

An Overview of The Book of Ether

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THE BOOK OF ETHER

Background Resource Information

CHAPTER ONE

Verse 1. Moroni, the son of Mormon and the last surviving prophet of the Nephite nation, made an abridgement of the twenty four gold plates; often referred to as the Plates of Ether. (Moroni 1:1) This abridgement evolved into the Book of Ether and contained an account of the Jaredite nation, the first recorded people to dwell in the western hemisphere after the Great Flood. (Approximately 2200 BC) Ether's record tell us that all of the Jaredites *"were destroyed by the hand of the Lord..."* (For more on the Great Flood, read Genesis 6:13-22 and also chapters 7 and 8.)

Verse 2. Approximately 200 BC, Zeniff led a group of people from the land of Zarahemla and went to the land of Nephi, the place of their first inheritance where he reigned about 40 years. King Limhi, the grandson of Zeniff, made several attempts to return to the land of Zarahemla to escape from their Lamanite captivity. On one of the attempts the search party lost their way in the wilderness but did find a land which was covered with 'bones of men and of beasts' and also the twenty four engraved gold Plates of Ether. (See Mosiah 8:7-11, 21:25-27, 28:11-12; Ether 15:33)

Short history of events leading to the finding of the Plates of Ether

In 589 BC, Mulek, the only surviving son of Zedekiah, King of Judah was led by God to this land eleven years after Lehi's voyage. (See Omni 1:15-16; Helaman 6:10; 8:21). It was the descendants of Mulek, known as the people of Zarahemla, that made contact with Coriantumr, the last Jaredite survivor (excluding Ether). Coriantumr had brought with him a large engraven stone containing information about his fathers, the Tower and the confounding of languages. He *subsequently "dwelt with the people of Zarahemla for the space of nine moons."* (See Omni 1:20-22)

The land of Mulek was known as Zarahemla. The chief city was also called by the same name. The people of Zarahemla were unknown to the Nephites until King Mosiah I was warned by the Lord to leave the land of Nephi 'with as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord' and led to the land of Zarahemla. There they discovered, *"a people who were called the people of Zarahemla."* (Omni 1:13-14) The

people of Mosiah and the people of Zarahemla amalgamated, with Mosiah being appointed King.

Approximately 121 BC, Mosiah II, grandson of Mosiah I and now King of Zarahemla, desired to know about the Zeniff expedition to the land of Lehi-Nephi. The people of Mosiah (Nephites) had not heard from them since they left the land of Zarahemla. Mosiah attempted to locate them by sending out sixteen strong men where they met King Limhi. Ammon, one of the aforementioned sixteen men led Limhi and his people back to the land of Zarahemla together with the twenty four gold plates containing the account of the Jaredites. King Mosiah, a Seer, subsequently translated them for the benefit of his people. He did not incorporate this translation into his records (the large Plates of Nephi) which contained the important events of his time. He prophesied that an account of the Jaredites would be written at a later time. This was fulfilled about 550 years later by Moroni's translation of the Plates of Ether. (See Mosiah 28:11-19.)

Verses 3-4. In his abridgement of the gold Plates of Ether, Moroni omitted the first part of the record, "*which [spoke] concerning the creation of the world, and also of Adam, and an account from that time even to the great tower...[because they were] had among the Jews.*" (See Genesis chapters 1-10)

This account was also contained in the Brass plates that Nephi obtained from Laban, together with a history of the Jews through the reign of Zedekiah (1 Nephi 3:3-12). Nephi was given to know that the time would come when the Gentiles would be in receivership of a book that contained information detailing the creation of the world and a history of the Jews. (1 Nephi 13:20-26)

Verse 5. Moroni proceeds to give a partial account of the Jaredites from the Tower down to their destruction. (Genesis 11:1-4 details the events concerning the building of the Tower of Babel.)

Note: Archaeological discoveries in Mesopotamia** reportedly reveal the remains of what are known as ziggurat (tower) together with a tablet giving most of the its dimensions.

1 st step	300ft by 300ft	110ft high
2 nd step	260ft by 260ft	60ft high
3 rd step	200ft by 200ft	20ft high
4 th step	170ft by 170ft	20ft high
5 th step	140ft by 140ft	20ft high
6 th step?		20ft high?
7 th step	70ft by 80ft	50ft high

The scribe omitted the dimensions of the sixth step but its height was estimated to be 20 feet. This translates to the structure, with the temple on the top, being approximately 300 feet high.

Ultimately, the Tower of Babel symbolized humanity's rebellion against God by their attempt to ascend to Heaven.¹ In addition to reaching Heaven, their desire was that their city be acclaimed by the world for their ability to build magnificent structures. Hence, *"let us make us a name..."* (Genesis 11:4) [God gave them a name, "Babel."]

**Genesis 11:2 tells us, *"As they journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there."* Shinar is the ancient country of Mesopotamia and is located on the eastern bank between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, known today as Iraq.

Verses 6-32. Moroni attests that Ether was a descendant of Jared 29, generations removed, wrote the record of the Jaredites. Their civilization approximated 2000 years; from their arrival in the western hemisphere around 2200 BC to their destruction about 200 BC, shortly before Coriantumr made contact with the people of Zarahemla.

Verse 33. Moroni confirms that the initial colony mentioned in the Book of Ether came from the Tower of Babel after the languages were confounded. (Genesis 11:5-9) They consisted of the family of Jared, his brother, their friends and families, *"and from there did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."*

Verse 34. Jared pled with his brother, *"a man highly favored of the Lord..."* saying, *"Cry unto the Lord, that he will not confound us that we may not understand our words."*

It is not recorded how Jared was warned that the Lord was going to confound the languages of the people. Could the brother of Jared been a prophet?

We read in 2 Nephi 25:9, *"never hath any of them been destroyed save it were foretold them by the prophets of the Lord."* From the beginning of the creation, the Lord Himself cautioned Adam about disobeying His commandment. (Genesis 2:16-17) Also see Amos 3:7; Ether 13:20. Throughout the scriptures, all the prophets, led by the Lord, issued warnings of impending destructions. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.

Verses 35-37. After the brother of Jared cried unto the Lord, He had compassion for them and did not confound their language. Jared then asked his brother to cry again unto the Lord that the language of their friends and their families would not be confounded. The Lord had compassion for them also and did not confound their language.

Verse 38. It was given to Jared to know that the Lord was going to scatter the people, *"upon all the face of the earth..."* Jared instructed his brother to cry unto the Lord to show them where they would be sent, and if their destination would be *"a land which is choice above all the earth."* Jared knew that the Lord was greatly displeased with what had transpired and he did not want to incite anew the wrath of God upon them. His instructions to his family and friends were, *"And if it so be [a choice land] let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance."*

¹ The majority of this information was found in Wikimedia Commons, Category "Tower of Babel."

For references to the Lord's promise to those that will inherit this "choice land," read: Deut. 33:13-16; 1 Nephi 2:20; 4:14; 2 Nephi 1:5-7; 1:20; Enos 1:10; Omni 1:6; Jarom 1:9; Ether 2:8-11; Mosiah 1:7; 2:22; Alma 9:13.

Verses 39-40. The brother of Jared again cried unto the Lord concerning their destination and He had compassion upon him.

Verse 41. The Lord instructed the brother of Jared to gather all the necessities for going to a land that was made void by the great flood. (Genesis chapter 7) That included flocks both male and female, and seeds of every kind. He was told to gather their families and friends in preparation for departure from Shinar.

Verse 42. The Lord further instructed the brother of Jared to lead the people northward into a valley and that He would meet him there and lead them, "*into a land which is choice above all the earth.*"

Verse 43. The Lord promised the group that he would bless their seed and that "*There shall be none greater than the nation which I will raise up unto me.*" This would be done because of the faith and the many mighty prayers offered by the brother of Jared.

CHAPTER TWO

1-3. The group, consisting of Jared, his brother, their families and friends prepare for their journey to, *“a land, which is choice above all the lands of the earth.”* (Ether 1:12) This “choice land” was made barren of life by the ‘Great Flood’ so it necessitated them to gather together their flocks, fowls of the air, swarms of bees, seeds of every kind, and a vessel with fish.

Following the Lord’s direction, they traveled northward from Babel to Nimrod, a valley named after the mighty hunter; an area believed to be in the vicinity of present day northern Syria. (Genesis 10:8-9)

4. Upon their arrival into the Valley of Nimrod, the Lord came down and talked with the brother of Jared in a cloud, and the brother of Jared saw him not.

5. The Lord went before them as he stood in a cloud, gave directions, and commanded them to continue their travels into the wilderness, *“into that quarter where there never had man been.”*

(For other instances when the Lord spoke/led man from a cloud, read: Exodus 13:21; 34:5; Numbers 9:17; Matthew 17:5.)

6. It is believed that as they continued traveling westward toward present day Lebanon, there were several rivers to be crossed (many waters). When they reached the eastern Mediterranean seacoast it became necessary for them to build barges (perhaps a larger version of those required to cross the aforementioned rivers) to traverse the ‘great sea’ (Mediterranean Sea), through the Strait of Gibraltar and across the Atlantic Ocean. (The only bodies of water conducive to sustained barge travel are the great Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.)

