

“No More Room on the Plates”

Jarom and Omni



Lesson 50

Suggested Hymn:
#117 Come Unto Jesus

"I remember when I was preparing to be trained as a fighter pilot. We spent a great deal of our preliminary military training in physical exercise. I'm still not exactly sure why endless running was considered such an essential preparatory part of becoming a pilot. Nevertheless, we ran and we ran and we ran some more.



"As I was running I began to notice something that, frankly, troubled me. Time and again I was being passed by men who smoked, drank, and did all manner of things that were contrary to the gospel and, in particular, to the Word of Wisdom.

"I remember thinking, 'Wait a minute! Aren't I supposed to be able to run and not be weary?' But I *was* weary, and I was overtaken by people who were definitely not following the Word of Wisdom. I confess, it troubled me at the time. I asked myself, was the promise true or was it not?"



Jarom

He was the great grandson of Sariah and Lehi

He was the grandson of Jacob and son of Enos

He was a record keeper of the small plates of Nephi around 420 to 361 BC

He had the shortest book in the Book of Mormon

He declines his own personal words of inspiration
(Jarom 1:2)

He described the 'hardness of hearts' of the people

He had the spirit of prophecy and revelation

He counsels Omni, his son, to read large plates for further history of the people



Book of Jarom

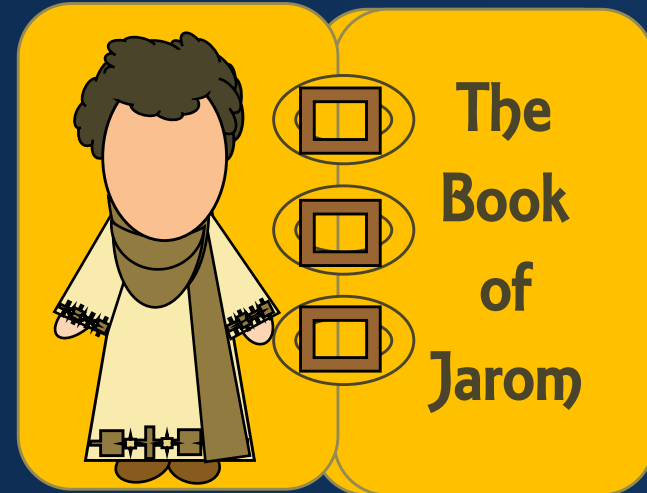
Written in commandment from his father.

Written for the benefit of his brethren the Lamanites.

Jarom did not record his own prophecies and revelations because he felt that his father's revelations were sufficient.

He described labors of the Nephite leaders during the time of his ministry.

Jarom observed that when the people chose to follow the counsel of their righteous leaders, they prospered and were able to fortify themselves against the Lamanites.



Jarom's Testimony:

“The word of the Lord was verified, which he spake unto our fathers, saying that: Inasmuch as ye will keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land” (Jarom 1:9)

Records

*Adam—kept a record of
faithful descendants =
A Book of Remembrance*

The Nephites who kept
the record even at this
early period understood
that it would be for the
benefit of the Lamanites



The Church keeps similar records today D&C 85

*The Church urges us to keep our own personal
family records*

Apostasy

Apostasy was rampant among the Nephites



Hardness of Hearts

Deafness of Ears



Blindness of Mind



Stiffness of Necks



However:

