



Type: Book Chapter

Part 2: Summaries of Models

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Part 2
Summaries of Models

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Total: 70

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By date:

General 1830s

Times and Seasons 1842

Pratt 1866

Comer/Maeser 1880

Reynolds 1880

Plain Facts 1887

Roberts 1888

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Anonymous n.d.
Lauritzen n.d.
Ludlow *et al.* n.d.
Tyler n.d.

Allen 1989 (External) Model

Originator: Joseph L. Allen.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica east and south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: Mesoamerica west and north of the Isthmus.

Nephi's Landing Place: Near Izapa on the Mexican-Guatemalan border.

Hill Cumorah: Cerro El Vigia.

Sidon River: Grijalva River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Highland Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala.

Land of Zarahemla: The bloc of land between about 16 and 18 degrees latitude and extending from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec straight east to the Bay of Honduras/Caribbean. (Page 238-9: "The best probable candidate for the Land of Zarahemla is a lowland central depression area located in . . . Chiapas, Mexico. . . . However, we must still consider the possibility of the Middle Usumacinta Valley as the possible location for the Land of Zarahemla.")

City of Zarahemla: Probably the site of Santa Rosa, Chiapas.

Land Bountiful: Shown as a strip extending from the Coatzacoalcos River's mouth encompassing the delta of the Grijalva and Usumacinta Rivers and to the Caribbean in Belize; essentially the states of Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo. (Page 223: "The Yucatan was probably part of the Land [State] of Bountiful." Page 243: "The Land of Nephi, the Land of Zarahemla, and the Land of Bountiful were all lands or states within the country, or general area, of Bountiful.")

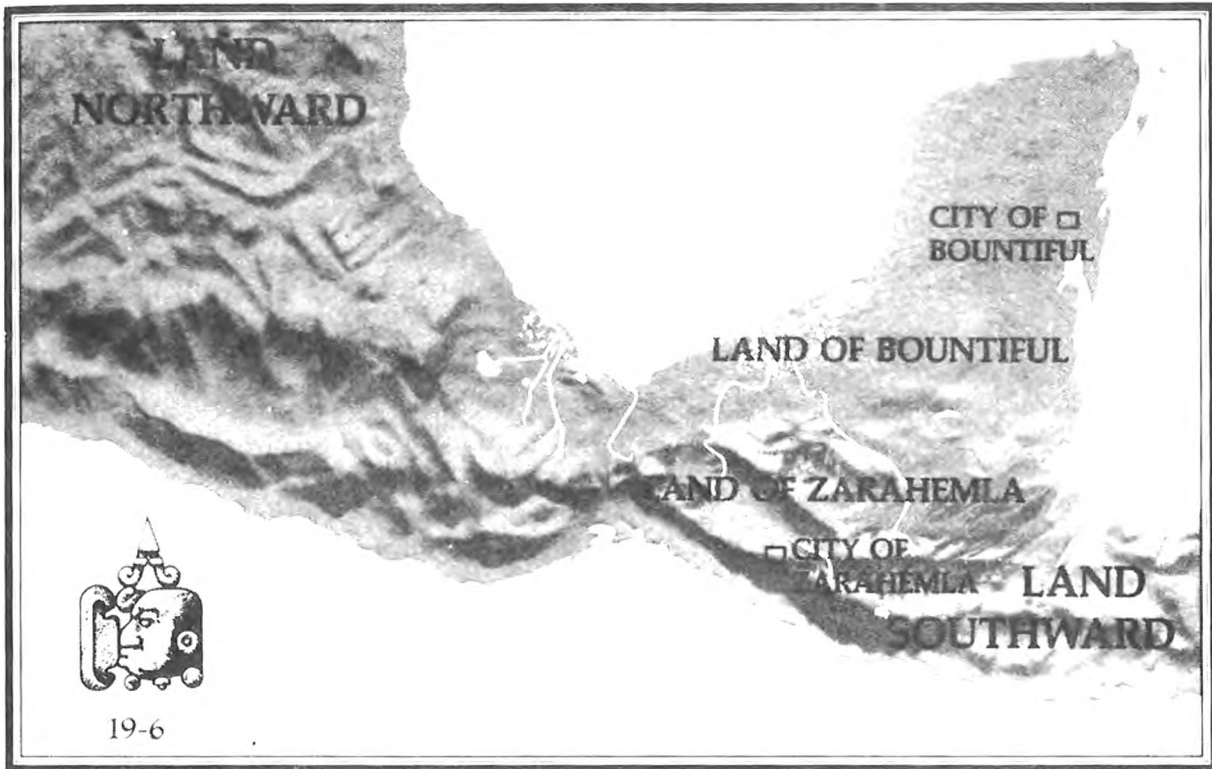
Narrow Pass: The pass over the continental divide within the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Chivela Pass).