7-12 Moroni explains the Lord’s intent for the Jaredites. They were not to remain at the *“sea in the wilderness, but that they should come forth unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord had preserved [from the time of ‘The Great Flood’] for a righteous people.”* (See Ether 13:2; Genesis 8:3; 7:11; 7:19)

8. Moroni reminds us that the Lord, *“swore...unto the brother of Jared that whoso should possess the land of promise from that time henceforth should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off...”* In this last sentence, Moroni is confirming the reason for the total destruction of the Jaredites. (See Jarom 3:10; Alma 37:28; Ether 9:20)

9-10. Removing all doubt as to the Lord’s decree concerning this land, *“that it is a land of promise, Moroni emphasizes, “Whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when they are ripened in iniquity.” “Behold this is a land that is choice above all other lands.”* This warning continues in perpetuity. (See 1 Nephi 17:36-38)

11. Moroni, being well versed in the records which had been passed down from the time of Nephi, knew Gentiles would one day be led to this hemisphere. He also was given to know that there would be Gentiles that would not, *“serve the true and only*

God.” (v. 8) Referencing the fate of the Jaredites, Moroni warns the Gentiles to *repent and not continue in their iniquities lest the fullness of his wrath come*. Moroni’s words are directed to past, present and future gentile generations. (Read 1 Nephi 14:5-6; 2 Nephi 1:6-7; Alma 45:16)

12. The benefits offered by the Lord for serving “*the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ...*” are contained in this verse; “*this choice land shall be free of bondage and captivity from all other nations under heaven.*”
(See 1 Nephi 13:19; 2 Nephi 10:10-14)

13. Moroni resumes his translation of the records by telling us that after they crossed the many waters, the Lord led them to the eastern shore of the Mediterranean seacoast. There they pitched their tents and called the place, “Moriancumer...and dwelt in tents upon the seashore for the space of four years.”

14. At the end of the four years the Lord came again to the brother of Jared and talked with him in a cloud for three hours. He chastened him because he forgot to call upon the name of the Lord.

Note: There is a positive side to being chastened by the Lord.
Hebrews 12:6 reads, in part, “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...”
Read Hebrews 12:5-11. For other references see Psalm 94:12-14;
Proverbs 3:11-13.

15. “The brother of Jared repented of the evil...he had done, and did [also] call upon the name of the Lord for his brethren...” The Lord forgave them, but warned, “Thou shalt not sin anymore for...my spirit will not always strive with man.” These were the rulings by which they would inherit, “...a land choice, above all other lands.” The scriptures are replete with encouragement to keep open communication with God through prayer. Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:1; 1 Nephi 18:3; 2 Nephi 32:9; Alma 10:22-23; 26:22.

16-17. The Lord instructed the brother of Jared to *go to work* and build barges just as they had previously done to cross the many rivers. The brother of Jared and his brethren began to build the barges according to the instructions of the Lord. The vessels were small; the length of a tree, light in weight, completely water tight and peaked at both ends.

We know of two other instances where vessels were built by following the Lord’s instructions; Noah built the ark to save him and his family from the flood. (Genesis 6:14-16) and Nephi and his brothers built a sailing vessel to bring them to the Western Hemisphere. (1 Nephi 17:49-51)

18-19. When the work was completed, the brother of Jared, perhaps reluctantly, reminded the Lord that the vessels lacked any light and air to breathe. He made no attempt to remedy the problems himself because he had been following the instructions given by the Lord. He cried unto the Lord for the solutions.

20. To alleviate the lack of air dilemma the Lord told the brother of Jared to make a hole both in the top and bottom of the vessel and that when air was needed they should unstop a hole to receive it. If water would begin to enter the vessel, they were told to stop up the hole. With a totally enclosed vessel, perhaps the dual air holes, when regulated, could create pressurization that would prevent unwanted water from entering. The bottom hole could also be used for waste disposal.

21-22. The brother of Jared complied with the Lord's instructions by modifying the vessels to solve the lack of air dilemma. He cried again unto the Lord, relying on divine intervention to provide a solution to his second concern, *Behold, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this great water in darkness?*

23-25. At this juncture, the Lord encourages the brother of Jared to use the intelligence and creativity he was blessed with, saying, *"What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?"* Perhaps logic dictated to the brother of Jared that sunlight would suffice for day travel if openings (windows) could be incorporated into the design of the vessels and artificial light (fire) would provide ample light for nocturnal travel. Prior to providing a direct answer to the brother of Jared's question, the Lord told them what they could not have in the vessels. Any openings (windows) in the vessels would weaken the superstructure since their journey would be subjected to prolonged violent motions; hence the vessels would *"be dashed to pieces."* Note: Since glass windows did not emerge until the eighth century B.C., the inference to "windows" assuredly refers to shuttered openings. Fire would not be viable either because the vessels would be violently rocked by, *"the mountain waves."* The Lord told him that the vessels would be, *as a whale in the midst of the sea...* and assured them of safe passage since the very elements were controlled by Him....*I will bring you up again out of the depth of the sea.* Read 1 Nephi 3:7; 9:6; Job 5:10; 37:2-23; Psalms 147: 15-17; 148:8. The Lord repeats his question to the brother of Jared, *"What will ye that I should do, that ye may have light?"*

CHAPTER THREE

This chapter begins with the Brother of Jared presenting the solution to the question the Lord had posed to him in verse 23 of chapter 2. *“What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?”*

We learned in chapter 2 that there were eight vessels, *“the length of a tree,”* which can be fairly long. With this in mind, the Brother of Jared thoughtfully reasoned that two lights per vessel would suffice; one for each end of the vessels. He ascended the tall Mountain Shelem, *“and did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones; and they were white and clear, even as transparent glass; and he did carry them in his hands upon the top of the mount, and cried again unto the Lord.”* (Ether 3:1)

For it came to pass after the Lord had prepared the stones which the brother of Jared had carried up into the mount, the brother of Jared came down out of the mount and he did put forth the stones into the vessels which were prepared; one in each end thereof; and behold, they did give light unto the vessels. (Ether 6:2)

Was the rock the brother of Jared found, a diamond?

2. Responding to the Lord’s words that they *“must be encompassed about by the floods,”* the brother of Jared pleads to the Lord for forgiveness for his weakness, acknowledging the might and holiness of the Lord, stating, *“we are unworthy before thee; because of the fall, our natures have become evil continually; nevertheless...thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee, that we may receive according to our desires.”* The brother of Jared is referring to *“the fall”* of Adam (Genesis 3:1-6) and the natural weakness of man since *“the fall,”* as recorded in Mosiah 3:19; 16:3; Alma 41:1.

The words *“thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee...”* emphasizes the never-ending need of prayer. Prayers are not only a necessity; they are the perfect means of communication with the Lord. The Bible and Book of Mormon are replete with references to the *“commandment”* mentioned here. The writings explain the need, power, and the glory of prayer. In I Thessalonians 5:17 the Apostle Paul captures the commandment in one sentence, *“Pray without ceasing.”*

3. We are not told the specifics of their *“iniquities”* other than his/their neglect to *“call upon the name of the Lord.”* It is apparent that their repentance was sufficient because they were blest in leaving for a far better land and further blest to retain their pure language; unlike those who remained in the Plain of Shinar. When they arrived at the seashore, perhaps in Lebanon, they pitched their tents and forgot to call upon the Lord for the space of four years. (Ether 2:13) The Lord had *“chastened [the brother of Jared] because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord.”* (Ether 2:14) The brother of Jared recognizes the mercifulness of the Lord and pleads unto him to no longer be angry with him and His people, *“and suffer not that they shall go forth across this raging deep in darkness; but behold these things which I have molten out of the rock.”*

4. The brother of Jared again acknowledges the Lord’s power and His willingness to extend mercy *“for the benefit of man.”* He then calls upon the Lord saying, *“touch these*

stones...with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness...in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we cross the sea.” (v.4) Other scriptures attesting to the power and mercy of God which are extended for the benefit of man, read I Nephi 1:14; 7:12; Psalm 18:32.

5. This verse expresses the unwavering faith that the brother of Jared had in the power and love of the Lord. He concedes that man’s understanding of the Lord’s power is small. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 for the Lord’s words relating to man’s understanding.

6. Exactly as requested, *“the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. The veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down...for he was struck with fear.”*

7-8. The Lord, seeing that the brother of Jared had fallen, tells him to *“arise,”* and asks him why he had fallen. He replied that after seeing the finger of the Lord, he feared that he would be smitten because he did, *“not know that the Lord had flesh and blood.”*

9-10. The Lord said unto him: *“because of thy faith thou hast seen that I will take upon me flesh and blood, and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith; for were it not so you could not have seen my finger.”* The Lord asked him if he had seen more than His finger. He answered: *Nay Lord, show thyself unto me.”* (v.10)

On the basis of the Lord’s statement, together with the physical removal of Mount Zerin, it is evident that the faith of the brother of Jared exceeded that of everyone since creation including Enoch and Noah; men of great faith. (Ether 12:30) Also, we read in Genesis 5:24, *“Enoch walked with God: and he was not, for God took him.”* Hebrews 11:5-7 speaks of the great faith that Enoch and Noah had exercised. (Read Ether 3:15)

11-12. The Lord then asked the brother of Jared, *“Believest thou the words which I shall speak?”* (v.11) *“He answered; Yea Lord I know that thou speakest the truth...and cannot lie.”* (v.12)

Other scriptures attesting that the Lord *“cannot lie,”* see Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Samuel 15:29; Hebrews 6:18.

13-16. After the brother of Jared said these words, *“the Lord showed himself unto him, and said: because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall...”* (v.13) *“I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people ...* v.14) *“And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast...This body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit...and even as I appear unto thee to be in spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.”* (v.15-16)

Because of their faith, Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Nephi, his brother Jacob, King Lamoni all of whom lived prior to His death and resurrection were blessed to see the Lord as he would appear in the flesh, and be *“redeemed from the fall.”* (see Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:8; 1 Samuel 3:21; Isaiah 6:1; 2 Nephi 11:2-3; Alma 19:1-13).

