

1

IN THE BOOK OF MOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF ALMA WE READ THE EPIC STORY OF FOUR PRINCES OF ZARAHEMLA AND THE SON OF THE HIGH PRIEST WHO ARE SO TRANSFORMED BY THE VISITATION OF AN ANGEL, THAT THEY FORSAKE THEIR CLAIMS TO RULE OVER ZARAHEMLA AND TRAVEL INTO DANGEROUS LAMANITE TERRITORIES IN THE HOPE OF CONVERTING THE LAMANITES TO A BELIEF IN CHRIST.

2

THEY WALK IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY ARE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THE ROYALTY OF THE LAMANITE TERRITORY REVERSES THEIR BELIEF SYSTEM. FIRST THE CONVERSION OF KING LAMONI FOLLOWED BY THE CONVERSION OF HIS FATHER WHO IS KING OVER ALL OF THE LAMANITES.

3

THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE IS SO PROFOUND THAT NAMES ARE CHANGED AND LAMONI'S FATHER ESTABLISHES HIS SUCCESSOR WITH A NAME THAT ANNOUNCES THE CONVERSION; KING ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI. (NOT NEPHI-LEHITES) THEY NOW SEE THEMSELVES AS SONS OF AN INCREDIBLE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE THROUGH THEIR GRANDFATHER LEHI, JUST NOT THROUGH THE LINEAGE OF NEPHI. AND, THEY COMPLETELY DROP THEIR LINEAGE ASSIGNMENT TO LAMAN.

4

WITH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US THROUGH THE BOOK OF MORMON CONCERNING THIS REVERSAL OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF, CAN WE FIND EVIDENCE OF THESE SOCIAL UPHEAVALS IN THE MESOAMERICAN REGION?

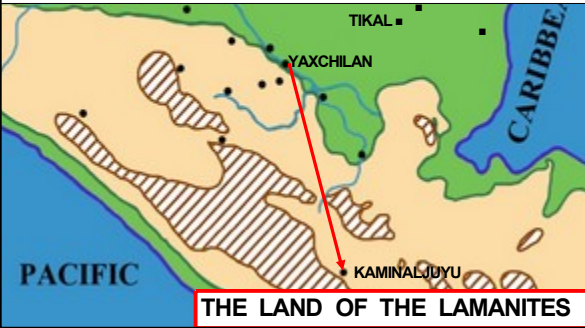
5

WITH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US THROUGH THE BOOK OF MORMON CONCERNING THIS REVERSAL OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF, CAN WE FIND EVIDENCE OF THESE SOCIAL UPHEAVALS IN THE MESOAMERICAN REGION?

ABSOLUTELY, WE DO. THIS PRESENTATION FOCUSES ON THE EVIDENCES OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE AMMONITES AND ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI.

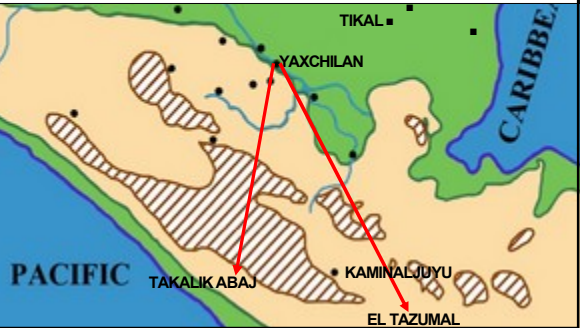
6

THE MISSIONARY OUTREACH OF THE SONS OF MOSIAH TOOK THEM FROM ZARAHEMLA (YAXCHILAN) SOUTH TO THE LAND OF LEHI-NEPHI (KAMINALJUJU)