God is merciful and hasn't swept them
off the face of the earth yet

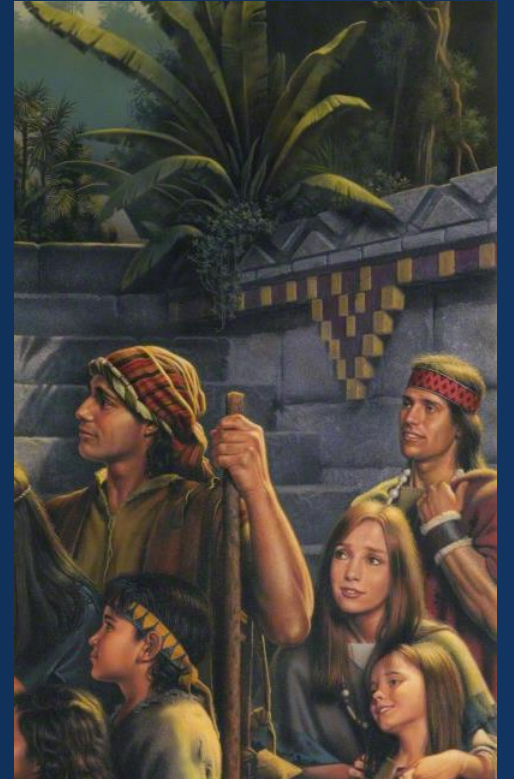
Believers

200 years had past

There was a strong group of believers who communed with the Holy Spirit and kept the commandments.

Without the Spirit we can neither preach or teach the gospel.

The faithful will not be without revelation



Without revelation there can be no religion

Law of Moses Kept

The Nephite laws were exceedingly strict

Our obligation to keep the Sabbath holy is a part of the fulness of the gospel (D&C 59:9-14)

“Some have falsely supposed that Sabbath observance commenced with the law of Moses. This is not the case. The commandment given on Sinai was to “remember the sabbath day” –beginning on the 7th day. (Genesis 2:2-3)



To profane is to pollute...to violate...to desecrate that which is sacred

Idolatry

Drink the Blood of their beasts--The Lamanites were worshiping physical idols and images of their own making

The Lamanites were more numerous than the Nephites and had degenerated into a primitive state of existence.

“To create one’s own god is to have control over the demands, and appetites of that god. It is said that religion is the system in which man serves a higher will, while magic is a system whereby man attempts to control higher powers. Such is the distinction that exists between true religion and idolatry.”



Great Leaders

The Nephites were led by men of great righteousness and thus prevailed in battle



“...it was not mighty warriors, men mighty in strength, but men mighty in the faith of the Lord that consistently led the Nephites to victory over their enemies, the Lamanites.”

Faith in God is a weapon more to be feared than the sharpness of a sword or the muscle and sinew that wields it (3 Nephi 3:19)

Exceedingly Rich

The Nephites expanded far beyond a simple agricultural form of society

Rich in gold and silver



Precious things

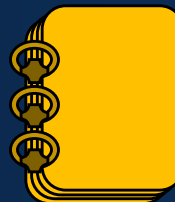
Fine workmanship of wood

Building and machinery

Tools (iron, copper, brass and steel) for the ground and for war



Those who are a
righteous people will
prosper in the land...



*“And inasmuch as ye shall keep my
commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led
to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have
prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above
all other lands.” 1 Nephi 2:20*

The Word of God

Only constant preaching kept the Nephites from being destroyed by the Lamanites. Jarom says that their prophets “did prick their hearts with the word”

It was this principle that later motivated Alma to resign the position of chief judge in order to preach the gospel (Alma 4:19; 31:5)

Prick:
The word of God is “quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow” (D&C 6:2)



Dieter F. Uchtdorf Story Continues....

“The answer didn’t come immediately. But eventually I learned that God’s promises are not always fulfilled as quickly as or in the way we might hope; they come according to His timing and in His ways.

Years later I could see clear evidence of the temporal blessings that come to those who obey the Word of Wisdom—in addition to the spiritual blessings that come immediately from obedience to any of God’s laws.

Looking back, I know for sure that the promises of the Lord, if perhaps not always swift, are always certain.”