Land of Desolation: Equivalent to the land northward.

Land of Moron: Valley of Oaxaca.

Jaredite Landing Place: Probably on the coast of Oaxaca east of 98 degrees west longitude (but an Atlantic crossing is a possibility).

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, in the state of Quintana Roo a little north and west of the Bahia de Chetumal. Moroni, at the Bay of Honduras. Nephihah, inland (40 miles?) from Moroni (apparently near the site of Poptun). Aaron, with a question mark, mapped



west of the Usumacinta River not far from Altar de Sacrificios. Lehi, in extreme northern Belize. Judea is Izapa. Waters of Mormon, Lake Atitlan. Ammonihah, the site of Mirador in western Chiapas. City of Desolation, at Acayucan in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Melek, Tonalá on the west coast of Chiapas.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No drastic changes.

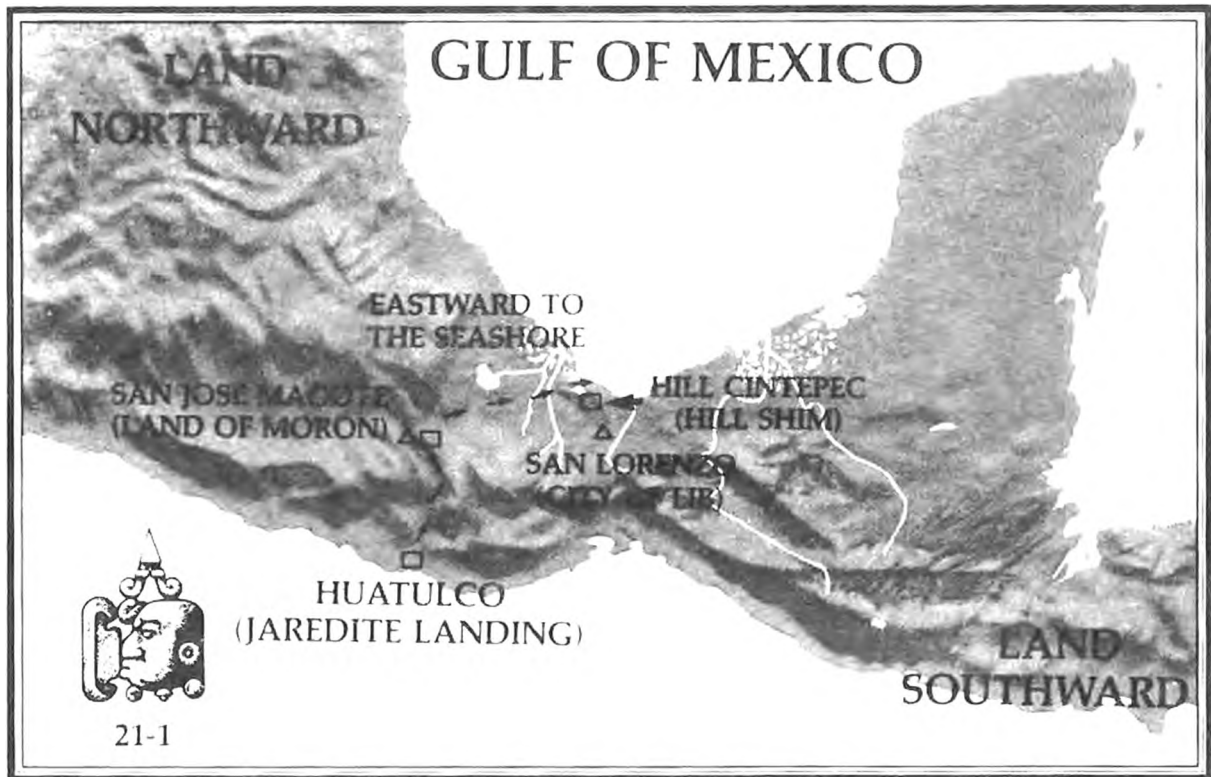
Scope of Model Specification: Extensive detail on certain points, much less on others.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Significant discussion and comparison (pages 182-197). Credits generalized influence from Washburn and Jakeman, but (p. 181) apparently considers his own views independent of primary influences.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Substantial.

Source:

Joseph L. Allen. *Exploring the Lands of the Book of Mormon*. S. A. Publishers: Orem, Utah, 1989, pages 181-390.



Bagley 1927 (External) Model

Originator: Charles Stuart Bagley.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

[The source from 1927 is so brief that two later versions of the same model, 1963 and 1985, are incorporated here on the assumption that they do not differ markedly from the original.]