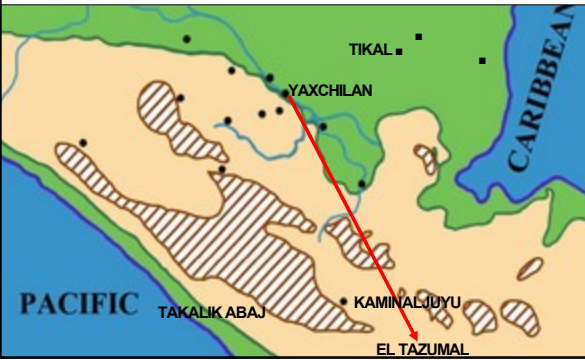
7

AMMON WENT TO THE CITY OF ISHMAEL AND AARON WENT TO MIDDONI. OUR RESEARCH PLACES THESE AT EL TAZUMAL FOR AMMON AND TAKALIK ABAJ FOR AARON.



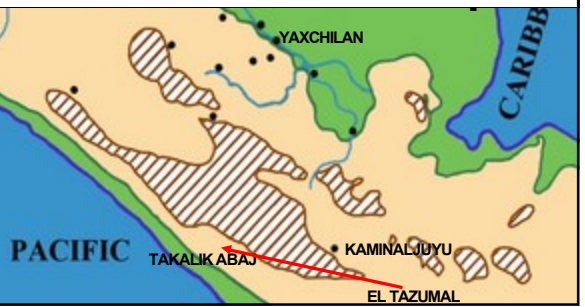
8

AMMON WAS THE FIRST TO SUCCEED IN CONVERTING THE VASSEL KING NAMED LAMONI.



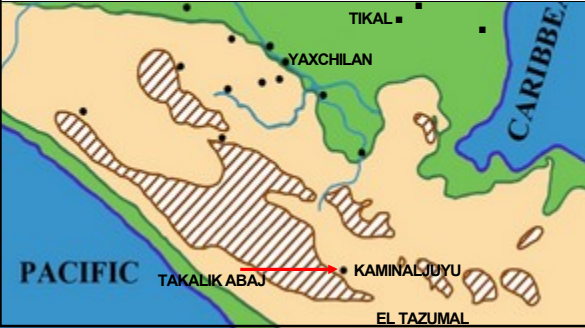
9

WHILE AMMON AND KING LAMONI WERE JOURNEYING TO MIDDONI TO FREE THEIR FELLOW MISSIONARIES FROM PRISON, THEY ENCOUNTERED KING LAMONI'S FATHER WHO WAS KING OF ALL THE LAMANITES.



10

WHEN AARON WAS FREED, HE WENT TO THE CITY OF LEHI-NEPHI (KAMINALJUJU) TO TALK WITH THE KING OF THE LAMANITES AND THIS KING WAS ALSO CONVERTED.



11

IN FACT, ON A 2018 RESEARCH TRIP TO EL TAZUMAL WE FOUND A STONE CARVING THAT DOCUMENTS THE ARRIVAL OF AMMON AND THE CONVERSION OF LAMONI AND HIS FATHER WHO WAS KING OF ALL THE LAMANITES.