Dieter F. Uchtdorf—actual pictures

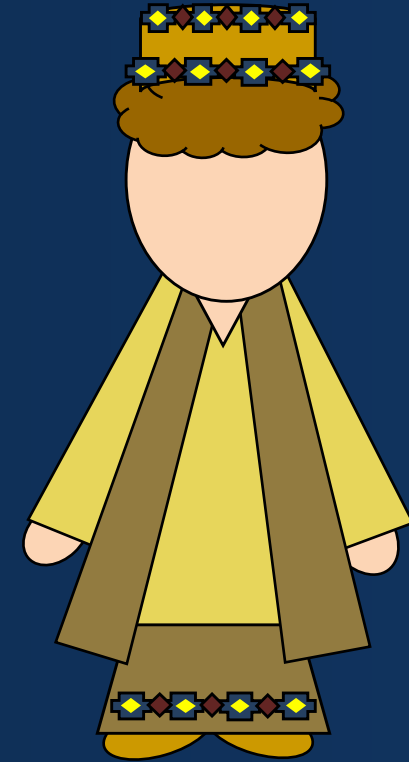
He was the grandson of Enos and son of Jarom

His record was recorded around 361 BC

He preserved the genealogy and records for 44 years during turmoil and warfare

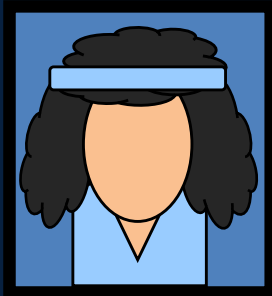
He had not 'kept statutes and commandments' as he should have

He was a defender of his people



Records Handed Down

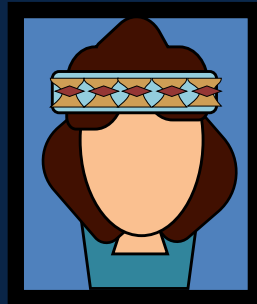
Son of Omni



Amaron

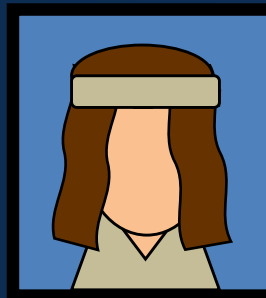


Brother of
Amaron



Chemish

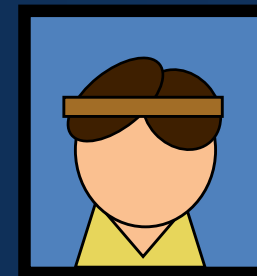
Son of
Chemish



Abinadom



Son of
Abinadom



Amaleki

Approximately between
500 – 130 BC

Book of Omni

The book of Omni was written by five different men: Omni, Amaron, Chemish, Abinadom, and Amaleki.

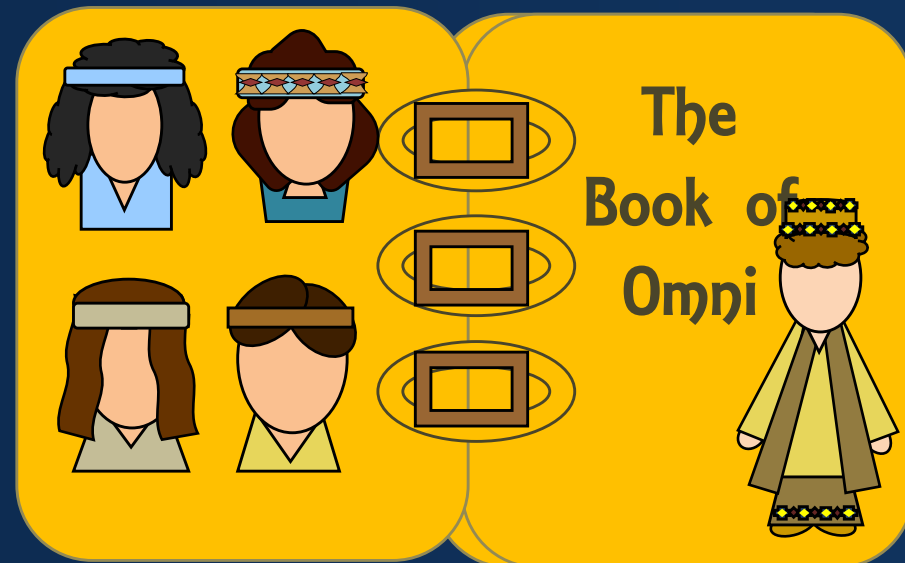
Each added small entries and the last entry of the small plates

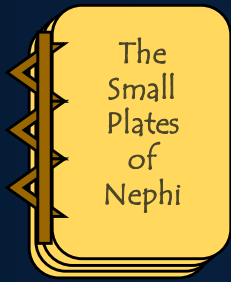
Omni spans a longer period of time than any other book in the small plates.

