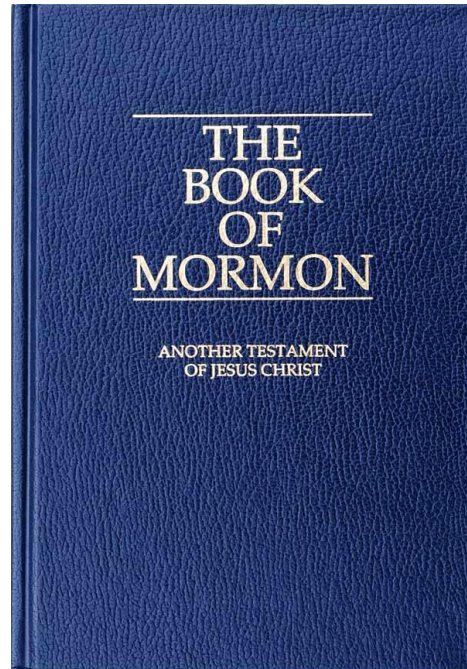


# Insights into the Book of Mormon from Scholarly Research – The Mulekites



Daris Howard

[daris@darishoward.com](mailto:daris@darishoward.com)

Careful to put study into perspective

Writing in 1890, President George Q. Cannon explained that “the First Presidency have often been asked to prepare some suggestive map illustrative of Nephite geography, but have never consented to do so. Nor are we acquainted with any of the Twelve Apostles who would undertake such a task. The reason is, that without further information they are not prepared even to suggest. The word of the Lord or the translation of other ancient records is required to clear up many points now so obscure.” (George Q. Cannon, editorial, Juvenile Instructor, 1 January 1890)

# Careful to put study into perspective

Church leaders, acknowledging the lack of authoritative answers regarding Book of Mormon geography, have encouraged earnest, diligent, and careful study of the matter while counseling the Saints not to allow such interests to cloud their focus on gospel principles.

(Matthew Roper - LDS scholar (2010). Joseph Smith and the Question of Book of Mormon Geography. *Mormon Studies Review*, 22(2).)

# Questions and considerations

1. What did the politics of Jerusalem have to do with the Mulekites? (Note that “Mulekites” is not actually a word used in the Book of Mormon, but it makes speaking of them easier here.)
2. How could the Mulekites have traveled to America?
3. Were there Jaredites among the Mulekites besides Coriantumr?
4. What did societal classes have to do with the Mulekites and what insight can it give us into the Book of Mormon?
5. What would the Mulekites possibly have looked like? The only thing we know on this is that Mulek was a son of Zedekiah and would have been a Jew. (We don't know about others with them, but there could have been some.)
6. Some thoughts on why the Lord chose to have Mormon abridge records.



# Lehi – Culture, Social Class, and Politics

What was going on in Jerusalem socially, culturally, and politically at the time of Lehi?

There were two political powers, Egypt and Babylonia. Egypt, though it had a strong army, was more of a financial power, while Babylonia was the main military power. In addition, there was the nation which was considered the power of the sea, carrying all types of trade goods, and this was Phoenicia. It was mostly allied with Egypt.