12



13



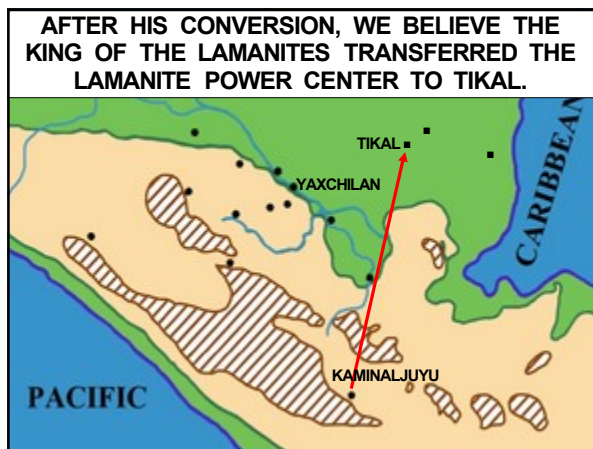
14



15



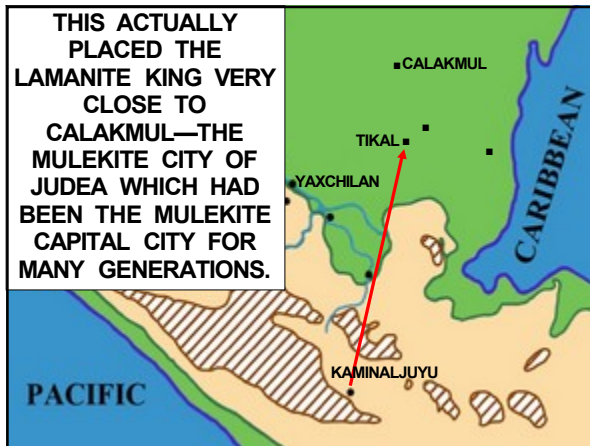
16



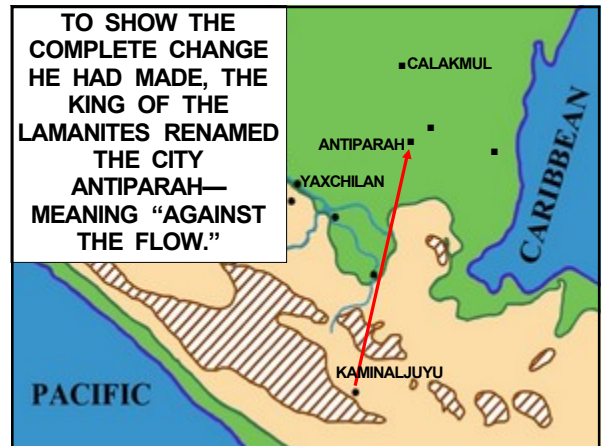
17



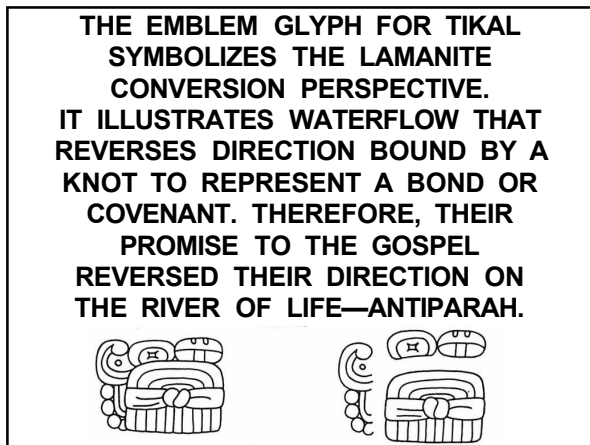
18



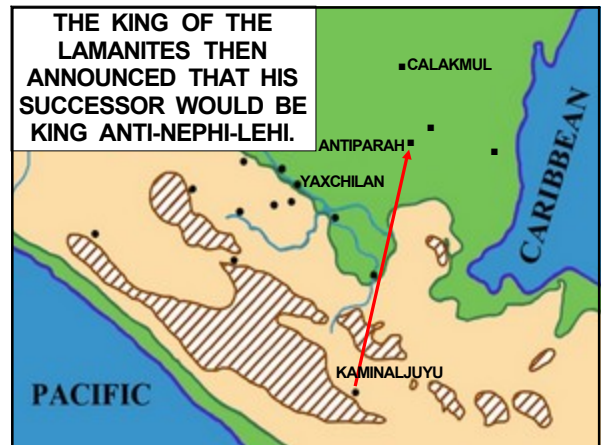
19



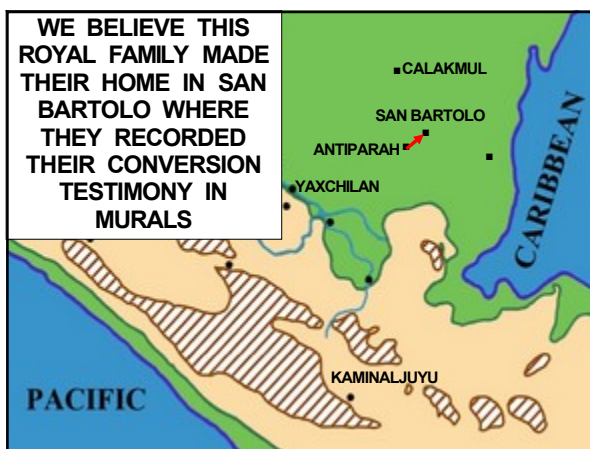
20



21



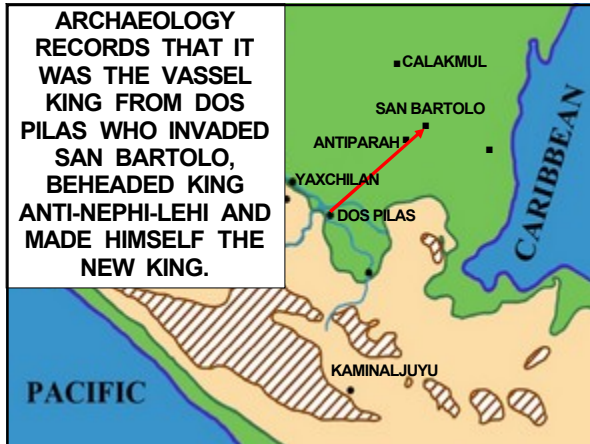
22



