

# Book of Mormon

## OVERVIEW

— THIRD EDITION —

*Lehi and Sariah  
discover the Liahona*

*J. Robert Taylor*



J. ROBERT FARLEY

*Mormon reviews his record for the last time*

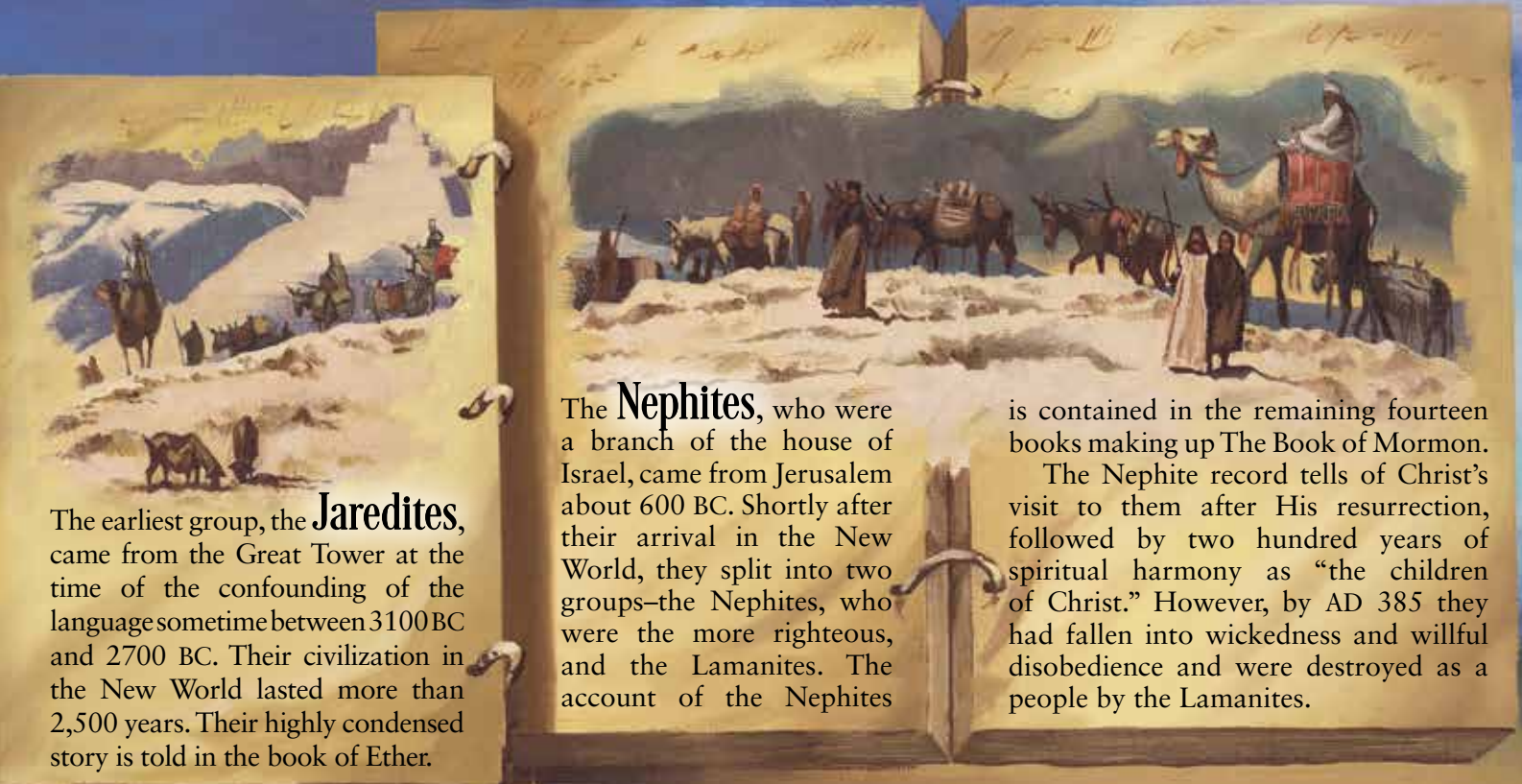


# The Book of Mormon

is a collection of ancient sacred writings written between about 3000 BC and AD 420. It tells about God's dealings with three groups of people who He led out of the Old World to a new Promised Land in the New World.

In addition, it foretells the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, predating His coming by nearly 3,000 years; records His personal visitation; presents His great plan of salvation and prophecies concerning the restoration of all the house of Israel.

## Two groups kept records



The earliest group, the **Jaredites**, came from the Great Tower at the time of the confounding of the language sometime between 3100 BC and 2700 BC. Their civilization in the New World lasted more than 2,500 years. Their highly condensed story is told in the book of Ether.

The **Nephites**, who were a branch of the house of Israel, came from Jerusalem about 600 BC. Shortly after their arrival in the New World, they split into two groups—the Nephites, who were the more righteous, and the Lamanites. The account of the Nephites

is contained in the remaining fourteen books making up The Book of Mormon.

The Nephite record tells of Christ's visit to them after His resurrection, followed by two hundred years of spiritual harmony as "the children of Christ." However, by AD 385 they had fallen into wickedness and willful disobedience and were destroyed as a people by the Lamanites.

## One group did not keep records

A third group, the people of Zarahemla (called **Mulekites**), were also of the house of Israel and are mentioned briefly in the Nephite writings. They came to the New World about 586 BC, just after the Nephites. Mulek was the son of King Zedekiah of Judah. As a people, the Mulekites merged with the Nephites about 200 BC.



## *The Purposes of the* **Book of Mormon**

- To persuade all men to come unto Christ and enter into a covenant relationship with Him for eternal salvation.
- To restore the present-day Lamanites, a remnant of the scattered house of Israel, to a knowledge of the covenants with the Lord.
- To declare that God is working to restore all of the house of Israel to their ancient lands and covenants with Him, that is, to re-establish their original relationship with Him.
- To be a second witness of the Bible as an historical and true record, both divinely inspired by God.
- To grow together with the Bible to confound false doctrines and lay down contentions (settle disagreements and arguments).

J. ROBERT FARLEY

## The Significance of The Book of Mormon

- The book contains prophecies about the restoration of the house of Israel that are not found elsewhere.
- It records the words of Christ to the Nephites, called His “other sheep,” after His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. It confirms His identity as the foretold Messiah and the Eternal God.
- It offers firsthand accounts of the ministry of the resurrected Jesus and gives additional insights into the principles of the gospel.
- It provides “many plain and precious” truths that are not found elsewhere, including some which have been removed from the Bible during its many translations.
- It furnishes firsthand testimonies of God’s vast love and compassion for us, His children.



# The Coming Forth of The Book of Mormon

- A thousand years of Nephite history were abridged by Mormon from the large plates of Nephi. In AD 385, Mormon gave this condensed record to his son Moroni to finish.
- Moroni then hid up all the original records in Hill Cumorah, except the completed abridgment and the small plates of Nephi.
- Sometime after AD 420, Moroni hid up the abridged record and the small plates of Nephi in a small hill near Manchester, New York, as directed by the Lord.
- Moroni, as an angelic messenger, gave the plates and “interpreters” to Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1827. Joseph translated the record by the “gift and power” of God, using the interpreters, which are instruments prepared by God specifically for translating languages.
- As Joseph dictated, a scribe wrote the Original Manuscript. The plates and interpreters were then returned to Moroni.
- A copy of the Original handwritten manuscript was made and is called the Printer’s Manuscript. About one-sixth of the Original was used to set the type of the First Edition. It was first published in March, 1830.



*“Caractors” is the only known document that was copied from the original golden plates of The Book of Mormon. The yellowed paper measures 3¼" x 8" and is owned by the Community of Christ, headquartered in Independence, Missouri.*



# Spiritual Highlights of The Book of Mormon

## The “I Ams” of Jesus

**There is no greater revelation of who He is than the words of Jesus Christ Himself** when he declares “I Am,” recorded in both the Bible and The Book of Mormon. They reveal to us on a personal level who He wants us to know He Is!

## A Message for Jew and Gentile

The Book of Mormon is a bridge between the Jew and Gentile, to convince them that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations.

## Covenant Invitation

A covenant is the most sacred agreement between man and God. God Himself sealed His covenant with us by shedding His blood. His covenant is unconditional!  
**The Covenant Invitation: Repent, Come unto Christ, Believe in Him, Become as a little child, and be baptized.**

## Search the Words of Isaiah

Isaiah’s prophecies relate to all the house of Israel, including The Book of Mormon people, and us today. The earliest Isaiah text, quoted from the plates of brass in The Book of Mormon, dates from before 600 BC.

## True Bible Test

“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God; Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.”

*1 John 4:2*

The Book of Mormon meets the test; therefore, we know that the Spirit of The Book of Mormon is of God!

## Opposition

### OLD COVENANT

justice  
law of Moses  
punishment  
destruction  
cut off from God  
forbidden fruit  
misery  
wicked  
bitter  
works  
wickedness  
death

*the course of the Lord*



## Purpose Principle

What is in The Book of Mormon is there for a purpose. Three major writers, Nephi, Mormon, and Moroni, were each told what to put in and what to leave out. Therefore, the contents were divinely controlled.

## The Meaning of the name “Mormon”

Mormon is a man named after the Land of Mormon where the covenant was restored; thus the name “Book of Mormon” means Book of the Restoration of the Covenant.

## in All Things

### NEW COVENANT

mercy  
law of Christ  
atonement  
salvation  
in the presence of God  
tree of life  
redemption  
atonement  
sweet  
grace  
righteousness  
life

*is one eternal round*

## The Book of Mormon is a Hebrew Book

Yea, having had a great **knowledge** of the goodness and the mysteries of God...

I make a **record** of my proceedings in my days;

Yea, I make a record in the **language** of my father...  
which consists of the **LEARNING OF THE JEWS**,  
and the **language** of the Egyptians.

And I know that the **record** which I make to be true,...  
And I make it according to my **knowledge**.

*First Book of Nephi*

## Have Ye Been Born Again?

Jesus said, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again!”

*John 3:7*

Alma says, “I have repented of my sins and have been redeemed of the Lord, behold, I am born of the Spirit!” He asks, “Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received His image in your own countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?”

*Alma’s 54 Rhetorical Questions  
Book of Alma*

## Scriptural Harmony

Neither book is complete without the other, and together they have one voice, one message, one God! There are great blessings when studying any topic in both books.



# TITLE PAGE of The Book of Mormon

This was written by Moroni, the last record keeper and son of Mormon, about AD 420. It was translated from the last page of the collection of plates and serves as an overview or “superscription” to the entire book. The complete text of the Title Page was written in as the title on the copyright application for the 1830 First Edition.

- To begin: Moroni introduces The Book of Mormon as an abridgment of a record of the people of Nephi and also the Lamanites.
- He says it is written to reveal the covenants of the Lord to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel.

