds] as Jerusalem, which they could tell from the stars.

Latitudes Similar 30° 26' 17" N (Tallahassee, FL) and 31° 46' 48" N (Jerusalem) Not similar 15° 30' 0" N (Guatemala)

4- Crops grew abundantly. This would be difficult in the jungles or islands.

5- It had to be a mostly unoccupied area (not Mesoamerica). Only small groups of hunter/gatherers in Southeastern U.S. at the time. [A large group of people wouldn't have allowed Nephi to be their king]

6- It had to be the same general land where the Jaredites lived. [Cumorah and Ramah]

7- Should have archaeological evidence. (See Nancy White S Florida Archaeologist article)

8- There should be signs of Hebrew writing or relics. (Holy Stones, Bat Creek Stones, Los Lunas, etc.)

9- Lehi and Nephi brought much honey with them from Bountiful in Oman. 1 Nephi 18:6 "And it came to pass that on the morrow, after we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, everyone according to his age; wherefore, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children."

It would make sense that the Lord may have led them to another land (Apalachicola FL Famous Tupelo Honey) that had an abundance of honey producing vegetation, or Lehi may have brought the seeds from Israel to grow the White Tupelo Gum trees, nyssa ogeche, that are found naturally in Florida. Remember the Jaredites also brought bees with them to the Promised land. Ether 2:3 "And they did also carry with them deseret, which, by interpretation, is a honeybee; and thus, they did carry with them swarms of bees, and all manner of that which was upon the face of the land, seeds of every kind."

## Who are the Adena? (Jaredites)

“Adena burial mounds are common in the Ohio River Valley region. It was not, however, until 1901 that the first Adena mound was excavated for historical purposes by William C. Mills of the Ohio State Museum (Mills, 1902). This mound was on the estate of Thomas Worthington (Governor of Ohio, 1814- 18) in Ross County, a mile northwest of Chillicothe, Ohio. Governor Worthington gave the name "Adena" (probably from the Hebrew "Adinah") Presumably he meant to imply "nothing lacking" or, freely translated, "paradise." The name "Adena" was adopted by archeologists to refer to the prehistoric Indians who built such mounds...This area became one of the favored locations of these people between 800 B.C. and A.D. 800... ” *SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION Volume 112 1960 Number 3441 WELCOME MOUND AND THE EFFIGY PIPES OF THE ADENA PEOPLE* By Frank M. Setzler