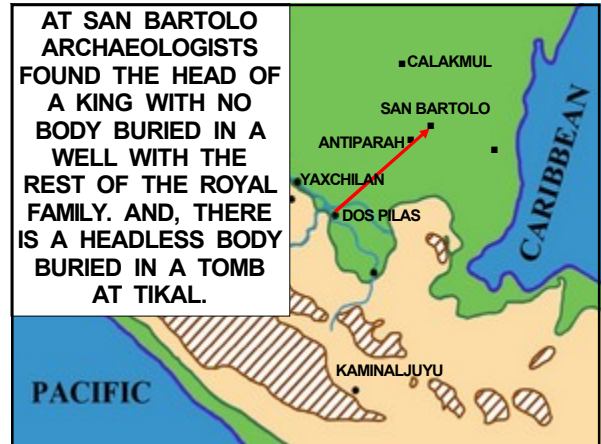
23



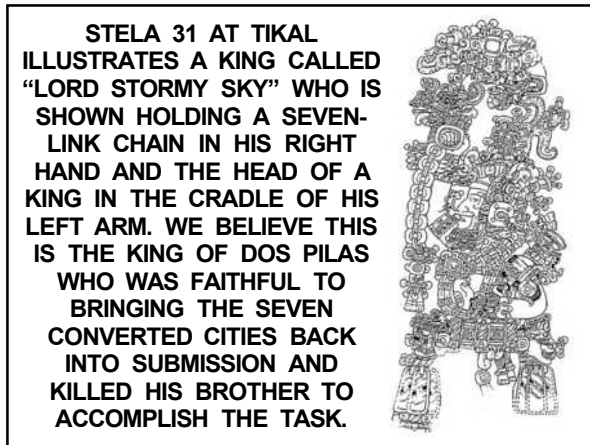
24



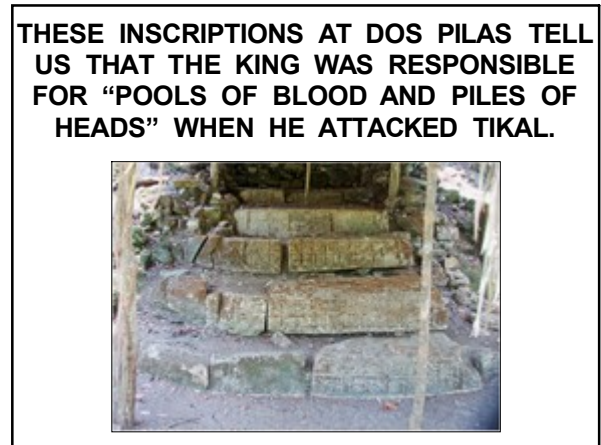
25



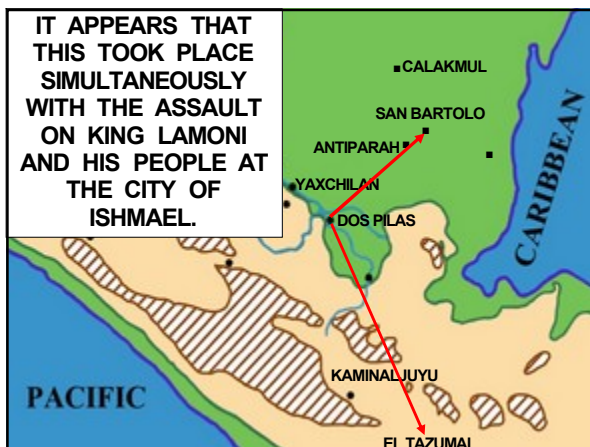
26



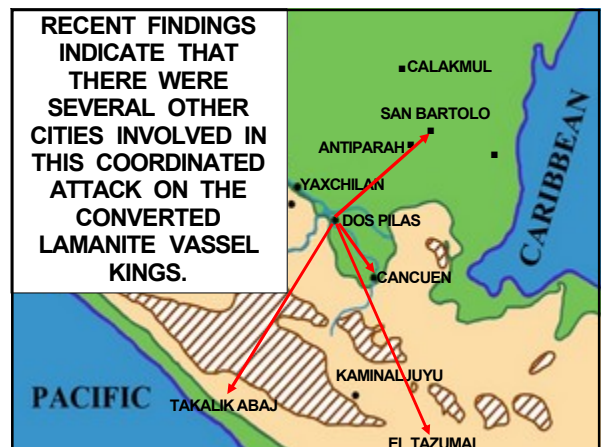
27



28



29



30

THIS RITUAL BATH AT CANCUEN BECAME A GRAVESITE FOR 31 MEMBERS OF A ROYAL FAMILY WHO WERE KILLED AND HONORABLY LAID TO REST IN THIS CISTERN.