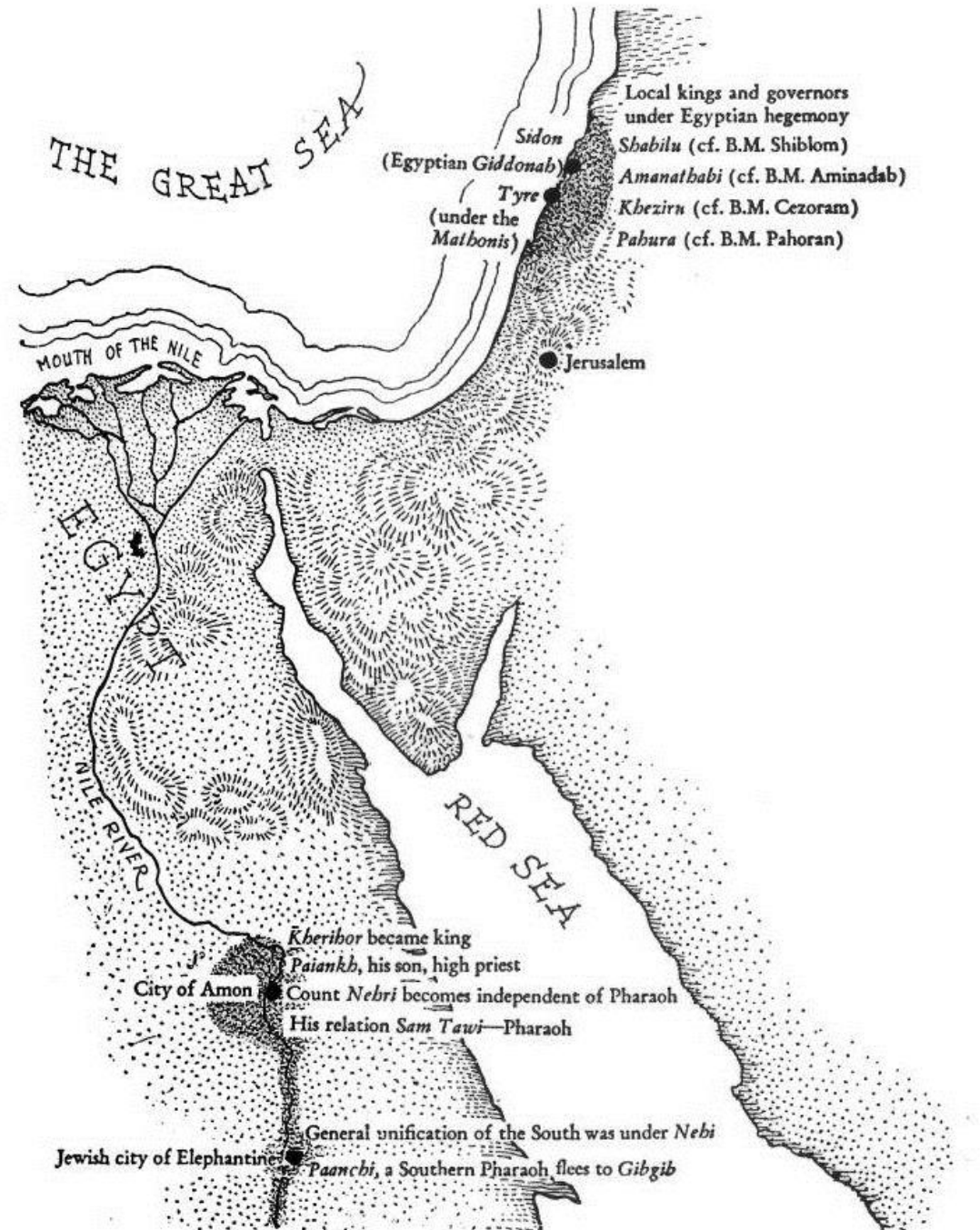


# Politics and Egyptian Writing

- Egypt (the commercial power) and Babylonia (the military power) were heading for a showdown, and the elite of Jerusalem were wanting to cast in their lot with Egypt. And Jeremiah (46:11-26) was warning against the over-fondness for the Egyptian prosperity. (Nibley, Lehi in the Desert p 8-9)
- The reason Lehi would have spoken and written in Egyptian is that it was the language of money and of merchants. Many in Israel went to train in Egypt. Lehi surely was one of these.
- The ties between Egypt and Israel were strong.
- “It was the Egyptian cultural heritage rather than her government that was all-powerful.” (Nibley, Lehi in the Desert p 11)
- “behold, are not the Ethiopian, the Syrian, and all foreigners alike instructed in the language of Egypt?” (Nibley, Lehi in the Desert (11) quoting Meyer)
- “Lehi was a very rich Jew; he was proud of his Egyptian education, spoke and wrote Egyptian, and insisted on his sons learning the language.” (Nibley, Lehi in the Desert p 11-12)

# Politics and Egyptian Writing

- The Egyptians were the power of commerce on Phoenician galleys - most trade passing through Sidon. (Nibley, *Lehi in the Desert* p 8)
- Jewish soldiers and merchants were at home in upper Egypt (Nibley, *Lehi in the Desert* p 10)





# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

Nebuchadnezzar was the eldest son and successor of Nabopolassar, an Assyrian official who rebelled and established himself as king of Babylon in 620 B.C.

Nebuchadnezzar is first mentioned in 609-607 BC in Chemish, when his army destroyed his arch enemy Assyria, and he was the crown prince. In a first battle in about 609, the Assyrians asked Egypt for help, and though they had previously been enemies, Egypt, fearing the rise of Babylon, came to their aid.

Pharaoh Necho II asked for passage across Judah, but King Josiah said no, and decided to block them. Judah's army was decisively defeated, Josiah was killed, and Egypt joined Assyria. But they were defeated by Babylon and had to retreat.

