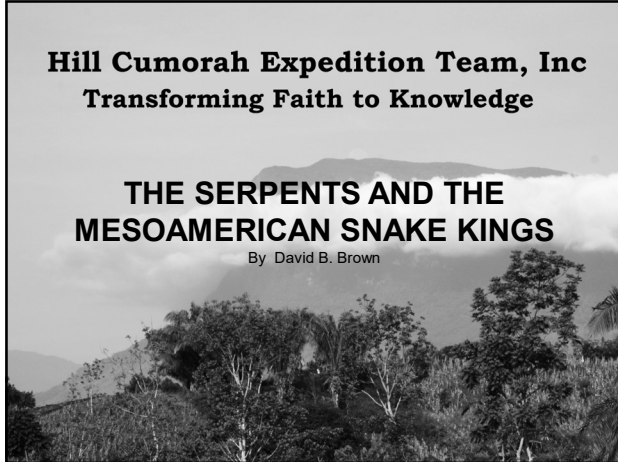


Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc
Transforming Faith to Knowledge

THE SERPENTS AND THE MESOAMERICAN SNAKE KINGS

By David B. Brown



IN A PREVIOUS PRESENTATION I COVERED THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN JOSEPH OF EGYPT AND THE JAREDITE (OLMEC) CULTURE OF MESOAMERICA. IN THE LAST PRESENTATION, I INTRODUCED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE “SERPENTS” AND THE MESOAMERICAN SNAKE KINGS OF THE PETEN.

THIS THEORY PROPOSES THAT THE SERPENT INVASION EXPERIENCED BY THE JAREDITES WAS ACTUALLY A HOSTILE IMMIGRATION OF SEAFARERS WHO WERE CULTURALLY KNOWN AS SERPENTS. EVENTUALLY, A BARRIER WAS CREATED AND TOTAL SEPARATION WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

THIS INVASION OF SERPENTS BEGINS A 400-YEAR OCCUPATION OF THE LAND EAST OF THE GRIJALVA RIVER. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION THAT INITIATES THIS MIGRATION?

Dates	Old World	New World		Minoan
	Holy Bible	Book of Mormon Kings		Founded 3200 BC
2200 BC	Great Tower		Migration of Jared & company to America from Sumer thru Asia & Pacific	Flourishing in the Bronze Age explosion. Copper mining in Lake Superior
2150 BC				
2100 BC		Orihah		
1950 BC		Kib		
1900 BC	Abraham (1853 BC)	Shule		
1850 BC				
1800 BC		Omer		
1750 BC	Isaac			Apex of Civilization
1700 BC	Jacob			Cultural Disturbance
1650 BC	Joseph in Egypt (1670 BC)	Emer Ether 4:17-23	First mention of essential trade materials	1627 BC Alaskan eruption
1600 BC				
1550 BC	Israelites enslaved (1565 BC)	Corianton		Strong evidences of trade with Egypt, Greece and Canaan.
1500 BC		Gem		Beginning of decline
1450 BC	Exodus (1447 BC)	Heth Ether 4:31-41	Serpents in the land, puts a barrier to the land southward	Santorini Eruption
1400 BC	Cross Jordan Israelites invade Canaan	Shez		

THE SERPENT INVASION IS HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME THAT AN EXPLOSION OF SANTORINI TAKES PLACE. THIS VOLCANIC EXPLOSION CREATED A TSUNAMI THAT DESTROYED THE MINOAN PORT CITIES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ISLAND OF CRETE.



THIS EXPLOSION AND TSUNAMI IS HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME THAT EGYPT IS REELING FROM THE PLAGUES, THE EXODUS AND THE LOSS OF A WORKER-CLASS. WHICH IS FOLLOWED BY THE HEBREW INVASION OF CANAANITE CITIES FORTY-YEARS LATER. ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE CREATING HUGE CULTURAL SHIFTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

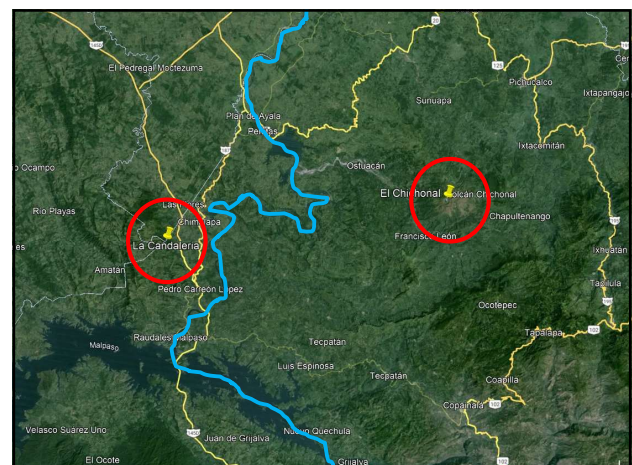
THIS MEANS THAT THE MINOAN CULTURAL ECONOMIC ENGINE IS DECIMATED. THE EGYPTIAN CULTURE IS EXPERIENCING A MAJOR RESTRUCTURE AND THE CANAANITE CULTURE IS FALLING APART. WHAT HAPPENS IN TIMES OF DISASTERS THAT CAUSE SOCIAL UPHEAVALS?

MASS MIGRATIONS.