31

THIS SET OF STONE MONUMENTS AT TAKALIK ABAJ CHRONICLE THE SACRIFICE OF THE CONVERTED LAMANITES WHO CHOSE TO LOVE AND PRAY FOR THEIR ATTACKERS.



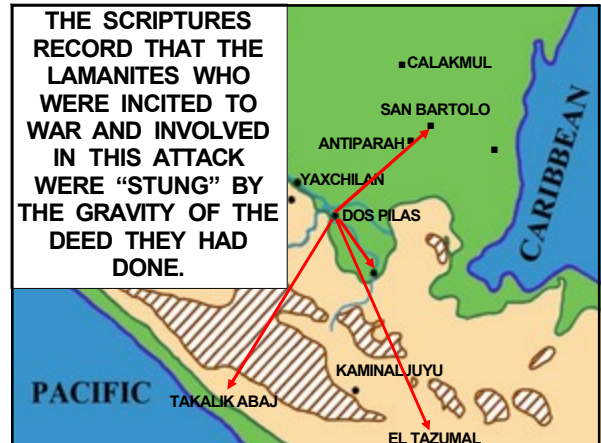
32

THE CENTER STELA AT THIS CONSTRUCTION TELLS OF A CONFRONTATION WITH 1,005 WHO DIED, AND THIS IS JUXTAPOSED BY THE NUMBER 2,351. IT IS A BOOK OF MORMON EVENT WRITTEN IN STONE.