Abinadom's son Amaleki wrote most of the book of Omni and was the last person to write on the small plates of Nephi. He entrusted the plates to King Benjamin.

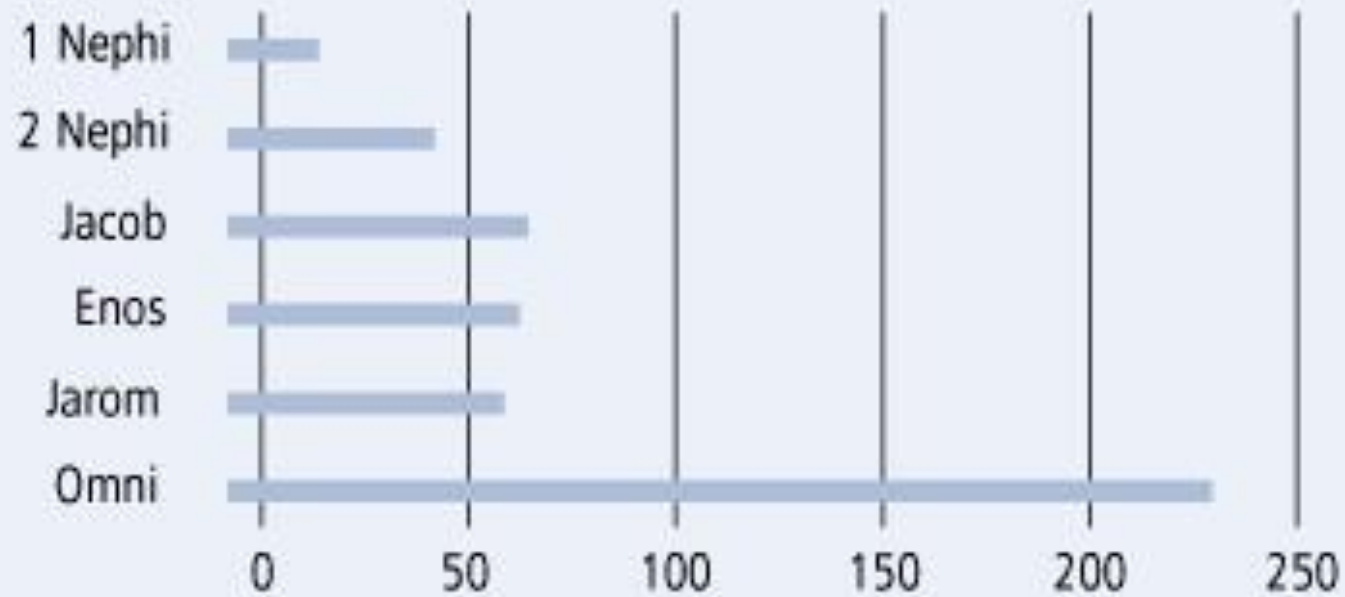


Omni wrote for the benefit of his descendants. The next three writers in the book of Omni do not address a particular audience or state a purpose for their writing. But Amaleki's invitation for all people to "come unto Christ ... and partake of his salvation" (Omni 1:26) indicates that he was concerned about the salvation of those who would read his words.