- Further, it is written to Jew and Gentile, to convince them that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations.
- Moroni’s Title Page also mentions an abridgment of the book of Ether, the record of the Jaredites who were led by God to the New World from the time of the confusion of language.
- Finally, the first mention of the term “covenants of the Lord” appears on the Title Page, as well as at the end of the last book, the book of Moroni; thus, The Book of Mormon begins and ends with the topic of “covenants.”

## The First Book of NEPHI

Nephi, the son of Lehi, was commanded to write this record thirty years after leaving Jerusalem. The account begins in Jerusalem around 600 BC and continues through the arrival c. 588 BC of Lehi and his family in the new Promised Land—the New World. The books of First Nephi through Omni were written on a small set of plates made by Nephi and contain their sacred history. They are unabridged and are called “the small plates of Nephi.”

### OUT OF JERUSALEM

- Nephi begins his record with a form of Hebrew poetry called “chiasmus” (writing in sequence, then in reverse order). The center or turning point reveals that the key to understanding the record is “the learning of the Jews.”
- Nephi gives a shortened account of his father Lehi. (Lehi’s full account is on the large plates of Nephi.) Lehi is called as a prophet in Jerusalem at the time of Jeremiah and is shown many marvelous things in visions, including a book manifesting the coming Messiah and redemption of the world.



*Nephi blows the shofar  
at the new moon*



- At God's command, Lehi testifies of these coming events and warns the people of Jerusalem to repent or the city will be destroyed. The people reject Lehi's warning and threaten his life.
- In a dream, God warns Lehi to flee Jerusalem with his family. They escape, leaving their valuables behind and camp out in the wilderness near the Red Sea. Lehi builds an altar, makes an offering and gives thanks to the Lord.
- God commands them to return to Jerusalem for the brass plates, an original record from Genesis through Jeremiah. Laman and Lemuel, the two rebellious sons, and Nephi and Sam, the two righteous sons, return for the plates.
- God provides a way for them to obtain the plates from Laban, the record keeper. Zoram, the servant of Laban, makes a covenant to join them.
- Lehi searches the brass plates and discovers that he is a descendant of Joseph of Egypt, the grandson of Abraham.
- God commands Lehi to return to Jerusalem for Ishmael and his family. Ishmael's five daughters then become the wives of Lehi's four sons and Zoram.
- Nephi explains that the children of men must repent and come unto Christ. He is shown the meaning of his father's vision: that is, the tree of life stands for the love of God and the rod of iron stands for the word of God. He also sees the future of the new Promise Land. He sees the coming of the Son of God, the Lamb among the children of men. He testifies that he sees the same things that John the apostle would later see and write, but Nephi is forbidden to write them. Both refer to the Lord as the Lamb of God, more than any other writers.
- God provides Lehi with a "compass," a round brass ball with spindles, one of which indicates the direction they should travel. Also, writing appears from time to time concerning the ways of the Lord. It is called the "liahona" (or director), and it works by faith.
- They continue their journey. Ishmael dies and is buried in a place called "Nahum." Lehi and Sariah have two more sons, Jacob and Joseph.
- After traveling eight years, they arrive at the seashore and call the place "Bountiful." God commands Nephi to build a ship. Laman and Lemuel persecute Nephi and refuse to help. God fills Nephi with such power that no one can touch him. He commands Nephi to touch his brothers and shock them. Laman and Lemuel then acknowledge the power of God within Nephi and help him build a ship.

## JOURNEY IN THE WILDERNESS

- Lehi is given a vision of the rod of iron leading to the tree of life, bearing white, desirous fruit. He sees four responses by his family members and large numbers of people.
- Lehi speaks to his sons of the destruction of Jerusalem, the captivity of the Jews and the coming Messiah. He compares the house of Israel to an olive tree, of which they are a branch broken off, and prophesies of their "grafting in," or coming to the knowledge of the "True Messiah."
- Time is measured from the time Lehi leaves Jerusalem until the prophesied coming of the Messiah in six hundred years.

*God provided the liahona  
which works by faith,  
giving both travel directions  
and writings of the Lord.*





- At God's command, Lehi takes seeds, provisions and all their families aboard the ship. They set sail for their new Land of Promise.
- At sea, Laman and Lemuel again rebel and tie Nephi with cords. The liahona will not work and a great storm arises.
- After four days, they are so frightened they release Nephi. The liahona works once more, and Nephi's prayer stills the storm.

## IN THE NEW PROMISED LAND

- They arrive in the Land of Promise, set up tents, plant seeds and find much game in the forests.
- Nephi responds to God who blesses him as their leader and teacher.
- God commands Nephi to record the civil history of his people on plates of ore. This record is called "the large plates of Nephi."
- Nephi includes prophecies of Zenos and Zeno from the plates of brass concerning the crucifixion of the Lord God and the future destruction of the Nephite lands. He also quotes from Isaiah 48 and 49, identifies their group as a branch broken off, and prophecies of the scattering and ultimate regathering again of all the house of Israel.
- Nephi testifies that the Prophet spoken of by Moses is the Holy One of Israel and that there is one fold and one Shepherd.

## The Second Book of **NEPHI**

Nephi, the son of Lehi, continued his record, which covers forty-three years from 588 BC to 545 BC. Nephi included teachings of his father Lehi and his brother Jacob, the prophecies of Isaiah from the original plates of brass taken from Jerusalem and his own prophecies concerning Christ.

- Lehi sees the destruction of Jerusalem in vision. He prophesies of their consecrated new Promised Land. He sees the future of his descendants dwindling in unbelief and

their rejection of the Holy One of Israel, the True Messiah.

- Lehi gives blessings to all his sons before he dies, with a special blessing to his son Joseph, quoting the prophecy of Joseph of Egypt from the plates of brass. Lehi prophesies that the Bible and Book of Mormon shall grow together to confound false doctrines, lay down contentions, establish peace and bring both Jew and Gentile to a knowledge of the covenants.
- Lehi dies and his sons Laman and Lemuel plot to kill Nephi, but God warns Nephi to flee with those who believe His commandments.

## IN THE LAND OF NEPHI

- The believers—Zoram and his family, Sam and his family, Jacob, Joseph and Nephi's sisters—call their settlement "Nephi."
- Nephi builds a temple patterned after Solomon's temple and consecrates Jacob and Joseph to be priests and teachers of the people.
- The Lamanites' skin is cursed with blackness (painted and/or tattooed, not an ethnic change) to distinguish them from the Nephites. This curse is not removed until after the sign of Christ's birth is given (see the book of Third Nephi) when the Lamanites come to be numbered among the Nephites.
- Nephi records his thoughts in a poetic-style psalm, reflecting on his spiritual blessings and trust in the Lord.
- In 570 BC, thirty years after leaving Jerusalem, God commands Nephi to make a second set of plates to record the sacred history of the people. They are called "the small plates of Nephi." He begins writing this record in the book of First Nephi and it takes him ten years, now 560 BC, to reach this point in his record.
- Nephi includes the words of his brother Jacob to the people, who quotes Isaiah 49-52 and 55 from the plates of brass.
- Jacob exclaims praises to God, followed by ten woes or curses.

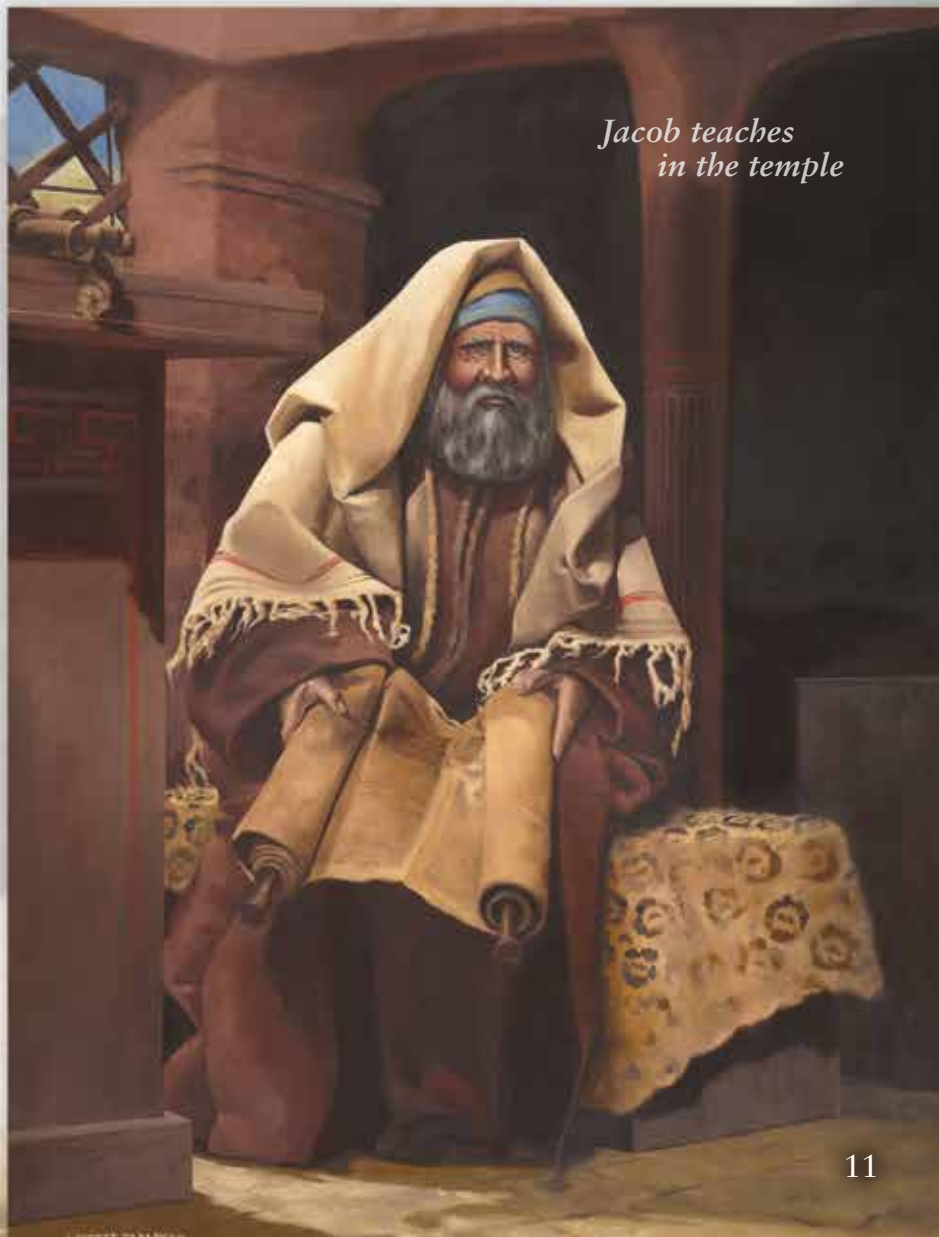


- He extends the covenant invitation to his brethren to come unto Christ and prophesies of Christ's crucifixion, atonement and resurrection as taught to him by an angel.
- Finally, Jacob expounds on the choice land of their inheritance.
- Nephi also delights in the words of Isaiah and quotes Isaiah 2-14, the largest section of Isaiah in The Book of Mormon. The message refers to the restoration of the covenants to the house of Israel.
- Nephi's people keep the law of Moses as a type and shadow, pointing to its end in Christ. They understand that salvation is by grace, not the law.
- Nephi prophesies of the coming of Christ and the end of the law of Moses with its performances and ordinances.
- He also prophesies that the words which will be spoken by the risen Christ at His visitation to Lehi's descendants "shall be the law which they should do."
- Nephi then warns of the last days. He quotes Isaiah 29 which prophesies of the coming forth of the record of Nephi's people.
- He cries out that his brethren and also the Jews and all the ends of the earth shall believe his words and believe in Christ.
- The people become wicked. Jacob condemns the abomination of having more than one wife and concubines with a curse of the Lord.
- Jacob teaches in the temple. He chastises the people for their abominations, wickedness, pride and every kind of sin. He declares that the land will be cursed unless they repent and preaches hope in Christ, humility and morality.
- Because the Lamanites have not forgotten the commandments of the Lord to honor one wife, with no concubines, they are more righteous than the Nephites. Jacob prophesies that in the future they will not be destroyed but shall become a blessed people.
- He speaks of creation by the power of God's word, the power of the resurrection and the hope of glory in the atonement of Christ.