In 605 BC, the Babylonian army, now lead by Nebuchadnezzar, along with his ally Cyaxares, ruler of the Medes and Persians, led an army against the Assyrians and Egyptians, who were then occupying Syria, and in the ensuing Battle of Chemish, the Egyptian Pharaoh Necho II was defeated. Since Egypt was the ruling power, Syria and Phoenicia were brought under the control of Babylon



# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

Nebuchadnezzar subsequently invaded Judah. To avoid the destruction of Jerusalem, King Johoiakim of Judah, in the third year of his reign, changed allegiances from Egypt to Babylon. He paid tribute from the treasury in Jerusalem, some temple artifacts and gave some of the royal family and nobility as hostages. This is when Daniel and his friends went to Babylon.

It will be noted that captives from these areas were taken to be trained in Babylonian culture in order to make them princes over their people with ties back to Babylon.

# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

Starting in about 604 BC, for three years, Judah paid taxes to Babylonia. Then Babylonia had some military setbacks with Egypt as Nebuchadnezzar became king and was dealing with rebellions on the east and northern borders. Because of these setbacks, some of the vassal states rebelled. King Jehoiakim decided to stop giving taxes to Babylonia and went to war with them. Unfortunately for Judah, Moab, Ammon and Chaldea went to war against Judah alongside Babylonia.

This was the first rebellion, and Babylon laid siege to Jerusalem. During the siege King Jehoiakim died, and when Nebuchadnezzar took the city, Jehoiakim's young son, the new king, was taken to Babylon along with his court and other prominent citizens and craftsmen, and much of the population of Judah, numbering about 10,000. Also a possible 7,000 soldiers were taken. His Uncle Zedekiah was installed in his place, subject to Babylon, being about 21 years old.

# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

This is now the time of Jeremiah and Lehi as recorded in the Book of Mormon.

And it is interesting to note that even though the city had been captured twice (once by surrender and once by siege), Laman and Lemuel believed it could not be taken.

**1 Nephi 2:13** Neither did they believe that Jerusalem, that great city, could be destroyed according to the words of the prophets. And they were like unto the Jews who were at Jerusalem, who sought to take away the life of my father.

# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

The people of Israel, and especially Jerusalem, were split. The wealthy wanted to align with Egypt. But the common people, because Nebuchadnezzar had already come in and taken prisoners twice, did not want to provoke Babylonia and were more inclined to follow the advice of Jeremiah.

Even though the king seemed to think they should still pay tribute to Babylon, the country was heavily controlled by a council of elders, or city princes. Laban, for example, would likely have been one of these.

The king feared them and was often forced to go along with their wishes. He was only in his twenties.

# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

Under pressure from the princes, Zedekiah formed an alliance with Egypt, feeling they could stand against Babylon. In about 589 BC, Babylon again laid siege to Jerusalem, and Egypt did not come to their aid. During this siege, the duration of which was somewhere between 1.5 to 2.5 years, the suffering was horrible. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar broke through Jerusalem's walls, conquering the city. Zedekiah and his followers attempted to escape but were captured on the plains of Jericho and taken to Riblah. There, after seeing his sons killed, Zedekiah was blinded, bound, and taken captive to Babylon, where he remained a prisoner until his death.

We know from the Book of Mormon that one son of Zedekiah, Mulek, lived.



# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

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

**Helaman 8: 21** And now will you dispute that Jerusalem was destroyed? Will ye say that the sons of Zedekiah were not slain, all except it were Mulek? Yea, and do ye not behold that the seed of Zedekiah are with us, and they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem? . . .

# The Jewish Rebellion and Preceding History

After the fall of Jerusalem, the Babylonian general, Nebuzaraddan, was sent to complete its destruction. Jerusalem was plundered, and Solomon's Temple was destroyed. Most of the elite were taken into Babylon. The city was razed to the ground. Only a few people were permitted to remain to tend to the land.

Gedaliah was made governor of the remnant of Judah, the Yehud Province, with a Chaldean guard stationed at Mispah.<sup>1</sup> On hearing this news, the Jews who were in Moab, Ammon, Edom and in other countries returned to Judah. Gedaliah was assassinated two months later, and the population that had remained, and those who had returned, then fled to Egypt for safety.

# What about Jeremiah?

The wealthy, especially those trying to align with Egypt, didn't like Jeremiah. He would prophecy, and they didn't like his prophecies and would imprison him. But then the prophecy would come true, so they would ask him more questions. He prophesied that Babylon would take Jerusalem, and it appears that King Nebuchadnezzar knew of this and showed Jeremiah kindness and released him after he took the city.

But when the Jews came and assassinated Nebuchadnezzar's governor, against Jeremiah's advice they fled to Egypt, taking Jeremiah with them against his will.

Later, it is believed that these people killed Jeremiah. It is also believed that when Babylon attacked Egypt, these people were killed like Jeremiah warned them they would be.