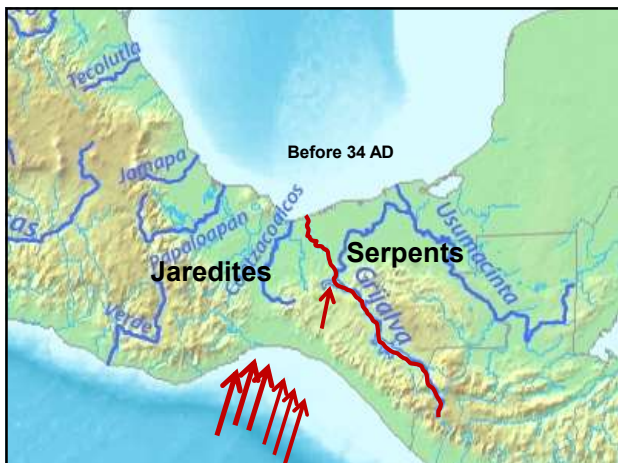
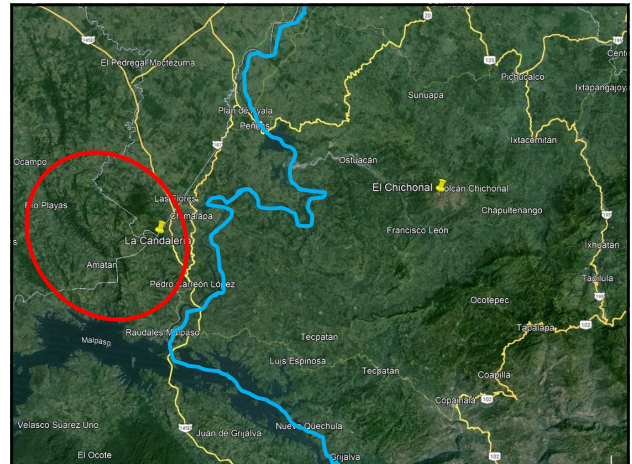
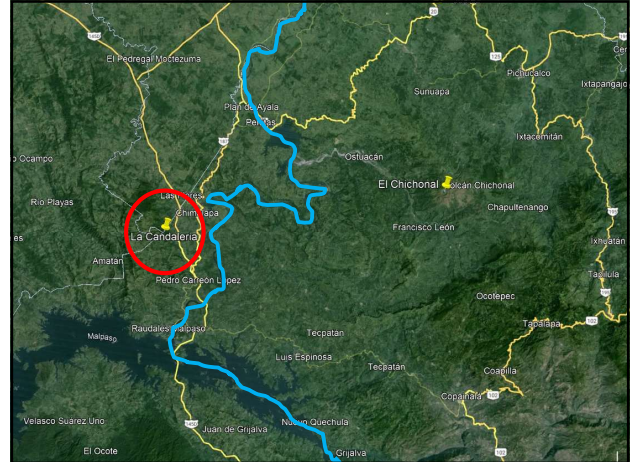
THIS LEAVES THE PHOENICIANS AND MYCENAEANS AS THE MOST CAPABLE SEAFARING CULTURES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THESE SEAFARERS PROBABLY OFFERED TO HELP THE REFUGEES, BUT ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY AGREE TO RELOCATE THEM; NOT TAKE THEM IN.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS, EGYPTIAN AND CANAANITE REFUGEES ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE THAT PROVIDES SAFETY FOR FAMILIES. AGAIN, THE PHOENICIANS AND MYCENAEANS ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE PASSAGE. HENCE, THE OLMEC REGION HAS A VERY LARGE GROUP OF REFUGEES WHO ARE LOOKING TO START ANEW.

BUT, WHEN THESE REFUGEES ARRIVE IN THE NEW WORLD, THERE IS ALREADY A FAMINE IN THE LAND. WHAT DO A PEOPLE OF DESPERATION DO TO ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL? THEY TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES. PERHAPS SOMETHING LIKE STEALING HERDS AND TAKING THEM TO A WILDERNESS AREA THAT IS DEFENSIBLE?

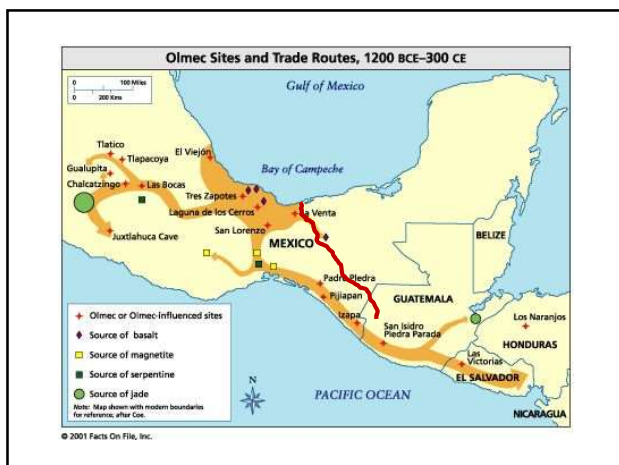
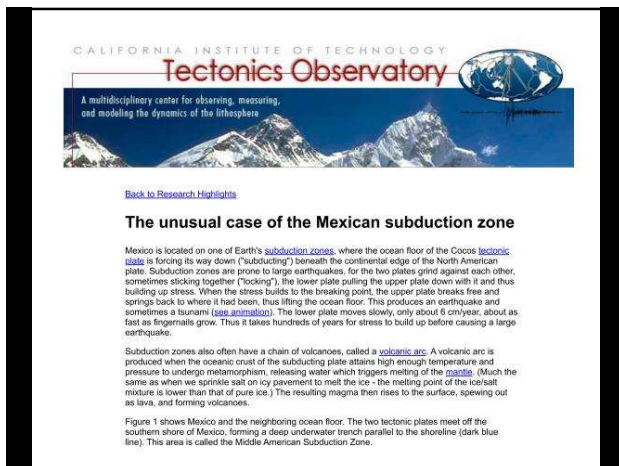


III Nephi 4:14 "And thus the face of the whole earth became deformed because of the tempests, and the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the quaking of the earth. [15] And behold, the rocks were rent in twain; yea, they were broken up upon the face of the whole earth, insomuch that they were found in broken fragments, and in seams, and in cracks upon all the face of the land. [16] And it came to pass that when the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the storm, and the tempest, and the quakings of the earth did cease—for behold, they did last for about the space of three hours; and it was said by some that the time was greater; [17] Nevertheless, all these great and terrible things were done in about the space of three hours—and then behold, there was darkness upon the face of the land."





III Nephi 4:10 *“But behold, there was a more great and terrible destruction in the land northward: for behold, the whole face of the land was changed, because of the tempests, and the whirlwinds, and the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the exceeding great quaking of the whole earth,”*



WHAT ARE THE SERPENTS DOING IN THIS WILDERNESS AREA DURING THIS 400-YEAR OCCUPATION OF THE LAND EAST OF THE GRIJALVA RIVER? IS THERE SOMETHING HAPPENING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION DURING THIS 400-YEAR PERIOD? MIGHT THERE BE A CONNECTION?

IT IS DURING THIS PERIOD FROM 1400-1000 BC WHEN THE MEDITERRANEAN CULTURES WERE EXPERIENCING A SERIES OF INVASIONS FROM A CONFEDERACY OF NAVAL RAIDERS CALLED THE "SEA PEOPLE." MOST OF THOSE INCURSIONS OCCUR AROUND THE 1200 BC TIMEFRAME.

IF THE 1447 BC NATURAL DISASTERS THAT OCCURRED IN THE NEAR EAST DISRUPTED THE SEAFARING POWERS AND THE PHOENICIANS AND MYCENAEANS TOOK CONTROL OF THE MINOAN TRADE ROUTES, THERE IS STILL AN ENTIRE NORTH ATLANTIC PORTION OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN WHOSE INTERESTS MAY NOT BE MET BY THE NEW SEAFARING POWERS.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE 15TH CENTURY BC MEDITERRANEAN REFUGEES BECAME THE GROUP KNOWN AS THE SEA PEOPLE WHO THEN DECIDE TO RECLAIM THEIR MARITIME POWER BY INVADING THE MEDITERRANEAN PORT CULTURES DURING THIS TIME?