17-18. Moroni, again tells us that he could not make a full account of everything recorded on the twenty four plates of Ether (Ether 1:3-5). He says, *“it suffices me to say that Jesus showed himself unto this man in the spirit...and in the likeness of the same body even as he showed himself unto the Nephites...He ministered unto him even as he ministered unto the Nephites...”* (See 3 Nephi 11:8-16)

19-20. *“Because of the knowledge of [the brother of Jared] he could not be kept from beholding within the veil...”* When he saw the finger of the Lord, *“he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting...”* that it was the Lord’s finger. *“Wherefore, having this perfect knowledge of God...”* Jesus showed himself unto him.

21-24. The Lord informs the brother of Jared, that because of his belief he would show unto him all things. The Lord further tells him, *“thou shalt not suffer these things which ye have seen and heard to go forth unto the world, until the time cometh that I shall glorify my name in the flesh...”* The Lord commands him to write everything that will be revealed unto him, and then he was to *“seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for ye shall write them in a language that they cannot read.”* (v.22)

The Lord also gave the brother of Jared two stones and commanded him to seal them up with his writings. (v.23) He is informed that the language in which he would write would be confounded, and in the Lord’s, *“own due time, these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write.”* (v.24)

25-26. *“And when the Lord had said these words, he showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be...even unto the ends of the earth”* (v.25) The Lord had said unto him, *“if he would believe in him, he could show unto him all things...therefore the Lord could not withhold anything from him...”* (v.26)

27-28. The Lord again instructs the brother of Jared to write everything he has seen and to, *“seal them up; and I will show them in mine own due time unto the children of men.”* (v.27) The Lord further commands him to *“seal up the two stones which he had received, and show them not, until the Lord should show them unto the children of men.”* (v.28)

Details on the, *“two stones,”* and the *“due time,”* of the Lord will be covered in chapter 4.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. Having revealed unto the brother of Jared, *“all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be...even unto the ends of the earth,”* (Ether 3:25) *“the Lord commanded [him] to go down out of the mount...and write the things which he had seen...”*

The Lord had forbidden the brother of Jared to show his writings to anyone. Upon completion, he was to seal them up together with the two stones the Lord had given him. They would be needed to interpret the writings because the Lord had confounded the language in which these things were written. (Read Ether 3:23-24)

This is the first time since the creation of the world (over 1757 years earlier) that there has arisen a need for the great gift spoken of in Mosiah 8: 13-18: the gift of a “ Seer”. For up to this point all the world was of one language (the language of Adam & Eve was, in fact, the Jaredite language); therefore there was no need for such a gift (see Genesis 11:1). But in the days of Peleg (which means division) the earth was divided (Genesis 10:25). If we go to Genesis 11:9-16 and do the math we find that Peleg was born, approximately, 101 yrs after the flood which occurred, approximately 1656 yrs after creation (according to the historian Flavius Josephus). This time period of Peleg is very much in harmony of the time of the departure of the Jaredites from the Plain of Shinar (if you allow for time to move east (after the flood) along with the time it took to contrive a plan to build and actually start building the tower of Babel to such a great height). So, we see the need arising (sometime after 1757) for the seer stones. God gave them to the brother of Jared. Mosiah has used them to translate the 24 gold plates. They have been used by Joseph Smith Jr. (translation of Book of Mormon) and they will be used again by the Choice Seer spoken of in 2 Nephi chapter 3. These above mentioned servants have been or will be God’s Seers, all possessing this great gift of God.

These records would not come forth, *“unto the children of men until after He should be lifted up upon the cross.”* (v. 1)

Moroni, knew that King Mosiah had received and interpreted these records in approximately 91 BC, explains that because of the commandment given to the brother Jared, *“ King Mosiah did keep them that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people.”* (v.1) For a few details leading to the event of King Mosiah receiving and interpreting these records, read Mosiah 21:23:28; Mosiah 28:11-20)

2. *“And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they [the records] should be made manifest.”* (Read 3 Nephi chapters 9 through 28 for a complete account of the time that Christ showed himself unto his people in this hemisphere.) Following the appearance of Christ upon this land, there was peace, complete unity, and prosperity among the people for the space of about 158 years. (See 4 Nephi 1:15-20) 4th Nephi verse 2-3 shows that this peaceful condition starts at about 36AD when everyone upon the land was converted and they begin to have all things common; and extends until approximately 194 AD (see verses 20-21 when a Lamanite revolt occurs). Also verses 24 and 25 show great worldliness entering among

them in the 201st year; and it deteriorates from there to the end of the book. So if you subtract 36AD from 194AD you have, at best, only 158 yrs of perfect harmony or a mini peaceful reign.

The people that dwelt in this hemisphere at that time were all converted unto the Lord. They were given the opportunity to have knowledge of the contents of the precious records mentioned above.

3. Moroni continued, *“And now, after that, they have all dwindled in unbelief...therefore I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth.”*

We read in 4 Nephi the words of Mormon concerning the complete transition from righteousness to wickedness. He writes, in part, *“The people had multiplied, insomuch that they were spread upon all the face of the land, and that they had become exceedingly rich, because of their prosperity in Christ...In this two hundred and first year there began to be those who were lifted up in pride...and they began to be divided in classes...and to build up churches unto themselves to get gain, and to deny the true church of Christ.”* (4 Nephi 1:23-26) Mormon further tells us, *“When three hundred years had passed away, both the people of Nephi and the Lamanites had become exceedingly wicked...”* (4 Nephi 1:45) For a complete account of the events leading up to the falling away of the followers of Christ, read the complete chapter of 4 Nephi 1.

4-5. Moroni recorded, *“the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared.”* (v. 4) The Lord commanded Moroni to write them and to seal them up, together with the interpreters. (v. 5)

In this chapter, Jesus was in constant communication with Moroni as he translated the records of the brother of Jared. Verses 6 through 19 are the words of the Lord as quoted by Moroni.

6. The Lord spoke to Moroni saying, *“They [the records] shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord.”*

The records referred to in this verse are not included in the present Book of Mormon.

2 Nephi 27: 7-11 reads in part, *“The book shall be sealed; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof...The book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust [the Book of Mormon]...but the words which are sealed he shall not deliver...for the book shall be sealed by the power of God...and shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord; for they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof...The day cometh...they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men...”* (The book, *“sealed by the power of God...”* contained the things the brother of Jared saw.)

7. *“In that day that they [the Gentiles] shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw...”* (Also read 2 Nephi 30: 8-18)

8. The Lord tells Moroni, *“he that will contend against, or deny the word of the Lord, let him be accursed...for unto them will I show no greater things...for I am he who speaketh.”* (“the word of the Lord” in this verse, refers to the Bible and the Book of Mormon.)

In 2 Nephi 27:14, we read, *“Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; [the Book of Mormon] and woe be unto him that rejecteth the word of God!”* 2 Nephi 28:29-30 makes reference to the necessity of having the Bible and the Book of Mormon, *“Woe unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough!”* This is further reinforced by 2 Nephi 29:6 which states, *“Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible...”*

9. The Lord is in control. The elements, as well as all things celestial and terrestrial obey his command; all are done *“at the command of our great and everlasting God.”* (Helaman 12:8) Read Helaman 12:8-17 for Nephi’s explanation of the phenomena of nature and Joshua 10:12-14 for the day the earth stood still. Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still. *“So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day.”* Helaman 12:14-15 reads, in part, *“If he [the Lord] say unto the earth – Thou shalt go back, that it lengthen out the day for many hours - it is done...the earth goeth back, and it appeareth unto man that the sun standeth still; yea, and behold, this is so; for surely it is the earth that moveth and not the sun.”*

It appears here that Nephi, the son of Helaman, is reflecting on the words of Joshua. The records that Nephi received from Laban were passed down to future generations of the Nephites. They included the writings of Joshua. It was given to Nephi, the son of Lehi, to see all things from the beginning to the end. The information concerning the earth standing still could have been recorded by him.

There was another time when the Lord was requested to turn back the hands of time. II Kings 20:8-10 reads, in part, *Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, what shall be the sign that the Lord will heal me...? Isaiah said, this sign shalt thou have of the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? Hezekiah answered...let the shadow return backward ten degrees.”* And it was so. Read chapter 20, beginning with verse one for the complete experience. Also see Isaiah 38:1-8.

The following quotes are taken from the Lakeview Messenger¹. “Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what had been called myth in the Bible is true? Mr. Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company, and consultant in the space program, released the following...We have to lay out the orbit in terms of the life of the satellite. They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal...The computer showed there was one day missing in elapsed time in space!

One fellow on the team recalled that the Bible mentioned a time in the Old Testament in which the sun stood still for nearly a day....They got a Bible and found it in Joshua 10:13.” [They put the information into the computer.] “It was close, but not close enough. The elapsed time...was 23 hours and 20 minutes, not a whole day...

¹ Lakeview Messenger, copied from the Illuminator, edited by Robert K. Stewart

They were still in trouble. If you cannot account for 40 minutes, you will be in trouble 1,000 years from now. The fellow who started the scripture hunt remembered that the Bible also spoke about a time when the sun went backward...They got the Book and read II Kings 20...Hezekiah asked the Lord to turn back the sun 10 degrees. Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes. Therefore, 23 hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in II Kings make the 24 hours the space travelers would have to log in the log-book as being the missing day in the universe. Once again God is proving His divine Truth as Revealed in the Bible.”