# Mulekite Travel

To consider the Mulekite travel consider the following:

1. The son of Zedekiah was one of the Mulekites. This would likely mean these were people of means and influence who were fleeing. They would have money to purchase boat passage and would therefore use what was there rather than, as Nephi, building a boat.
2. They would likely have tried to escape the area of the Babylonian conquest.



# Mulekite Travel

3. The Judah/Egyptian allies, the Phoenicians, likely had a hand in the escape, meaning a Phoenician ship as they were the masters of the sea.



Known Phoenician colonies



# Mulekite Travel

When did the Phoenicians first reach the Atlantic? Scholars debate the possibilities. Classical texts suggest they had established a colony beyond the Strait of Gibraltar at Cadiz by 1100 B.C., but no archaeological remains can be dated earlier than the eighth century B.C. Spanish archaeologist Francisco Giles, a veteran explorer of ancient ruins near the coast of Andalusia, thinks a painting in a rock-shelter in the mountains overlooking the strait may answer the question. The painting, discovered in a remote part of a cork tree forest, stylistically dates to the end of the second millennium B.C. and portrays a sailing ship surrounded by a group of stick figures. (National Geographic

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/features/world/asia/lebanon/phoenicians-text/3>)

# Mulekite Travel

Ancient Phoenician coins were found in the 1700's on islands across the Atlantic.

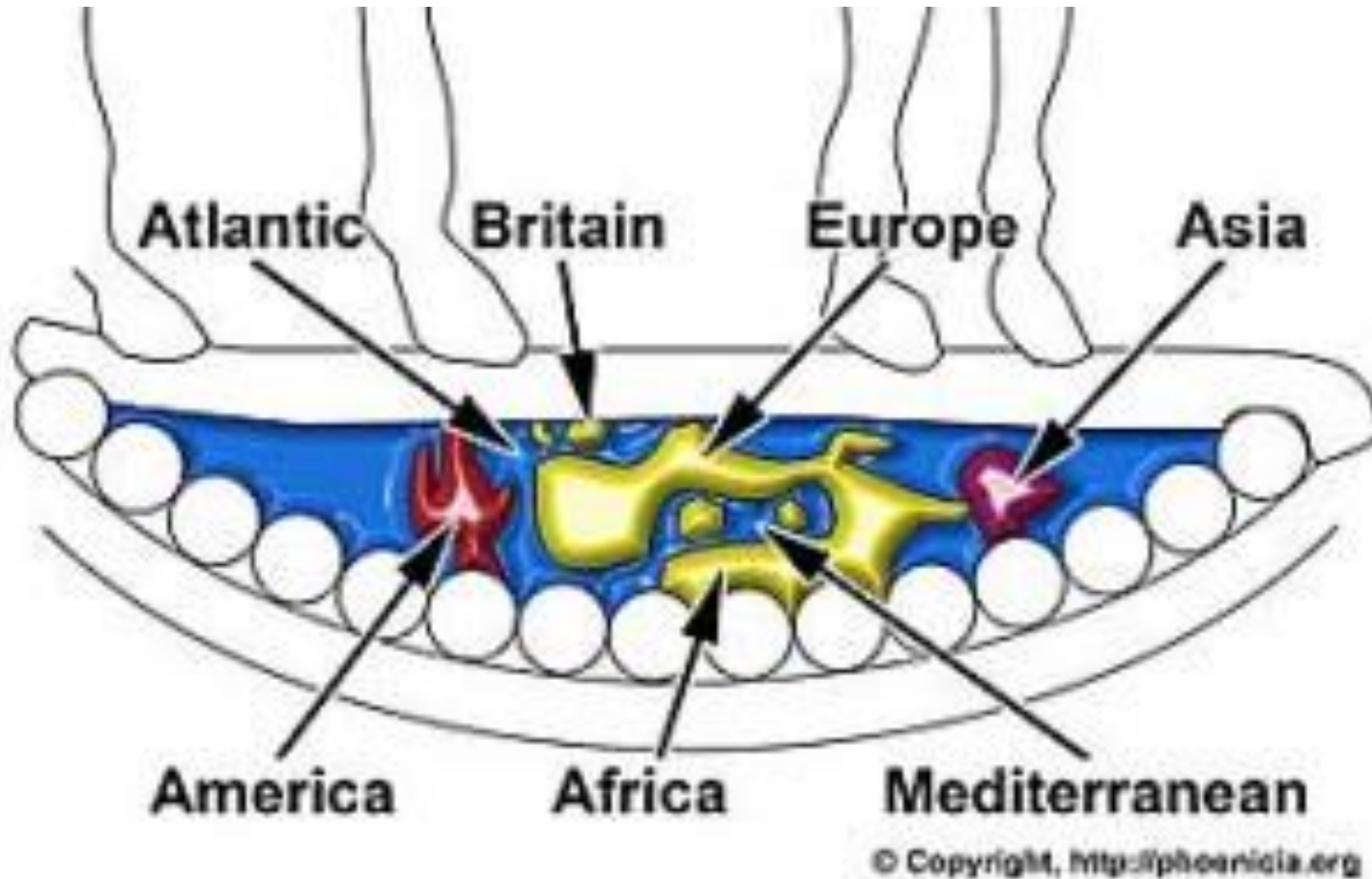
So it is likely the Phoenicians understood much of the Atlantic, and it is likely that a Phoenician ship or ships would have been commissioned to carry those escaping the destruction of Jerusalem.

