



Type: Magazine Article

---

## The Lands of the Nephites: The Land of Nephi (Continued)

Author(s): George Reynolds

Source: *Juvenile Instructor*, Vol. 15, No. 24 (15 December 1880), pp. 286

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

---

**Abstract:** A series of essays on Book of Mormon geography. To the earlier Nephites “the whole of North America was known as the land of Mulek, and South America as the land of Lehi.” From the period of Mosiah until Christ South America was “divided into two grand divisions”: Zarahemla and the land of Nephi.

---

people, except to strengthen the conviction that he was not the man chosen by the Almighty to be their leader.

After speaking for a short time he sat down, and, as soon as he did so, President Brigham Young, who was in the stand, having come there after Sidney Rigdon had left it to occupy the wagon, arose and addressed the people. The congregation wheeled around and faced him, turning their backs upon Sidney Rigdon. It was the first sound of his voice which the people had heard since he had gone east on his mission, and the effect upon them was most wonderful. Who that was present on that occasion can ever forget the impression it made upon them! If Joseph had risen from the dead and again spoken in their hearing, the effect could not have been more startling than it was to many present at that meeting. It was the voice of Joseph himself; and not only was it the voice of Joseph which was heard; but it seemed in the eyes of the people as though it was the very person of Joseph which stood before them. A more wonderful and miraculous event than was wrought that day in the presence of that congregation we never heard of. The Lord gave His people a testimony that left no room for doubt as to who was the man He had chosen to lead them. They both saw and heard with their natural eyes and ears, and then the words which were uttered came, accompanied by the convincing power of God, to their hearts, and they were filled with the Spirit and with great joy. There had been gloom, and, in some hearts probably, doubt and uncertainty; but now it was plain to all that here was the man upon whom the Lord had bestowed the necessary authority to act in their midst in Joseph's stead.

(To be Continued.)

## THE LANDS OF THE NEPHITES.

### THE LAND OF NEPHI.

BY G. R.

(Continued.)

ZARAHENLA was situated on the Sidon, certainly a considerable distance from its head waters, as other lands and cities (such as Minon and Manti) are mentioned as lying far above it. If we measure the distance from such a point southward, either 200, 300 or 400 miles, all these measurements will bring us into the country now called Ecuador. This is one of the reasons why we think Nephi's settlement was in that region.

We are of the opinion that the land of Lehi-Nephi was situated in one of the higher valleys, or extensive plateaus of the Andes. In the first place, admitting it was in Ecuador, it would lie almost immediately under the equator, and the lowlands would be unbearable for an industrious population on account of the great heat, as well as exceedingly unhealthy by reason of ebills, fever, etc., from which, indeed, the Nephites did suffer in later generations when they spread widely over the more northern portions of the continent.

Again, the crops which the Nephites raised most abundantly—barley and wheat—are not those that flourish in a tropical climate, but can be grown most advantageously in a temperate region, such as could be found in these higher valleys.

It was also a land rich in mineral wealth, which is not probable would have been the case if it had been situated among the wide-spreading alluvial plains east of the Andes.

It is likewise spoken of as a hilly or mountainous country. The hill north of the land of Shilom is frequently mentioned in the historical narrative. For instance:

Ammon "came to a hill, which is north of the land of Shilom" (*Mosiah vii. 5*).

King Limhi caused his guards to "go to the hill which was north of Shilom" (*Mosiah vii. 16*).

King Noah erected a great tower "on the hill north of the land Shilom" (*Mosiah xi. 13*).

For another reason, the expression "up" is almost always used when reference is made to persons going towards the land of Nephi. Not only did they travel from Zarahemla up the Sidon and across the wilderness to Nephi, but also up from the land of Ishmael and other portions of the land of Nephi to the city of Nephi and its surroundings. (See *Mosiah xxviii. 1, 5; xxix. 3; Alma xvii. 8; xc. 2; xxvi. 23; xxix. 14*, etc.)

The only time in which the word down is used, when referring to persons going towards Nephi, is when certain persons came down to the city from off the hill mentioned above. In contradistinction to this, persons leaving Nephi went down to the land of Zarahemla and other places.

Some of our readers may object to the statement that the city of Nephi and the city of Lehi-Nephi were one and the same place, and that the land round about was sometimes called the land of Lehi-Nephi, and sometimes the land of Nephi only. But we think that a careful perusal of the record of Zeniff, in the Book of Mormon, will convince them of the fact, especially if they will compare it with the last few verses of the book of Omni. Zeniff in one place speaks of possessing, by treaty with the Lamanites, the land of Lehi-Nephi (*Mosiah i. 6*), and a few verses later on (verse 14), he talks of "the thirteenth year of my reign in the land of Nephi."

If we mistake not, the name Lehi-Nephi occurs only seven times in the Book of Mormon; \* everywhere else the name Nephi is used when referring to the land where the Nephite monarchy was first established.

(To be Continued.)

## LETTER TO THE BOYS.

SALT LAKE CITY,

December 10th, 1880.

"A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year" to you all, dear boys, and I pray that in the coming year you may increase in knowledge, wisdom and understanding, in all things necessary to be understood by Saints of Latter-days. A general knowledge is that which makes useful men and women. If the useful and the ornamental education can be blended, I certainly like to see it; but if both cannot be acquired, then let the ornamental go, but be sure you all secure the useful, that which will make the sum of human life close with a noble total.

I was very much pleased, and I hope you were all edified by the letter of one of our boys out of his "teens," and sincerely hope he will continue to favor us with more of the same kind. I have also received letters from William W. Rubey, Springville, and Enoch Brown, Hoytsville, which do great credit to both their head and heart. They really comfort me, for sometimes I have felt almost cast down at what seems the apathy of our young people. But when I read the letters that have

\*—*Mosiah vii. 1, 2, 4 and 21; ix. 6 and 8.*