## The Book of JACOB

Jacob, the son of Lehi and Nephi's younger brother, wrote his record from about 545 BC to 500 BC. He was an outstanding spiritual leader whose message is one of repentance and urging people to come unto Christ.

- According to Jacob, his brother Nephi anoints a king in his place and gives the small plates to Jacob before he dies.



*Jacob teaches  
in the temple*



- He reviews the total plan of salvation and the parable of the olive tree which is about the restoration of the house of Israel as given by the prophet Zenos on the brass plates.
- Sherem, an antichrist, preaches against Christ as a perversion of the law of Moses. He is struck down by the power of God. He confesses that he was deceived by the power of the devil, repents and dies.
- Jacob gives the plates to his son Enos and bids farewell before dying.

## The Book of ENOS

This book was written by Enos, the son of Jacob, who lived from about 500 BC to 421 BC.

- Enos believes the words of his father, Jacob, regarding eternal life. He cries unto the Lord for a remission of his sins. He has an outstanding experience in prayer that lasts a day and a night. He receives the Lord's forgiveness and his guilt is swept away.
- Enos obtains a covenant that God will preserve the records of the Nephites to give to the Lamanites at some future time. He testifies to the people of the things he had seen and heard.
- Many prophets also testify among the people who are "stiff-necked."
- Enos ends his record affirming his response to the covenant invitation "Come unto Me, ye blessed." He passes the plates to his son Jarom.

## The Book of JAROM

This record was written by Jarom, the son of Enos, who lived from about 400 BC to 362 BC. This is the shortest book in The Book of Mormon.

- Jarom states that the commandment to keep the records means to keep their genealogy. This is the first indication of a deviation from the purpose of the small plates as sacred history.
- The Nephites harden their hearts and begin to focus on riches. They begin to fortify their

cities and war with Lamanites. The presence of many prophets is a sign of growing wickedness.

- However, because the prophets continually preach about keeping the commandments, repentance and the coming Messiah, the Nephites prosper and are able to withstand the Lamanite attacks.
- Jarom gives the small plates to his son Omni.

## The Book of OMNI

The book of Omni is the work of five record keepers. This is the last book of the small plates of Nephi and covers approximately the years 362 BC to 124 BC. The plates were then passed to King Benjamin.

### IN THE LAND OF NEPHI

*(record of Omni, son of Jarom)*

- Omni states that his purpose is to preserve the genealogy of his people. He confesses that he is a wicked man and has not kept the commandments of the Lord.
- The Nephites experience seasons of peace, followed by periods of war and bloodshed. Omni passes the record to his son Amaron.

*(record of Amaron, son of Omni)*

- Amaron writes a few words, stating that the Lord judges people and spares the righteous. On the same day Amaron writes, he delivers the plates to his brother Chemish.

*(record of Chemish, brother of Amaron)*

- Chemish writes even fewer words.

*(record of Abinadom, son of Chemish)*

- Abinadom records war and contention between the Nephites and the Lamanites. He knows of neither revelation nor prophecy not previously recorded.

*(record of Amaleki, son of Abinadom)*

- Amaleki, son of Abinadom, closes the record.
- The Nephite nation becomes wicked. Its people lose the land of their inheritance as prophesied by Jacob.



## IN THE LAND OF ZARAHEMLA

- At the Lord's direction, Mosiah I leads the righteous Nephites north out of the Land of Nephi down into the Land of Zarahemla, which becomes their new land of inheritance.
- They discover the people of Zarahemla (called "Mulekites" after Mulek, the son of King Zedekiah of Jerusalem) who have kept no records. There have been many wars and contentions among them and their language has become corrupt. Mosiah teaches them his language, and then King Zarahemla gives his genealogy from memory.
- Mosiah is chosen king over all the people.
- Mosiah interprets engravings on a large stone by the gift and power of God. He learns of Coriantumr, the last king of an earlier people led by God from the time the Lord confounded the language. The end of this earlier nation was according to God's judgment, and their bones lie scattered in the Land Northward. (These people were called Jaredites after their first leader. Their abridged account is found in the book of Ether.)
- When Mosiah I dies, his son Benjamin becomes king. Amaleki witnesses and records war and bloodshed between the Nephites and the Lamanites during the days of King Benjamin.
- A group returns to the Land of Nephi, including the brother of Amaleki. (See this account in the book of Mosiah, Land of Nephi flashback.)
- The small plates, which began with "Come unto Christ" (the book of First Nephi), end with Amaleki exhorting all to come unto Christ, the Holy One of Israel.
- Amaleki states the plates are full, and having no seed (heirs), he gives the plates to King Benjamin.

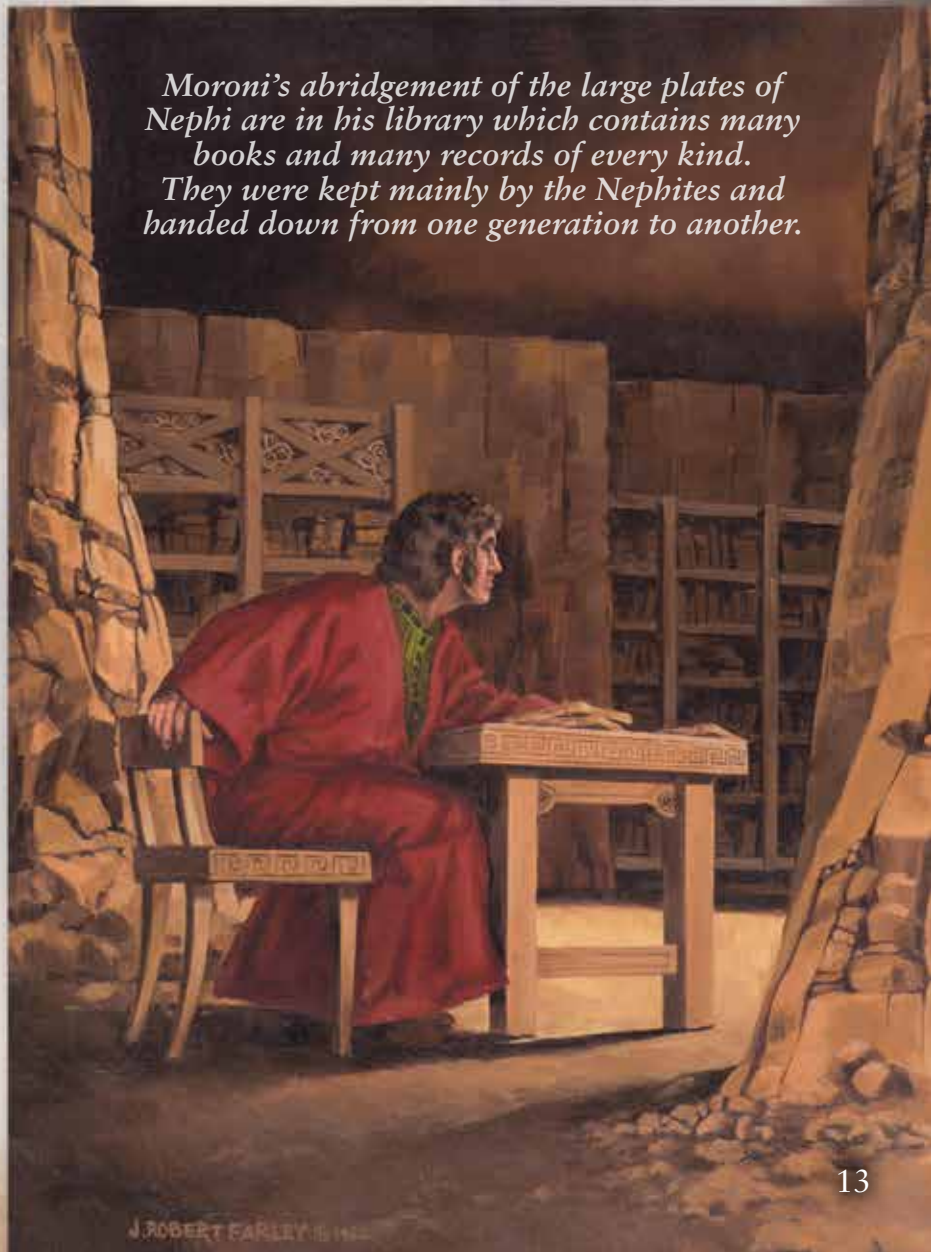
## END OF SMALL PLATES

## The WORDS OF MORMON

From about AD 384 to AD 385, while abridging the large plates of Nephi, Mormon discovered Nephi's small plates. The portion of the large plates he had already abridged and the small plates covered the same period of time, c. 600 BC to 124 BC. By way of explanation, Mormon inserted a few comments creating a bridge between the small plates of Nephi and his abridgment of the large plates.

