

August 30, 2003

Observations

By K. Duane Erickson, *student*
BMS Foundation, Inc.

(We do not want to offend anyone, please contact us to be removed from our email list. Likewise you are welcome to pass this information on to any whom you think would like it or could help us in our search for truth or you could forward us their email address. Thank you.) Hang in there non-Book of Mormon readers or believers, as we will give you exclusive, undeniable evidences of its truthfulness which will change your understanding of the purpose of life.

Observations #4 Is the Geography God gave us Important to us? (part 1 of 3 parts)

Part 1

Before we jump into the geography of the Book of Mormon I would like to say a few things and I ask that you refrain from judgment until the end of what I have to offer in this regard. (I will attempt to shorten this 30 plus year research into three parts of a few pages per part for your sake)

Over my early years, because I was a very poor reader, I really think God provided the tape recorder just for me. I could not even pronounce most of the names in the Book of Mormon until I listen intently to my tapes while I read. In time I put the tapes aside, as they moved to fast for my study, but I did learn to say the names, at least to match the narrator.

Now having read enough that I not only developed a tremendous appreciation for all who had gone to such great extremes to make this massive work available for us to read and gain an understanding, but I found myself actually loving those various men who had given us their offerings. This would begin in reverse by my father, grandfather through my great grand father from Iceland as he learned of the Book of Mormon and made my beginnings possible here in Utah. Above all I was learning to trust, to find out later, it really was a greater trust in God, as I finally realized that it was from him that this work was given to man.

This was not next but it stands out in my memory of my beginnings of this work I am about to offer. Some where in the process of my reading, pondering and praying, I had highlighted everything in one of the less expensive Book of Mormons. I used green to highlight everything that I felt could help me identify where these great men, I knew and loved, actually walked and lived their lives. It was fun, and when I finished it was like a travel-log as I could go from green to green to get an idea as to their movements.

In the process of time, and being quite a bullheaded adventurer type person and now having promoted trips into Central America and the first being to southern Mexico to determine if what I had felt which had been alleged in classes and school was actually right. An hour-glass exterior drawing of the land northward a narrow neck and a land southward. This would place the narrow neck either in Panama or the narrow land area between Yucatan and Mexico. I think most of you have seen the lands depicted this way. Well I took it a step further and attempted to prove it by crossing the narrow neck of Mexico by canoe. The attempt proved to me that this could never fit the information in the Book of Mormon.

Next with pack on back, bow and arrows in hand I headed for the jungles of Guatemala. While the many ruins I visited and the people I lived with were absolutely wonderful, on a return trip setting by the window of the plane and with my binoculars glued to the window looking for something else, a thought came to me that change the course of my life.

Now I had dreamed of visiting these areas since I was a kid and now I am there. My cousin Einor Erickson, a little older than I, was somewhat an idol to me. His adventures had taken him worldwide and his stories left me spellbound.

The thought was "Christ did not build Pyramids". That's it! Now you have to realize, I had already taken about 2500 slides in and around these pyramids, mostly of anything with what I determined might be written material, in hopes that some day when they were deciphered, I would have my own copy. The most of these items with writing on, they called "Sacrificial Alters", plus my Indian friends said that all these who built these ruins believed in human sacrifice. Now I have a thought like this. I wondered if these were our forbearers, where are our sacrificial alters at temple square?

Well needless to say, this ended my trips to Central America, as new thinking came into play. Being a canoe builder, waterways became of great importance to me. I then came up with the idea that the river Siden in the Book of Mormon, had to be a key in locating the correct land. Now the river Siden had its headwaters in the north, and appeared to flow south as there are no references to cities or anything having been on a south or north bank, only on the west and east banks. It appeared while being very large, its beginnings were small as most rivers, which could be crossed on foot, but large enough to carry bodies into the sea. I thought I would look for a major river in the land which ran from north to south. (Bare with me for a minute, as it will all come to a head and we will get started with more solid evidence).

I had purchased a large world map from National Geographic and placed it on one of my office walls. I went to it determined to locate this major river, but of course, with the directions I had been given in church and seminary, I went straight to central and south America. It was only a minute and it blew my mind, I could not find a major river that ran north and south. Why? It came to me, why the mountains ran north and south, so how could water run north and south at the same time. A strange feeling came over me as I contemplated this, as my eyes were raising up the world map they focused on the bottom of the Mississippi River and then proceeded upwards. Hey, there's a river that runs north and south with its headwaters or beginning place in the north. This blew my mind, no one had ever said this, the possibility of the River Sidon in America, more specific the United States. This was information so difficult to comprehend, I was even afraid to share it with my wife, let alone others. They would all consider me crazy. I tried to even put it out of my mind.

