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## Who Were the Jaredites?, Part 2: Could They Be the Maya?

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# Who Were the Jaredites?

## Part 2

### Could They Be the Maya?

The following issues will establish a creditable connection between the Jaredites and the Maya; however, it's important that the Part 1 discussion on the Olmecs be read first. This is necessary in order to have a convincing reason to consider something other than the Olmecs. It has been a long standing belief by many Book of Mormon geographers that the Olmecs were the Jaredites so the evidences and conclusions to think otherwise will have to be compelling. The following segments will hopefully provide some information that will generate some serious thought regarding the Maya.

#### Population Considerations:

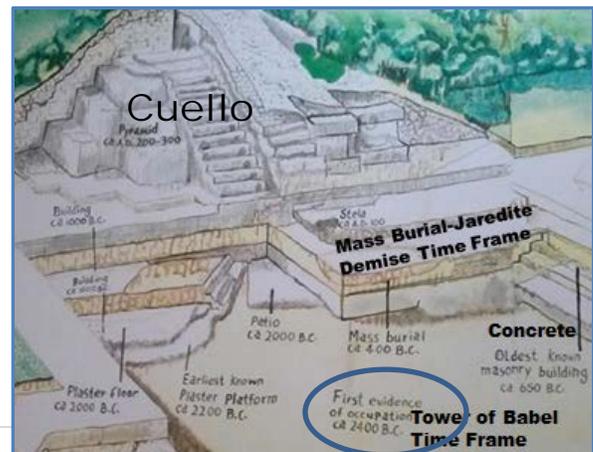
Utilizing population growth calculators and a conservative population growth rates the Jaredite nation could reach hundreds of millions, however, with constant wars, droughts, high infant and mother mortality rates and all kinds of pestilences it is obvious that their population numbers would be much lower. Some Book of Mormon researchers put the estimated population at the time of the final battles at 40 to 80 million [1]. Others have put it at half that amount. In any event, this size is probably in excess of 20 million.

Some Mayan scholars have estimated the Mayan population at 22 million people [2][3] which matches up well with the estimated 20 million Jaredites. These are difficult numbers to determine but it is certain that the numbers are in the tens of millions. There is also a fluctuation from time to time depending on the rainfall, pestilence, war etc. There is also a likelihood that in the 2000 years of the Jaredite existence there was undoubtable migrations to other areas of Central America and possible even to South and North America. For example: Hagoth and his people could have migrated to North America.

#### Time Frame Considerations:

Establishing exact time frames during the Tower of Babel is very difficult so there needs to be some latitude shown when considering certain events that are associated with the Jaredite travel. It appears that the time of the confounding of tongues happened sometime between 3000 and 2000 BC with a common belief that it happened sometime around 2,300 BC [3][4][9]

It is interesting that David Palmer, author of "In Search of Cumorah" made the following statement: "Archaeological site consistent with a trans-Atlantic crossing in 2700 is El Cuello on the coast of Yucatan". There are several other early sites in near Cuello such as Colha, Cerros and Santa Rita. From these early sites there is a



predictable expansion of sites that progresses away from northern Belize (the location of the earliest sites) then through eastern Yucatan and then throughout many parts of Mesoamerica. The Olmecs emerged around 1000 years after the Tower of Babel.

### Facial Characteristics:

The Lacandon Tribe (Pure Maya) in the southwestern area of the Yucatan has Mesopotamian facial features.

### Facial Characteristics of the Lacandon Tribe



### Facial Features of Individuals from Mesopotamia



### Maya DNA

Keith Crandall, professor and chair of the Department of Biology at Brigham Young University has said that “the most recent DNA evidence that I’ve seen, in terms of peopling of the Americas, shows this Middle Eastern haplotype at greatest frequencies in the Mayan people; so if that’s your perception of where Lehi and company set up shop then the DNA evidence would be consistent with that.”[4] This opinion fits well into the Jaredite-Maya hypothesis. It is important to point out that DNA science is still unsettled and there should be a great deal of caution when attempting to establish the origin of any group with Dna.

### Near First Landing

As stated earlier, David Palmers said: “The archaeological site consistent with a trans-Atlantic crossing in 2700 is El Cuello on the coast of Yucatan or Santa...”. [5] The El Cuello site has a number of specifics that would make it an excellent candidate for the Jaredite first landing such as: (1) favorable ocean currents, (2) matching the Tower of Babel time line, (3) numerus nearby formative period settlements that would complement and expansion scenario, (4) compatibility with the Hill Ramah location and (5) a logical Jaredite travel route from Mesopotamia to the promise land.