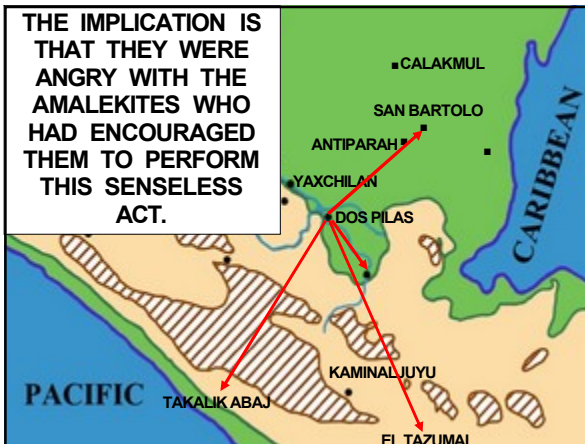
33

THE SCRIPTURES RECORD THAT THE LAMANITES WHO WERE INCITED TO WAR AND INVOLVED IN THIS ATTACK WERE "STUNG" BY THE GRAVITY OF THE DEED THEY HAD DONE.



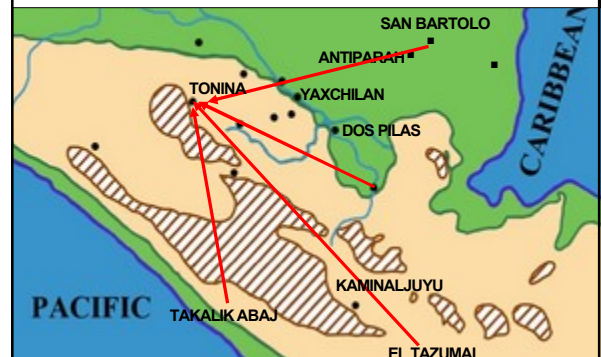
34

THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THEY WERE ANGRY WITH THE AMALEKITES WHO HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO PERFORM THIS SENSELESS ACT.



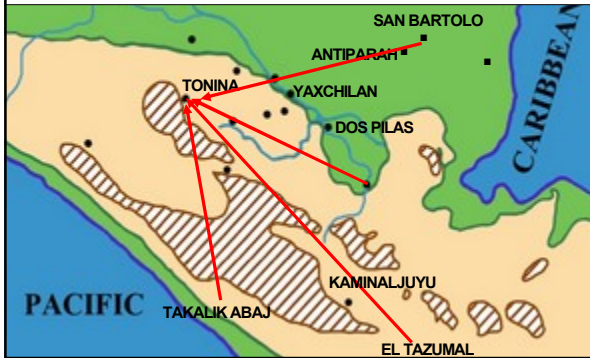
35

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ANGRY GROUP OF LAMANITES THEN EXACTED REVENGE ON THE AMALEKITES BY ATTACKING AMMONIAH.



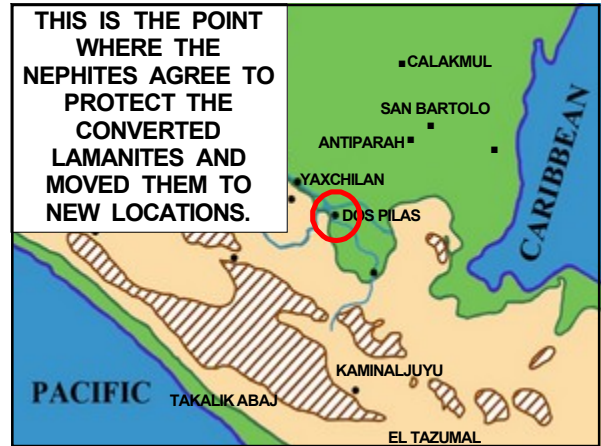
36

THE MODERN SITE OF TONINA DISPLAYS ALL OF THE TESTIMONIAL EVENTS THAT THE BOOK OF MORMON RECORDS FOR AMMONIAH.



37

THIS IS THE POINT WHERE THE NEPHITES AGREE TO PROTECT THE CONVERTED LAMANITES AND MOVED THEM TO NEW LOCATIONS.