ARE THEY USING THEIR MESOAMERICAN OCCUPATION OF THE LAND SOUTHWARD AS A BASE OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE "SEA PEOPLE" WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO RECLAIM THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL SEAFARING MARKETS?

IN ESSENCE, THE SEA PEOPLE WERE ATTEMPTING TO FLEX THEIR MUSCLE AND BECAME THE "TAIL WAGGING THE DOG" IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECLAIM THEIR PORTION OF THE SEA TRADE INDUSTRY. ULTIMATELY, THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THE POWER VOID WAS ALREADY FILLED BY THE MYCENAEANS AND PHOENICIANS.

IT IS NOT UNTIL THE TIME OF KING LIB AT ABOUT 1000 BC THAT WE FIND ANOTHER ENTRY CONCERNING CULTURAL EVENTS WHICH IMPLIES SUBSTANTIAL TRADE. HERE WE FIND THAT LIB RECLAIMS THE LAND SOUTHWARD WITH ITS ACCESS TO THE WILDERNESS WHERE THEY ARE ABLE TO FIND WILDLIFE FOR SUSTENANCE. THIS IS BECAUSE THE SERPENTS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

Ether 4:65-72 "And it came to pass that Lib also did that which was good in the sight of the Lord. [66] **And in the days of Lib the poisonous serpents were destroyed; wherefore, they did go into the land southward to hunt food for the people of the land; for the land was covered with animals of the forest.** [67] And Lib also himself became a great hunter. [68] And they built a great city by the narrow neck of land, by the place where the sea divides the land. [69] And they did preserve the land southward for a wilderness to get game. [70] And the whole face of the land northward was covered with inhabitants; and they were exceeding industrious; and they did buy, and sell, and traffic one with another, that they might get gain. [71] And they did work in **all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore, they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore--of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of copper.** [72] And they did work all manner of fine work."

Ether 4:73-81 " And they did have **silks and fine twined linen**; and they did work all manner of cloth, that they might clothe themselves from their nakedness. [74] And they did make all manner of tools to till the earth, both to plow and to sow, to reap and to hoe, and also to thrash. [75] **And they did make all manner of tools with which they did work their beasts.** [76] And they did make all manner of weapons of war. [77] **And they did work all manner of work of exceeding curious workmanship.** [78] And never could be a people more blessed than were they, and more prospered by the hand of the Lord. [79] And they were in a land that was choice above all lands, for the Lord had spoken it. [80] And it came to pass that Lib did live many years and begat sons and daughters; and he also begat Hearthom. [81] And it came to pass that Hearthom reigned in the stead of his father."

IT STATES THAT THE POISONOUS SERPENTS WERE DESTROYED IN THE DAYS OF LIB. THAT COULD HAPPEN SEVERAL WAYS. LIB COULD HAVE BEEN THE CATALYST TO THEIR DESTRUCTION BY MEANS OF WAR, COMMERCE OR THE GOSPEL.

OR, IT MAY MEAN THAT THE BULK OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE SERPENT CULTURE HAD ALREADY RELOCATED LEAVING ONLY A FEW STRAYS FOR LIB TO REMOVE.

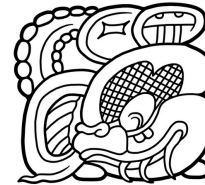
ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT LIB PUSHED A TREATY WITH THE SERPENTS. LIB'S TIMEFRAME IS CONCURRENT WITH THE BUILDING OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE. THE JAREDITES LIST A HOST OF ITEMS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO BUILDING THE TEMPLE; GOLD, SILVER, IRON, COPPER, BRASS AND ALL MANNER OF METALS.

SO THE QUESTION ARISES: DID THE JAREDITES ENTER INTO A BUSINESS DEAL WITH THE SERPENTS TO INSURE THAT THE AMERICAS COULD JOINTLY PROVIDE ENOUGH RAW MATERIAL AND LABOR TO FILL THE DEMAND COMING OUT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN? WHAT IF THE JAREDITES PROVIDED THE METALS AND THE SERPENTS PROVIDED THE FLAX AND SILK PRODUCTS?

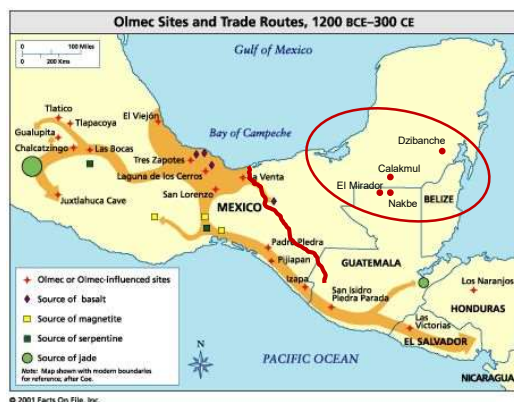
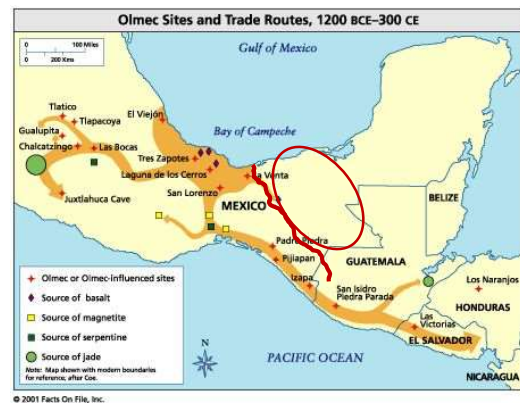
WHAT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IS THAT IT IS ABOUT 1000 BC WHEN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD BEGINS TO FIND A RULING CLASS CALLED "SNAKE KINGS" IN THE PETEN OF GUATEMALA.

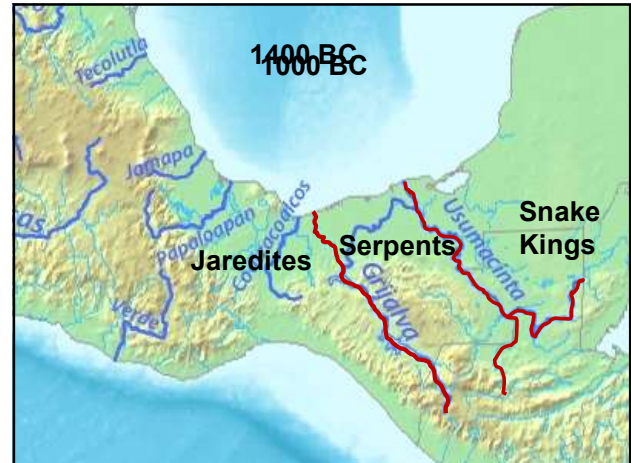
THESE ARE THE EARLIEST MAYA.