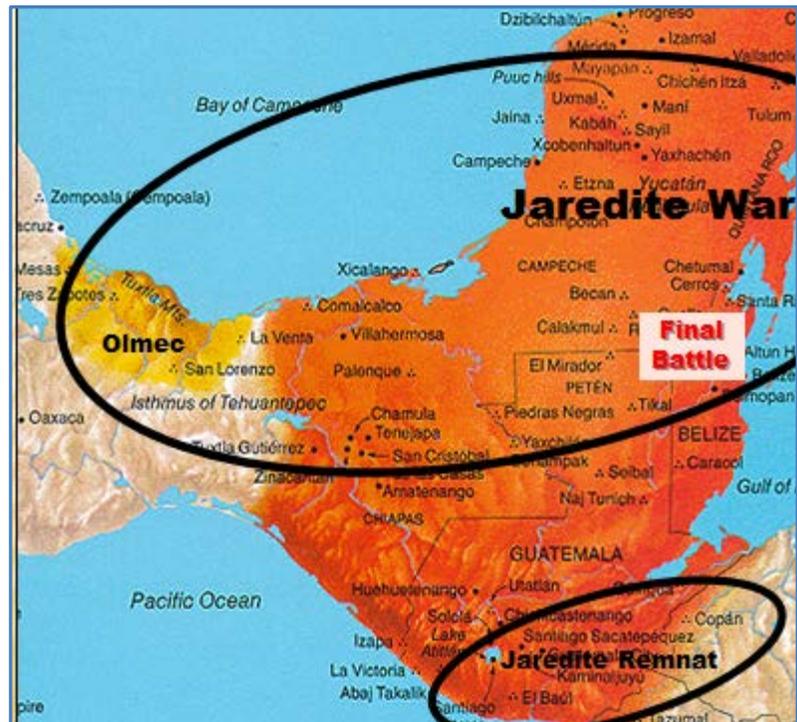


## The Limhi Expedition

It is likely the men that were sent to find Zarahemla probably followed the wrong river to the north. In the Pasion River model, twenty-four of Limhi's men probably followed the Choxey River northward until it converged with the Usumacinta River which carried them to Jaredite lands. They did not follow the Pasion River thereby missing Zarahemla.

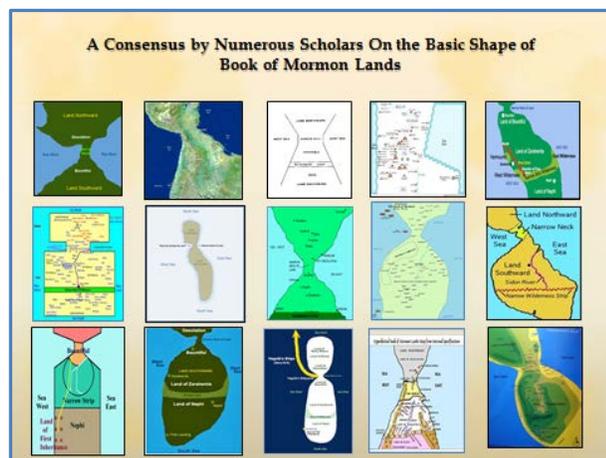
## Maya Annihilation

The circumstances surrounding the final battles are very speculative; however, it is interesting that the fall of the Olmecs coincides the fall of the Jaredites. Vaugh G Hansen speculates that it is possible that the Olmecs were caught up in the final war with the Jaredites and could have possibly been the aggressor. [6 pg49] See the map to the right that could be a possible location for the final Jaredite war.



## Hour Glass Configuration

There is a strong consensus amongst Book of Mormon scholars that the geographical makeup of Book of Mormon Lands should have a configuration similar to an hour glass. This concept has strong scriptural support of hundreds of directional inferences that point to a land that is in the north and a land that is in the south with a restriction in the middle. The scriptures are very clear that there are no east or west directional inferences. The Maya civilizations fit nicely into the Hour Glass configuration.



## Narrow Neck Complex

In Ether 10:20 we learn about the Jaredite connection to the “Narrow Neck’ when the ruler Lib built a “great city” by the narrow neck. It is also understood that the land Desolation is mentioned in conjunction with the land of Moron and is also associated with the “Narrow Neck”. This is clarified in Ether 7:6, Mormon 3:5, Alma 22:29-32 and Alma 63:5. Therefore, the essential elements of the Narrow Neck Complex are:

1. A narrow neck that is no wider than a day’s journey of a Nephite (less than 20 miles)
2. A place where the sea divides the land or where there are seas that separate the land northward from the land southward except for a narrow neck of land. This would require an east sea and a west sea on either side of the narrow neck.
3. A narrow passage that is associated with the fortification of the narrow neck.
4. A narrow neck must be relatively close to the land of Moron

The Mayan civilization meets these requirements.