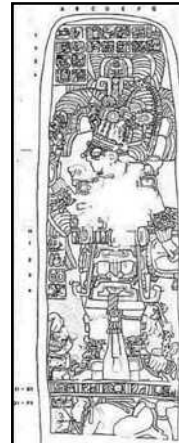


38

WE RECENTLY VISITED DOS PILAS AND FOUND TWO STELA THAT DEPICT THE MEETING OF ALMA WITH AMMON AND THE REQUEST FOR PROTECTION FROM THE NEPHITES.



39



WE BELIEVE THE PRIEST DEPICTED HERE IS AMMON WHO STANDS ON TOP OF THE BOUND CAPTIVE BECAUSE EVERYTHING HE IS DOING IS FOUNDED ON THE FACT THAT THE CAPTIVE IS BOUND IN HIS OWN LAND AND IS POWERLESS TO HELP HIMSELF BECAUSE OF THE VOW HE MADE TO HIS GOD.

40



THIS PRIEST IS NOT STANDING ON A CAPTIVE. WE BELIEVE THIS REPRESENTS ALMA WHO IS FUNCTIONING AS HIGH PRIEST. IF THIS IS ALMA, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT HIM TO STAND ON A CAPTIVE. HE REPRESENTS SOMETHING ELSE. THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE GLYPH.

41

THE MOVE OF THE AMMONITES IS EASILY DOCUMENTED. UNIQUE POTTERY IDENTIFIES THE CULTURAL MOVE.



42

AT THE BELIZE SITE OF LAMANAI WE FIND A STELA REFERRING TO A KING WHO HAD TWO NAMES AND TWO KINGDOMS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS REFERRING TO THE CONVERTED KING LAMONI.



43

HE WAS A VASSAL KING UNDER ONE IDENTITY WHEN SERVING UNDER HIS FATHER IN THE CITY OF ISHMAEL.

BUT, WITH HIS CONVERSION, HIS CONVICTION TO DIE IF HE MUST TO REMAIN TRUE TO HIS PROMISE, AND THEN THE MOVE INTO JERSHON, HE NOW RULED HIS PEOPLE AS A DIFFERENT PERSON WITH A NEW NAME; MUCH AS SAUL WHO BECAME PAUL.

44

THIS IS WHO WE FOUND AT LAMANAI AND THE NAME OF THE SITE BEARS HIS NAME AS WE HAVE IT IN OUR SCRIPTURES.

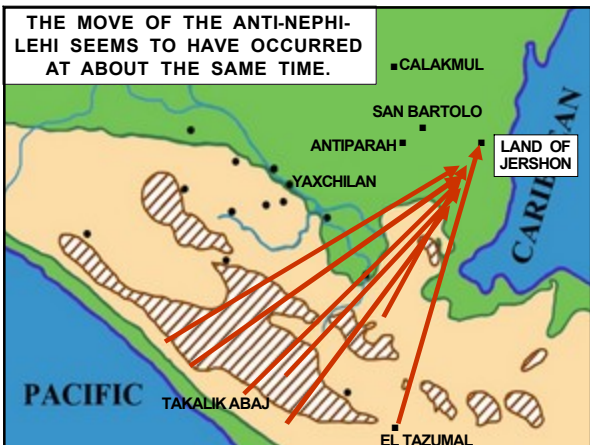
LAMANAI - LAMONI

ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE ONLY TWO ROYALS BURIED HERE; THIS TWO-NAME KING AND HIS WIFE.

AND, THERE IS A STELA HERE THAT SAYS THEY PAID TRIBUTE TO YAXCHILAN (ZARAHEMPLA).

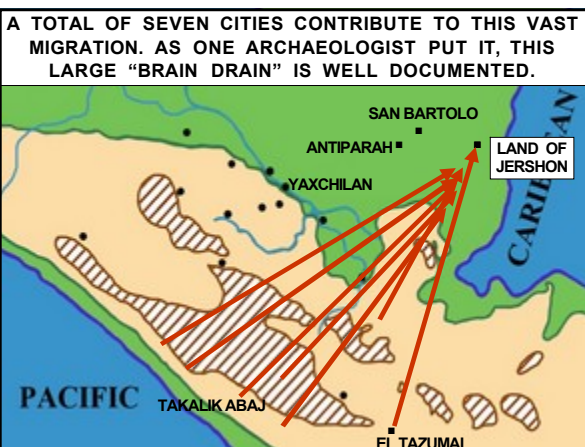
45

THE MOVE OF THE ANTI-NEPHI-LEHI SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.