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The Isthmus of Tehuantepec. (1963: This is *a* narrow neck of land but not *the* narrow neck. At least now this neck appears to consist of the base or middle of the Yucatan Peninsula.)

Land Southward: Apparently Yucatan and Guatemala.

Land Northward: Not specified as such. See Land of Desolation.

Nephi's Landing Place: 1963: Between Peru and Lower California, and probably between Panama and Tehuantepec, based on an assumption of travel via the equatorial counter current. 1985: "They were cast ashore on the southern coast of Middle America."

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Explicitly northern Yucatan. [Yet the Lamanites in the "south wilderness" were south of the Motagua River (southeastern Guatemala and Honduras), the Lamanite city of Siron was near Copan, and Cumeni, Antiparah and Judea were near the headwaters of the Chixoy River, far south of Yucatan. Moreover the Nephite line built by Moroni to protect the land of Zarahemla from the Lamanites ran from the Gulf of Honduras to the Pacific Ocean, then northwest to the Gulf of Mexico with Lamanites on the south. All these features are puzzling in relation to a Nephi in northern Yucatan.]

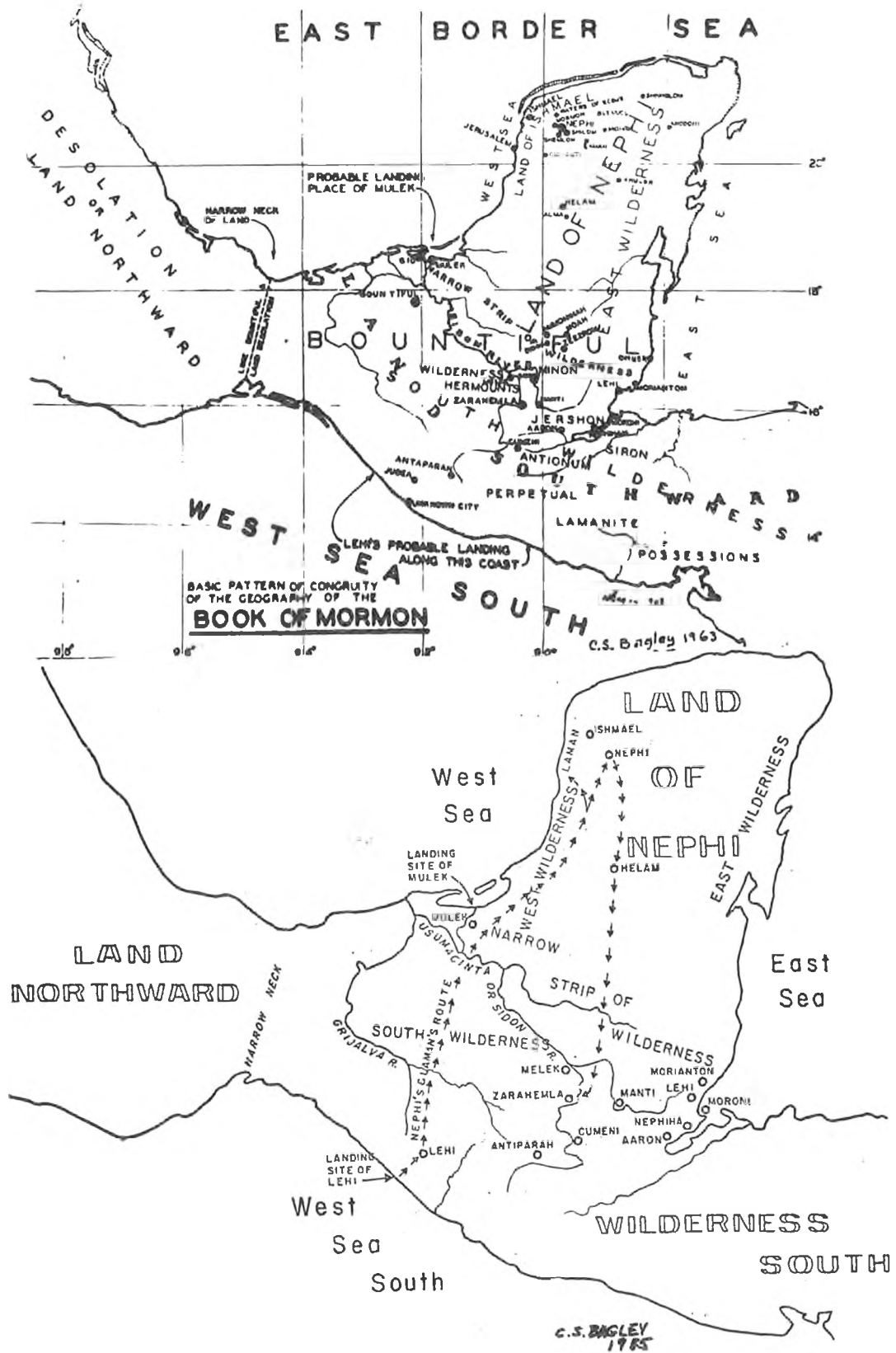
City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): The city of Nephi was Uxmal, and Labnah and Sayil were Shilom and Shemlon respectively. (Bagley 1985: "The city of Nephi or Lehi-Nephi is located in the northwestern part of the peninsula, somewhere in the low range of hills that traverse Yucatan in a southeasterly direction from the modern city of Maxcanu.")