THIS IS THE EMBLEM GLYPH FOR CALAKMUL, WHICH IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY POWER CENTERS FOR THE SNAKE KINGS.



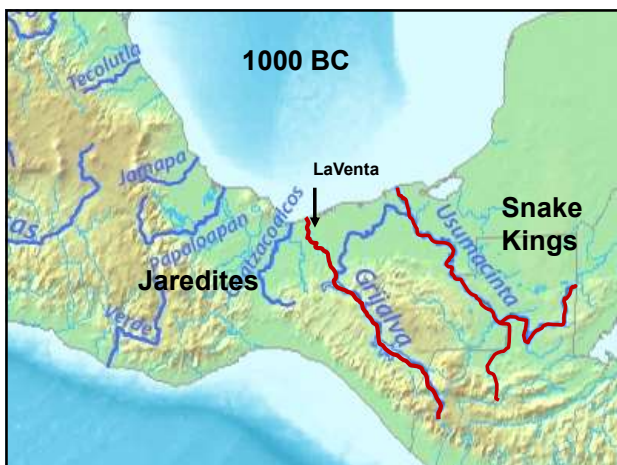
ARCHAEOLOGISTS STATE THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE INDUSTRIAL MERCHANTS WHO WIELD THEIR POWER THROUGH THE MEANS OF WATERWAY TRADE, BOTH TRIBUTARY AND OCEANIC.



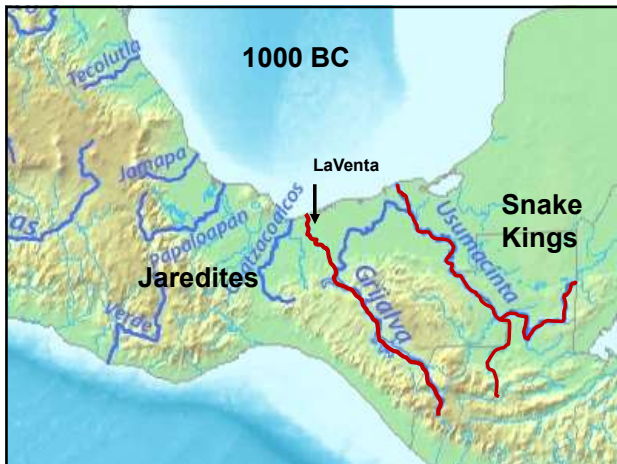


WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THE RECORD OF ETHER IS THAT THE *ONLY* MENTION OF TENSIONS WITH OUTSIDE CULTURAL FORCES IS THE STORY CONCERNING THE SERPENTS.

ALL OTHER WARS PROVIDED IN THE JAREDITE RECORD ARE INTERNAL ONES BETWEEN THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE RULING CLASS. DOES THIS IMPLY THAT AFTER THE TIME OF LIB, THERE WERE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SNAKE KINGS IN THE SOUTHERN YUCATAN AND THE PETEN OF GUATEMALA?

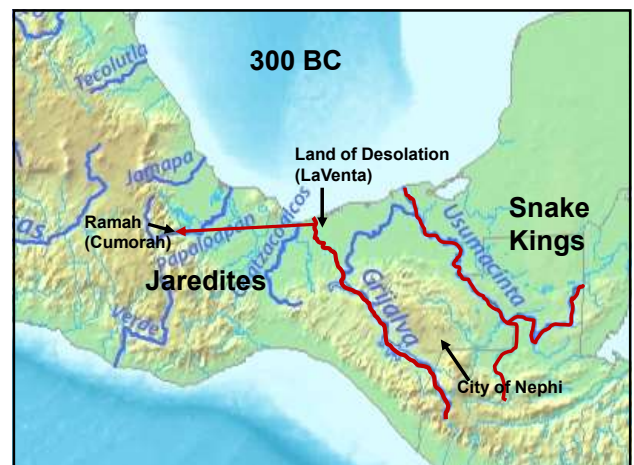


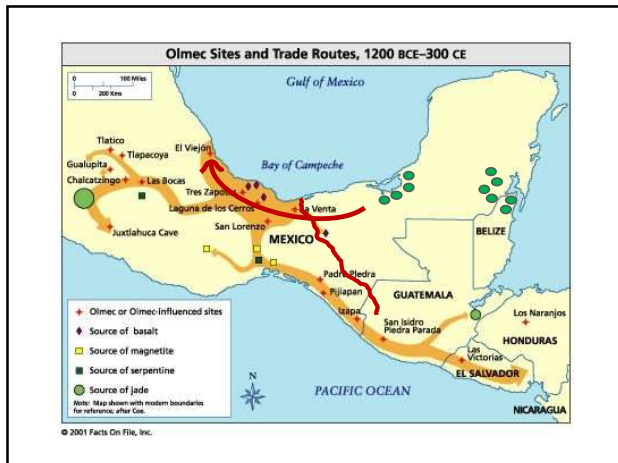




**CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY:
THAT THE JAREDITES AND THE
SNAKE KINGS CREATED A CO-OP
IN THE PRODUCTION AND
SHIPPING OF COMMODITIES. SO-
MUCH-SO THAT AFTER 1000 BC,
THE RULING FAMILIES BEGAN TO
INTERMARRY IN THE SAME WAY
THAT THE LAMANITES DID WITH
THE JAREDITES SHORTLY AFTER
THEY GAINED POWER IN THE
SOUTHERN MAYA HIGHLANDS.**

**DID THIS INTERMARRIAGE OF
FAMILIES EVENTUALLY LEAD
TO THE FINAL WARS AMONG
THE JAREDITE KINGS? IS THIS
WHY THE EPIC FINAL BATTLES
TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE
PLAINS OF LAVENTA (CITY OF
DESOLATION) AND THE HILL
RAMAH (CUMORAH)?**



