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A Note on Jaredite Populations

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Chapter 18

A Note on Jaredite Populations

It should be noted that in addition to the various battles, there are three significant Jaredite population reductions noted in the book of Ether. Any effort to place the Jaredites in Olmec lands should take these population reductions into account.

The first was at the time of Omer.

Ether 9:12

And there began to be a war between the sons of Akish and Akish, which lasted for the space of many years, yea, unto the destruction of nearly all the people of the kingdom, yea, even all, save it were thirty souls, and they who fled with the house of Omer.

This event, based on the method I provided earlier, would have occurred approximately 280 years after the Jaredite departure.

The second population reduction was at the time of Heth (who was also claimed by this reduction):

Ether 9:31–32

31 And there came forth poisonous serpents also upon the face of the land, and did poison many people. And it came to pass that their flocks began to flee before the poisonous serpents, towards the land southward, which was called by the Nephites Zarahemla.

32 And it came to pass that there were many of them which did perish by the way; nevertheless, there were some which fled into the land southward.

This second event, based on the method I provided earlier, would have occurred approximately 520 years after the brother of Jared.

Finally, during the rule of Shiblom there was also large reduction in population:

Ether 11:5–7

5 And it came to pass that the brother of Shiblom caused that all the prophets who prophesied of the destruction of the people should be put to death;

6 And there was great calamity in all the land, for they had testified that a great curse should come upon the land, and also upon the people, and that there should be a great destruction among them, such an one as never had been upon the face of the earth, and their bones should become as heaps of earth upon the face of the land except they should repent of their wickedness.

7 And they 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 many famines and pestilences, insomuch that there was a great destruction, such an one as never had been known upon the face of the earth; and all this came to pass in the days of Shiblom.

The Shiblom event corresponds roughly with the abandonment of the Olmec city of San Lorenzo, with the reign of Shiblom starting in 750 BC. San Lorenzo was the largest city in Mesoamerica from roughly 1200 to 900 BC. By 800–

750 BC, there was little or no population, although there was an important recolonization of the San Lorenzo plateau from 600 to 400 BC.

Some of the potential causes of the Heth and Shiblom events were previously discussed and also dealt with in the *Geology of the Book of Mormon* (Grover 2014). When attempting to place the Jaredites into the Olmec realm, one should be cognizant of these population reductions.

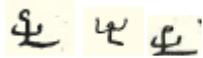
After completing the translation of the Caractors Document, one character (C-201) in particular provided some insight into the use of the word *millions* in the reformed Egyptian. The word for this character, meaning “multitude” in Egyptian, is *hh* (Chicago Demotic Dictionary 2014 CDD H (09:1) page 248).

C-201 

The Egyptian character from which it is derived is:



1000000



Demotisches Glossar (Erichsen 1954, 328)

The sign for one million could also mean “multitude” or “countless quantity.” After the Early Dynastic period (circa 2700 BC) this nonspecific interpretation of one million was the primary one (Grover 2015, 53, 140–41).

The only reference in the Book of Mormon to the word *million* is found in Ether 15:1–2:

1 And it came to pass when Coriantumr had recovered of his wounds, he began to remember the words which Ether had spoken unto him.

2 He saw that there had been slain by the sword already nearly two millions of his people, and he began to sorrow in his heart; yea, there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children.

In light of the insight from the Caractors Document, the word *million* is not some enumerated population census but may just mean a large number of people. In that case, one might ask why the reference would be to “two millions” instead of just millions. The Caractors Document may also provide the answer to that, as the number glyph there is a stylized version of the number intended to incorporate the glyph for the name of Laman (C-106 and C-215) in the glyphs for Lamanites, so essentially the number glyph is incorporating the group it is referencing.

C-106  C-215 

In the case of the Jaredites, it may be that the actual glyph text of the Book of Mormon provides two separate characters—one identifying the followers of Coriantumr₂, and the other identifying the followers of Shiz (or his predecessors in battle against Coriantumr₂).

Also potentially of note is the fact that Coriantumr₂ is looking at the situation retrospectively, so one should not assume that all those slain by the sword died in one event, but the population reduction may go back years to when the prophecies of complete destruction are noted seven generations earlier with Com (Ether 11:1).