10. The unbeliever of the Word of God [Bible and Book of Mormon] expounded by His disciples from generation to generation, shall be condemned at the last day and shall be made to, *“know that it is I [the Lord] that speaketh at the last day.”* (Read 2 Nephi 25:22; 33:14-15; 3 Nephi 27:25-27)

11-12. Conversely, the believers of the Word of God will be visited with the manifestations of the Spirit of the Lord. This Spirit shall prove that the words of the Lord are true, *“for it persuadeth men to do good. And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of [God].”* Omni 1:25 lists a few of *“the manifestations of the Spirit of the Lord,”* stating, *“come unto God, the Holy One of Israel, and believe in prophesying, and in revelations, and in the ministering of angels, and in the gift of speaking with tongues, and in the gift of interpreting languages, and in all things which are good; for there is nothing which is good save it comes from the Lord; and that which is evil cometh from the devil.”* (Also read Alma 5:40; Moroni 7:12-17; 10:7-19; 1Cor. 12:7-11)

The Lord continues, saying, *“He that will not believe my words will not believe that I am; and he will not believe the Father who sent me. I am the Father, the light, the life, and the truth of the world.”* (v.12) (Read Mosiah 16:9; Moroni 7:18-19)

13. Jesus calls to the Gentiles to come unto him and promises to show them great things; knowledge of which is hid up because of unbelief. The beginning of this promise was kept when the plates were delivered to Joseph Smith. 3 Nephi 26:9-10 reads, *“When they shall have received this, [the Book of Mormon] which is expedient that they should have first...if it shall so be that they believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.”* (Also read Alma 12:9-11)

14-15. Jesus calls, *“Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you from the foundation of the world; and It had not come unto you, because of your unbelief.”* (v.14) When they, *“shall rend the veil of unbelief...when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit...then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers...”* (v.15)

The scripture detailing the covenant the Lord made unto the house of Israel begins in Genesis 13:14-17 and reads, in part, *“...Lift up thine eyes and look...northward, and southward, and eastward and westward: all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered...”* Genesis 15:18 reads, in part, *“...the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river*

Euphrates.” (The “*river of Egypt*,” mentioned here is generally believed to be a small stream south of Gaza, known as Wadi el Arish.) For other references to “*the covenant*,” read Genesis 17:1-8; Acts 3:25 (this verse reflects the words in Genesis 22:17-18).

The Lord confirmed the covenant made unto Abraham when he spoke to Isaac. (See Genesis 26:3-5) and was further established when He spoke to Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15). There are many other references to the covenant in the scriptures, but they will not come about until they (the house of Israel) “*shall rend the veil of unbelief.*” (v.15) 2 Nephi 10:7-8 reads, in part, “*thus saith the Lord God: When the day cometh that they shall believe in me, that I am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers that they shall be restored in the flesh...unto the lands of their inheritance. And it shall come to pass that they shall be gathered in from their long dispersion, from the isles of the sea, and from the four parts of the earth...*”

16. In this verse the Lord tells us that when we see the transition of the House of Israel, we will know that the time is at hand for the revelations given to the Apostle John will be made known to all people. 1 Nephi 14:18-27 explains that the writings of John “*were plain and pure, and most precious and easy to the understanding of men.*” In 1 Nephi 13:21-29, we read the words of the angel that spoke to Nephi, explaining why the words of John are no longer easy to understand. When “*...The book [the Bible] proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew...it contained the fullness of the gospel of the Lord...these things [went] forth in purity unto the Gentiles. And after they [went] forth...that great and abominable church...[took] away parts which are plain and most precious...*” The writings of John, mentioned here, along with the writings of the brother of Jared are the sealed records that will come forth in the Lord’s due time.

17. “*Therefore, when ye shall receive this record ye may know that the work of the Father has commenced upon all the face of the land.*” “*This record*” is the book we have in hand, the Book of Mormon.

In 2 Nephi 30:3-8, Nephi tells his people, “*after the book of which I have spoken [the Book of Mormon] shall come forth...unto the Gentiles...they shall carry it forth unto the remnant of our seed.*” (v.3) “*It shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered also shall begin to believe in Christ...*” (v.7) “*It shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work among all nations...to bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth.*” (v.8)

Read the words of Jesus as recorded in 3 Nephi 21:7; 26-29 concerning the chain of events following the day “*when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people.*” (v.26)

18. The Lord instructs all mankind to repent, come unto him and believe in his gospel. The commandment of Baptism in the name of Jesus is emphasized. “*For he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned...*” He further tells us, “*Signs shall follow them that believe in [his] name.*”

After Jesus was resurrected, he appeared unto the eleven apostles. His final words to them (in part) were, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned. These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; if they drink any*

deadly thing, it shall not hurt him; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:14-18) After the Lord spoke to them, he was received up into heaven. Also read Mormon 9:21-25.

19. Jesus concludes, *“Blessed is he that is found faithful unto my name at the last day, for he shall be lifted up to dwell in the kingdom prepared for him from the foundation of the world...”* For other references to the promise given, read John 3:16-17; 36; 5:24; 12:48-50.

CHAPTER FIVE

1. Moroni, having diligently recorded the words of the Lord (in chapter four) he continues his writings, addressing the future translator of his records. He emphasizes the commandment given him to seal up the plates containing the things which the brother of Jared had seen. (See Ether 4: 4-7) Moroni stresses, *“therefore touch them not in order that ye may translate; for that thing is forbidden you, except by and by it shall be wisdom in God.*

Nephi prophesied more than 950 years before Moroni recorded the things which the brother of Jared had seen, that they would, *“be sealed by the power of God...until the own due time of the Lord...”* (2 Nephi 27:10) Also read 2 Nephi 27:6-10.

For details concerning the “future translator,” read the “Brief Account of Joseph Smith’s Experiences,” recorded in the first few pages of The Book of Mormon.

2. Verse two begins with Moroni explaining to the future translator the necessary process by which these records would ultimately be presented to the world. It was given to Moroni to know the existing circumstances surrounding the receiving and the translating of the plates that would come unto the Gentiles in the distant future.

Moroni states, *“Behold, ye may be privileged that ye may show the plates unto those who shall assist to bring forth this work.”* Moroni is stating here that Joseph Smith will be given the authority (which otherwise would be forbidden) to show the plates, but only as permitted by the Lord.

3. Moroni tells us that three witnesses would testify to the truth of the plates that would be delivered to Joseph Smith. 2 Nephi 27:12, reads, in part, *“Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world...save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him [Joseph Smith] to whom the book shall be delivered...”*

4. Moroni continues, *“in the mouth of three witnesses shall these things be established;...and this work, in the which shall be shown forth the power of God and also his word, of which the Father, and the Son, and the Holy ghost bear record—and all this shall stand as a testimony against the world at the last day.”* [The warning is directed to those that reject the validity of The Book of Mormon.] 2 Nephi 28:29 reads, *“Wo be unto him that shall say, ‘ We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough!’”*

5. Moroni is addressing both the Gentles and the Jews when he states *“If it so be that they repent and come unto the Father in the name of Jesus, they shall be received into the kingdom of God.”* (see Mormon 9:21-23; Mark 16:15-16)

6. If anyone has doubt concerning the authority given to Moroni to declare the admonitions and promises of the Lord, he leaves it up to the reader to judge. He concludes this chapter with these words, *“Ye shall know that I have authority when ye*

shall see me, and we shall stand before God at the last day.” (See Moroni 7:18 for the caution that should be used, in judging. Also see Matthew 7:2)

The writings of Moroni recorded here were done approximately in 420 AD. The Golden Plates, upon which were engraved a record of the ancient inhabitants of this Western Hemisphere, were given to Joseph Smith in September of 1827.

For the testimony and names of the three witnesses mentioned above, see the page facing the “Names and Order of Books” in the front of The Book of Mormon. Also, on the same page, see “The Testimony of Eight Witnesses.” 2 Nephi 27:12-14 makes reference to the three witnesses and also to the other witnesses. Verse 14 states, *“Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word...”*

CHAPTER SIX

1. Moroni states, *“And now, I, Moroni, proceed to give the record of Jared and his brother.”* Here, Moroni resumes his abridgment of the twenty-four gold plates, continuing where he left off in Chapter 4 verse one, which states, *“And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the mount...and write the things which he had seen; and they [the writings] were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that He [Jesus] should be lifted up upon the cross...”*
2. Moroni tells us *“...after the Lord had prepared the stones which the brother of Jared had carried up into the mount,...”* the brother of Jared then carried the sixteen stones down the mountain and placed one in each end of the eight vessels which they had prepared for their journey across the *“great deep.”* Ether 2:25 *“They [the stones] did give light unto the vessels.”* (See Ether 3:1-6 for details in the preparation of the stones.)
3. *“...Thus the Lord caused stones to shine in darkness, to give light unto men, women, and children, that they might not cross the great waters in darkness.”*
4. In preparation for their journey, the Jaredites had followed the Lord’s instructions to gather flocks of every kind; and also seeds of every kind. They gathered fowls of the air, a vessel with fish, and the honeybee. (See Ether 1:41; 2:1-3 for the detailed list) *“...They [also] had prepared all manner of food that thereby they might subsist upon the water, and also food for their flocks and herds, and whatsoever beast or animal or fowl that they should carry with them.”* Now that the vessels were complete, *“they got aboard of their vessels or barges, and set forth into the sea, commending themselves unto the Lord their God.”*

This was the second recorded instance detailing the Lord’s instructions for man to gather herds, beasts, fowls and other living creatures. Instructions also included gathering food for both man and beast for nourishment during their journey upon the water. (See Genesis 6:18:22 for the first time) In both instances, preparation was being made to replenish the land, which had been made barren by the great flood. Noah preserved life, obeying the words of God directing him, saying, *“Of every living thing of all flesh shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive...fowls after their kind...and every creeping thing of the earth...”* (Genesis 6:19-20) After the great flood, when the waters receded, the Western Hemisphere was set aside as a chosen land of the Lord with the intent that all the inhabitants who lived there should serve Him.(Ether 13:2-3) Through Noah, the Eastern Hemisphere was replenished by the preservation of life, as commanded by God. Through the brother of Jared and his family and friends, the Lord now extended these same necessities for replenishing the barren land in the Western Hemisphere. The necessity of replenishing the Western Hemisphere is an indication that the flood of Noah’s time was, in fact, worldwide. (Gen 6:17 and 2 Peter 3:6-7). This is a beautiful type of baptism. As the earth was baptized with water in Noah’s time, it is now reserved unto a baptism of fire to be cleansed ; even as we are baptized by water and the fire of God to cleanse us through the Holy Ghost (see 2 Nephi 31:13-14, Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:16.) Even so, Mother Earth (from which we were

taken in creation) must also receive the final baptism of fire and subsequent cleansing before the coming of the Lord.