Approximate Number of Years Covered
by Each Book in the Small Plates

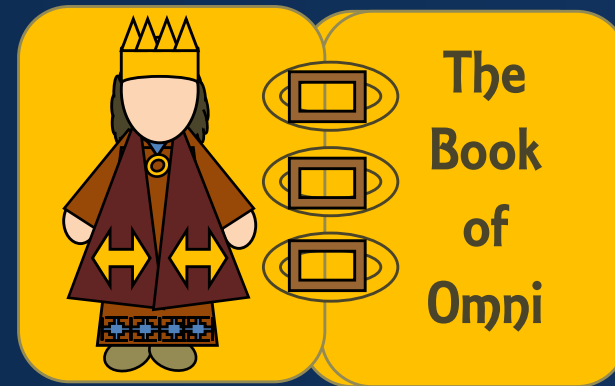


Other Facts on the Book of Omni

The Book of Omni also provides details about the reign of the first King Mosiah, who was the father of King Benjamin and grandfather of the second King Mosiah. The first King Mosiah led the righteous Nephites out of the land of Nephi and united them with the people of Zarahemla.

The Book of Omni relates that the Lord guided the people of Zarahemla (also known as the Mulekites) from Jerusalem to the land of promise not long after Lehi and his family departed from Jerusalem.

Omni is the first book in the Book of Mormon to mention the Jaredites. It also mentions that some Nephites left Zarahemla to return to the land of Nephi, foreshadowing the events recounted in Mosiah 7–24.



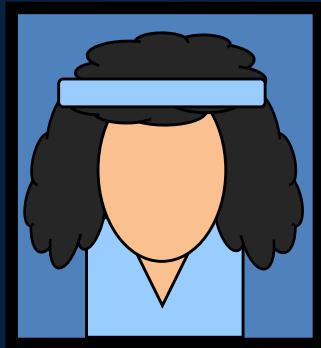
Finally, the Book of Omni introduces King Benjamin and explains why Amaleki entrusted him with the sacred records.

Omni Writes

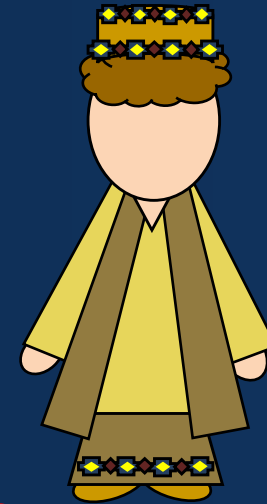
Omni writes only the first 3 verses:

He refers to himself as “a wicked man”
because he had not kept the statutes and
commandments of the Lord

“It need not be supposed from such an
admission that he was guilty of any gross
immorality, but rather that he was not
zealous in honoring the law of Moses and
in keeping other religious obligation.”

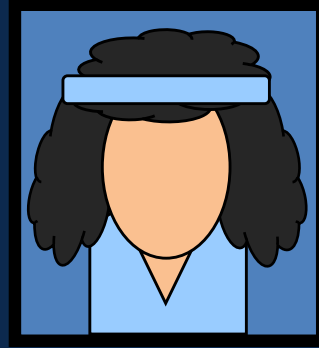


Not living by the Spirit will cause you to
not be prepared to teach or write after
the manner of the Spirit...therefore he
found it necessary to pass the plates to
his son, Amaron



Amaron and Chemish Write

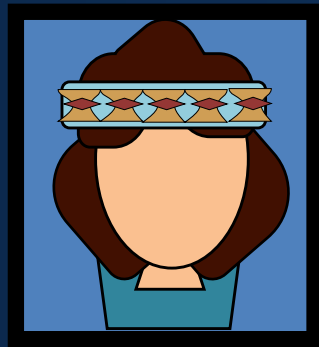
Amaron writes of the destruction of the more wicked part of the Nephites.



**Amaron understood that:
Those who acknowledge the hand
of the Lord in all things find
evidence of his word in all things.**

Chemish was the Brother of Amaron.

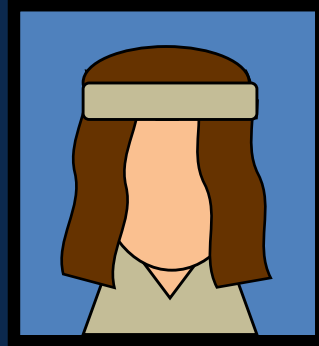
Chemish watched as Amaron wrote on the same day that Amaron turned the plates to Chemish.