- While abridging the large plates of Nephi down to King Benjamin's reign, Mormon finds the small plates which deal with the religious history of the people. The Spirit directs him to include the small plates with his abridgment of the large plates "for a wise purpose." (One purpose was to replace Joseph Smith's translation of Mormon's

*Moroni's abridgement of the large plates of Nephi are in his library which contains many books and many records of every kind. They were kept mainly by the Nephites and handed down from one generation to another.*





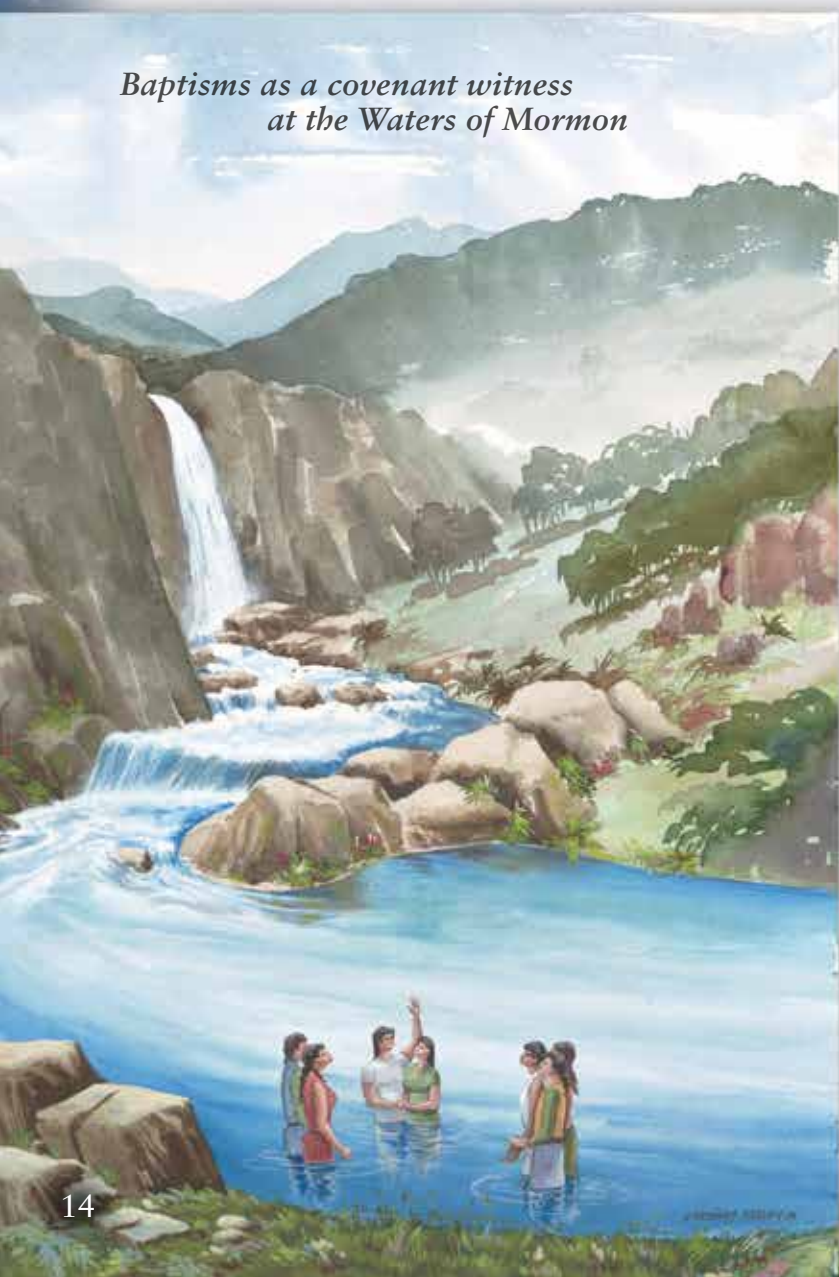
abridgment of the large plates covering the time to King Benjamin. After these 116 pages were lost, Joseph was directed to translate the small plates of Nephi which contained the greater spiritual account. (See “Abridgment Lost” in Records.)

- Thereafter, from the end of the small plates, that is, from the time of King Benjamin, both the civil and sacred histories are written on the large plates.

## MORMON RESUMES ABRIDGMENT OF LARGE PLATES

- Mormon then resumes his original abridgment from the large plates as a transition to the book of Mosiah.
- King Benjamin battles with the Lamanites. After false christs, preachers and teachers, peace is established again by King Benjamin and the holy prophets.

*Baptisms as a covenant witness  
at the Waters of Mormon*



## The Book of MOSIAH

After finding the small plates of Nephi, Mormon resumed abridging the account written by Mosiah, the son of Benjamin, as found on the large plates. This abridgment by Mormon includes the book of Mosiah through most of the book of Mormon (his own account).

The book of Mosiah tells the intertwined story of two contemporary Nephite groups. One group was in the Land of Zarahemla under the leadership of Kings Mosiah I, Benjamin and Mosiah II, in succession. The other group, led by Zeniff, left Zarahemla during the time of Mosiah I and established a colony in the Land of Nephi. Mormon also included the unabridged accounts of Zeniff in the Land of Nephi and of Alma with the church in the wilderness.

The time covered in this story is from approximately 124 BC to 91 BC.

- From a tower built for the occasion, King Benjamin speaks to the people concerning the coming of Christ, His ministry and resurrection, as explained to him by an angel.
- The people believe Benjamin’s words regarding Christ and His atonement for their sins. They repent and receive a remission of their sins. They make a covenant to follow Christ and their names are recorded by King Benjamin.
- Priests are appointed to teach the people and to remind them of their covenant.
- King Benjamin consecrates his son Mosiah II to be ruler. He lives three more years and dies. King Mosiah II reigns in humility and righteousness.
- Before King Benjamin dies, sixteen strong men under the leadership of Ammon, a descendant of Zarahemla, travel to the Land of Nephi to learn the fate of the earlier Nephites who went to the Land of Nephi under the leadership of Zeniff at the time of Mosiah I.



## IN THE LAND OF NEPHI

*(an account of Zeniff, flashback to the time of Mosiah I)*

- Under the reign of Mosiah I, Zeniff and a group of people return to the Land of Nephi. They make a treaty with the Lamanite king to possess and rebuild the City of Nephi. They call it “Lehi-Nephi.”
- After twelve years, the Lamanites break the treaty and attack. The people hold off attacks by the Lamanites and have peace for the remainder of Zeniff’s reign.
- Zeniff confers the kingdom upon his son Noah. King Noah and his people become wicked.
- God sends the prophet Abinadi to warn King Noah and his people to repent. He teaches that the law of Moses is a type and shadow pointing to the atonement of Christ. Abinadi’s face radiates with the Spirit of the Lord. Noah and his priests reject the words of Abinadi.
- Alma, a priest of Noah, believes Abinadi and pleads for Abinadi’s life. Noah sends servants to cast Alma into prison but Alma flees and hides for many days. He repents of his sins and iniquities and writes all the words of Abinadi.
- Abinadi is burned to death after prophesying that Noah’s death will be in the same manner as his, by fire.
- Alma privately teaches the people the words of Abinadi. All who believe his words gather at “the Place of Mormon.” They are baptized in “the Waters of Mormon” as a witness and testimony that they have entered into a covenant. They depart with their tents and families into the wilderness to escape King Noah’s army, which is searching for them.
- The Lamanites attack King Noah and his people. King Noah is burned to death by his own people, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Abinadi.
- Limhi, a just man and the son of wicked King Noah, becomes king. His people pay a heavy tribute to the Lamanites and suffer great afflictions. King Limhi sends a search party looking for an escape to Zarahemla.

- The search party gets lost. They find a land covered with dry bones, which they assume is the Land of Zarahemla. In fact, they have found the remains of the Jaredites’ final battle. With these remains they also find twenty-four gold plates, which they cannot read.
- Ammon and his brethren arrive from the Land of Zarahemla. He tells King Limhi that the king in Zarahemla has a gift from God called the “interpreters,” prepared for the purpose of translating languages, in this case, the twenty-four gold plates.
- Ammon and his brethren help Limhi and his people escape to Zarahemla. They give the Lamanite guards an extra large tribute of wine which causes them to become drunken and fall asleep. This gives King Limhi and his people the chance to escape.

*(an account of Alma, flashback to the time of Noah)*

- Alma, the follower of Abinadi, and his people are delivered by the power of God and flee from King Noah with their flocks and grain, departing into the wilderness. After eight days’ journey, they settle in a land they call “Helam.”
- Alma is given authority to be high priest and founder of their church. He consecrates priests and teachers to watch over the people. The people prosper and multiply in the Land of Helam.
- The Lamanites accidentally discover them in the Land of Helam and put them under heavy bondage. The Lord eases their burdens, and they submit cheerfully and with great patience to the will of the Lord.
- God causes a deep sleep to come upon the Lamanites. Alma and the other believers then flee to Zarahemla.

## IN THE LAND OF ZARAHEMLA

- King Mosiah II welcomes the people of Limhi and Alma. He reads the accounts of Zeniff and Alma to the people. He translates the twenty-four gold plates, the condensed record of the Jaredites, which appears in the book of Ether.



# Lands of The Book of Mormon

The historical setting of The Book of Mormon is an area known as “Mesoamerica.” This is an archaeological term which identifies the southern two-thirds of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and parts of Honduras and El Salvador. The archaeology of Mesoamerica reveals more than 3,000 years of culture history that correlates with the culture history described in The Book of Mormon.



## Land of ZARAHEMPLA

- This was the homeland of the Mulekites for nearly four hundred years.
- The Nephites join the Mulekites here around 200 BC, and Mosiah I is chosen king of the people.
- The Land of Zarahemla is the heart of the Nephite culture until shortly before the destruction of the people in AD 385.
- It is located north of the Land of Nephi with the sea on the east, wilderness on the south and west, and the Land Bountiful to the north and northwest. It is part of the larger area known as the Land Southward.
- The Land of Zarahemla is lower in altitude than the Land of Nephi, that is, “down to the Land of Zarahemla.”
- A tropical climate is indicated by seasonal fevers.

## Land of NEPHI

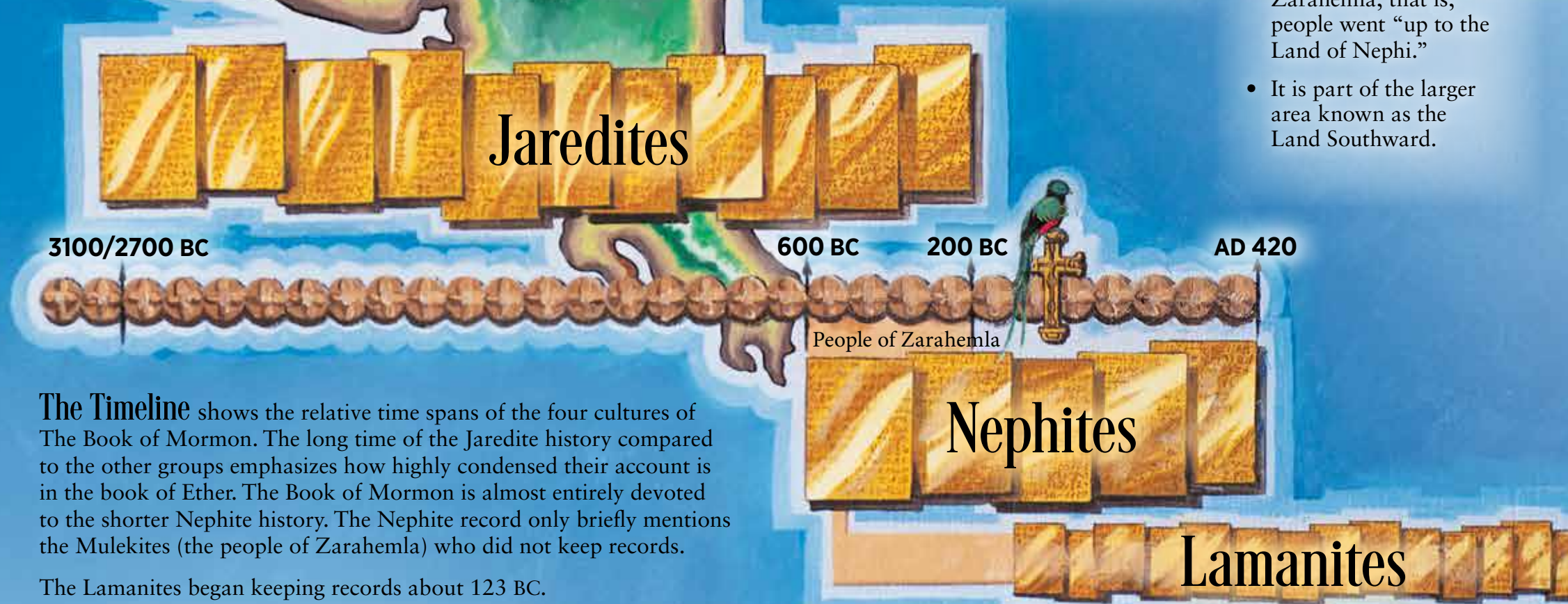
- This was the homeland of the Nephites for nearly four hundred years. It was the Lamanite homeland for the entire Book of Mormon.
- It is located south of the Land of Zarahemla and is separated from Zarahemla by a Narrow Strip of Wilderness (a mountain range which runs east and west from coast to coast). The Land of Nephi touches the sea on the east and on the west.
- It is at a higher altitude than the Land of Zarahemla, that is, people went “up to the Land of Nephi.”
- It is part of the larger area known as the Land Southward.