Early Woodland period (1000 BC–200 BC) ADENA

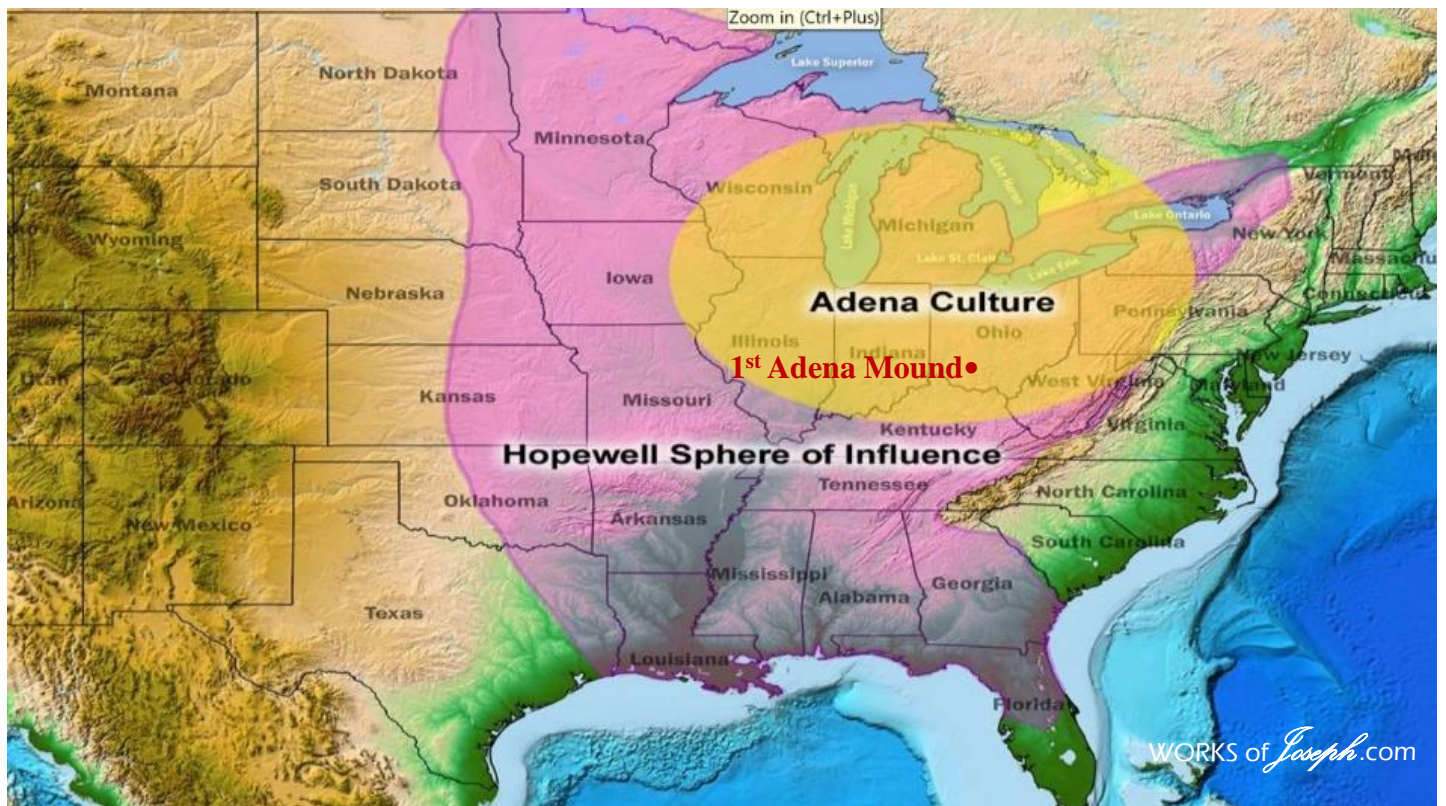
Middle Woodland period (200 BC–500 AD) HOPEWELL

Late Woodland period (500–1000 AD) FT ANCIENT

Mississippian Period (1000 -1500 AD) EARLY-LATE

JAREDITES (2200 BC - 586 BC)

NEPHITES (600 BC - 421 AD)





## Mounds & Mound Builders

The Adena people were the first Native Americans to build ceremonial mounds. In other parts of the world, ceremonial burials had occurred much earlier. The Egyptian pyramids date to 2700 BCE; in England, stone chambers called barrows were used as early as 2000 BCE; between 1700 and 1400 BCE, keirgans were used in central Siberia; and the burial mounds of the Choo Dynasty in northern China date to 1000 BCE.

### Grave Creek Mound Moundsville, WV

“We know little about how or why the mounds were built. Historian Otis Rice suggests these early Americans “built mounds over the remains of chiefs, shamans, priests, and other honored dead.” For their “common folk,” the Adena cremated the dead bodies, placing the remains in small log tombs on the surface of the ground. Virtually all of these graves have been destroyed by nature and later settlement. Therefore, the more substantial mounds are our only physical records of Adena burials.



The above painting is Mormon with his young son Mormon on the Ohio River (*Mormon 1:6*) near Grave Creek mound, West Virginia, by Ken Corbett. The Grave Creek Mound in Moundsville (Marshall County) is the largest conical type burial mound in the United States, approached in size by only the Miamisburg, Ohio mound.

“The mound, 62 feet high and 240 feet in diameter, contains approximately 57,000 tons of dirt and originally stood nearly 70 feet high. The digging of so much earth left a sizeable moat or ditch surrounding the mound, no longer in existence. By testing the soil, archaeologists estimate the mound was built between 250 and 150 BCE by the Adena culture, which occupied the area from about 1000 BCE to 200 CE. The mound and two forts were the essential features of an Adena village in the shape of a triangle. "The mound construction probably began with the death of a very important person. There is no way to know who this person was -- great warrior, chieftain or religious leader. We know that 25-30 years later another important personage died, and his remains were placed in an 8 by 12-foot vault on the top of the mound when it was approximately 35 feet high. The natives then covered this with dirt until the mound reached its maximum height.