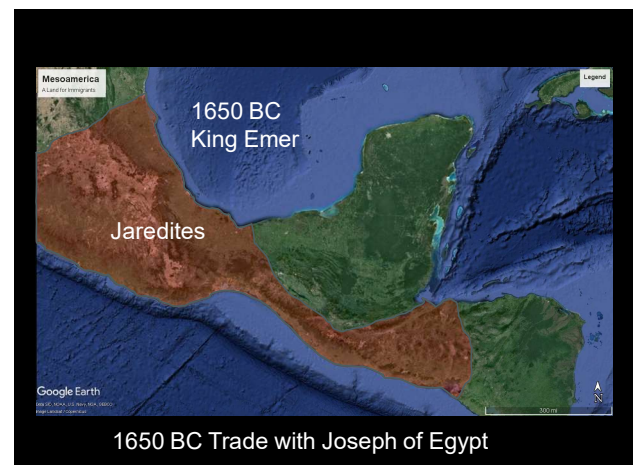


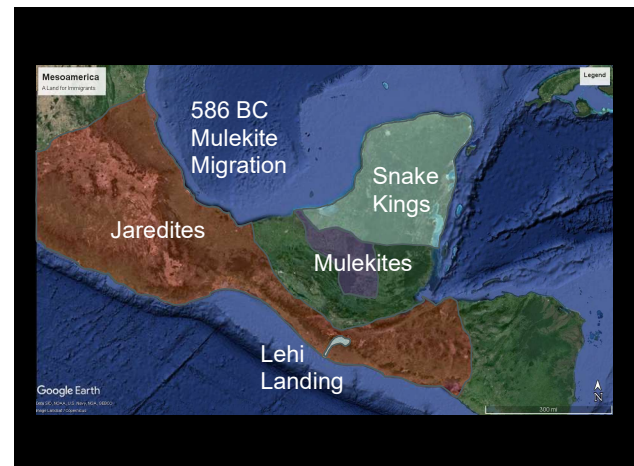
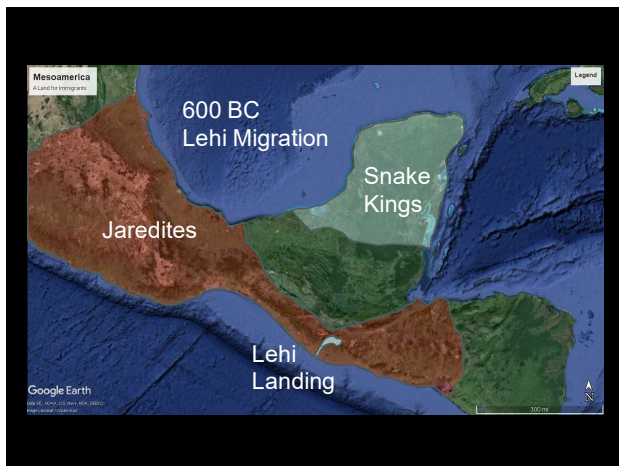
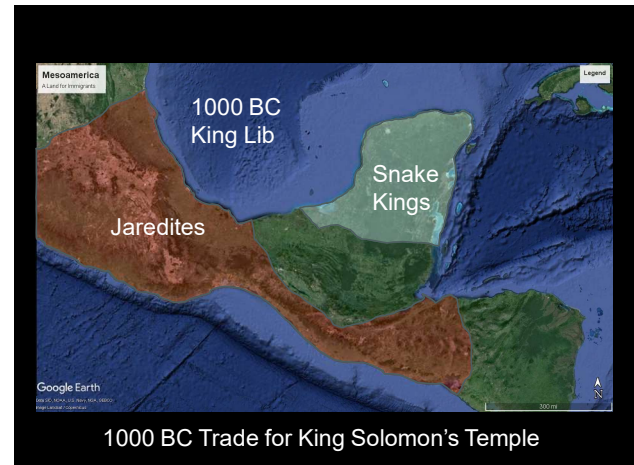
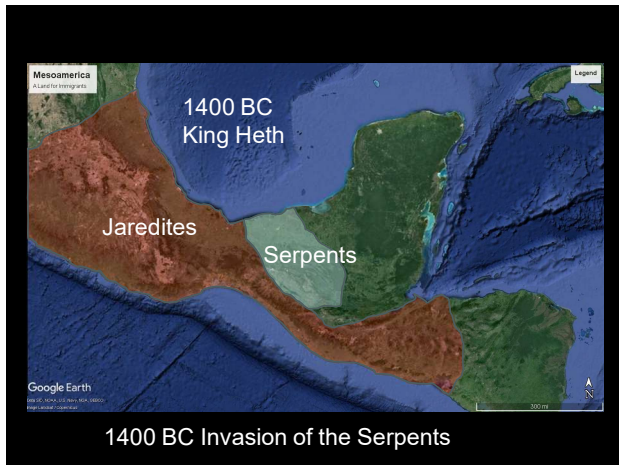
DOES THIS IMPLY THAT THE SNAKE KINGS BECAME THE BOOK OF MORMON LAND BOUNTIFUL? WAS IT CALLED BOUNTIFUL BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF INDUSTRY IT GENERATED?

THE BOUNTIFUL REGION IS MENTIONED IN THE DIALOGUE AS IF IT IS PART OF THE NEPHITE HOLDINGS, BUT IN FACT WE RECEIVE NO DETAILS ABOUT GOVERNMENTAL DEALINGS WITHIN BOUNTIFUL? BOUNTIFUL NEVER FACTORS HEAVILY IN THE NARRATIVE UNTIL THE MORONI WARS AND CHRIST'S VISITATION AFTER THE GREAT DESTRUCTION.

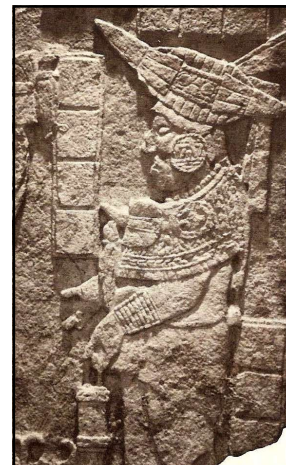
DO WE GET THE SENSE THAT BOUNTIFUL AND ZARAHUEMLA ARE ALWAYS IN GOOD GRACES BECAUSE THE SNAKE KINGS (BOUNTIFUL) ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT AND GRANTED THE LAND RIGHTS TO THE MULEKITES (ZARAHUEMLA) WHO POSSESSED A ROYAL BLOOD CONNECTION WITH THE JEWISH THRONE?

LET'S REVIEW THE REGIONAL HISTORY TO SEE IF THESE CONCEPTS MAKE SENSE.





WHY DO WE MAKE THE SOLID CLAIM THAT THE MULEKITES WERE LOCATED ON THE USUMACINTA RIVER SYSTEM? BECAUSE WE HAVE EVIDENCE.



THIS IS CALLED "THE UNFINISHED STELA" AND IT IS FOUND IN FRONTERA AT THE MOUTH OF THE USUMACINTA RIVER. IT PROVIDES US WITH SEVERAL CLUES ABOUT THE 586 BC MIGRATION.



THE HAT IS IN THE SHAPE OF A TOP-DOWN VIEW OF A TWO-MASTED PHOENICIAN SHIP.



HE WEARS CLOTHING SIMILAR TO HEBREW PRIESTS WITH A PRAYER SHAWL, AN INCENSE BAG AND PRAYER PHYLACTERIES ON THE WRISTS.