## Land DESOLATION

- The Jaredites were the first to occupy this land. Later, it was occupied by the Nephites.
- It is called “Desolation” by the Nephites because the great destruction of the Jaredite people took place here.
- The Nephite final battle also took place here.
- The location is by the West Sea and borders on the Land Bountiful.
- It is part of the larger area known as the Land Northward.
- The Land Northward is separated from the Land Southward by a Narrow Neck of Land.

## Land BOUNTIFUL

- Christ appeared at the temple here after the great upheaval.
- It is called “Bountiful” because of an abundance of game and wildlife.
- The location is north and northwest of the Land of Zarahemla and borders on the Land Desolation. Land Bountiful touches the sea on the east and on the west.
- It is part of a larger area known as the Land Southward and extends into the Land Northward.



**The Timeline** shows the relative time spans of the four cultures of The Book of Mormon. The long time of the Jaredite history compared to the other groups emphasizes how highly condensed their account is in the book of Ether. The Book of Mormon is almost entirely devoted to the shorter Nephite history. The Nephite record only briefly mentions the Mulekites (the people of Zarahemla) who did not keep records.

The Lamanites began keeping records about 123 BC.





- Alma teaches and baptizes the people of Limhi. He establishes seven churches throughout Zarahemla.
- Many who had heard the words of King Benjamin, including the sons of Mosiah, do not understand them. They grow up not believing in the coming of Christ. One of the sons of Alma, whose name is Alma, is also a wicked and idolatrous man. He goes about trying to destroy the church of God.
- An angel appears to Alma II and the sons of Mosiah. They fall to the earth and Alma is struck dumb. He is unable to move and has to be carried to his father. His father and the priests pray and fast two days. After this, Alma II is restored. Alma II and the sons of Mosiah repent and go throughout the Land of Zarahemla testifying, striving to repair injuries they have caused to the church.
- The sons of Mosiah—Ammon, Aaron, Omner and Himni—decline the kingship. They receive permission to go back to the Land of Nephi as missionaries.

- After Mosiah translates the twenty-four gold plates, he then gives all the records and the interpreters to Alma II.
- Judges are appointed by the voice of the people. Alma II is appointed to be the first chief judge and is consecrated as head of the church by his father. The reign of the judges lasts 121 years.
- Both Alma I, the founder of the church, and Mosiah II die, ending the days of the reign of the kings.

## The Book of ALMA

Mormon abridged the records of Alma II (son of Alma) and his two sons, Helaman and Shiblon. His record covers the time from about 91 BC to 53 BC. It is the longest book in The Book of Mormon. The events in this book cover the ministry of Alma in the Land of Zarahemla, the sons of Mosiah in the Land of Nephi during the same time period, and the continuation in the Land of Zarahemla. It also covers many wars between the Nephites and the Lamanites. Mormon inserted several firsthand accounts.

### IN THE LAND OF ZARAHEMLA

- Alma is the first and chief judge of the Nephites, as well as high priest of the church. The people are required to abide by the laws that King Mosiah had established.
- During the first year of Alma's judgeship, Nehor begins teaching priestcraft and enforcing it by the sword when he slays Gideon, a righteous man. Nehor is brought before Alma to be judged. He is condemned and suffers death according to the laws of Mosiah.
- In time, the people in Zarahemla become wicked. Amlici, a follower of Nehor, causes a division, becomes king over the dissenters and joins the Lamanites in a battle against the Nephites. The Amlicites mark themselves with red in the same manner as the Lamanites, fulfilling the curse on those who mix with the Lamanites. Alma slays Amlici, leading his people to victory in battle. The Lamanites are driven from the Land of Zarahemla.



- Peace is established and more than 3,500 are baptized into the church of God. Alma gives up his judgeship in order to preach. Nephihah is appointed chief judge.
- Mormon includes the unabridged words of Alma to the people throughout the Land of Zarahemla. Alma asks numerous questions of them (and us) to consider whether they (and we) have been born again. To those who do not belong to the church, he extends the covenant invitation: Repent, come unto Christ and be baptized.
- To the people of Gideon, Melek and Ammonihah, Alma also preaches redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He is cast out of the City of Ammonihah but is directed by an angel to return.
- Amulek sees Alma in a vision and receives him into his house.
- Mormon then quotes the words of Alma and Amulek to the people in the Land and City of Ammonihah. They preach repentance and prophesy destruction if the people reject their words.
- Zeezrom, a lawyer, tries to trap Amulek but is caught in lies. He goes to the Land of Sidom.
- Amulek and Alma are bound and forced to witness the burning of innocent women and children. They are thrown into prison. They break their bands by the power of God and the prison walls are shaken down. Amulek and Alma walk out of prison.
- Alma and Amulek go to the Land of Sidom. They find Zeezrom who repents because of the power of God through Amulek and Alma. Zeezrom begins to preach.
- Amulek goes home with Alma to Zarahemla and they preach of the coming of the “True Vine” (the Messiah), their Lord and the Son of God, His sufferings and death, and His resurrection. The people receive this knowledge with great joy. The church is established throughout the land.
- As prophesied, the people of Ammonihah are destroyed by the Lamanites in one day. Their

lands become desolate and are called the “Desolation of Nehors.”

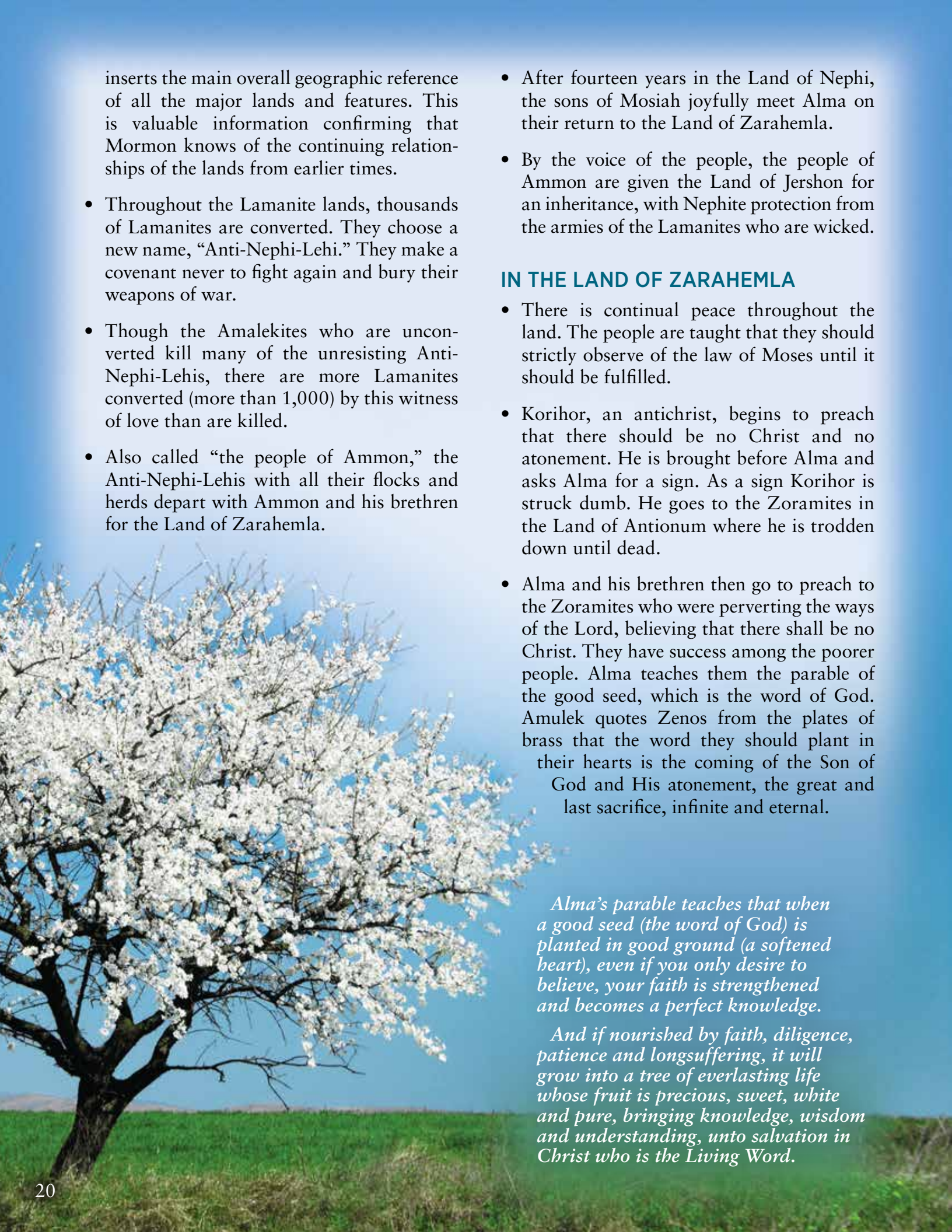
- Alma meets the sons of Mosiah who are journeying toward the Land of Zarahemla. They are returning from their fourteen years in the Land of Nephi.