When Lehi and his family arrived *upon* the land of promise they discovered there were beasts of every kind: cows, oxen, asses, horses, goats and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. (1 Nephi 18:25) Thus we see that the flocks, herds and beasts brought to this land by the Jaredites were fruitful and multiplied.

We read in Ether 2:3 that the Jaredites, “...*did carry with them deseret, which, by interpretation, is a honeybee; and thus they did carry with them swarms of bees...*”

How important are the honeybees?

Currently there is concern by biologists, environmentalists and farmers that the honeybee population is diminishing. An article published by the Department of Entomology written by J.T. Ambrose, Extension Apiculturist, explains the importance of honeybees throughout the world. Many plants and crops require insect pollination. A few are apples, cucumbers, squash, watermelons, peas, beans, almonds, many of the berry crops, and other fruits and vegetables that have flowers. Without pollination they cannot grow.

Food for wildlife would also be scarce without pollination. For example, up to 25% of a black bear’s diet comes from berries and seeds. In addition, many birds feed on pollinated seeds, nuts, and berries. Other insects also pollinate many of the foodstuffs for wildlife, but the honeybees play a major role.

This reduction in honeybee numbers is caused by the accidental introduction of two mite pests into the Americas and the indiscriminant use of insecticides, which should not be administered until after the flower has been pollinated and fallen from the plant. Beekeepers, researchers and state regulators are all working to reduce the impact of the mite pests.

5-6. The Jaredites boarded their vessels, “*And it came to pass that the Lord caused...a furious wind to blow upon the face of the waters towards the promised land...They were many times buried in the depths of the sea, because of the mountain waves...and terrible tempests which were caused by the fierceness of the wind.*”

The Lord had previously informed the Brother of Jared of the conditions they would face on their journey. They would be subjected to high winds and mountainous waves that would dash against them. Along with the caution came the reassurance from the Lord saying, “*Nevertheless, I will bring you up again out of the depths of the sea...I prepare you against these things...*” (Ether 2:24-25)

7. When they were buried in the deep water could hurt them, because their vessels were tight like unto a dish. (See Ether 2:16-17 for the Lord’s instructions for construction of the vessels.) Moroni likens the secure structure of the vessels to the watertight ark of Noah. (See Genesis 6:14-16 for God’s instructions to Noah concerning the ark.)

Moroni tells us, *“When they were encompassed about by many waters they did cry unto the Lord, and He did bring them forth again upon the top of the waters.”*

8-10. *“...The wind did never cease to blow towards the promised land while they were upon the waters...” “...They did sing praises unto the Lord,”* and did thank and praise the Lord all day long; when the night came, they did not cease to praise the Lord. Thus they were driven...no monster...neither whale could mar them. They did have light continually, [the stones never went dim] whether it was above...or under the water.

This trip could never be described as “smooth sailing.” In spite of turbulent conditions, the Jaredites sang praises to the Lord and gave thanks to Him, day and night.

We are encouraged through the scriptures to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord. Many of the Psalms of David prompt the reader to *“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing...”* (Psalm 100: 1-2) Also see Psalms 66; 92; 95; 96; 98. Read Exodus: 15:21; Isaiah 42:10; Ephesians 5:19-20; Acts 16:25; 26; Alma 26:8; 3 Nephi 4:31-32. These are just a few of the many scriptural references to singing praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

11-12. After three hundred forty-four days, *“...they did land upon the shore of the promised land.”*

There are no records with any certainty detailing the path they traveled. It is possible they may have exited the present day Middle East mainland and traveled west, traversed the Mediterranean Sea, passed through the Strait of Gibraltar and then made a transatlantic crossing. By following a slight southwest path, they would then have entered the Gulf of Mexico and subsequently arrived in the promised land.

Alma makes mention of this location, calling it, *“...Desolation...the land which had been peopled and been destroyed ...whose bones...was discovered by the people of Zarahemla, it being the place of their [the Jaredites] first landing.”* (Alma 22:30)

When the Jaredites, *“...set their feet upon the shores of the promised land they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, and did shed many tears of joy...because of... His tender mercies over them.”*

13. Soon after getting settled, they *“began to till the earth,”* using the seeds the Lord instructed them to bring. (see Ether 1:41)

14-16. Jared had four sons and eight daughters. (See verses 20-21) His sons' names were Jacom, Gilgah, Mahah, and Orihah. The brother of Jared had twenty two sons and daughters v.20. The friends of Jared and his brother were about twenty-two souls. They also begat sons and daughters...therefore they began to be many.

17. They were taught from on High to walk humbly before the Lord. Jacob 4:8 reads, in part, *“...No man knoweth of His ways save it be revealed unto him...”* Also Isaiah 54:13 says, *“And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children.”*

18. They began to multiply and spread upon the face of the land and to till the earth. They became strong in the land.

19. *“...The brother of Jared began to be old and saw that he must soon go down to the grave.”* He said to Jared, *“Let us gather together our people that we may number them,”* that we may know what they will desire of us before we go down to our graves. This was very important because Jared and his brother were the spiritual and natural leaders of the people.

20-21. After they numbered the people they asked them what they desired of them *“before they went down to their graves.”*

22-23. The people desired that one of the sons of either Jared or his brother should be anointed a king over them...This was grievous to both Jared and his brother. The brother of Jared said unto them, *“Surely this thing leadeth into captivity.”* Never having experienced being under the rule of a king, the brother of Jared was able to come to this conclusion because they had been taught *“from on High.”* (v. 17) The Lord was in constant communication with the brother of Jared. In later years, through experience, the consequences of a king became well known. Read Ether chapters 7 and 8, Mosiah 11:1-16, 29:16-23, Samuel 8:10-18.

24-25. *“But Jared said unto his brother: Suffer them that they may have a king.”* This being said, the people were instructed to either choose one of the sons of Jared or of his brother. They chose Pagag, the firstborn son of the brother of Jared. He refused to be their king. The people wanted his father to constrain him, but he refused to do so and commanded them that they should constrain no man to be their king.”

26-27. The people then chose all the brothers of Pagag. They all refused the kingship. Then the people chose Jared’s sons, all of which declined except Orihah who was subsequently anointed to be king over the people.

28. Orihah began to reign. The people began to prosper and they became exceedingly rich. There are many scriptural references to the Lord’s promising, *“Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper.”* (1 Nephi 2:20) Psalm 1:1-3 reads, in part, *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...But his delight is in the law of the Lord...whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”* For a few other references, see Joshua 1:7; 1 Nephi 4:14; Mosiah 1:7; 2:22; Alma 37:13.

29-30. It came to pass that both Jared and his brother died. Orihah walked humbly before the Lord and remembered all of the great things the Lord had done for his father. He taught also his people all of the great things that the Lord had done for their fathers.

CHAPTER 7

1-3. Orihah, the first king of the Jaredites *“did execute judgment upon the land in righteousness all his days, whose days were exceedingly many.”* He begat thirty-one children of which twenty-three were sons. In his old age, he begat another son named Kib. When Orihah passed away, he was succeeded by Kib. Kib had a son named Corihor.

4-6. *“When Corihor was thirty-two years old, he rebelled against his father,”* and went to live, *“in the land of Nehor. “The land of Moron, where the king dwelt, was near the land called Desolation by the Nephites.”* (v.6) This was the general area of the Promised Land where the Jaredites first set foot.

Corihor drew away many people after him and when he had gathered together an army, he returned to Moron and took his father captive. This brought to pass the saying of the brother of Jared that they would be brought into captivity [if they had a king]” (see Ether 6:22-23)

Up to this point the kings did, *“execute judgment upon the land in righteousness.”* (v.1) They remembered and taught the people the *“great things the Lord had done for their fathers.”* (Ether 6:30)

Ether 6:17 tells us that the Jaredites, *“were taught to walk humbly before the Lord; and were also taught from on high”* We read in Moroni 7:16-17, *“The Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for everything which inviteth to do good and to believe in Christ, you may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God. Conversely, whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil...and serve not God, then ye may know with perfect knowledge it is of the devil...”*

Verse 5 contains the first mention of anyone *“who gathered together an army.”* This corroborates that Corihor was taught and persuaded by the devil to put this plan into action.

7. Kib and his people remained in captivity under his son Corihor for many years. In his old age and while still in captivity, Kib begat another son named Shule.