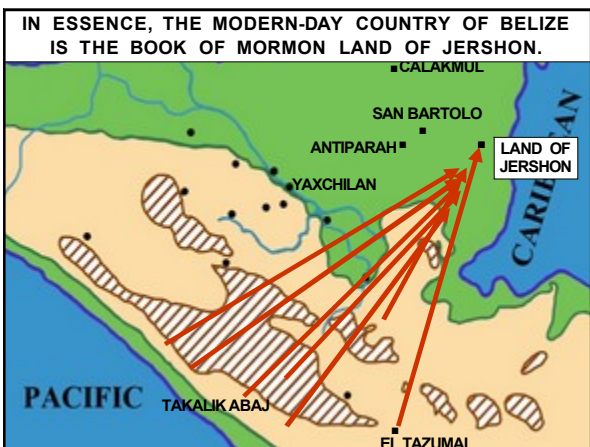
46

A TOTAL OF SEVEN CITIES CONTRIBUTE TO THIS VAST MIGRATION. AS ONE ARCHAEOLOGIST PUT IT, THIS LARGE "BRAIN DRAIN" IS WELL DOCUMENTED.

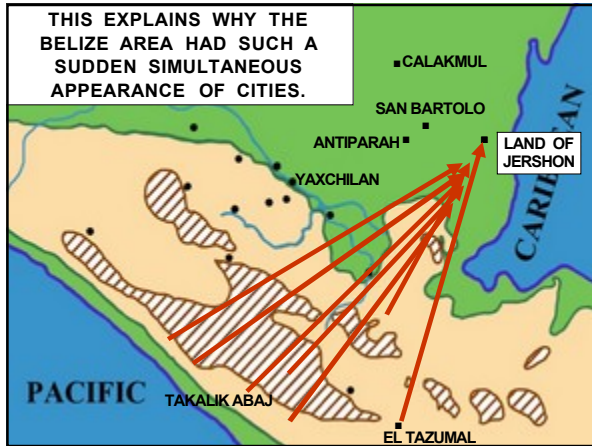


47

IN ESSENCE, THE MODERN-DAY COUNTRY OF BELIZE IS THE BOOK OF MORMON LAND OF JERSHON.



48

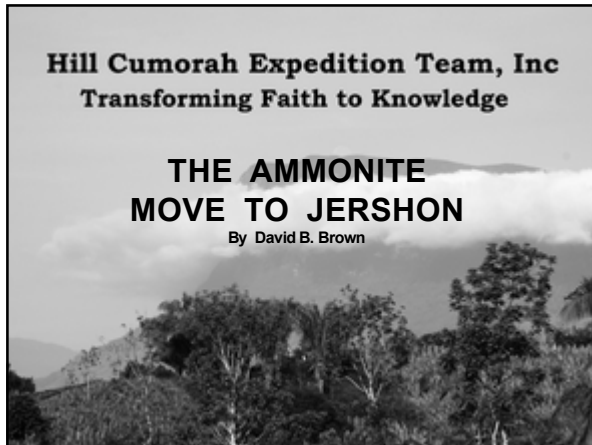


49

AS WE GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REGION WITH OUR SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS ON THE AMMONITES, WE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE CHANGES THAT OCCUR DUE TO THE SOCIETAL SHIFTS.

WHAT IS AMAZING IS THAT WE CAN TRACE THESE CHANGES WITH CLUES FOUND AT VARIOUS SITES. THE TRAIL OF THESE CONVERTS AND THEIR SORROWFUL TRIALS ARE CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED IN MAYAN ART.

50



51