## IN THE LAND OF NEPHI

*(flashback concurrent with Alma's preaching in Zarahemla)*

- Mormon recounts the story of the sons of Mosiah—Ammon, Aaron, Omner and Himni—and their brethren in the Land of Nephi, according to the record of Alma. The sons of Mosiah have gone their separate ways throughout the Land of Nephi, preaching to the Lamanites for fourteen years.
- Ammon goes to the Land of Ishmael and becomes a servant to the Lamanite king, Lamoni. When Ammon, by the power of God, defends the king's flocks against robbers, King Lamoni and his queen are converted. The king cries mightily that he will give up all his sins to be raised up in the last day!
- The king sends a proclamation throughout all the land that the sons of Mosiah are free to preach the word of God without harm.
- Aaron goes first to the City of Jerusalem, a stronghold of the Amalekites and Amulonites after the order of the Nehors. They reject his preaching and he departs and joins Muloki who is preaching in the village of Ani-Anti.
- Aaron, Muloki and Ammah depart to the Land of Middoni and are cast into prison. Ammon, with King Lamoni, journeys to the Land of Middoni to rescue their brethren.
- Ammon and Lamoni go to the Land of Ishmael. King Lamoni's father is converted and the sons of Mosiah are given freedom to preach to all the Lamanites.
- Writing more than three hundred years after the destruction of the lands and cities at the time of the crucifixion of Christ, Mormon





inserts the main overall geographic reference of all the major lands and features. This is valuable information confirming that Mormon knows of the continuing relationships of the lands from earlier times.

- Throughout the Lamanite lands, thousands of Lamanites are converted. They choose a new name, “Anti-Nephi-Lehi.” They make a covenant never to fight again and bury their weapons of war.
- Though the Amalekites who are unconverted kill many of the unresisting Anti-Nephi-Lehis, there are more Lamanites converted (more than 1,000) by this witness of love than are killed.
- Also called “the people of Ammon,” the Anti-Nephi-Lehis with all their flocks and herds depart with Ammon and his brethren for the Land of Zarahemla.

- After fourteen years in the Land of Nephi, the sons of Mosiah joyfully meet Alma on their return to the Land of Zarahemla.
- By the voice of the people, the people of Ammon are given the Land of Jershon for an inheritance, with Nephite protection from the armies of the Lamanites who are wicked.

## IN THE LAND OF ZARACHEMLA

- There is continual peace throughout the land. The people are taught that they should strictly observe of the law of Moses until it should be fulfilled.
- Korihor, an antichrist, begins to preach that there should be no Christ and no atonement. He is brought before Alma and asks Alma for a sign. As a sign Korihor is struck dumb. He goes to the Zoramites in the Land of Antionum where he is trodden down until dead.
- Alma and his brethren then go to preach to the Zoramites who were perverting the ways of the Lord, believing that there shall be no Christ. They have success among the poorer people. Alma teaches them the parable of the good seed, which is the word of God. Amulek quotes Zenos from the plates of brass that the word they should plant in their hearts is the coming of the Son of God and His atonement, the great and last sacrifice, infinite and eternal.

*Alma’s parable teaches that when a good seed (the word of God) is planted in good ground (a softened heart), even if you only desire to believe, your faith is strengthened and becomes a perfect knowledge.*

*And if nourished by faith, diligence, patience and longsuffering, it will grow into a tree of everlasting life whose fruit is precious, sweet, white and pure, bringing knowledge, wisdom and understanding, unto salvation in Christ who is the Living Word.*



- Alma and his brethren go to the Land of Jershon. The Zoramite believers are received by the people of Ammon. They all relocate to the Land of Melek as war begins by the wicked Zoramites and Lamanites against the Nephites remaining in the Land of Jershon.
- Alma gives blessings and commandments to his sons Helaman, Shiblon and Coreanton. He then departs from the land and is never seen again. Thus ends the record of Alma. His son Helaman inherits and keeps the record.
- Wars continue between the Nephites and Lamanites; the Zoramites become Lamanites. Moroni is appointed chief captian and commander over the Nephite armies.
- Moroni fashions a flag of liberty from his coat to enlist the people “in memory of our God, our religion and freedom and our peace, our wives and children” and he calls it “the title of liberty.”
- Amalickiah wants to be king. He defects to the Lamanites and leads their armies against the Nephites. Moroni fortifies all the cities on the Lamanite borders and all around the land.
- The people of Ammon want to help the Nephites defend the land. Helaman, son of Alma II, reminds them to keep their vow not to fight. However, 2,060 sons of the Ammonites go to battle with Helaman as their military leader; these stripling soldiers are known as the sons of Helaman. Due to their faith, not one of them is killed in battle. They credit their great faith to their mothers’ teachings.
- Nephihah dies; his son Pahoron is appointed chief judge and governor.
- Lehi and Teancum, army leaders under Moroni, retake many Nephite cities captured by the Lamanites. Teancum is killed by the Lamanites after he kills the Lamanite King Ammaron.



*“Ambassador Stone” Monument 13, La Venta, reminds us of Moroni’s “Title of Liberty.”*

- After many battles, peace is established in the land once more.
- Helaman preaches and the church is re-established. He gives the sacred records to his brother, Shiblon.
- A large group of colonists go to the Land Northward. Hagoth takes other colonists northward by ship.
- Shiblon gives the records to Helaman II, the son of Helaman.

## The Book of **HELAN**MAN

Mormon abridged the records written by Helaman II (son of Helaman) and by Nephi (son of Helaman II). His record also contained the prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite. This account begins about 53 BC and ends about 1 BC.

- During the first two years of the book of Helaman, the reign of the judges changes hands three times: Pahoron, the son of Nephihah, dies and his son Pahoron is the next chief judge. He is murdered by Kishcumen; Pacumeni, the brother of Pahoron, becomes the next chief judge.



- The Lamanites come into the City of Zarahemla. They kill Pacumeni and march throughout the land with a great slaughter, taking possession of many cities and strongholds. Lehi, the leader of the Nephite army, pursues the Lamanites and kills their leader, Coriantumr. The Lamanites surrender and are released to return to the Land of Nephi. Peace is established.
- Helaman II becomes the chief judge of the land.
- A secret band of robbers tries to overthrow the government. They become known as the Gaddianton robbers. They flee by a secret way into the wilderness.
- Colonies depart into the Land Northward. The people become expert in working cement because the Jaredites have used all the trees. The land is called “desolate.”
- Continual peace is established, with exceeding prosperity and many blessings. Tens of thousands are baptized.
- Helaman II dies and his son Nephi becomes the chief judge.
- Many Nephite dissenters in the church and country depart and join the Lamanites. The dissenters stir up the Lamanites against the Nephites. The Lamanites battle the Nephites and gain possession of all of the Land Southward extending to the Land Bountiful on the north, where the Nephites gather.
- The Nephites, under the command of Moronihah, the son of Moroni, are able to reclaim half of their possessions.
- The people are wicked. Moronihah, with Nephi and Lehi, the sons of Helaman, preach and prophesy to the people, calling for them to repent. The people repent and recapture half of all their lands. However, the Lamanites are more numerous and cause the Nephites to fear. Nephi gives up the judgment seat to Cezoram to preach the word of God.
- Nephi and his brother Lehi preach to all the people of Nephi. Then they go to the

Lamanites in the Land of Zarahemla. Many Nephite dissenters and 8,000 Lamanites are converted and baptized.

- Nephi and Lehi journey to the Land of Nephi and are cast into prison. Three hundred Lamanites who are in prison are converted after seeing Nephi and Lehi in a circle of fire, hearing a voice from heaven and seeing the prison walls shake.
- The Lamanites become more righteous than the Nephites. Many Lamanites come down to the Land of Zarahemla to preach. Nephi, Lehi and many Lamanites travel into the Land Northward to preach. Peace is established in all the lands.
- After a period of prosperity and free interaction between the Lamanites and the Nephites, Cezoram is murdered by an unknown hand. In the same year, the son of Cezoram is appointed chief judge and then is also murdered. Later, we learn that it is the Gaddianton robbers who murdered them.
- Nephi and Lehi return from the Land Northward to see the people in an awful state of wickedness. Nephi mourns upon his tower for the people.
- He prophesies the murder of Seezoram, the new chief judge, to the people gathered there. After Seezoram is murdered, the people try to put Nephi in prison. Nephi prophesies that it is Seantum, the brother of Seezoram, who is the murderer, which is proven to be true.
- Nephi is taken away by the Spirit and carried from group to group until all have received a warning of their destruction if they don't repent. They repent and humble themselves.
- The people return quickly to wickedness. The Gaddianton robbers are revived.
- God sends Samuel, the Lamanite prophet, to warn the Nephites of coming judgment for their great wickedness.
- Samuel prophesies Christ's birth in five years. He says the sign of His birth will be great lights in the heavens, continuous light



for a day, a night and a day, a new star and many signs and wonders.

- Samuel prophesies the death of Christ, saying that the sign of His death will be darkness for three days, great storms and upheavals.
- The wicked Nephites try to kill Samuel as he stands on the city wall but they cannot. He returns to the Land of Nephi and is never heard of again among the Nephites.
- Some Nephites are converted and, along with believing Lamanites, watch for the sign of Christ's birth.

## The Third Book of NEPHI

Mormon abridged the writings of Nephi, one of the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus Christ during His visitation to the Land Bountiful. This particular Nephi was the son of Nephi and the grandson of Helaman II. The book covers the time from the birth of Christ to AD 34. Mormon comments that he, Mormon, was named after the Land of Mormon.

- Lachoneus is chief judge and governor. Nephi, son of Nephi, receives the plates from his father Nephi (son of Helaman), who leaves the land and is never seen again.
- All believers are condemned by the authorities to die unless the sign of Christ's birth prophesied by Samuel is forthcoming. Nephi prays all day; Jesus tells him that the sign will be given that night.
- The sign is given that night: a night with no darkness, a new star, and signs and wonders.
- After the sign, many believe, are converted and baptized. A few begin to teach that the birth of Christ fulfills the law of Moses and that the law no longer needs to be observed. Those who believe this are shown that they err and do not understand the scriptures.
- The power of the Gaddianton robbers increases, with many Nephite dissenters

joining them. The people become strong in wickedness and unbelief.

- After nine years, the Nephites begin to reckon their time from the sign of Christ's birth.
- The Lamanites unite with and are numbered among the Nephites. The curse on the skin of the Lamanites is taken away, and they become a fair people like the Nephites.
- Lachoneus, governor of the land, gathers all Nephites and converted Lamanites into the center of the land with provisions for seven years. Fortifications are built and armies are placed to guard the people and provisions against the Gaddianton robbers who want control of the Nephite lands and government.
- The Gaddianton robbers are finally destroyed when they come to battle with the Nephites. The people begin again to prosper, becoming proud and wicked once more.
- Lachoneus, son of Lachoneus, becomes chief judge. The people willfully rebel. Many preach and testify of the coming redemption of the Lord, His death and resurrection. The people respond with anger.
- Lachoneus is murdered and the government is destroyed. The reign of the judges ends after 121 years and the people divide into tribes.