The first person of European descent to discover the mound was early settler Joseph Tomlinson, who literally stumbled off the top while hunting in 1770. In 1838, descendants Jesse and Abelard Tomlinson, and Thomas Briggs gutted the mound, destroying much of the archaeological evidence provided by the scientific study of other mounds. Tunneling from the side and top, the two men discovered a burial chamber in the center containing two skeletons and large amount of jewelry and another room with one skeleton and jewelry. Tomlinson opened the center chamber as a museum, charging 25 cents admission. Five years later, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft mapped the area. In 1909, the state acquired possession of the mound, placing it under the care of West Virginia Penitentiary warden M. S. White. In 1975, Dr. E. Thomas Hemmings of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey conducted the first scientific excavation of the area, locating among other items the previous existence of a moat. During the last two hundred years, the top of the mound has been home to a saloon, dance platform, and artillery pieces during the Civil War. Today, the state operates the Grave Creek Mound State Park and Delf Norona Museum and Culture Center, featuring numerous Native American artifacts from the mound and region.” *West Virginia Archives and History*

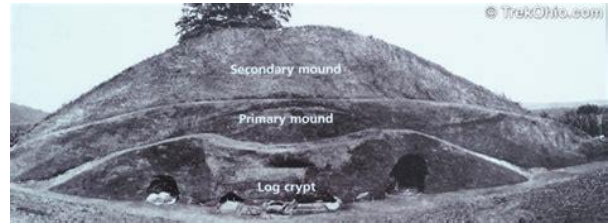




## Who is the Hopewell Culture?

“The Hopewell Culture was contemporaneous with the end of the Adena culture, but the Adena people tended to be considerably larger than the Hopewell. Remains of men seven feet tall were common among the Adena, while Hopewell were robust, their males averaged closer to six feet in height. There are four types of earthworks that were constructed by the ancient Hopewell civilization.

- Defensive Enclosure Mounds
- Burial Mounds
- Effigy (Shaped) Mounds
- Ceremonial and Temple Mounds



“Mounds were used chiefly as burial places but also as elevated foundations for special structures such as temples (Marietta, OH), hilltop enclosures (Fort Ancient, OH), as totemic representations (Serpent Mound in Ohio), and ceremonial space and structures, (The great Circle/Octagon complex, Newark, OH). In size they vary from less than one acre in area to more than 100 acres. Over 200,000 earthworks dotted America’s Heartland.

1. The Hopewell Culture describes the common aspects of the Native American culture that flourished along rivers in the northeastern and midwestern United States from 300 BC to 400 AD, in the Middle Woodland period. The Hopewell tradition was not a single culture or society, but a widely dispersed set of related populations. They were connected by a network of trade routes, known as the Hopewell Exchange System.
2. At its greatest extent, the Hopewell Exchange System ran from the Southeastern United States as far south as the Crystal River Indian Mounds into the southeastern Canadian shores of Lake Ontario up north. Within this area societies participated in a high degree of exchange with the highest amount of activity along waterways. The Hopewell Exchange System included copper from the Great Lakes, mica from the Carolinas, obsidian from the Rocky Mountains, and shells from the Gulf Coast. These people then converted the materials into products and exported them through local and regional exchange networks. Although the origins of the Hopewell are still under discussion, the Hopewell culture can also be considered a cultural climax, ending suddenly in about 400 AD.
3. Hopewell populations originated in western New York and moved south into Ohio where they built on top of the local Adena mortuary tradition. Hopewell was also said to have originated in western Illinois and spread by diffusion ... to southern Ohio. Similarly, the Havana Hopewell tradition was thought to have spread up the Illinois River and into southwestern Michigan, spawning Goodall Hopewell.
4. The name "Hopewell" was applied by Warren K. Moorehead after his explorations of the Hopewell Mound Group in Ross County, Ohio in 1891 and 1892. The mound group itself was named for the family that owned the earthworks at the time.
5. The Hopewell location in the Mississippi Valley, plains of Illinois, and Indiana and locations in Ohio match up with the location of the Nephites in the Book of Mormon. The time period also shows a great correlation, especially as both the Hopewell and Nephite civilization abruptly ended in about 400 AD.” *The Book of Mormon in America’s Heartland page 102 by Rodney Meldrum*

## Pierce Site/Turtle Mounds 600 BC to 1400 AD

The Pierce Site in Apalachicola, FL is an ideal site where the Hopewell people began their culture. It is also where we feel a great plausible location of the Nephites beginning culture. They both follow the same pattern.