HIS EAR PLUG CONTAINS THE SEAL OF SOLOMON FLOATING ON THE WATER AND BORDERED WITH A ROPE.



AND THE GLYPH BLOCKS HAVE NO WRITING IN THEM BECAUSE THE MULEKITES HAD NO SACRED WRITING OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

THIS STELA AND ITS PLACEMENT AT THE MOUTH OF THE USUMACINTA IS A BOUNTIFUL HISTORICAL MARKER THAT PROVIDES US THE CRITICAL CLUE THAT THE MULEKITE STORY WILL BE FOUND ON THIS RIVER.

IT ALSO INFERS THAT THE USUMACINTA RIVER SYSTEM HAD NOT YET BEEN INDUSTRIALIZED, AND FURTHER IMPLIES THAT THE SNAKE KINGS WERE WILLING TO ALLOW THE MULEKITES INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE REGION FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE.

BOTH THE MULEKITES AND THE SNAKE KINGS WERE BENEFITING FROM THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP.

THE MULEKITES WERE BEING PROTECTED IN THE DEEP INTERIOR OF THE MESOAMERICAN REGION SO THAT ENEMIES OF THE JEWISH THRONE WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING THEM. AND, THE SNAKE KINGS WOULD FINALLY DEVELOP THE USUMACINTA RIVER SYSTEM INTERIOR.

THIS IMPLIES THAT THE MULEKITE MIGRATION WAS NOT ISOLATED NOR HOMOGENOUS. THE MULEKITES ASSIMILATED INTO AN INDUSTRIAL CULTURE THAT ALREADY EXISTED AT LEAST 400 YEARS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL.

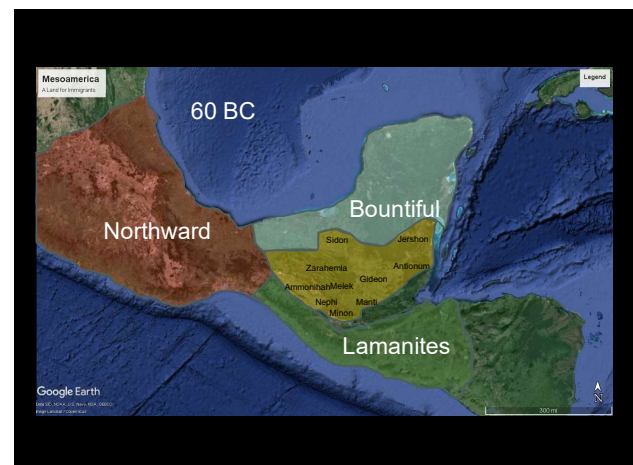
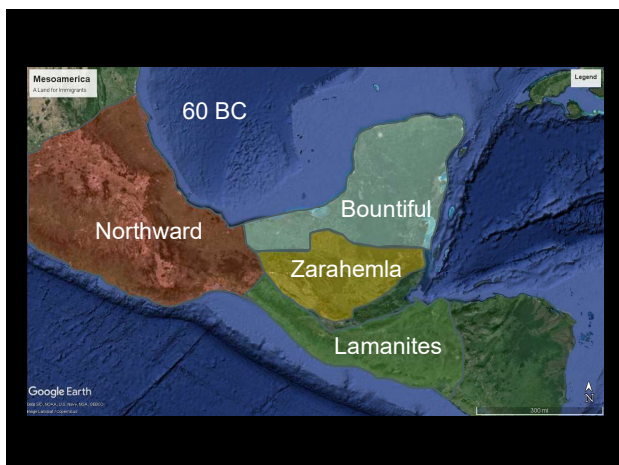
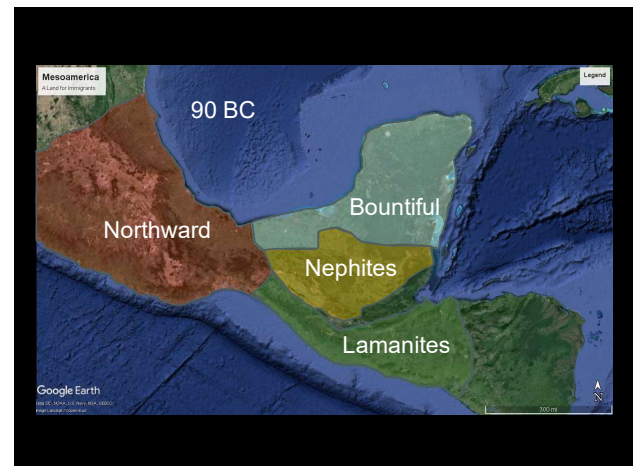
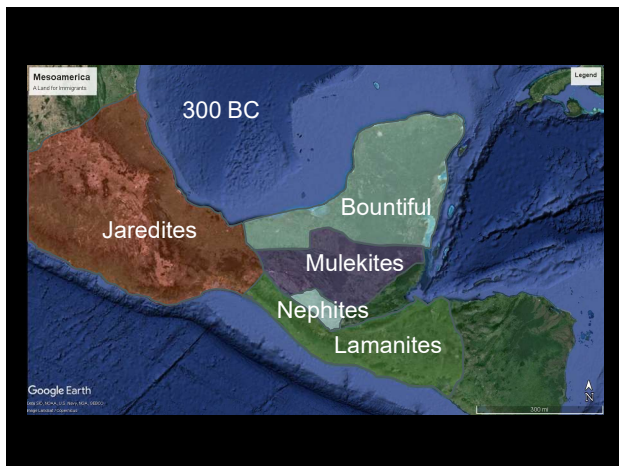
THE ONLY REASON THE MULEKITES HAD PASSAGE TO THE AMERICAS IS BECAUSE THERE WAS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL PHOENICIAN TRADE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE AMERICAS.

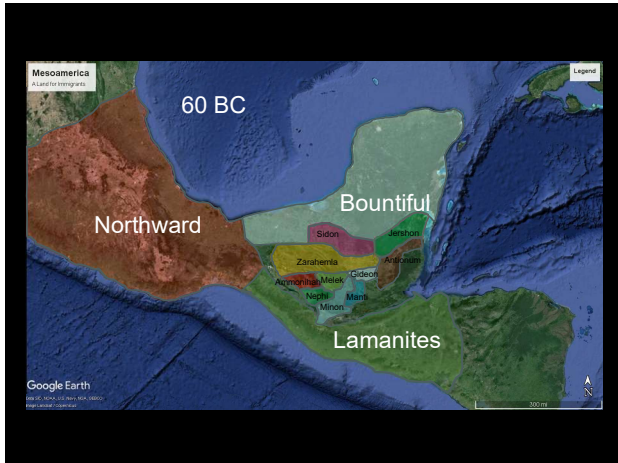
APPARENTLY, THE MULEKITES PROVIDED THE SNAKE KINGS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THEIR INDUSTRY INTO REGIONS FURTHER SOUTH UP THE USUMACINTA RIVER. AND, IT APPEARS THAT THE JEWISH ROYAL CONNECTION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PROVIDED THE MULEKITES WITH CULTURAL INFLUENCE THAT TRANSLATED INTO SOCIAL STATUS.