- Nephi has such great faith that he is ministered to daily by angels. He restores life to his brother Timothy after he is stoned to death by the people.
- God commands Nephi to preach repentance to the people. They are unable to disbelieve his words because of God's power in him. Nephi baptizes all who repent.
- People begin to doubt that the second sign prophesied by Samuel the Lamanite would come. At the beginning of the thirty-fourth year from the sign of Christ's birth, the sign of His death begins with a great storm which lasts for three hours and with darkness which lasts for three days. There is much death and destruction and the people begin to mourn as Samuel the Lamanite prophesied.
- Only the more righteous are spared. They hear the voice of Jesus Christ, who declares that all the scriptures concerning His coming are fulfilled, that the law of Moses is fulfilled, and sacrifices and burnt offerings are done away. The only acceptable sacrifice is a broken heart and contrite spirit.

- A great multitude gathers at the temple in the Land Bountiful, hear the voice of God announcing His Son and see Jesus descending from heaven. All the people fall to the earth and worship Him. They come forth and one by one feel the wound in Jesus' side and the nail prints in His hands and feet.
- Jesus gives Nephi and eleven others the authority to baptize. He gives instructions on the manner of baptizing, declaring His doctrine in two sequences: repent, become as a little child and be baptized; or, repent, be baptized and become as a little child. Jesus offers the covenant invitation in three interchangeable phrases: "become as a little child," "come unto Me," and "believe in Me."
- Jesus closes the Old Covenant and opens the New with the Sermon on the Mount. He tells them that the law of Moses has an end and all is fulfilled in Him. However, the covenants and prophecies are not yet all fulfilled but will be in the future. He tells them to keep the commandments that He gives them at this time as His law.
- Jesus tells the people that they are part of the sheep of "the other fold," about whom He told the people of Jerusalem, which they did not comprehend (John 10:16). He also tells the Nephites that there are other sheep besides them. Jesus ministers to them and heals their sick. Angels descend as He blesses the children.





- The disciples bring bread and wine. Jesus gives instruction and tells the people to pray in His name. Jesus then commands the disciples to not knowingly allow anyone to partake of the bread and wine unworthily (without having made a covenant).
- He touches each disciple in turn and gives him power to bestow the Holy Ghost.
- Jesus ascends to heaven, promising to return the next day. Word is sent out all night and 2,500 gather at the temple for Christ's visit the next day. Before His return, the disciples teach the words of Jesus, are baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. Angels minister to them.
- Jesus returns and commands the twelve to pray; they are purified. He teaches, prays and heals everyone brought to Him. Jesus miraculously provides the bread and wine and serves His disciples. They are filled with the Spirit.
- He tells the people about the gathering of Israel in the latter days and the establishment of a New Jerusalem in the new Promised Land.
- Jesus commands the sealed vision of the brother of Jared, who was shown all things, to be read (see the book of Ether). Jesus then explains all things, from the beginning until the time of His return in glory.
- Mormon is commanded by the Lord to write in his abridgment only the lesser part (only a hundredth part of the things Jesus taught), first, to try our faith. Mormon is forbidden to write in his abridgment the greater part of the words of Christ which are written on the large plates of Nephi. Belief in this lesser part will lead to these greater things.
- Jesus ascends a second time. His disciples continue preaching and baptizing in His name. As His disciples gather in mighty prayer and fasting, Jesus appears a third time and teaches the people for three days. He shows Himself often thereafter.
- Jesus tells the disciples to name the church after Himself. He explains the gospel and sanctification. He also tells them that all



people will be judged by the books (of scripture) which shall be written.

- He prophesies of the destruction of the people in the fourth generation, which brings Him great sorrow.
- Jesus grants the desire of three of His disciples to remain, as John the Beloved remains, until Jesus' second coming. They are caught up into heaven where they see and hear unspeakable things. These three disciples, whose names are not given, are simply referred to today as "the three Nephites."
- Mormon testifies that he has seen these three disciples, that they have ministered to him and that they shall minister among the Gentiles and also the Jews, although they will not know who they are. He concludes with words of warning for the Gentiles.

## The Fourth Book of **NEPHI**

This abridgment by Mormon covered the writings of Nephi (son of Nephi the disciple), Amos (son of Nephi), Amos II (son of Amos) and Ammoron (brother of Amos). The time period of this book is from AD 34 to AD 320.

- All the people are converted. They no longer observe the performances and ordinances of the law of Moses but follow the commandments received from their Lord (see book of Third Nephi). There are many miracles in the name of Jesus.



- There are no rich, nor poor, nor “ites.” Peace and prosperity prevail for nearly two hundred years.
- Before he dies, Nephi, the son of Nephi the disciple, gives the records to his son Amos.
- There is still peace, except for a small part of the people who revolt. There begin to be Lamanites again. Amos dies and his son Amos II keeps the record.
- The people become proud, divide into classes and no longer have all things in common.
- There is apostasy in the church. The three disciples are cast into prison, then into a furnace of fire, and finally into a den of wild animals, but nothing can harm them.
- In AD 231 there is a great division of the people into the Nephites, who are the true believers and worshippers of Christ, and the Lamanites, who do not dwindle in unbelief but willfully rebel and teach their children not to believe.
- The Gaddianton robbers begin again with secret oaths and combinations. Both the Nephites and the Lamanites are wicked.
- Amos II dies; his brother Ammoron keeps the records.
- About AD 320, the Holy Ghost directs Ammoron to hide up all the records kept by the Nephites.
- Ammoron hides the records in the Hill Shim in the Land Northward.
- Mormon writes that his father’s name is Mormon and that he is a descendant of Nephi. When Mormon is eleven years old, he and his family leave the Land Northward for the Land of Zarahemla in the Land Southward.
- There are no miracles, no healings, no gifts, nor ministry of the Holy Ghost because of the people’s unbelief and wickedness.
- Mormon is visited by the Lord when he is fifteen. He is forbidden to preach to the people. The three disciples who tarried are also taken away because of the people’s wickedness.
- Warfare begins. Mormon is appointed the leader of the army at age sixteen. Many cities are fortified.
- Mormon goes to the Hill Shim and obtains the records when he is twenty-four years old. He adds his own record on the large plates of Nephi.
- The Nephites make a treaty with the Lamanites and give up all the Land Southward, including Zarahemla. They move north of the Narrow Neck of Land to the Land Northward.
- After ten more years, the Lamanites come against the Nephites again. Mormon and his armies hold off the Lamanites near the Narrow Pass that leads into the Land Northward.
- Mormon refuses to lead the army because of the gross wickedness of the people. However, he relents and becomes their leader again.
- He abridges his own account from the large plates into this book.
- By AD 384, Mormon gathers the Nephites together at Cumorah for the final battle. Mormon hides the records in the Hill Cumorah.
- After the Nephites are defeated in the final battle in AD 385, Mormon and others are pursued by the Lamanites into the Country Southward and are killed.
- Mormon’s son Moroni is left to finish the record. The Lamanites are in constant warfare with each other.

## The Book of MORMON

Mormon abridged his own record which was finished by his son Moroni. This book covers the time from AD 320 to AD 400.

- When Ammoron hides up the records, he tells the boy Mormon (who is ten years of age) the location of the Hill Shim where the records are hidden. Ammoron instructs Mormon to continue the records when he is about twenty-four years old.



*Ether—the last Jaredite  
record keeper and prophet.*



## The Book of **ETHER**

Moroni, son of Mormon, abridged the original record written by the Jaredite prophet, Ether, on twenty-four gold plates. The plates were found by the people of Limhi when searching for the Land of Zarahemla (see the account in the book of Mosiah). The Jaredite story spans the time from about 3100/2700 BC to 250 BC.

- Jared and his brother ask God not to confound their language at the Great Tower. God has compassion on them and does not confound their language. He directs them to depart to a choice land, a Land of Promise. They take the record of the creation of the world to the time of the Great Tower with them. God leads them through a wilderness where man has not yet been until they reach a great sea.
- After four years, the Lord chastises the brother of Jared and his people for not praying.
- The Lord commands them to build barges to cross the great sea. The brother of Jared asks the Lord to touch sixteen stones to provide light in the eight barges.
- He sees Jesus and is shown a vision of all things. The Lord commands him to write the vision and seal it up with two stones prepared by the Lord for interpreting languages. The brother of Jared's sealed vision is prophesied to come forth when Christ visits His people (see the book of Third Nephi).
- Moroni writes the things the brother of Jared saw and seals them up with the interpreters.
- The Jaredites cross the sea, being driven by strong winds for 344 days. They arrive on the shore of the Land of Promise, where they bow down in humility, shedding tears of joy for the Lord's tender mercies.
- They go forth and till the earth and multiply greatly in number.
- Jared and his brother grow old and take a census of the people. A king is chosen against the advice of Jared and his brother.
- Omer, a righteous king, is taken captive for half his days by his son Jared. Jared loses the kingdom after a battle and Omer is returned to the throne.
- To restore the kingdom to Jared, his (Jared's) daughter dances before Akish who wants her to be his wife. Akish is granted this in return for killing her grandfather (Omer) and bringing his head as proof.
- Omer is warned by God to depart with his family. After he is gone, oaths and secret combinations are reintroduced from old by Akish.



- Jared becomes king again but is murdered by his son-in-law Akish who engages in a battle with his own sons. Thirty survivors join Omer who is restored to his rightful throne.
- Wickedness returns. The prophets warn of a famine. Drought comes and poisonous serpents arise, which close off the Land Southward for many years.
- The longest period of righteousness in Jaredite history occurs under Kings Levi, Corom, Kish and Lib. Poisonous serpents are destroyed by God in the days of King Lib, and the Land Southward becomes a preserve for hunting game.
- The remaining kings are wicked. Ether prophesies of destruction if the people do not repent. According to Moroni, it is by faith all things are fulfilled. He gives examples in his “hall of faith” of people such as Alma, the three Nephite disciples and the brother of Jared who lived by faith.
- The last king, Coriantumr, rejects Ether’s warning. The destruction of the Jaredite nation results. As prophesied by Ether, Coriantumr is the lone survivor of the final battle.

- Coriantumr is discovered by the people of Zarahemla (the Mulekites) and lives “nine moons” with them before dying.
- Ether writes his record on twenty-four gold plates while hiding in a cave and then hides them up. This record, which is found later by Limhi’s search party, is kept with the Nephites’ sacred records. (See the book of Mosiah.)

## The Book of MORONI

Moroni, son of Mormon, wrote his own record. It was completed by AD 420. This is the last book in The Book of Mormon.

- After Moroni finishes abridging the twenty-four gold plates of the Jaredites (the book of Ether), he adds a few things of worth for some future day: the words of Christ to His twelve disciples conferring the power for them to give the Holy Ghost; the manner of ordaining priests and teachers; prayers of ministering the bread and wine; and concerning baptism.
- Moroni tells us that Jesus talked with him face to face in plain humility.
- Moroni quotes his father Mormon on faith, hope and charity, and teaches that charity is the pure love of Christ. He condemns the baptism of little children who are “alive in Christ.”
- Moroni also inserts a second letter from Mormon describing the wicked, depraved condition of the the Lamanites and the Nephites.
- Moroni promises that if a person asks God the Eternal Father in the name of Christ, with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, if these things are not true, He will manifest the truth by the power of the Holy Ghost.
- Before bidding farewell, Moroni writes concerning spiritual gifts and gives a final covenant invitation to come unto Christ. Thus we see that The Book of Mormon begins (see Title Page) and ends with an emphasis on the subject of “covenant.”