In time I just could not let it alone, it kept coming back to me, so I felt I had to do something about it. I felt I needed to reduce it to a map and searched for a plastic covered map of the United States that I could write on with a grease pencil. You see, it would be easy to erase my mistakes and start over. I searched and searched, and finally ended up purchasing a set of maps from the church distribution center. One of which was a large map of the U.S. with mountains and rivers and some church locations but that is about all. So I had began mapping my findings on the map, and

others had found out what I was doing. I was not attempting to be a scriptural hero, a know it all, I just innocently wanted to know.

Well some where in here, and attending my gospel doctrine class, and the teacher being the bishop's wife and she was a good teacher and we had a large class. Class ended one Sunday and as usual, I, being on the back row and usually the last to leave the room. She nailed me as I was leaving and shaking her index finger in my face said "Don't you dwell on the Mysteries". She was younger than me, but just the same, it really set me back. I felt I was being accuse of doing something wrong. Of course, most of the time I was in the wrong, but I had not tried to do anything wrong. I went home quite dismayed thinking what next. Rehearsing back in my mind I remembered reading somewhere about mysteries in the Book of Mormon, so I searched to find out what it said. Now you can do the same and check me on this. What stood out and what I was thinking about was, 1st Nephi 10:19 *For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well as in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round.*

Now I'm sorry here, but this is not telling me to trust in men of flesh, not even my Sunday school teacher, but to me it indicates if I have a desire, and diligently seek to find the truth, that all the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto me by the power of the Holy Ghost. How do you read this?

So now in my life becomes a turning point in my life, do I rely of flesh who appear to have the answers I seek, or do I rely on the Book of Mormon. At this time I had to follow my heart, some say my guts, and this is what I do.

Well some where in my past I had purchased or was given a book by Paul Cheesman. I have it, I just grabbed it, Inside is my name written by me with the date 1974, so I must have purchased it. I noticed that the cover picture is of one of the many pyramids in Tikal of which I attempted to sleep in the upper chamber over night, but was caught and kicked out by police with machine guns. Well I couldn't take it, I picked up the phone and called information for Paul Cheesman in the Provo, Utah area and they found me a number. I called the number and he answered the phone. I told him who I was and that I had a Book of Mormon geography theory I would like to show him. He said, great! When can me meet? We set a time and place and we met. When I rolled out my maps on Mr. Cheesman's table in his office he started talking and pacing the floor. It only took him a minute to see what I was doing and I became nervious at his response, and interrupted him. I said, the real reason I am here is that my bishops wife, the gospel doctrine teacher, told me yesterday that I should not dwell on the mysteries, and I asked is it wrong to do this? I said. He was a big men, he stopped and stood across the table from me looking down at me as I sat and said, "Do you know John Sorensen? I said no! He said he is a professor down here at BYU, and in a round about way, the church is paying him to find the Book of Mormon land. He said he is writing a book, and when its finished, I wont you to get a copy and read it. Then I want to put you and Professor Sorensen together.

This can go on and on with experiences, but what I wanted to point out here is the this man, what I would call a powerful man in the church and school says that even the church does not know where the Book of Mormon land is, and that the, prophets

have even paid professors to locate the lands for them. If it's not wrong for them to search for the correct land, why is it wrong for me?

From my experience, I learned to take my questions to the Book of Mormon for my answers and it has never failed me, then I verify everything through prayer, then I do what my heart tells me, no matter what. And that's where I am today.

Now I would like to relate just one more experience similar to this which has had a great effect on my efforts and life. After my sister learned what I was doing, she called me on the phone. She told me, and she was not the first, but for some reason when it comes from my sister, I listen more intently, even though she is younger than I. She said "Knowing the Geography of the Book of Mormon is not necessary for our Salvation". Well needless to say, I did not argue with her, but was set back in my tracks. But now Barbara, I would like to address my understanding to you.

First of all in my first Observation, to me The Book of Mormon is really the Holy Word of God as it refers to itself within its pages. It, to me, was in fact given word for word in the English language, which appears in the original 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon by God or Christ to Joseph Smith. Now as before, I searched for my answers to this in the Book of Mormon. Turn to Mosiah 8 and begin as Ammon answers the questions of King Limhi, read here about the power of God and who has it as given to us by God through Ammon-It's God speaking to you. Start about verse 13 *Now Ammon said unto him: I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; (Of Ether) for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters, and no man can look in them except he be commanded, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer.* (Now we now how to judge a seer, given by God) 14 *And behold, the king of the people who are in the land of Zarahemla is a man that is commanded to do these things, and who has the high gift from God.* (Not necessarily an office, but a gift from God) 15 *and the king said that a seer is greater than a prophet.* (?) (I think this was not a statement, but a question) 16 *And Amman said that a seer is a revelator and a prophet also; and a gift which is greater can no man have, except he should possess the power of God, which no man can; yet a man may have great power given him from God.*

Now remember, it is not me saying this, I am not reading between the lines, its what God gave you and I. My feeling from what is said here, however, is that while man in the flesh is given great power from God, he is never given the power of God. Thus when God gives us his Holy Word, it is not to be treated as a thing of naught, not to be altered or transfigured in any way or form (*According to Moroni in Mormon 8*) by men of flesh taking upon themselves the power of God to alter Gods words and precepts. To me this is a man making of him self a God to alter God words or precepts, and to me this is not possible. Of course you must make your own choices as to how you choose to use God's words.