Some claim writings on stones in Americas was Phoenician.

Some claim that some writings of Phoenicians in the old world include reference to a distant land that sounds like America.

# Mulekite Travel

One ancient Phoenician coin has a map that some claim includes America.



© Copyright 2007, Mark McMenemy

Carthaginian Map Coin from approximately 341 BC. What some scholars believe is a map of the ancient world appears in the exergue area beneath the horse. Jenkins-Lewis 9, same dies. Photo by Mark McMenemy.

Science felt it was impossible.

It was assumed they only had reed boats or rafts.

# Mulekite Travel

In 1960 a paper was proposed by a scientist showing 60 incredible similarities between Egypt and South America. Usually science might show that two or three could happen by random chance, but 60 was astounding. The author, feeling there was no contact between East and West, was trying to show that many things could be coincidence. But many scientists did not believe the amount and extent of the items could be coincidental.

Scientists, including Thor Heyerdahl, felt that at the time of Lehi only two types of ships were being built, rafts and reed boats. In Egyptian drawings, only reed boats were seen for open water. He decided to build one and see if he could cross the Atlantic. Much of the art of building reed boats for ocean travel had been lost, but he created a team and built Ra.



How long might it have  
taken an ancient ship to  
cross the Atlantic?

# Mulekite Travel

Thor Heyerdahl felt there was a lot of African (Egyptian specifically) influence in the American archeology. He thought that the ancient people only had the technology to build reed boats and therefore set to show these could safely sail the Atlantic. These boats were deemed insufficient to cross the Atlantic as the reeds were believed to become water-logged after less than two weeks on open water. Heyerdahl believed that contemporary science underestimated the ancient vessels and undertook to prove this by experiment. In 1969, he bought 12 tons of papyrus and worked with experts to construct an ancient-style vessel. The result was a 15 m boat which was launched at the old Phoenician port of Safi, Morocco. In the spirit of cooperation, Heyerdahl embarked under the UN flag with a crew of seven men from seven countries. The papyrus craft, Ra, sailed 5000 km (2700 nautical miles) in 56 days until storms and deficiencies in the construction caused the team to abandon their target only one week short of Barbados.



First attempt in boat named Ra failed. It sank about 600 miles short of the nearly 4000 miles.

# Mulekite Travel

Ten months later, Heyerdahl tried the same voyage with the smaller (12 meter) Ra II. This vessel crossed the widest part of the Atlantic 6100 km (3270 nautical miles) in 57 days, from Safi to Barbados. Once again, this voyage showed that modern science under-estimated long-forgotten aboriginal technologies. The theory that Mediterranean vessels built prior to Columbus could not have crossed the Atlantic was thrown on its head.

**Note:** Heyerdahl hired Peruvian's to build the second, better boat.







# Phoenician and wooden ships

Note: It has since been assumed from more discoveries (since the 1980's) that the Phoenicians had wood ships even possibly to around 1100 B.C. But, the only formal evidence, including drawings considered to be about 800 BC, show certainty of Phoenician wooden ships. This would mean that by the time of the Mulekites 200 years later, they probably did not have to rely on reed boats or rafts.



# Mulekite Possible Travel – Following Currents

- [Helaman 6:10](#)  
Now the land south was called Lehi, and the land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north, and Lehi into the land south.





# Were The Jaredites All Destroyed?

Before we can answer more about the Mulekites, we need to answer the question, were the Jaredites all destroyed? (*Short review of Jaredite presentation*)

We talked about how the land of desolation was north of the land of Zarahemla which was north of the land of Nephi which was north of the first landing area for Lehi's family. This would put the people of Zarahemla, what we often call the Mulekites, between the Nephites and the Jaredites.