*Moroni's probable route from Hill Cumorah to hide up the plates where Joseph would find them at a hill in Manchester, New York.*



**Behold**, these things shall be hid up to come forth unto the Gentiles  
by the gift and power of the Lamb;

“And in them shall be written My gospel,” saith the Lamb, and my Rock  
and my Salvation;

“And blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth My Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;

“And if they endure to the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day  
and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb.”

*Nephi, son of Lehi*

*Moroni hides up plates  
(at Palmyra) c. AD 420*



# Records of The Book of Mormon

## **A** Abridgment **LOST**

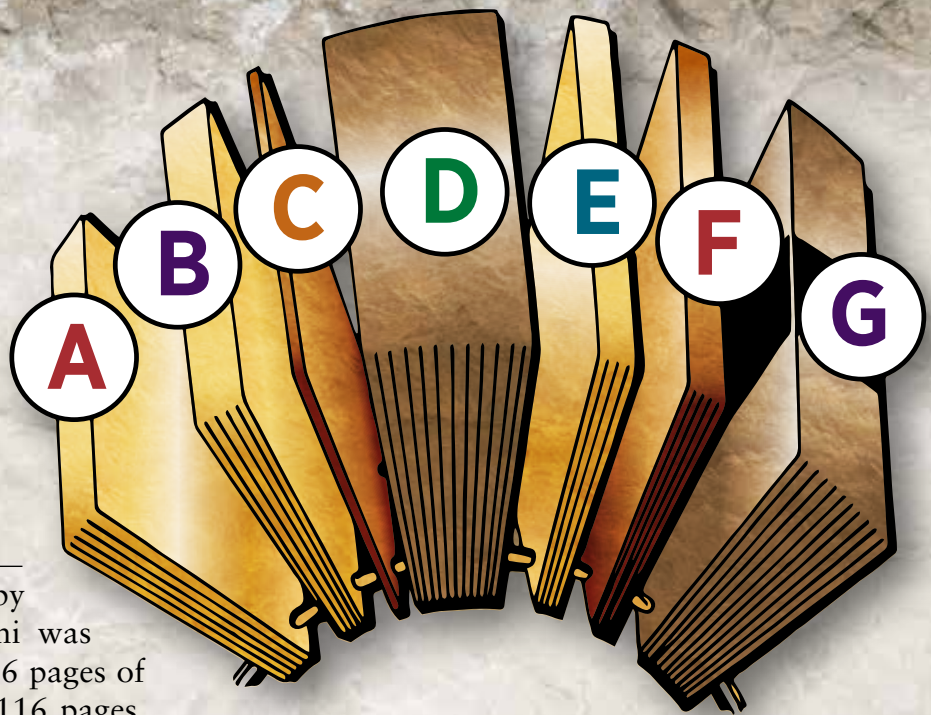
This first portion of the abridgment by Mormon of the large plates of Nephi was translated by Joseph Smith, making 116 pages of manuscript. Martin Harris lost those 116 pages. Joseph was directed not to translate them again but to go on to the small plates of Nephi, which covered the same time period (600 BC to 124 BC).

## **B** Unabridged **SMALL PLATES OF NEPHI**

- About thirty years after Lehi and his family left Jerusalem, Nephi was commanded to make a second set of plates (in addition to the large plates) called “the small plates.”
- The small plates were used to record the sacred history of the people.
- Mormon was directed to include the small plates with his abridgment of the large plates of Nephi.
- The small plates cover the same time period as the 116 pages of manuscript lost by Martin Harris.
- The small plates contain the books of First Nephi, Second Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom and Omni. The small plates were given to King Benjamin when they were full.

## **C** **WORDS OF MORMON**

- Editorial comments written by Mormon in AD 384 explain why he included the small plates with his abridgment.
- Mormon resumed his abridgment of the large plates as a transition to the book of Mosiah.



## **D** Abridgment from the **LARGE PLATES OF NEPHI**

- Nephi was commanded to make a set of plates for keeping a history of the people. They are called “the large plates of Nephi.”
- The large plates contain the civil record of the people up to the time of King Benjamin.
- Both the sacred and civil accounts of the people were kept on the large plates of Nephi after the time of King Benjamin because the small plates, used for recording the sacred history, were filled.
- Mormon abridged the large plates of Nephi and gave the abridgment to his son Moroni to finish.



*Nearly 1,000 years of  
Nephite history from  
600 BC to AD 385*

- The books of Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, Third Nephi, Fourth Nephi and Mormon are abridgments from the large plates of Nephi.



*Mormon's  
abridgment of the  
Large Plates of Nephi*



## E Abridgment from THE TWENTY-FOUR GOLD PLATES (book of Ether)

- The last Jaredite prophet, Ether, wrote an abridgment of his people's history on twenty-four gold plates.
- The record was found by Limhi's search party and given to King Mosiah II to translate by means of two stones called "the interpreters."
- Moroni was commanded to make an abridgment of the Jaredite record and include it with his father Mormon's abridgment of the large plates of Nephi.
- A promise was given that whoever finds the twenty-four gold plates will have power to obtain the full account.



## F BOOK OF MORONI

After abridging the Jaredite record (twenty-four gold plates), Moroni wrote his own record by way of conclusion to all the records. He also included words of his father, Mormon.

## G SEALED PORTION (or SEALED VISION OF THE BROTHER OF JARED)

- The Lord commanded the brother of Jared to write the vision he was given from the beginning of time to the end and seal it up with the interpreters.
- The Lord said it was not to be revealed until after He should come in the flesh.
- Jesus Christ revealed it to the people during His appearance in the Land Bountiful.
- Moroni was commanded to include it with the abridgment of the large plates of Nephi. He then sealed the vision of the brother of Jared because it is to come forth at a later time. However, it was included with the abridged records.
- Joseph Smith was instructed not to translate it.
- The sealed portion/vision will be revealed again when the Gentiles exercise faith and become sanctified.

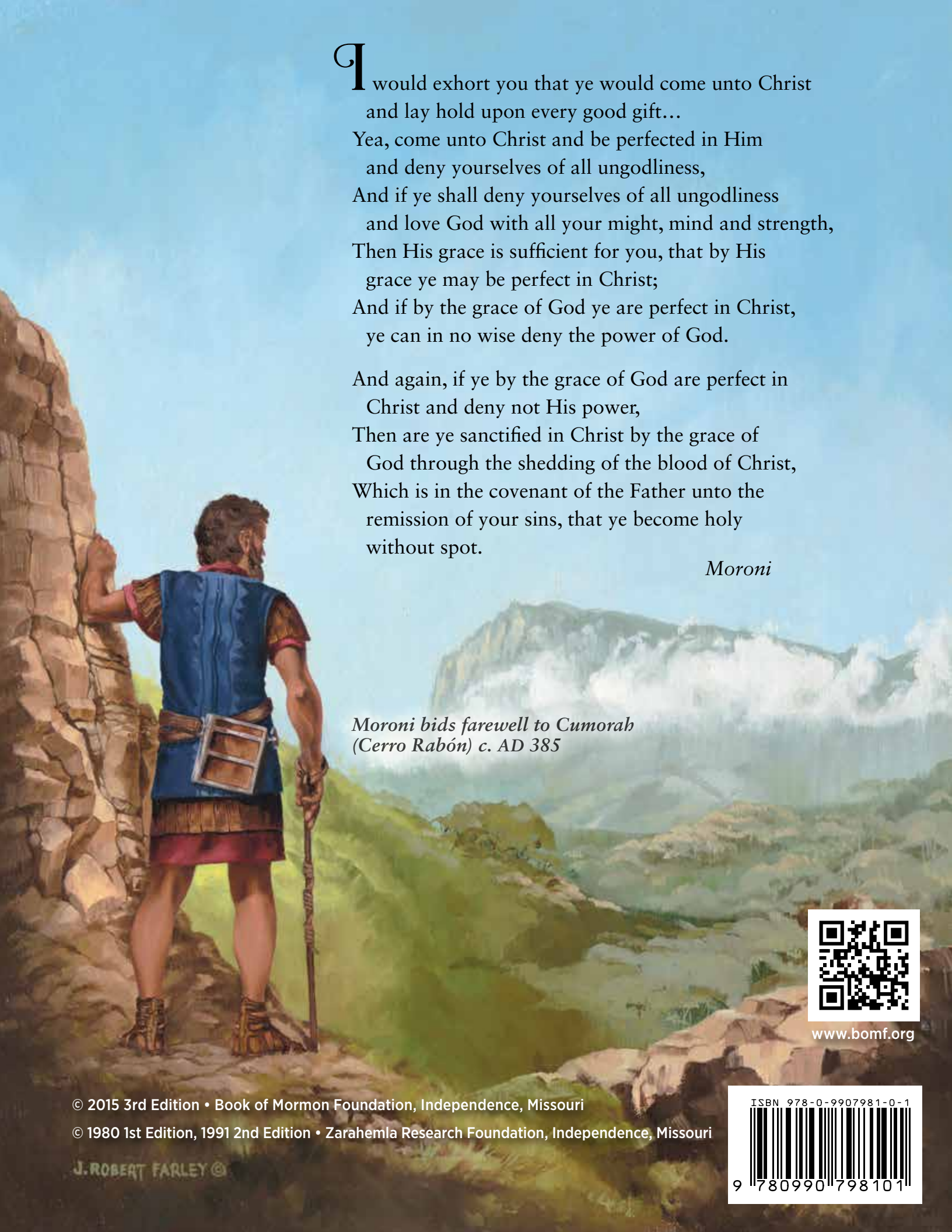
## THE PLATES OF BRASS

- Lehi brought the brass plates from Jerusalem.
- They were written in the Egyptian language.
- They contain the five books of Moses, including the account of creation and Adam and Eve; a record of the Jews down to King Zedekiah, including the records of the holy scriptures; the prophecies of holy prophets from the beginning, including Jeremiah and Joseph of Egypt; and the genealogy of Lehi's fathers.
- They also include the law of Moses and its purpose, which is to point to Christ.
- They shall go to all nations, tongues and people who are of the seed of Lehi.
- And they shall never perish or be dimmed by time.

*The Brass Plates*







I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ  
and lay hold upon every good gift...  
Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in Him  
and deny yourselves of all ungodliness,  
And if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness  
and love God with all your might, mind and strength,  
Then His grace is sufficient for you, that by His  
grace ye may be perfect in Christ;  
And if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ,  
ye can in no wise deny the power of God.

And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in  
Christ and deny not His power,  
Then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of  
God through the shedding of the blood of Christ,  
Which is in the covenant of the Father unto the  
remission of your sins, that ye become holy  
without spot.

*Moroni*

*Moroni bids farewell to Cumorah  
(Cerro Rabón) c. AD 385*



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