**Chemish also keeps the
record according to the
commandments of our
fathers**

Abinadom Writes

Abinadom announced that the other authors were sufficient and passed the plates to his son Amaleki



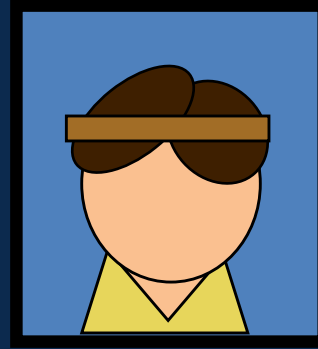
Abinadom was saying that there had been no revelation given at this time period.

Would you hand down information or records that you haven't written about?

The tradition to hand down records was still in effect with Abinadom even though nothing was added Spirituality to it.

Amaleki Writes

Amaleki introduces a new epoch in the history of the Nephiet peoples.



Taking refuge in the wilderness—a clear separation from the powers, authorities, and influences of worldly societies

Mosiah's discovery of the Mulekites, a people who had fled Jerusalem in the days of King Zedekiah

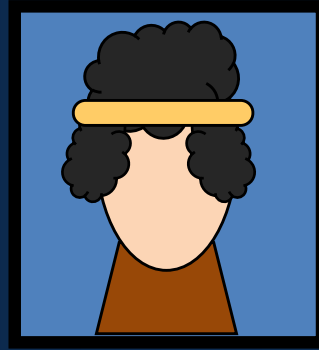
Mosiah's kingship over the Land of Zarahemla

Symbolic—among the children of God might find it necessary to leave the refinements of the world and find refuge in the simplicity of that which God created

How can you take yourself “away from it all”?

Zarahemla

Zarahemla was a descendant of
Mulek, son of Zedekiah
Mosiah 25:2



They brought no records with them

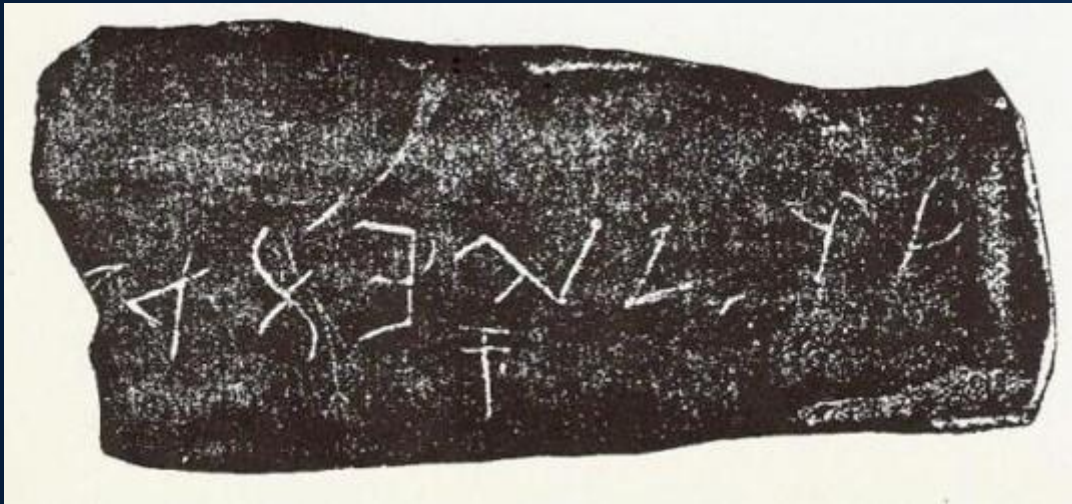
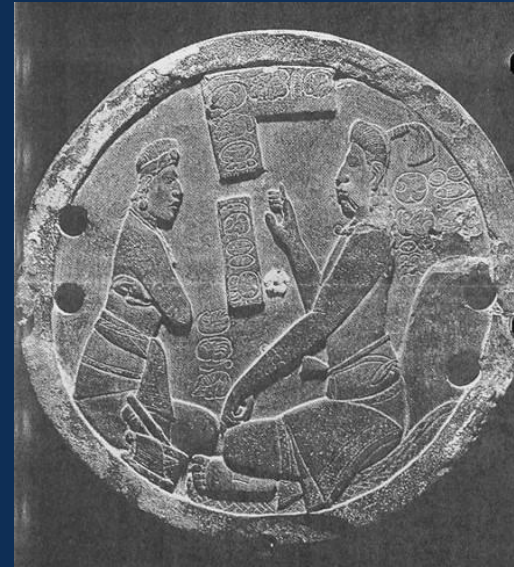
**They were taught in the language of
Mosiah and Zarahemla gave him his
genealogy of his fathers and are written
on the large plates**