“In northwest Florida, the great Apalachicola River system is formed from the confluence of the Flint River, which originates near Atlanta, and the Chattahoochee River, which flows out of the Blue Ridge mountains of north Georgia. The Apalachicola runs over 100 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. It is Florida’s largest river in terms of flow, and the only one containing snowmelt. Its valley is home to several kinds of rare plants and animals and more reptile and amphibian species than anywhere else north of Mexico, amid an exceedingly rich biotic system. Where the river flows into Apalachicola Bay, the abundant life possible in estuarine systems provides the shrimp, oysters, and other seafood for which this region is famous today. The bays and sounds are protected by beautiful barrier islands with white sugar-sand beaches. At the mouth of the river sits the small town of Apalachicola, today known for oysters and picturesque old houses from its historic past. But for about 2000 years of prehistoric time, this location was an important Native American capital centered around the Pierce mounds.

### PIERCE MOUNDS COMPLEX AN ANCIENT CAPITAL IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

600 BC — 1400 AD APALACHICOLA, FL

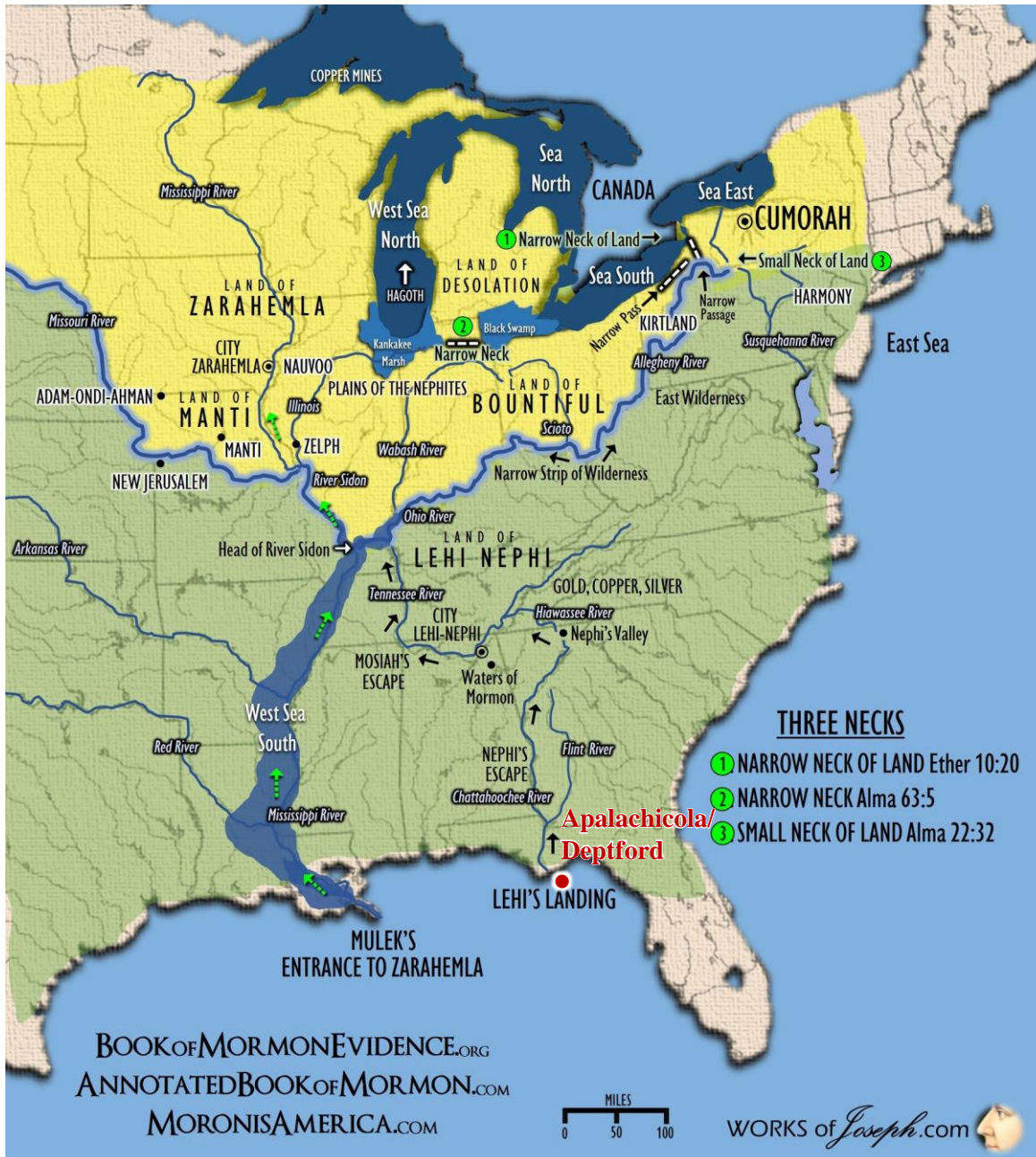
Nancy Marie White Department of Anthropology University of South Florida, Tampa  
nmw@usf.edu Final Report to George J. Mahr, Apalachicola, Florida December 2013