SIMILARLY, THE LEHI MIGRATION ASSIMILATED INTO A REGION THAT WAS A JAREDITE TRADE ROUTE. IT IS SPECULATED THAT LEHI WAS A MERCHANT AND THAT HE WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AT IT. THIS BEING THE CASE, AND LAMAN AND LEMUEL BEING DRIVEN TO SEEK AFTER RICHES, IT MADE THEM PERFECT CANDIDATES TO PRACTICE AND EXCEL AT MERCHANTIZING.

IF SO, THEN IT EXPLAINS THE RISE TO POWER OF THE LAMANITE TRADE IN THE MAYA HIGHLANDS. THEY ARE INCREASING IN STATUS AND INFLUENCE WHILE THE JAREDITE CULTURE FALLS INTO DECLINE AND EVENTUALLY GOVERNMENTAL CHAOS.

IN ORDER TO PROGRESS IN THEIR RISE TO POWER, LAMAN CONSPIRES TO KILL NEPHI AND HIS FOLLOWERS BECAUSE IT IS EASIER TO ENGAGE IN RUTHLESS PRACTICES AND TAKE OVER AN ALREADY ESTABLISHED TRADE SYSTEM IF YOU CAN SUPPRESS YOUR CONSCIENCE (NEPHI). THIS RESULTS IN A SPLIT THAT PLACES THE NEPHITES IN THE NORTHERN MAYA HIGHLANDS.





THIS ALSO PROVIDES US WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE NEPHITE INTRUSION INTO THE MULEKITE CULTURE WAS MET WITH SO MUCH RESISTENCE. WHILE THE MULEKITE KINGS MAY HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE PROPHETIC IMPLICATIONS OF REUNITING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN KING LINES TO THE ISRAELITE THRONE, THIS FACT WAS OF NO VALUE TO THOSE WHO WERE NOT HEBREW.

WHEN THE NEPHITES MERGED INTO THE MULEKITE KINGDOM WITH THEIR EMPHASIS ON SPIRITUALITY, IT CHANGED THE DYNAMICS OF DECISION-MAKING AND DISRUPTED THE STATUS-QUO IN THE HALLS OF INDUSTRY. ALMA'S VISIT TO ANTIONUM AND THE CONVERSION OF THE ZORAMITES IS A PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF THIS.

AMALEKIAH IN HIS STRATAGEM TO CHANGE THE NEPHITE GOVERNMENT BACK TO KINGSHIP AND THEN TO LATER BECOME THE LAMANITE KING, THE RESISTENCE OF THE KING-MEN, THE CONSTANT EFFORTS TO KILL THE SITTING CHIEF JUDGE AND INSTALL A RULER IN HIS PLACE...

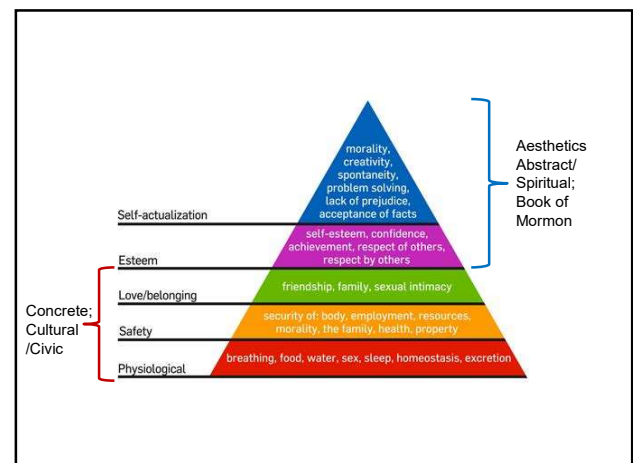
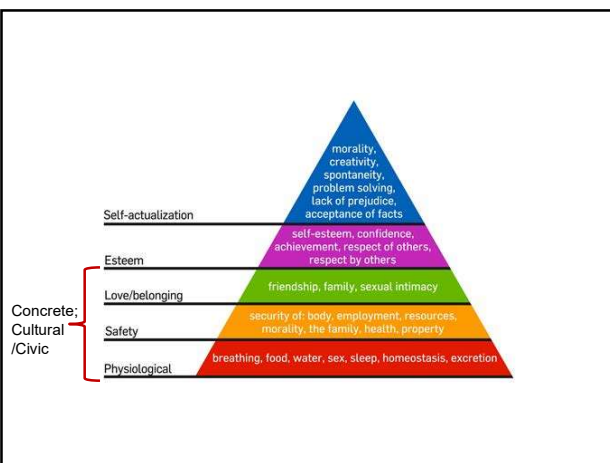
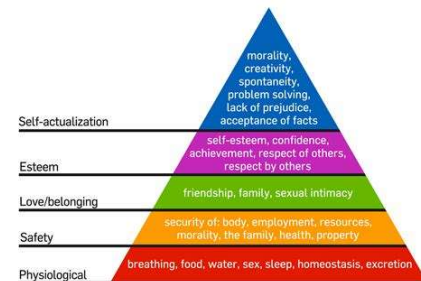
ALL OF IT IS THE EFFORT TO REMOVE INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND PLACE THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE DECISION-MAKING OF A FEW SPECIAL INTERESTS THAT BENEFITED THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL STAKEHOLDERS.

IT IS IN THIS CULTURAL DYNAMIC THAT CAPTAIN MORONI'S BANNER OF FREEDOM BECOMES VERY IMPORTANT. IT IS THE CLASSIC BATTLE BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM TO ANSWER DIRECTLY TO GOD OR SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENTAL OVERREACH THAT BECOMES AT THE LEAST FINANCIAL SLAVERY IF NOT LITERAL SLAVERY.

ALL OF THIS IMPLIES THAT THE BULK OF THE SOCIETAL INFLUENCE IN MESOAMERICA IS NOT HEBREW. THE THEOLOGY AND COSMOLOGY ARE CLEARLY JUDEO-CHRISTIAN. BUT THIS IS ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE LOOKING AT THEIR CULTURE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOLDEN AGE WHEN ALL OF THE LAND HAD BECOME CHRISTIAN AND IDENTIFIED WITH THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUE SYSTEM.