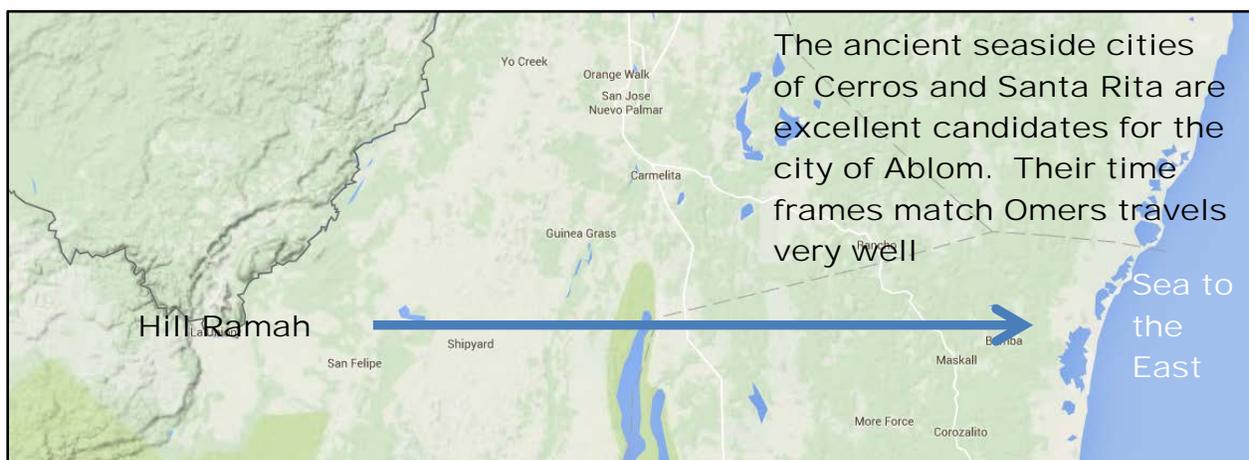
(The Narrow Neck Complex will be completely covered in another segment)

## What about the sea to the east and the city of Ablom

The following map outlines the route Omer and his family took as they passed the hill Ramah on their way to the coastal city of Ablom.

*Ether 9:3*

*And the Lord warned Omer in a dream that he should depart out of the land; wherefore Omer departed out of the land with his family, and traveled many days, and came over and passed by the hill of Shim, and came over by the place where the Nephites were destroyed, and from thence eastward, and came to a place which was called Ablom, by the seashore, and there he pitched his tent, and also his sons and his daughters, and all his household, save it were Jared and his family.*



## The Resettlement of Jaredite Lands

There are numerous scriptures that report on the Nephites and Lamanites moving northward to Jaredite land in order to escape the wicked Lamanites.

## Triangulating possible Maya settlements with Jaredite locations

Triangulating proposed Jaredite locations is very successful especially when combined with proposed Nephite locations.

## What is the Directional Relationship Between the Waters of Ripliancum and the Hill Ramah? (Ether 15:8-11)

The Pasion River model conforms well to Ether 15:8-11. The Hill Ramah, being southward from the Waters of Ripliancum.

### *Ether 15*

*8 And it came to pass that he came to the waters of Ripliancum, which, by interpretation, is large, or to exceed all;*

*10 And it came to pass that the armies of Coriantumr did press upon the armies of Shiz that they beat them, that they caused them to flee before them; and they did flee southward, and did pitch their tents in a place which was called Ogath.*



Zarahemla is relatively close to the narrow neck which is somewhat close to the hill Ramah

The following scriptures imply that Zarahemla was relatively close:

- Ether 9:31 The Jaredite flocks flee toward Zarahemla
- Omni 1:21 Coriantumr was discovered by the people of Zarahemla
- Ether 10:20 The Jaredites built a great city by the narrow neck
- Ether 7:6 The land of Moron was near Desolation

## Hill Ramah correlations

The following chart illustrates the likelihood of the Hill Bravo being a legitimate candidate for the hill Ramah. Its clear advantage over the other two candidates is further indication that the Maya civilization could be Jaredites and the Pasion River model is worthy of further analysis.