The Pierce site consists of a long shell midden ridge, a large village area, and 13 mounds, constructed and inhabited over a period estimated to extend from perhaps 600 B.C. until around A.D. 1400. Its archaeological evidence indicates day-to-day occupation by indigenous peoples who fished, gathered, and hunted, leaving their food garbage and discarded artifacts piled along the riverbank. The evidence shows other aspects of their lives as well, in the construction of burial mounds and inclusion of elaborate ritual artifacts for the honored dead, expressions of ancient beliefs and probably spirituality. *(continued)*



Pierce is one of the most famous sites in southeastern U.S. archaeology, but in reality, we have known very little about it. Artifacts and other materials from the site are known to have been collected as early as the mid-nineteenth century, and probably such finds were routinely made far earlier by whoever settled nearby. The first published record was produced well over century ago by Clarence Bloomfield Moore (1902:217-229; Brose and White 1999:219-231), a wealthy Philadelphian whose digs into Indian mounds all over the South are well known because he did describe them in journal articles. Moore's excavations into two of the mounds at Pierce unearthed elegant ceramic vessels, stone spear and arrow points and plummets, freshwater pearls, copper and silver ornaments, shell beads and drinking cups, and even a bison-bone ornament, associated with many burials of the honored dead, 99 of whom he unearthed from Mound A. Moore noted five mounds, and also described other mound sites nearby (named after the landowners or geographic features), such as the Cemetery Mound, Mound near Apalachicola, and Cool Springs and Singer Mounds, all of which are now thought to make up the whole Pierce complex...



**Deptford-period pottery**, (700 BC- 400 AD) indicating people were at Pierce at least as early as 2000 to 3000 years ago. They may have begun mound building at that early time too. Even though the social and political systems changed over time, presumably becoming more complex by the Fort Walton period, when the site must have been a chiefly center with its platform mound and large village, subsistence did not seem to change.”  
*Pierce Mounds Complex An Ancient Capital in Northwest Florida*  
 Nancy Marie White Department of Anthropology University of South Florida, Tampa  
 nmw@usf.edu Final Report to George J. Mahr, Apalachicola, Florida December 2013

## Does Book of Mormon Geography Matter?

"The book is true no matter where it happened. Right? This is a response I have heard many others say and one I have said myself many times. But reading in 3 Nephi this morning made me change my mind. I think the Book of Mormon geography does matter.

When Christ appeared to the Nephites as the resurrected Savior, He blessed them, He taught them He prayed with them and for them. He also quoted to them the words of Isaiah. He reminded them that they had been given THIS LAND for their inheritance and were warned that they would not be allowed to remain on THIS LAND if they did not remain faithful. This emphasis shows the significance of the LAND to the Book of Mormon people, and the people who would be brought by the hand of God to THIS LAND and now occupy THIS LAND.

Christ himself said, "great are the words of Isaiah" and He commanded the Nephites and all who read the Book of Mormon to search his words. If the words of Isaiah are great and we are commanded to read them and study them and ultimately understand them, then I believe we most certainly should understand where THIS LAND is and we should understand who the Lord is taking to when he talks about the inhabitants of THIS LAND. Because he is in fact talking directly to those who are on THIS LAND and if you don't know where that is you can't fully understand the message.