WHILE WE HAVE THE RECORD OF LEHI'S JOURNEY AND THE MULEKITES WHO ARE BRINGING HEBREW VALUES, THE BULK OF THE GENEALOGY AND CULTURAL BAGGAGE IN THE MAYA REGION IS MOST LIKELY MINOAN, MYCENAEAN, PHOENICIAN, SOUTHEAST ASIAN, EGYPTIAN AND CANNANITE; MANY OF THESE ARE THE CULTURAL INFLUENCES INVOLVED IN THE "SERPENT" MIGRATIONS FROM THE 15TH CENTURY BC.

THESE SEAFARING CULTURES AND THEIR MARKET-CENTERED MINDSETS ARE THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIAL ENGINE THAT FUELS THE MOTIVATIONS FOR SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.



IT IS IN THE MIDST OF THESE LARGER COMMERCIALIZATION MOVEMENTS WHICH TEND TO FOSTER HUMAN GREED AND AVARICE, THAT THE GOSPEL WAS INTRODUCED IN AN EFFORT TO CREATE A MORE EGALITARIAN SOCIETY.

Alma 16:80-82 *"Now the Zoramites had gathered themselves together in a land which they called Antionum, which was east of the land of Zarahemla, which lay nearly bordering upon the seashore, which was south of the land of Jershon, which also bordered upon the wilderness south, which wilderness was full of the Lamanites. Now the Nephites greatly feared that the Zoramites would enter into a correspondence with the Lamanites and that it would be the means of great loss on the part of the Nephites. And now, as the preaching of the word had had a greater tendency to lead the people to do that which was just--yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them--therefore, Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God."*

REMEMBER WHAT THE BOOK OF MORMON CLAIMS TO BE; IT IS A RECORD OF THE SPIRITUAL HISTORY OF THE NEPHITES. MANY TIMES WE ARE REMINDED THAT THIS IS NOT EVEN A HUNDREDTH PART OF THE THINGS WHICH THEY EXPERIENCED. REPORTS OF THEIR CIVIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED UNLESS IT DIRECTLY IMPACTED THEIR SPIRITUALITY.

ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE MORE COMPLETE STORY IS FOUND ON THE LARGE PLATES OF NEPHI—THAT NOTHING OF THEIR CIVIC OR COMMERCIAL RECORDS ARE INCLUDED IN MORMON’S ABRIDGMENT.

HERE THEN ARE CONCLUSIONS THAT CAN BE MADE:

1. THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT RECORDED EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE AMERICAS SEEM TO ALIGN WITH LARGE EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION. THIS MEANS IT IS REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THAT CONSTANT ANCIENT AMERICAN TRANSOCEANIC CONTACT WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE FORM OF TRADE.

2. THE NEPHITE RECORD IS FAITHFUL ON TWO CLAIMS:

A. IT ONLY REPORTS ON EVENTS IMPACTING THE NEPHITES.

B. IT ONLY REPORTS THE SPIRITUAL HISTORY AND LARGE CAUSE-AND-EFFECT EVENTS.

3. THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE OF A SEAFARING CULTURE THAT IDENTIFIES AS SERPENTS. IT BEGINS WITH THE MINOANS, BUT THEN IS FOUND IN MYCENEAN COLONIZATION AND MULTIPLE OTHER SEAFARING CULTURES THAT FOLLOW; MORE TO COME ON THIS SERPENT CONNECTION.

THE PREVIOUS CONCLUSIONS ACCOUNT FOR THE WAY THE BOOK OF MORMON READS. READING IT CAUSES ONE TO BELIEVE THAT THE JAREDITES, NEPHITES AND MULEKITES ARE THE ONLY MIDDLE EAST CULTURES WHO HAVE TRAVELED TO THE AMERICAS. THIS IS A FALLACY UNINTENTIONALLY CREATED BY THE CONTENT CHOICES OF THE AUTHORS.

BECAUSE THE METAL PLATE MEDIA UPON WHICH THE ABRIDGMENT IS WRITTEN WAS RESTRICTED TO ONE LARGE RING-BOUND VOLUME, THE SPACE WAS LIMITED AND THEY HAD TO SET TIGHT PARAMETERS ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE STORY BEING TOLD.

IT IS SO NARROWLY FOCUSED BY DESIGN THAT WE AS READERS ARE VIEWING THE MASSIVE ANCIENT HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE AMERICAS THROUGH A TINY PEEP-HOLE AND COMPLETELY LOSING THE ADVANTAGE OF TOTAL CONTEXT.

THEREFORE, OUR RESEARCH PROCESS IS SIMILAR TO PROVING THE THEORY OF BLACK HOLES IN SPACE WHERE THE GRAVITY OF THE OBJECT IS SO MASSIVE THAT EVEN LIGHT CANNOT ESCAPE.

THE ONLY WAY TO DETERMINE THAT THE MASSIVE GRAVITY OBJECT EXISTS IS BY OBSERVING HOW THE SMALLER OBJECTS AROUND IT BEHAVE. WE HAVE TO DO THE SAME WITH THE EVENTS PROVIDED TO US IN THE BOOK OF MORMON.

WE TAKE THE SCANT RECORDED HISTORY THAT THE BOOK OF MORMON PROVIDES AND THEN ASK QUESTIONS OF WHAT WOULD CAUSE THOSE EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE, THEN MATCH THAT UP AGAINST OTHER GLOBAL EVENTS TAKING PLACE AT THAT TIME; COUPLE ALL THIS WITH LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AND A THEORY BEGINS TO DEVELOP.

THIS IS JUST ONE THEORY ON EXPLAINING WHAT IS NOT EXPRESSLY INCLUDED IN THE BOOK OF MORMON RECORD, BUT WHAT IS CLEARLY FOUND IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD.

Inspired Version, Genesis 7:69 *"And great tribulations shall be among the children of men; but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten, his resurrection from the dead, yea, and also the resurrection of all men.*
 [70] *And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare, a holy city, that my people may gird up their loins and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem."*

IT APPEARS THAT GOD INTENDS FOR US TO FIRST EXPRESS OUR FAITH IN HIS BOOK OF MORMON ("RIGHTEOUSNESS...OUT OF HEAVEN") AND LET THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCES ("TRUTH...OUT OF THE EARTH") PROVIDE THE AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH AND IN GIVING US CLUES FOR COMPREHENDING THE BROADER CONTEXT.

OUR NEXT PRESENTATION WILL BE AN OVERVIEW OF ALL THAT WE HAVE PRESENTED, AND IN THE PROCESS, IT WILL BRING HOME THE POINT ABOUT HOW THE SERPENT IS A CULTURAL SYMBOL FOR SEAFARING.