The people of Zarahemla and
the people of Mosiah joined
together and Mosiah was
appointed King.



The Stone

“And it came to pass in the days of Mosiah, there was a large stone brought unto him with engravings on it; and he did interpret the engravings by the gift and power of God.”



Mosiah by the power of the Holy Spirit was able to read this stone.



Coriantumr

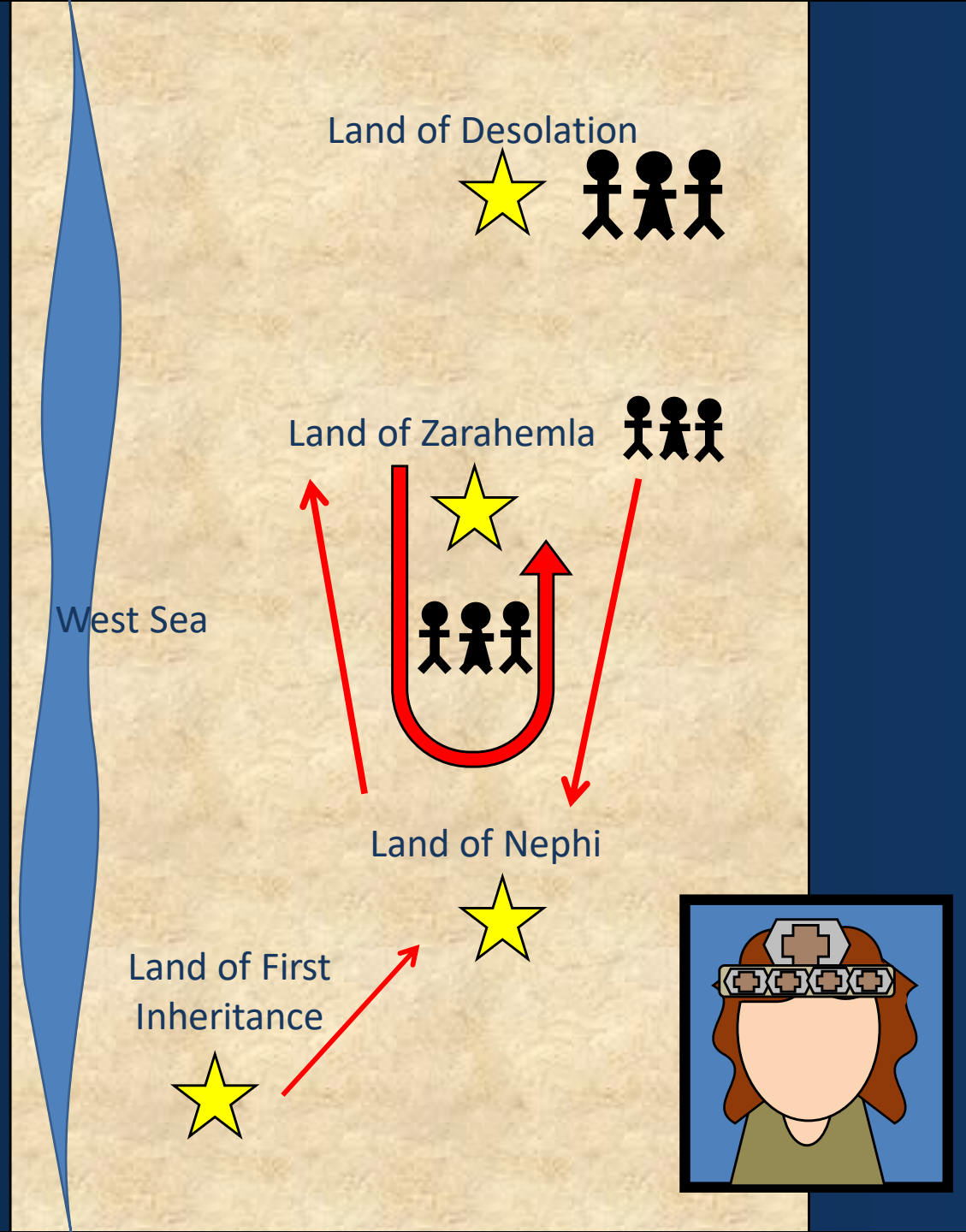
The people of Zarahemla encountered Coriantumr, who was one of the last two survivors of the Jaredite nation (the other was the prophet Ether).