Does the geography of the Book of Mormon matter? With over 1400 references to "this land" in the Book of Mormon I'm not sure how the Book of Mormon prophets could have made it clearer. THIS LAND matters. Geography matters. Those of us on THIS LAND the "promised land," the Land of Liberty, the Land of the New Jerusalem need to know who we are. America is THIS LAND. America is a covenant land. I live on THIS LAND. Even the chapter heading of 3 Nephi also confirms this truth.

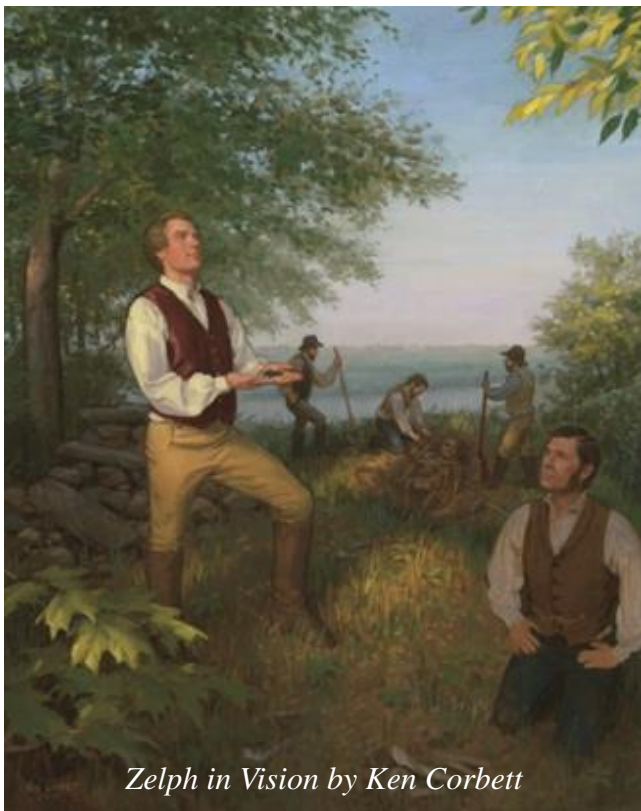
Israel will be gathered when the Book of Mormon comes forth--The Gentiles will be established as a free people in America--They will be saved if they believe and obey; otherwise, they will be cut off and destroyed--Israel will build the New Jerusalem, and the lost tribes will return.

I am learning more each day about what the prophecies say about me, my fellow Gentiles and my House of Israel sisters and brothers on THIS LAND. I desire to understand my covenant that I have made with the Lord and the Book of Mormon is the "voice crying from the dust" helping me understand it. The geography of the Book of Mormon matters to me." *Rod Meldrum FIRM Foundation President*

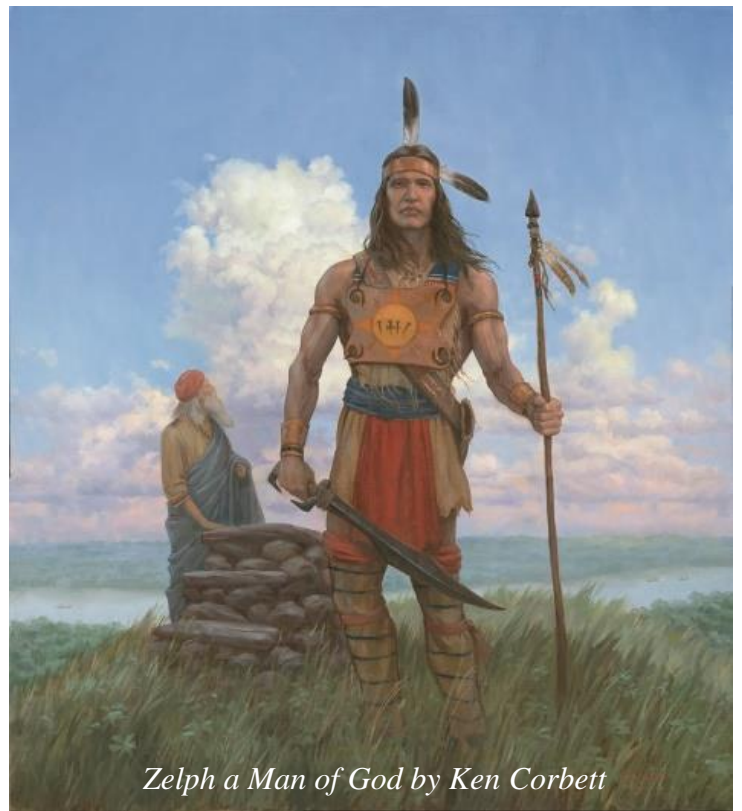
## Joseph Smith's Historically Verifiable Written Statements