A Comparative Analysis of Different Hill Cumorah Proposals	Cumorah	Hill Vigia	Hill Bravo
Prominent Hill	15	15	15
Triangulates with Desolation, Boaz and Jordan	5	5	15
Has rivers, fountains	5	10	15
Has major caves	5	5	15
In vicinity of Jaradites "First Landing"	5	5	15
Sizable hill that can view an extensive area	15	15	15
Has defensive features	10	15	15
Must have fertile land to sustain millions of people	10	10	15
Must be close to a sea	-5	15	15
The sea must be to the east	-5	10	15
Must have a large water system to the north	5	15	15
Must be located in a temperate zone	-5	15	15
Must be evidence of a horrific destruction	-5	10	10
NY Cumorah should be far from BoM Cumorah	-5	15	15
Cities that match the Nephite/Jaradite time frame	-5	5	15
It should be on an ancient trade route	5	10	15
	<b>50</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>235</b>

## The Geographic Land Area of the Maya

In order to accommodate millions of Jaredites the geographic land mass must be vast. It is proposed that the map to the right represents a likely region that accommodates the Jaredite territory, wars and travels. It is also likely that the Jaredite migrated to other countries.



## The Discovery of Coriantumr

It is not certain as whether the Coriantumr found the Mulekites or whether the people of Mulek found him. In any event the distances and territory between the two had to be relatively close. In other words, the distance between Zarahemla and hill Ramah had to be less than a few hundred miles. This scenario also leads one to believe that the Mulekites and Jaredites were aware of each other.

## Summary

It is very clear that Maya are an excellent candidate for Jaredite people. This due to the following:

- The estimated population levels of Jaredites are somewhat in line with the estimated population levels of the Maya.
- Time frame of the Maya lines up well with Tower of Babel.
- The facial characteristics of individuals from Mesopotamia are similar to those of the Lacandon tribe (Pure Maya).
- The science of DNA is unsettled, but there are experts that feel that there is a connection between the people of Mesoamerica and the Maya.
- The “first landing” fits well the time line of the first settlements in northern Belize.
- Limhi’s twenty four man expedition evidently selected the wrong river (Choxey) which diverted them away from Zarahemla and into Jaredite territory.
- The scope of the final war likely included both the Olmecs and the Maya. It appears like they ended up in northern Belize for the final battle.
- The “hour glass” configuration is an essential requirement for the geographical arrangement of the land of the Jaredites.
- The “narrow neck complex” is close to the borders of Moron.
- It is likely that the Omer’s seas to the east are the Caribbean Ocean.
- The Nephites and Lamanites quickly resettled the Jaredite lands.
- Hill Ramah must be south of the Waters of Riplancum.
- Triangulating proposed Jaredite locations is very successful especially when combined with proposed Nephite locations.
- Hill Ramah conforms well to sixteen criteria
- The geographic land area of the Maya-Jaredites must very large.
- The discovery of Coriantumr implies that the final Jaredite battle was relatively close to Zarahemla

The Maya civilization has a near perfect match with seventeen criteria listed above. The summary in Part 1, has very few criterion matches. This would conclude the Maya has a very strong position with the Jaredites and the Olmecs a very weak one.

The conclusions of this report solidify the claims of the Pasion River Model. It brings together elements of the Narrow Neck Complex, the Greater Land of Nephi, The North Countries, The Narrow Strip of Wilderness Complex, and the Greater Land of Zarahemla. There is still a lot of work that has to be done, but hopefully it will redirect the attention to a program that has a lot of promise.

### Jaredite Compatibility

#	Criteria	Olmec	Maya
1	Population Levels	-5	15
2	Tower of Babel Timing	-5	15
3	Hill Ramah Correlations	5	15
4	First Landing Location	5	15
5	Hour Glass Configuration	-5	15
6	Triangulating Jaredite and Nephite Locations	-5	15
7	Narrow Neck Complex	5	15
8	Proximity of Zarahemla	5	15
Sub Total		<b>0</b>	<b>120</b>
9	Facial Characteristics	5	15
10	DNA	5	10
11	Limhi Expedition	5	15
12	Jaredite Annihilation	15	10
13	Sea to the East	5	15
14	City of Ablom	5	15
15	Resettlement of Jaredite Lands	5	15
16	Maya Words of Names and Places Found in Book of Mormon	5	10
17	Name of Maya Ruler Found in Book of Mormon	5	10
18	Waters of Ripliancum North of Hill Ramah	5	15
19	Body Size of Jaredites	5	10
20	Religious Beliefs	-5	10
21	Discovery of Coriantumr	5	15
22	Geographic Land Area of the Jaredites	-5	15
Sub Total		<b>60</b>	<b>180</b>
Total		<b>60</b>	<b>300</b>

Most Important

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