8. It is quite possible that Kib taught Shule about the great things that the Lord had done for them from the time they left the Tower of Babel to their arrival on the Promised Land. *“It came to pass that Shule was angry with his brother.”* Shule grew to be a strong man, and also to be *“mighty in judgment.”*

9. Shule went up into the hill Ephriam, *“and did molten out of the hill, and made swords of steel for those whom he had drawn away with him. He armed them with the swords, returned to the city/land Nehor, and gave battle unto his brother Corihor, by which he obtained the kingdom and restored it unto his father Kib.”*

The mountain that Shule went up to could well be present day Sierra Madre Oriental. This mountain range is replete with coal, iron ore, limestone, silver, gold, copper, lead and zinc. An article written by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, stated, in part, *“Steel is an alloy of iron produced by heating coke, (which is made from coal) iron ore, and limestone...”* Everything Shule needed was provided by God.

10-12. *“Because of the thing which Shule had done, his father bestowed upon him the kingdom...he [Shule] did execute judgment in righteousness; and he did spread his kingdom upon all the face of the land.” He begat many sons and daughters.”*

13-15. *“Corihor repented of the many evils which he had done; wherefore Shule gave him power in his kingdom...Corihor had many sons and daughters...One son named Noah, rebelled against Shule, the king, and also his father, Corihor.” He convinced all his brothers, one of whom was named Cohor, together with many of the people, to join him in this rebellion.*

16. Noah *“gave battle unto Shule...and did obtain the land of their first inheritance; [Desolation] and became king over that part of the land.”*

17-18. Noah was not content with being king over just one part of the land. He again went to battle against King Shule, *“and carried [Shule] away captive into Moron.”* Noah planned to put him to death. During the night, *“the sons of Shule crept into the house of Noah, slew him, broke down the door of the prison and brought out their father.”* They returned Shule to his throne in his own kingdom.

19. Noah’s son Cohor succeeded him and began building up his kingdom. *“Nevertheless they did not gain any power over King Shule and the people who were under his reign did prosper exceedingly and waxed great.”*

20-21. *“The country was divided into two kingdoms; the kingdom of Shule and the kingdom of Cohor, the son of Noah. Cohor and his people went into battle against Shule. Shule was victorious and did slay Cohor.*

22. Cohor had a son named Nimrod. Cohor’s kingdom would normally revert to him, but instead, *Nimrod gave up the kingdom unto Shule, and in doing so, it was no longer a divided country. Nimrod gained favor in the eyes of the king; “wherefore Shule did bestow great favors upon him by giving him the freedom to do whatsoever he desired in the kingdom.*

23. During the reign of Shule, prophets, sent by the Lord, came among the people, *“prophesying that the wickedness and idolatry of the people were bringing a curse upon the land and that they should be destroyed if they did not repent.”* Throughout the scriptures, we read of prophets, sent by the Lord, to warn the people of dire consequences if they did not repent of their evil practices. The opportunity to repent is always offered. The Jaredites were warned from the onset of their journey by the Lord, (See Ether 2:7-8) For other instances when the Lord sent prophets to the Jaredites, refer to Ether 9:28; 11:1, 5-8, 12, 20; 12:1-4.

Isaiah was one of many biblical prophets sent by God. He was instructed by the Lord to warn the House of Israel many times. One reads, *“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword...” (Isaiah 1:19-20)* Two other references when prophets were instructed by God to warn the House of Israel of the consequences they would suffer if they

continued in their evil practices, are Jeremiah 25:4-6 and Malachi 3:7. In both cases, as in countless other instances, they were offered complete forgiveness if they repented.

24-25. *“It came to pass that the people did revile against the prophets and did mock them.”* King Shule *“did execute judgment against all those who did revile against the prophets.”* He passed a law throughout all the land which gave the prophets the power and freedom to go wherever they wished, encouraging them to bring the Lord’s message to all the people. *“And by this cause the people were brought unto repentance.”*

26-27. *“Because the people did repent of their iniquities and idolatries the Lord did spare them, and they began to prosper again in the land.”* We read in Mosiah 26:30 the words of the Lord as spoken to Alma, *“Yea, as often as my people repent will I forgive them their trespasses against me.”* Also see Ezekiel 33:15-16; Acts 3:19.

“Shule begat sons and daughters in his old age. There were no more wars in the days of Shule; and he remembered the great things that the Lord had done for his fathers in bringing them across the great deep into the promised land; he executed judgment in righteousness all his days.” Read Ether 6:1-12 to review *“the great things that the Lord had done,”* and had been taught from generation to generation beginning with the brother of Jared.

CHAPTER 8

1-2. When King Shule passed away, his son Omer reigned in his place. Omer had a son, named after his forefather, Jared. (Ether 1:30) *“Jared begat sons and daughters.”* He rebelled against his father, left home and went to live in the land of Heth. He was able to convince half the population to follow him through flattering and cunning words.

For a few other instances when flattery was used to draw people in the direction contrary to the way of the Lord, read Jacob 7:3-4; Mosiah 27:8; Alma 46:6-8; Helaman 2:4-5.

Flattery can, and should be a sincere complement. But in the cases mentioned above, it was a falsehood, hypocritical, deceitful and perverted.

We read in Proverbs 26:28 *“...a flattering mouth worketh ruin.”*

3-5. Jared, having *“gained the half of the kingdom, gave battle unto his father [Omer], and did carry [him] away into captivity, and did make him serve in captivity.”* While in captivity, *“he begat sons and daughters, among whom were Esrom and Coriantumr.* They were furious with their brother for what he had done, *“insomuch that they did raise an army and gave battle unto Jared.”*

6. *“...When they had slain the army of Jared they were about to slay him also.”* Jared plead for his life and promised, *“he would give up the kingdom unto his father [King Omer]. And it came to pass that they did grant unto him his life.”*

This was history repeating itself. A few generations earlier, Corihor rebelled against his father King Kib and placed him in captivity. Corihor’s brother, Shule was furious with him. He gathered an army, won the fight against Corihor’s army and restored the kingdom unto his father, Kib. (See Ether 7: 4-9)

We read in Ether 7:13, *“Corihor repented of the many evils which he had done...”* Now the picture with Jared changes: He is of a different mind.

7. *“Jared became exceeding sorrowful because of the loss of the kingdom.”* He was not sorrowful for the loss of life in his army nor was he thankful that his life had been spared. *“He had set his heart upon the kingdom and upon the glory of the world.”*

8-9. *“Now the daughter of Jared being exceeding expert [or knowledgeable], seeing the sorrow of her father, thought to devise a plan whereby she could redeem the kingdom unto her father.”*

She spoke to her father, saying, *“Whereby hath my father so much sorrow? Hath he not read the record which our fathers brought across the great deep? Behold is there not an account concerning them of old, that they by their secret plans did obtain kingdoms and great glory?”*

Jared’s daughter was referring to the twenty-four gold plates, which Moroni was translating for future generations. They contained the history of man from the creation to the building of the tower of Babel.

Helaman 6:26-30 reads, in part, *“the same being who did entice our first parents to partake of the forbidden fruit...did plot with Cain to murder his brother...did put into the hearts of the people to build a tower sufficiently high that they might get to*

heaven..." is the same evil being from which these secret oaths and covenants, which the daughter of Jared referred to, did come.

10. Jared's daughter devised a plan. She suggested her father send for Akish, saying, *"I will dance before him, and I will please him, that he will desire me to wife, then shall ye say: I will give her if ye will bring unto me the head of my father, the king."*

Jared's daughter *"was exceeding fair."* We can assume she knew that Akish, the son of Kimnor had some interest in her. She was willing to use her beauty to entice Akish to become part of the secret plan that would restore the kingdom unto her father.

11. Up to this point, King Omer and Akish appear to be friends. Jared does as his daughter instructs him and sends for Akish. She danced before him, and *"pleased him, insomuch that he desired her to wife. And it came to pass that he said unto Jared: Giver her unto me to wife."*

12. Jared tells him, *"I will give her unto you, if ye will bring unto me the head of my father, the king."*

13-14. Akish begins to put together his plans to fulfill Jared's request by gathering all his kinsfolk into Jared's house and saying to them, *"Will ye swear unto me that ye will be faithful unto me in the thing which I shall desire of you?"*

"They all swore unto him, by the God of heaven... by the heavens...the earth, and by their heads, that whoso should vary from the assistance which Akish desired they should lose his head." They were also sworn to secrecy. If anyone revealed what Akish told them, *"the same should lose his life."*

In Christ's sermon on the mount, He made reference to the records of old and taught his disciples to, *"Swear not, neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither shalt thou swear by thy head...But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."* (Matthew 5:33-37)

15-16. *"It came to pass that they all agreed with Akish, "He did administer unto them the oaths which were given by them of old who also sought power, which had been handed down even from Cain, who was a murderer from the beginning." These oaths, "were kept by the power of the devil...to keep them in darkness, to help such as sought power, to murder, to plunder, to lie, and to commit all manner of wickedness..."*

17. Jared's daughter convinced her father to search the old records for ways to regain his power. He did so, and then *"Jared put [the information] into the heart of Akish; wherefore Akish administered unto his kindred and friends, leading them away by fair promises to do whatsoever thing he desired."*

18-19. *"They formed a secret combination, even as they of old; which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God. The Lord worketh not in secret combinations."* Nor does He condone the shedding of blood. This act was *"forbidden from the beginning of man."*
(Read Genesis 4:8-11)

20-21. Moroni does not record the details of *“their oaths and combinations,”* for it *was been made known unto [him] that they [were] “had among the Lamanites.”* (Read Helaman 6:25-26)

Moroni also states that the people he is writing about [the Jaredites] and the people of Nephi were destroyed because of these practices.