"Nearly all those familiar with the early statements by the Prophet touching on potential Book of Mormon lands know that he clearly indicated them to be in North America. This is evident in the historically verified accounts wherein he declared revelation such as in the Wentworth Letter, the American Revivalist Account, the Zelp Account and Joseph's handwritten letter to Emma while on Zion's camp. In addition, the prophet revealed a Nephite altar at Adam-ondi-Ahman, mentioned the land of Manti was near Huntsville, Missouri, and revealed that this land was "the borders of the Lamanites" (*see D&C 54:8*). Furthermore, he received revelation from the Lord for the location of Zarahemla (*see D&C 125:3*) and New Jerusalem (*see D&C 84:1-6*) which Christ Himself declared to be on Book of Mormon lands (*3 Nephi 20:22*), both of which are absolutely located in North America. These accounts and their indications are not speculation based, but historically documented." *By Rod Meldrum*





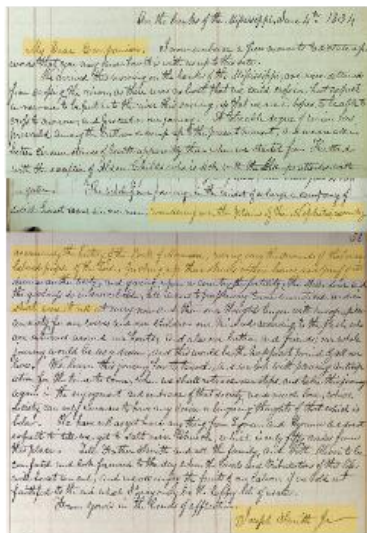
Zelph in Vision by Ken Corbett



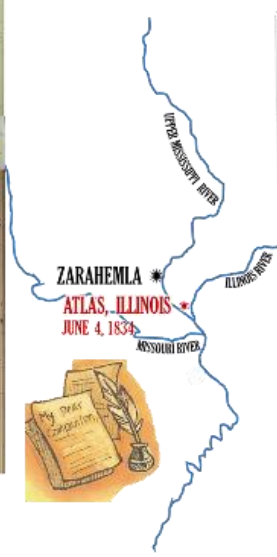
Zelph a Man of God by Ken Corbett

## ONE PROPHET, ONE STATEMENT, ONE GEOGRAPHY

“... 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 & their bones, as a proof of its divine authenticity...” *J. Smith*



Copy of original Letter from Joseph to Emma, June 4, 1834 (3 photos of the same letter in the JS Papers)