Land of Desolation= “bones lay scattered”—Jaredite People—they were destroyed

There were two groups from Zarahemla who attempted to return to the land of Nephi.

The first group failed and went back to Zarahemla.

As Amaleki closed his record, he mentioned that he did not know the fate of the second group.



Peoples in Americas

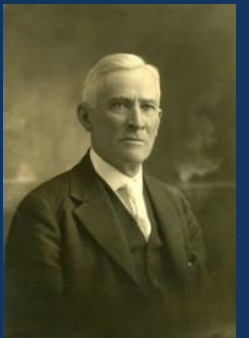
After King Mosiah and his followers fled the land of Nephi, they discovered a group of people who were called the people of Zarahemla (also called the Mulekites).

Besides the Mulekites, Lehi's group, and the Jaredites, there were likely other groups of people who came to the American continent.



“We must be careful in the conclusions that we reach. The Book of Mormon teaches the history of three distinct peoples ... who came from the old world to this continent. It does not tell us that there was no one here before them. It does not tell us that people did not come after. And so if discoveries are made which suggest differences in race origins, it can very easily be accounted for, and reasonably, for we do believe that other people came to this continent.”

Anthony W. Ivins

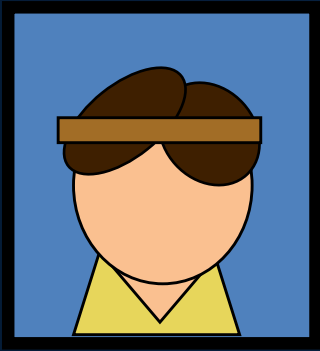




The Book of Mormon does not claim to be the record of all peoples who inhabited the ancient Americas. Besides the Jaredites, Mulekites, and Lehi's group, there were likely other groups of people who came to the American continent.



An Invitation



Amaleki concluded his record, he wrote an important invitation to those who would read his words.

Believe in the prophesying...
revelation...
ministering of angels...
gift of speaking with tongues...
gift of interpreting languages....
believing all things which are good...

**All Good comes from
the Lord**



“And now, my beloved brethren, I would that ye should come unto Christ, who is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption. Yea, come unto him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; and as the Lord liveth ye will be saved.”

Come Unto Him

If we come unto Christ and offer our whole souls unto Him, we will be saved.

Partake of His Salvation

The Power of Redemption

“When we covenant to live the law of sacrifice we are announcing that our sacrifice will in like manner be one of complete submission and total dedication.”

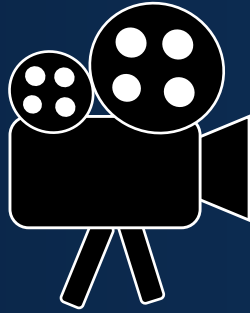
JFM and RLM



Sources:

Video:

Omni Through Alma and Brief Overview
Whole Soul Unto God



Book of Mormon Student Manual Religion 121-122 pg. 147

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon
Vol. 2 pg. 106-110

Dieter F. Uchtdorf (“Continue in Patience,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 58

Anthony W. Ivins (in Conference Report, Apr. 1929, 15).