# Jaredite Names With The Nephites

- From Hugh Nibley “Lehi In The Desert, The World Of The Jaredites, There Were Jaredites” P. 243 he says, “When out of a short list of Jaredite names preserved to us, a respectable percentage turn up as Nephite names as well, it is high time to ask, is this one case where the author of the Book of Mormon slipped up, or is there something significant about those Nephites who bear Jaredite names? The answer is a surprise:

**Virtually all of these men have Mulekite backgrounds and lead subversive movements against the Nephite state and religion!”**



# Jaredite Connection

It is clear that there is a overlap between the Jaredites and the Nephites, but in every case, there are Mulekite connections.

“Five out of the six whose (Nephites) names are definitely Jaredite betray strong anti-Nephite leanings, and the sixth one, Shiblom, was only saved from the ranks of such rebels because an angel converted his anti-Nephite father.” *(Nibley p 247)*

In addition, with names like Morianton and Corianton being Jaredite, it is likely names such as Gadianton are as well.



# Notes to think about

1. The Mulekites arrived in America approximately 2-3 years after the Nephites (or less depending on how long it took Nephi to build a ship). (Note the destruction of Jerusalem was 11 years after Lehi left and Lehi was in the wilderness for 8 years.)
2. The only recorded overlap between the Nephites and the Jaredites was with Coriantumr and the Mulekites.
3. The Mulekites “discovered” Coriantumr, not the other way around (Omni 1:21)
4. Centuries after the destruction of the Jaredites, we find a Nephite named Coriantumr, and he was a descendant of Zarahemla, the leader of the Mulekites.
5. The first land settled by the Jaredites was Moron. The land of the Nephites bordering the wilderness was called Moroni, and in the Near East the i ending is a possessive, so Moroni would mean belonging to Moron. (Note that this i ending is the oldest ending and has remained unchanged from Egypt to Babylon.)

# Notes to think about

6. Morianton was a name of an early Jaredite king and was the name of the coast settled by the Nephites.
7. **The Hill Shim in Ether 9:3:** Mormon is told to take the records from the Hill Shim (**Mormon 1:3**) by Ammaron. It could be possible that the Nephites used names given by the Jaredites.
8. Nehor was the name of the Jaredite wilderness where the rebels withdrew as well as a Jaredite city in that region. It was also the name of a Nephite apostate.
9. Note that Noah is both a Jaredite and Nephite name and appears nowhere else except for Noah in the bible. Alma the elder was Noah's priest, and his grandsons had Jaredite names, Shiblun and Coranton (Alma 31:7)
10. Corihor was grandson of a Jaredite king and Korihor was a Nephite.

# Jaredite Connection

“There is nothing in the Book of Mormon that shows *direct* contact between the Nephites and the Jaredites. There is always a go-between—the Mulekites, who, as the story of the elder Coriantumr shows, were the nearest neighbors to the Jaredites and separated, as we learn from Mosiah's account[sic], by a considerable distance from the Nephites. Everything points to the absorption of a good deal of Jaredite culture by the people of Zarahemla shortly after their arrival: The tradition of a very Jaredite pattern of behavior and dissent against Nephite rule by men of Mulekite background bearing Jaredite names makes the case pretty clear. The dropping of the name Jaredites by their mixed descendants has many historical parallels. Thus the Hurrians lost their name so quickly and completely when they mixed with the Hittites that until recent years it was doubted that there ever were such people; yet we now know that it was the Hurrians, ranging over the vast back country to the north, that supplied the Hittites with their ruling class and their tradition of empire. Such a role may the scattered and nomad Jaredites of the last days have played in contact with the more civilized but less aggressive people of Zarahemla, completely losing their Jaredite identity but still given away, as are the Hurrians, by the strange names of their leaders. Incidentally, the fact that Nephite weights and measures bear *Jaredite* names indicates long cultural overlap.”  
(Nibley P. 246)

# But Ether Said They Were Destroyed

In war, people tend to flee. And there was no people more adept at fleeing and hiding than the Jaredites. So as Shiz and Coriantumr swept the people before them, surely many fled. For four years, Shiz and Coriantumr gathered to their armies. (Indicating a lack of patriotism and passion.) Note Ether 15:14

"They were for the space of four years gathering together the people, that they might get all who were upon the face of the land, and that they might receive all the strength which it was possible that they could receive."

As Hugh Nibley notes, it doesn't say they succeeded in getting everyone. And note that the people had a tendency to group together as outcasts and robbers if they didn't want to join. The Jaredite tendency is seen in the Gadianton band. And this gathering obviously couldn't take in everyone, as it didn't take in the Mulekites, Nephites, and Lamanites.

Note that the Lord said he would destroy Israel and Judah, but many of those people lived, so what does that destruction mean?

**He destroyed them as a nation.**

# Jaredites Among The Nephites

So why doesn't the record say something about them among the Nephites?