22. Moroni warns all nations of the consequences of, *“upholding such secret combinations, to get power and gain...for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance...”* (For reference to the time when the Lord will avenge *“the blood of his saints...”* read Mormon 8:27-41)

23-24. Moroni extends a direct warning to the Gentiles. *“It is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent...and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you...”* He further states, *“The Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination...the blood of them who have been slain cry from the dust for vengeance...upon those who build it up.”*

25. Moroni tells us that those seeking to gain power will resort to these evil practices and are *“seeking to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; that same liar who beguiled our first parents, even that same liar who caused man to commit murder...and hardened the hearts of men that they murdered the prophets...”*

For a few references to where the devil had influence upon mankind, see Genesis 3:1-6; II Chronicles 36:11-13; 1 Nephi 13:25-27; 3 Nephi 1:22; Mormon 4:10-12.

History bears out the reality of Moroni’s words. Those *“seeking to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries...”* in order to gain power have plagued the world and continue to do so, even to the present time.

26. Moroni was commanded of God to write the warnings recorded here. It is the Divine desire that through knowledge of the truth, *“the time may come that Satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men, but that they may be persuaded to do good continually, that they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness and be saved.”*

CHAPTER 9

1. After Moroni concluded his warnings to the Gentiles, receiving these records in the future, concerning the dire circumstances of allowing “murderous combinations” to exist, he proceeded in his translating of the records of Ether.

“It came to pass that because of the secret combinations of Akish and his friends, behold they did overthrow the kingdom of Omer.” (Read Ether 8:13-16 to review the pact Akish had made with his friends.)

2-3. *“The Lord was merciful unto Omer [and his family] and warned him in a dream that [they] should depart out of the land. They traveled many days...and passed by the hill of Shim [continuing] eastward...to Ablom, by the seashore, and there [they pitched their tents].”* The hill of Shim appears to be on the route to hill Ramah, known as Cumorah to the Nephites. (Mormon 6:2) It [hill Cumorah] was where Mormon hid the plates of Nephi, “save it were [a] few plates which [he] gave to [his] son Moroni. It was also the area in which the Nephites suffered their final destruction between 385-400 AD. (Mormon 6:6) (Read Mormon 6:1-15; 8:2-9 for details on the destruction of the Nephites.)

4. Omer, the king, was gone from the territory, *“And it came to pass that Jared was anointed king over the people, by the hand of wickedness...”* As promised, Jared *“gave unto Akish his daughter to wife.”*

5-6. Akish had developed the desire to be king and this could only be achieved by taking the life of Jared, his father-in-law. By means of those who had sworn oaths unto Akish, *“they obtained the head of his father-in-law, as he sat upon his throne, giving audience to his people.”* (Review Esther 8:13-16 for these oaths.)

“This wicked and secret society had corrupted the hearts of all the people; therefore Jared was murdered upon his throne, and Akish reigned in his stead.”

7-9. *“Akish began to be jealous of his son...he shut him up in prison, and kept him with little or no food until he had suffered death.”* His brother, *“Nimrah, was angry with his father because of that which he had done unto his brother. He gathered together a small number of men, and fled out of the land and came over and dwelt with [King] Omer.”*

10-11. *“Akish begat other sons, and they won the hearts of the people.”* Despite the fact that the people had sworn unto Akish, *“to do all manner of iniquity according to that which he desired”* their desire was for gain. The sons of Akish successfully drew the more part of the people away from their father by offering them money.

12. Because of jealousy, the desire for power, and the rise of secret combinations, *“there began to be a war between the sons of Akish and Akish, which lasted for many years, unto the destruction of nearly all the people of the kingdom, save it were thirty souls, and those who had fled to Omer.”*

13-15. *“[King] Omer was restored again to the land of his inheritance...In his old age he begat Emer; and he anointed him to be king to reign in his stead...and did fill the steps of his father.”* Omer lived to see peace in the land for two years before he died.

16-19. Under the reign of Emer, *“the Lord began again to take the curse from off the land and the house of Emer...In the space of sixty-two years they had become exceeding strong...and rich.”* They had all manner of fruit, grain, silks, fine linen, gold, silver, cattle, oxen, sheep, swine, and goats, animals that were useful for food, horses, elephants, cureloms, and cumoms. (1 Nephi 18:25 tells us that when Lehi and his family came to this land, they found the things mentioned above.)

Note: According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, cureloms and cumoms could have been working animals or beasts of burden, which “are as yet, undiscovered, and probably an extinct species.”

20. *“Thus the Lord did pour out his blessings upon the land, which was choice above all other lands; and he commanded that whoso should possess the land should possess it unto the Lord, or they should be destroyed...”* (The Lord gave this same promise and commandment to the brother of Jared and his people before they crossed that great sea which divideth the lands. See Ether 2:7-15)

21-22. *“Emer did execute judgment in righteousness all his days.”* He had many sons and daughters, one of which was Coriantum. Emer anointed him in his stead. Emer lived another four years, *“he saw peace in the land, and even saw the Son of Righteousness, and did rejoice and glory in his day, and died in peace.”*

The first recorded mortal to see *“the Son of Righteousness”* was the brother of Jared. (See Ether 3: 9-16)

23-25. *“Coriantum did walk in the steps of his father, and did build many mighty cities, and did administer that which was good unto his people.”* He had no children. His wife died when she was one hundred and two year old. Coriantum married *“a young maid, and begat sons and daughters; he lived until he was one hundred and forty-two years old.”* His son Com reigned in his stead for forty-nine years. *“He begat Heth; and also other sons and daughters.”*

26-27. *“The people had spread over all the face of the land, and there began again to be an exceeding great wickedness...Heth began to embrace the secret plans of old, to destroy his father.”* After dethroning and slaying his father, he made himself king.

28-29. *“There came prophets in the land again, crying repentance unto them...”* As in the past, and throughout the scriptures, when, *“that same being who did entice our first parents to partake of the forbidden fruit,”* (Helaman 6:26) captures the hearts of the children of men, the Lord sends His messengers to remind people of the consequences they will face if His commandments are not kept. (Review Ether 2:8; 9:20 for the Lord’s commandment concerning this land of promise.)

They were warned of, *“a great famine, in which they should be destroyed if they did not repent.”* *But the people believed not the words of the prophets and cast them out; some they cast into pits and left them to perish...They did these things according to the commandment of King Heth.”*

(The prophet Jeremiah had been cast into a pit. His experience is detailed in Jeremiah 38:6-13)

30. *“And it came to pass that there began to be a great dearth [scarcity of food] upon the land.”* The Lord held back the rain, causing nothing to grow. In a short space of time, many people died from the lack of food and water.

31-32. *“And there came forth poisonous snakes...and did poison many people... Their flocks began to flee before the poisonous serpents, towards the land southward, which was called Zarahemla by the Nephites. ...Many of the flock did perish by the way...”* Some made it safely into the land southward.

(For a review of the Nephites discovery of Zarahemla, read Omni 1:12-19)

33. The Lord spared the flocks, He,” *did cause the serpents that they should pursue them no more, but that they [the serpents] should hedge up the way that the people could not pass, that whoso should attempt to pass would fall by the poisonous serpents.”*

34. *“The people did follow the course of the beasts, and did devour the carcasses of them [the flocks] which fell by the way, until they had devoured them all. When they saw that they must perish they began to repent of their iniquities and cry unto the Lord.”*

35. *“When they had humbled themselves sufficiently before the Lord he did send rain upon the face of the earth...there began to be fruit in the north countries, and in all the countries round about. The Lord did show forth his power unto them in preserving them from famine.”*

Another instance when man did evil in the sight of the Lord, that rain was withheld causing a great famine. The cause, and complete outcome are recorded in First Kings 16:30 through 18:45. James 5: 17-18 makes reference to this scripture.

Chapter 10

1. King Heth, who ruled in wickedness, encouraged the people to embrace evil and kill the prophets that had come to warn them of impending destruction, *“perished by the famine, and all his household, save it were Shez [Heth’s son].”*

(Review Ether 9:25-30 for the details that led to this fate.) *“Shez began to build up again a broken people.”*

2. *“Shez did remember the destruction of his fathers, and did build up a righteous kingdom. He remembered what the Lord had done in bringing Jared and his brother across the deep...”* (Read Ether 6:1-12 for a review of this miraculous trip.)

3. Shez begat sons and daughters; the oldest son being named Shez. Shez [Jr.] rebelled against his father. Often when someone is well known and seeks power, many people will side with him and be stirred up to make war against the existing power. *“Nevertheless Shez [Jr.] was smitten by the hand of a robber, because of his exceeding riches, which brought peace again unto his father.”*

4. Shez built up many cities upon the face of the land and the people began again to spread over the territory. *“Shez lived to an old age and his son Riplakish became king.”*

5-7. *“Riplakish did not do that which was right in the sight of the Lord, for he had many wives and concubines...”* We do not have the ancient records by which the Jaredites were instructed to lead their lives, but the words of the Lord in Jacob 2:27-29 are very clear concerning this practice. They read, in part, *“...hearken to the word of the Lord: for there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; for I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me;... this people shall keep my commandments..”*

Riplakish imposed heavy taxes upon the people to support his lifestyle, *“and with the taxes he did build many spacious buildings.”* He also erected, *“an exceedingly beautiful throne...”* and had many prisons built for those that would not or could not afford to pay their taxes. *“He did cause that they should labor continually...and whoso refused to labor, he did cause to be put to death.”*

All the fine workmanship, including the refining of gold, Riplakish, *“did cause to be wrought in prison. And it came to pass that he did afflict the people with his whoredoms and abominations.”*

For reference to where similar conditions of oppression had been imposed upon a people, read Mosiah 11:1-10.