Now when men of flesh attempt to put aside something's which I believe God has given us, such as geographical information contained there in, in other words, picking and choosing from the words of God what is important and what is not important for us, they are making of themselves a God to over ride what God has given us.

Through unloading my feelings, so lets proceed with identifying the Promised Land of the Book of Mormon.

To shorten this and get to the point and relying upon the Holy Word of God in the Book of Mormon, both Lehi and Nephi were shown in visions everything from their time down even to the end. This is about 600 BC, and their vision has been verified by fulfillment of those things in those vision even to our day. They were forbidden to share with us our final days, as John in revelations, after Christ's birth, work, death and resurrection takes place and writes what we call the Book of Revelations today.

In the beginning then and in Nephi's vision, (Because of Joseph Smith, we do not have Lehi's vision to have a double comparison), (refer to 1st Nephi 12 thru 14) an angel shows the Lehi party leaving Jerusalem, arriving on The Promised Land, warring over the years and finally depositing their record in the dust to be brought forth on this same Promised Land. They are shown the Pilgrims who arrive because of religious persecution, but in time this Promised Land becomes a land of liberty unto the Gentiles (2nd Nephi 10:11). We are the Gentiles, here is where the records were created, here is where the records were deposited, here is the place where they are brought forth to go forth to every kindred tongue and people throughout the world from the tops of Isaiah's everlasting (Rocky Mountains), here is where Adam-Ondi Aman is, here is where the New Jerusalem is to be built. Here is the here used by Moroni as he writes his records, "Here" the hear as Ether shares everything from the beginning to the end to his people (Ether 13:1-4).

If you trust in God, removing yourself from trusting in flesh, and use what he has given you, there is no mystery as to where the Book of Mormon land is, only that for some reason it is a mystery to those teachers (As Moroni calls them in Mormon 8) who have to pay money to professors to find the Promised land.

The very fact today, that we are the fulfillment of those visions of Lehi and Nephi positively identify the only land of liberty as the Promised land, the United States of America. I have also geological evidences, other scriptural historical evidences, archeological evidences, verifications from ancient artifacts, all which identify the United States of America as the choicest land as spoken in the histories, the only land of liberty and unto the Gentiles of the latter days. God gives us our guide and example using Nephi as Nephi says: *O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever, I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm.* (2nd Nephi 4:34)

Consider this. Personally I know, that because of my ignorance, I had no alternative but to place my trust in flesh; my parents and what my parents guided me too. Therefore my church and its leaders. I was guilty, because of my lack of knowledge and ability of waiting on men of flesh to determine my future as I hung on their every word. I have learned, for myself, that I was sent here not to trust in those I place above me, but to become a thinker myself. I have learned to trust in God and what he has given us. Fortunately, we have verification of that process by great men of examples such as Nephi and his brother Jacob, and all the others in the Holy Word of God including Christ. As Nephi, I place my complete trust in my God, placing nothing or no one, especially of flesh between my Father and myself. To do this I

have learned this is referred to as idolatry, as we are warned this by Christ in the days of the Gentiles (3rd Nephi 30:2). If the shoe fits, I guess we must wear it.

Part 2 : Will go into greater detail with movements and evidences within the Book of Mormon.

Part 3: Will be fun. It will use other evidences outside the Book of Mormon to parallel with the Book of Mormon to prove its authenticity, i.e.: The Sacred Mountain created in the beginning with the Sacred Cave with the burial of all the ancient patriarchs (Adam down to Noah) right here in Utah, in the Land Paradise, west in the Land of Eden or the Promised Land from the beginning of time. Why the Spanish came to Utah for three hundred years in search for gold in the Sacred Mountain. The same gold used to establish the church in the west to spring forth the Holy Word of God throughout the world. Photos of artifacts, ancient books from the Promised Land, ruins, many ancient written languages including Adamic, photos of the Sacred Mountain, and in time, maybe photos of the inside with the nine foot mummies of Adam and Eve and the others including Chief Walker who was instructed to make the gold available to the church, the huge rock boxes full of records, and ancient huge engravings in the walls of solid gold, picture of Rhodes pistol with initials, etc.

- Observations #1 The Holy Word of God unto the Gentiles (The foundation of our religious belief)
- Observations #2 The Purpose of the Holy Word of God
- Observations #3 The Overall Message
- **Observations #4 Is the Geography God gave us Important to us? (part 1 of 3 parts)**
- Observations #5 A Thing of Naught
- Observations #6 Subtle Captivity of the Latter Days.

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