Note it only spends three verses in Omni (Omni 15-17) on the Mulekites. This also indicates there could have been others led here that Mormon doesn't mention because that's not his purpose in writing.



# The land division

- [Helaman 6:10](#)
- 10 Now the land south was called Lehi, and the land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north, and Lehi into the land south.

By the normal ship travel, this likely means still in South America, so the Mulekites would have been in the north part of South America. With the Jaredites in the land northward, the Mulekites would have been between them and the Nephites. **But we don't know.**



Let's now consider some social class ideas



*Often anti-government people express strongly that they are not of Nephite lineage. (Like a Washington outsider today.) While the righteous proclaim their Nephite lineage (or Mormon does) and the writers' strongly expresses the Nephite lineage of the righteous and the non Nephite lineage of the unrighteous.*

**Alma 54:23-24:** I am Ammoron, and a descendant of Zoram, whom your fathers pressed and brought out of Jerusalem.

And behold now, I am a bold Lamanite; behold, this war hath been waged to avenge their wrongs, and to maintain and to obtain their rights to the government; and I close my epistle to Moroni.

Note the wicked city and people that joined the Lamanites were called Zoramites. Have you considered that they or Mormon were indicating they were not of Nephi's lineage.

Mormon again and again gives the lineage for good or for bad always using Nephite lineage for good and otherwise for not.

### Mosiah 17:2

But there was one among them whose name was Alma, he also being a descendant of Nephi. And he was a young man, and he believed the words which Abinadi had spoken, for he knew concerning the iniquity which Abinadi had testified against them; therefore he began to plead with the king that he would not be angry with Abinadi, but suffer that he might depart in peace.

### Helaman 1:15

And they came down again that they might pitch battle against the Nephites. And they were led by a man whose name was Coriantumr; and he was a descendant of Zarahemla; and he was a dissenter from among the Nephites; and he was a large and a mighty man.

# Anti Government = Anti Nephite

[Mosiah 25:13](#) And now all the people of Zarahemla were numbered with the Nephites, **and this because the kingdom had been conferred upon none but those who were descendants of Nephi.**

(Also see Mosiah 25:1-3, even though numbered with Nephites, they are in two groups.)

Thor Heyerdahl also says that in his archeological work there seems to be only one lineage that was allowed to be a king or a high priest.

There seems to be a strong prejudice between the non-Nephi descendants and the Nephi descendants.

Note: There is an obvious exception to defining lineage, and that is the man Mormon admires most and names his son after: Moroni. Why does Mormon give no lineage for Moroni?

The answer is that Moroni is likely was a descendant of the Jaredites and thus the Mulekites – not Nephite lineage. (Note the name Moron possessive or “of the land of Moron”)

# Social Class

[Mosiah 25:2](#) Now there were not so many of the children of Nephi, or so many of those who were descendants of Nephi, as there were of the people of Zarahemla, who was a descendant of Mulek, and those who came with him into the wilderness.

Have you ever wondered why the people of Zarahemla would make Mosiah, an outsider, their king? It says it was at least partly due to their records, but could there have been more?

In Israel, much of social class was dependent on tribe and money. In the Book of Mormon, there are indications that this is also the case here.

One thing to note: These two nations (Nephites and Mulekites) came together after around 450 years on the same continent. It's hard to imagine they didn't know about each other, but it says that Mosiah and his people discovered the people of Zarahemla.

# Social Class

In Israel, much of social class was dependent on tribe and/or money. In the Book of Mormon, there are indications that this is also the case. Note the similarities

**Alma 32:2** And it came to pass that after much labor among them, they began to have success among the **poor class** of people; for behold, they were cast out of the synagogues because of the coarseness of their apparel

**Mormon appears to condemn what he sees a social class even as he continues to list them.**

4 Nephi 1

17 There were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of **-ites**; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God.

**25** And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them.

**26** And they began to be divided into classes; and they began to build up churches unto themselves to get gain, and began to deny the true church of Christ.

**35** And now it came to pass in this year, yea, in the two hundred and thirty and first year, there was a great division among the people.

**36** And it came to pass that in this year there arose a people who were called the Nephites, and they were true believers in Christ; and among them there were those who were called by the Lamanites—Jacobites, and Josephites, and Zoramites;

**37** Therefore the true believers in Christ, and the true worshipers of Christ, (among whom were the three disciples of Jesus who should tarry) were called Nephites, and Jacobites, and Josephites, and Zoramites.