"Plains of the Nephites" by Ken Corbett

WORKS of Joseph.com



# MOUND EXPLORATIONS

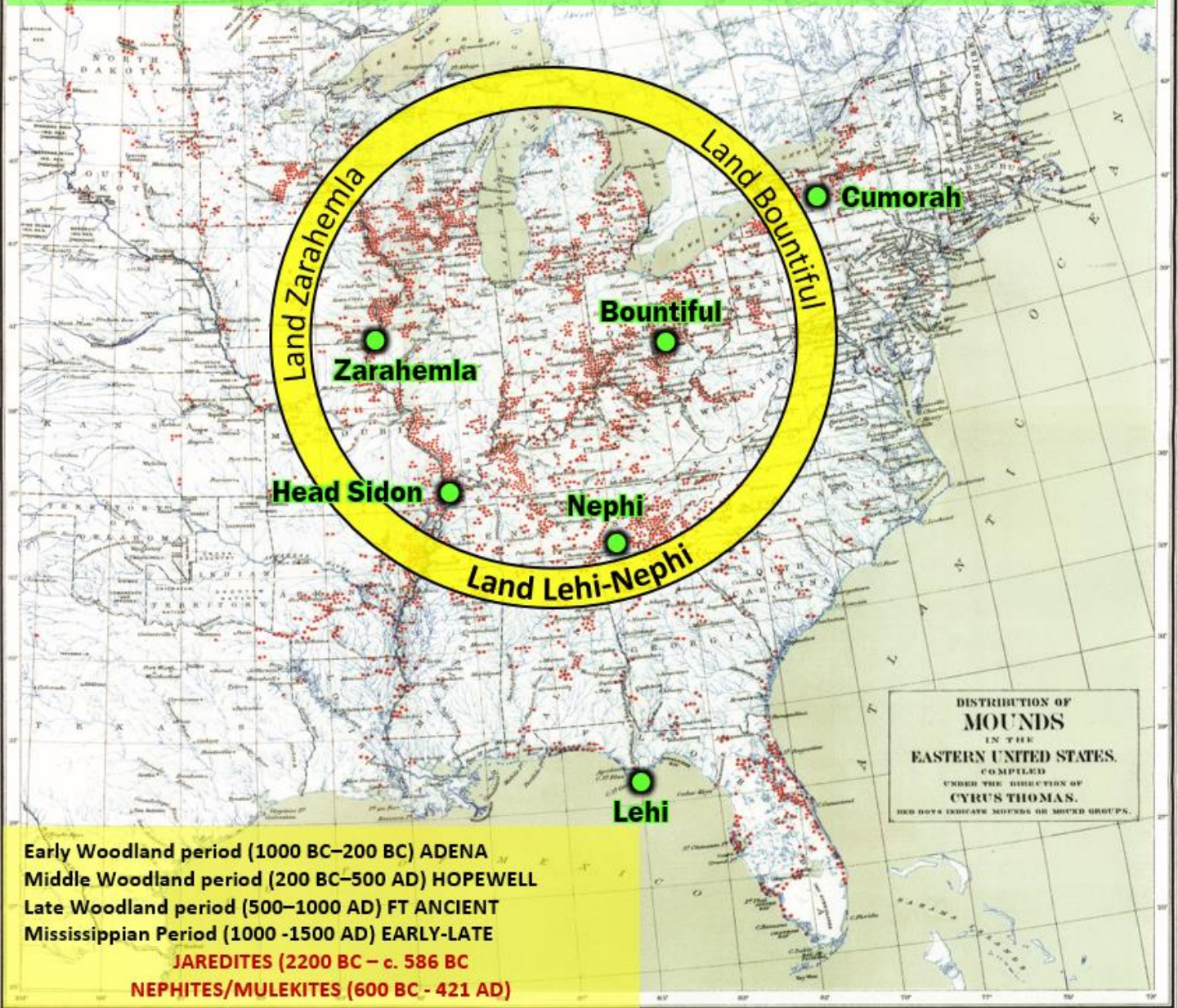
BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY, 12TH ANNUAL REPORT, 1890-91

BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT, PL. XX

“...OVER 1,000,000 MOUNDS ONCE EXISTED...PERHAPS 100,000 STILL EXIST.”

GREGORY L. LITTLE, ED.D., THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN MOUNDS & EARTHWORKS, EAGLE WING BOOKS, INC., MEMPHIS, TN [2009].

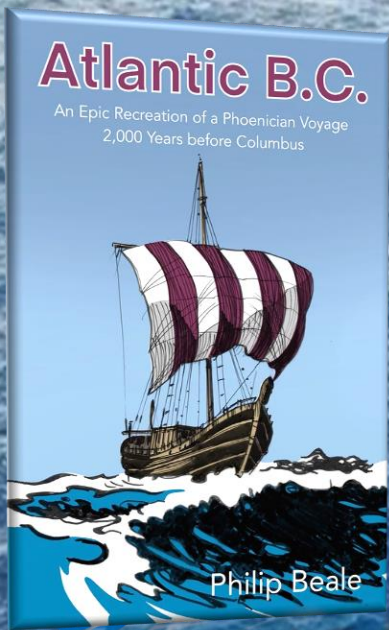


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CYRUS THOMAS, 1894

WORKS of Joseph.com





We're Connected! Semitic, Phoenician, Hebrew, Lamanite, and Native American



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