8. Riplakish reigned for forty-two years. The people rebelled, killed him, and drove his descendants out of the land.

We read in Proverbs 22:16 *“He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches...shall surely come to want.”*

9-10. For many years the people lived their lives without a king. Then, Morianton, a descendant of Riplakish, gathered an army and went to battle against the people. The war, *“lasted for the space of many years, and he did gain power over all the land, and*

did establish himself king...he eased the burden of the people by which he did gain favor in the eyes of the people and they did anoint him to be their king."

11. Morianton did, *"justice unto the people, but not unto himself because of his many whoredoms; wherefore he was cut off from the presence of the Lord."*

As mentioned in verse 5, it is unknown if the Jaredites were permitted to have concubines or plural wives. We do know, *"The Spirit is the same, yesterday, today and forever. And the way is prepared from the fall of man, and salvation is free. And men are instructed sufficiently that they know good from evil. And the law is given unto men..."* (2 Nephi 2:4-5) Also read 1 Nephi 10:18; 2 Nephi 27:23; Moroni 10:7; 19.

Moroni's judgment that *"he [Morianton] was cut off from the presence of the Lord"* is substantiated by what we read in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. They warn of the consequences for practicing whoredoms, also referred to as fornication or adultery. 2 Nephi 9:36 reads, *"Wo unto them who commit whoredoms, for they shall be thrust down to hell."* Also see 2 Nephi 28:15.

Hebrews 13:4 reads: *"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."* For other biblical references to this commandment, see: 1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 21:8.

Note: Evidence that obedience to this commandment is authenticated by the fact that compliance to this law prevented the extinction of the Lamanite Nation, known today as, "Native Americans." Read Jacob 3:5-7 for details.

12-13. *"Morianton built up many cities, and the people became exceedingly rich, both in buildings and gold; silver, and in raising grain, and flocks..."*

Morianton lived, *"to an exceeding great age."* He had a son named Kim who reigned in place of his father. *"Kim did not reign in righteousness, wherefore he was not favored of the Lord."*

14. Kim's brother, whose name is unknown, rose up against him and put him in captivity, where he remained for the rest of his life. *"He [Kim] begat sons and daughters in captivity, and in his old age he begat Levi..."*

For references to other times when kings were compelled to serve in captivity, read: Ether 7:7; 8:3-4; 10:30-31.

15-16. After the death of his father [Kim], Levi served in captivity for forty-two years. After which he made war against the king (no name) and obtained the kingdom. *"After he obtained unto himself the kingdom he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord; and the people did prosper in the land."* He lived to a good old age and begat daughters and sons, one was named Corom, *"whom he anointed king in his stead."*

17-18. *"Corom did that which was good in the sight of the Lord all his days."* He had many sons and daughters; *"after he had seen many days he did pass away...and Kish reigned in his stead."* When Kish died, *"Lib reigned in his stead."*

19. *"Lib also did that which was good in the sight of the Lord."* During his reign, *"the poisonous serpents were destroyed."* See Ether 9:31 for the onset of these serpents during King Heth's reign. For eight generations, more than 300 years, the serpents prevented the people from venturing into the land southward to hunt for food. With the

serpents gone, the people found *“the land was covered with animals of the forest. And King Lib also became a great hunter.”*

20. *“They built a great city by the narrow neck of land, by the place where the sea divides the land.”* Several historians dispute the exact location of *“the place where the sea divides the land.”* The ‘narrow neck of land’ is believed to be located in Central America.

21-22. *“They did preserve the land southward for a wilderness to get game. The whole face of the land northward was covered with inhabitants. who were exceedingly industrious. They did buy, sell and traffic one with another that they might get gain.”*

23-27. In these verses, Moroni emphasizes the degree to which the people went to utilize the talents and resources with which they were blessed. *“They did work in all manner of ore...did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals...and did work all manner of fine work.*

“They did have silks, and fine-twined linen; and did work all manner of cloth that they might clothe themselves....”

“They did make all manner of tools to till the earth; both to plow, sow, reap, hoe, and to thrash. They also made tools to work their beasts.”

“They did make all manner of weapons of war and did work all manner of work of exceeding curious workmanship.” They truly were blessed with great skills and artful talents.

28. Moroni tells us, *“Never could be a people more blessed than were they, and more prospered by the hand of the Lord. And they were in a land that was choice above all lands, for the Lord had spoken it.”* Read the words of the Lord in Ether 1:38; 42; 2:7-15

When the people *“did that which was right in the sight of the Lord; they did prosper in the land...”* (V.16) Also see Helaman 6:9; Ether 9:16-20.

29-31. King Lib lived for many years and begat sons and daughters. Hearthom. one of his sons, succeeded his father and reigned for twenty-four years until the kingdom was taken from him. He served in captivity for the remainder of his life. Five successive generations of Hearthom’s family served their days in captivity.

32. Com, a sixth generation son of Hearthom, drew away half of the kingdom. *He reigned over that half of the kingdom for forty-two years; after which he went to battle against King, Amgid. They fought for many years and Com ultimately obtained power over the remainder of the kingdom.*

33. *In the days of Com there began to be robbers in the land who adopted and administered oaths after the manner of the ancients and sought to destroy the kingdom.* (See Helaman 6:26-30 for the word of God concerning oaths of secret combinations. Review Ether 9:1-6 for the practice of ancient oaths in action.)

34. Com fought much against the robbers to no avail.

CHAPTER 11

1. Com, the reigning king, was unable to defeat the influence the evildoers had over the people. Just as the Lord had done in the past, He sent prophets to prophesy of *“the destruction of that great people except they should repent, and turn unto the Lord...”* (See Ether 7:23; 9:28 for other instances when prophets were sent to warn the Jaredites.)

The words Moroni used in this section of his recording, *“the destruction of that great people,”* expressed his incredibility that they would jeopardize and relinquish the prosperity, strength and might they were blessed with and possessed, inasmuch as they did what was right in the sight of the Lord. Read Ether 10:20-28. Moroni tells us, *“Never could there be a people more blessed than they, and more prospered by the hand of the Lord...”*

2. The people rejected the words of the prophets and that they sought to destroy them. It became necessary for the prophets to flee *“unto Com for protection.”* (Read Ether 9:29-34 for the consequences people suffer when they destroy the prophets.)

3-4. The prophets revealed many things unto Com, *“and he was blessed in all the remainder of his days.”* Com’s son Shiblom succeeded him. Shiblom’s brother *rebelled against him, and there began to be an exceedingly great war in all the land.*

5. Shiblom’s brother decreed that all the prophets who prophesied of the destruction of the people should be put to death.

We read in Matthew 5:10, the reassuring words of Jesus to his Disciples, *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven.”* (Also see 3 Nephi 12:10-12)

6. The people were greatly disturbed by the words of the prophets. They were warned that if they did not repent of their wickedness *“a great curse [would] come upon the land, and also upon the people, and there [would] be a great destruction among them, such as never had been...and their bones [would] become as heaps of earth upon the face of the land.”* In later years, this warning became a reality. (See Ether 14:21)

7. *“They [the people] hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord, because of their wicked combinations; wherefore, there began to be wars and contentions in all the land, and also famines and pestilences, insomuch that there was a great destruction, such as never had been known upon the face of the earth.”* All this happened during Shiblom’s reign. (Review Moroni’s words concerning wicked combinations in Ether 8:18-22)

8. *“The people began to repent of their iniquity...and the Lord did have mercy on them.”* Isaiah 55:7 reads, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him...for He will abundantly pardon.”*

9-10. *“Shiblom was slain. His son Seth was brought into captivity and did dwell in captivity all his days.”* Seth’s son, Ahah obtained the kingdom. *“He did do all manner of*

iniquity in his days, by which he did cause the shedding of much blood; and few were his days.”

11-12. Ethem, a descendant of Ahah obtained the kingdom. *“He also did do that which was wicked in his days...There came many prophets, and prophesied again unto the people, that the Lord would utterly destroy them from off the face of the earth except they repented of their iniquities.”*

13. *“The people hardened their hearts, and would not hearken unto their words; the prophets mourned and withdrew from among the people.”*

We read in 2 Nephi 32:7 that Nephi often mourned for his people because he knew the consequences they would suffer because they refused to heed his words. (Also see Helaman 7:6-11).

14. *“Ethem did execute judgment in wickedness all his days...”* His son Moron became the reigning king and also *“did that which was wicked before the Lord.”*

15-16. *“The secret combination which was built up to get power and gain,”* caused the people to rebel and contend with one another. *“A mighty man among them in iniquity, gave battle unto Moron.”* He succeeded in gaining half the kingdom and maintained it for many years. After which time, Moron overthrew him and *“did obtain the kingdom again.”*

The words of Jesus to the Nephites, read, *“Verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.”* (3 Nephi 11:29)

17-19. Another mighty man who was a descendant of the brother of Jared successfully overthrew Moron and did obtain the kingdom. *“Moron dwelt in captivity all his remaining days.”* He had a son, Coriantor, who also dwelt in captivity all his days.

20-21. Many prophets came in the days of Coriantor, *“and prophesied of great and marvelous things, and cried repentance unto the people, and except they should repent the Lord God would execute judgment against them to their utter destruction. And also that the Lord would bring another people to possess the land by His power, after the manner by which He brought their fathers.”*

Sorrowfully, these prophesies became a reality. (Read Omni verses 20-22; Ether 13:20-21)

22-23. The people rejected the words of the prophets. They were completely engrossed and caught up in the secret society causing them to commit wicked abominations. Coriantor had a son named Ether. Coriantor died, *having dwelt in captivity all his days.*