**38** And it came to pass that they who rejected the gospel were called Lamanites, and Lemuelites, and Ishmaelites;

# Notes to consider

- Nephi mentions tribes. (Worth, 2013) This is likely a form of class and status.
- Seven lineages are stated three times (Jacob 1:13, 544–421 B.C.; 4 Ne. 1:37–38, AD 231; Morm. 1:8, AD 322) The importance of these tribal affiliations cannot be diminished—they are also mentioned in Doctrine and Covenants 3:17–18
- Doct. & Cov. 3:17-18 The lineages are listed precisely in the same order as they appear in the Book of Mormon: “And to the Nephites, and the Jacobites, and the Josephites, and the Zoramites, through the testimony of their fathers—And this testimony shall come to the knowledge of the Lamanites, and the Lemuelites, and the Ishmaelites, who dwindled in unbelief because of the iniquity of their fathers.
- (Note: Zoramites are likely the lowest class and that might be why they often rebel.)

# Notes to consider

- Even when Captain Moroni was looking for someone for his plan to get the enemy drunk, he does not just want a Lamanite, he wants a descendant of Laman.

## Alma 55

- **4** And now it came to pass that when Moroni had said these words, he caused that a search should be made among his men, that perhaps he might find a man who was **a descendant of Laman** among them.
- **5** And it came to pass that they found one, whose name was Laman; and he was one of the servants of the king who was murdered by Amalickiah.
- **6** Now Moroni caused that Laman and a small number of his men should go forth unto the guards who were over the Nephites.

Were The Jaredites, Nephites, Lamanites, Mulekites the only ones?

“The **Toltec** culture is an archaeological [Mesoamerican](#) culture that dominated a state centered in [Tula](#), in the early post-classic period of [Mesoamerican chronology](#) (ca 800–1000 CE). The later [Aztec](#) culture saw the Toltecs as their intellectual and cultural predecessors...” (Wikipedia)

Though we may not believe everything on Wikipedia, there are other notes:

“Long after the Book of Mormon appeared, Joseph Smith quoted with approval from the pulpit reports of certain Toltec legends which would make it appear that those people had come originally from the Near East in the time of Moses;<sup>7</sup> whether such a migration ever took place or not, it is significant that the Prophet was not reluctant to recognize the possibility of other migrations than those mentioned in the Book of Mormon.” (Hugh Nibley p 250)

In addition, there were things like the Kensington Stone (though some still debate it, others have been found – also debated) that indicate those of Norse heritage could have been here 100’s of years before Columbus. (<http://www.thekensingtonrunestone.com/>) (The Kensington Stone was found in 1898 in Minnesota)



Why Mormon was to do the abridgement?

and

Why does God not tell us things like where  
the geography of the Book of Mormon  
occurred?

# Careful to put study into perspective

In 1903, President Joseph F. Smith taught that regarding Book of Mormon geography, the question, for instance, of the location of the city Zarahemla “was one of interest certainly, but if it could not be located, the matter was not of vital importance, and if there were differences of opinion on the question, it would not affect the salvation of the people: and he advised against students considering it of such vital importance as the principles of the Gospel” and cautioned them against making questions of Book of Mormon geography “of equal importance with the doctrines contained in the Book.”

(Quoted in “Book of Mormon Students Meet,” Deseret Evening News, 25 May 1903; and “Where was Zarahemla?” Provo Daily Inquirer, 25 May 1903)

# Final Thought

It is important to put scientific study of scriptures into perspective.  
Scientific study will never give a testimony.

“Keep the fire of your testimony of the restored gospel and your witness of our Redeemer burning so brightly that our children can warm their hands by the fire of your faith.” -

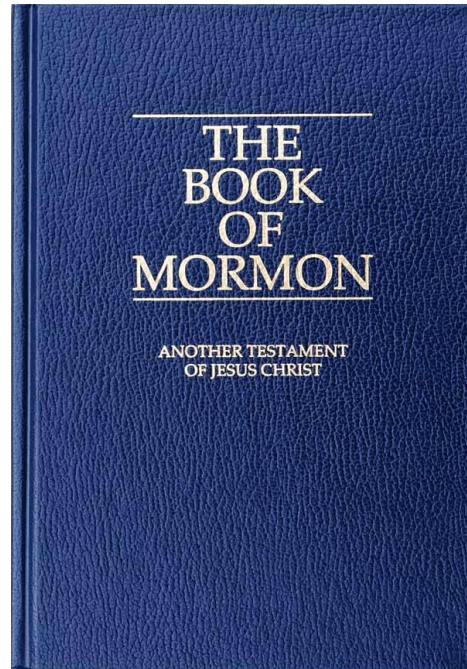
President Boyd K. Packer,  
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# Insights into the Book of Mormon from Scholarly Research – The Mulekites



Daris Howard

[daris@darishoward.com](mailto:daris@darishoward.com)