Nephi's Landing Point: On the Soconusco-Guatemala coast. (At some point inland from there (on his 1985 map appearing to be actually in the mountains above Mapastepec).

Land of Zarahemla: The basin of (especially) the upper Usumacinta River and of its tributaries, the Pasion and Chixoy.

City of Zarahemla: On the Rio Chixoy, a tributary of the Usumacinta River. (Bagley 1985: "Zarahemla is located on the Rio Chixoy where it forms the boundary between eastern Chiapas and Guatemala. Thus the city of

Bagley



Zarahemla is almost due south of the city of Nephi at a distance of about 300 miles.”)

Sidon River: The Chixoy and Pasion merge to become the Usumacinta/Sidon.

Land of Bountiful: In Chiapas. (1963: From Tehuantepec all the way to Belize)

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: All of Mexico north of Tehuantepec.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Yucatan.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful is Palenque. Melek is the ruin of Menche. Tikal is Ammonihah. Moroni was near Puerto Barrios. Lehi and Morianton are in Belize (on his 1985 map, however, he also has a “Lehi” near the initial landing place). Aaron is on the Coban river. (1963: Highland Guatemala and El Salvador constitute “perpetual Lamanite possessions.”) Siron is the Copan area. Nephihah is on the north shore of Lake Izabal. Antionum is more or less the Motagua Valley. Judea and the City-by-the-sea are in the Soconusco area [the latter city indicated on the map as perhaps Izapa]. Antiparah, around Huehuetenango, western Guatemala. The Mulek party landed at the Laguna de Terminos. Lehi, Morianton and Omner are on the Belize coast. Jerusalem and Ishmael are on the west coast of Yucatan, i.e., the “west sea.”

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Some, but not fundamental ones.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None indicated.

Sources:

J. M. Sjodahl. *An Introduction to the Study of the Book of Mormon*. The Author: Salt Lake City, 1927, pages 415-418. The fact that Sjodahl felt the need to summarize “Elder Stuart Bagley’s” theory indicates that it had not been previously published. Later see Charles Stuart Bagley, *A New Approach to the Geography of the Book of Mormon*. *Papers of the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures*, ed. by Forrest R. Hauck, pages 70-86. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Department of Extension Publications, 1963. Also two unpublished manuscripts by Bagley: *The Limhi Expedition*, and, *A Textual Geography of the Book of Mormon*, both dated 1985, copies in F.A.R.M.S. archives.

Birrell 1948 (Internal-External) Models

Originator: Verla Birrell.

Area Focus: Western South America.

Features:

(Her Chart 28 offers three models, each a variant on a basic Andean theme and all in the same general area. The entries below are numbered to correspond to each of her three variants, indicated as (1), (2), and (3). In Variant (1) the land southward is from Ecuador into Bolivia. Variant (2) has the land southward from Ecuador only to southern Peru. Variant (3) covers the same territory as (2) but arranges details differently.)

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: (1) The Marañon River narrows or the Andean passes in Southern Ecuador.

(2) Mountainous constriction between El Tambo and Igapirca.

(3) Pass at Tulcan, Colombia.

Land Southward: See above.

Land Northward: (1) Most of Ecuador plus Colombia.

(2) From El Tambo, Ecuador, north through Colombia.

(3) Colombia.

Nephi's Landing Place: (1) Between Arica, Chile and Arequipa, Peru.

(2) Same as (1) or near Lima.

(3) Either Northern Chile or coastal Northern Peru.

Hill Cumorah: (1) Acacana hill or another in the vicinity of Tarqui, Ecuador.

(2) Sangay, Altar, Chimborazo or some such hill or mountain in Ecuador.

(3) Cara Urcu, Pasto, etc., hill or mountain in Ecuador.

Sidon River: (1) Marañon River.

(2) Jubones, or Piate, River.

(3) Headwaters of the Guayas or Pastaza River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: (1) From Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, to Cerro de Pasco.

(2) Peru north of Arequipa.

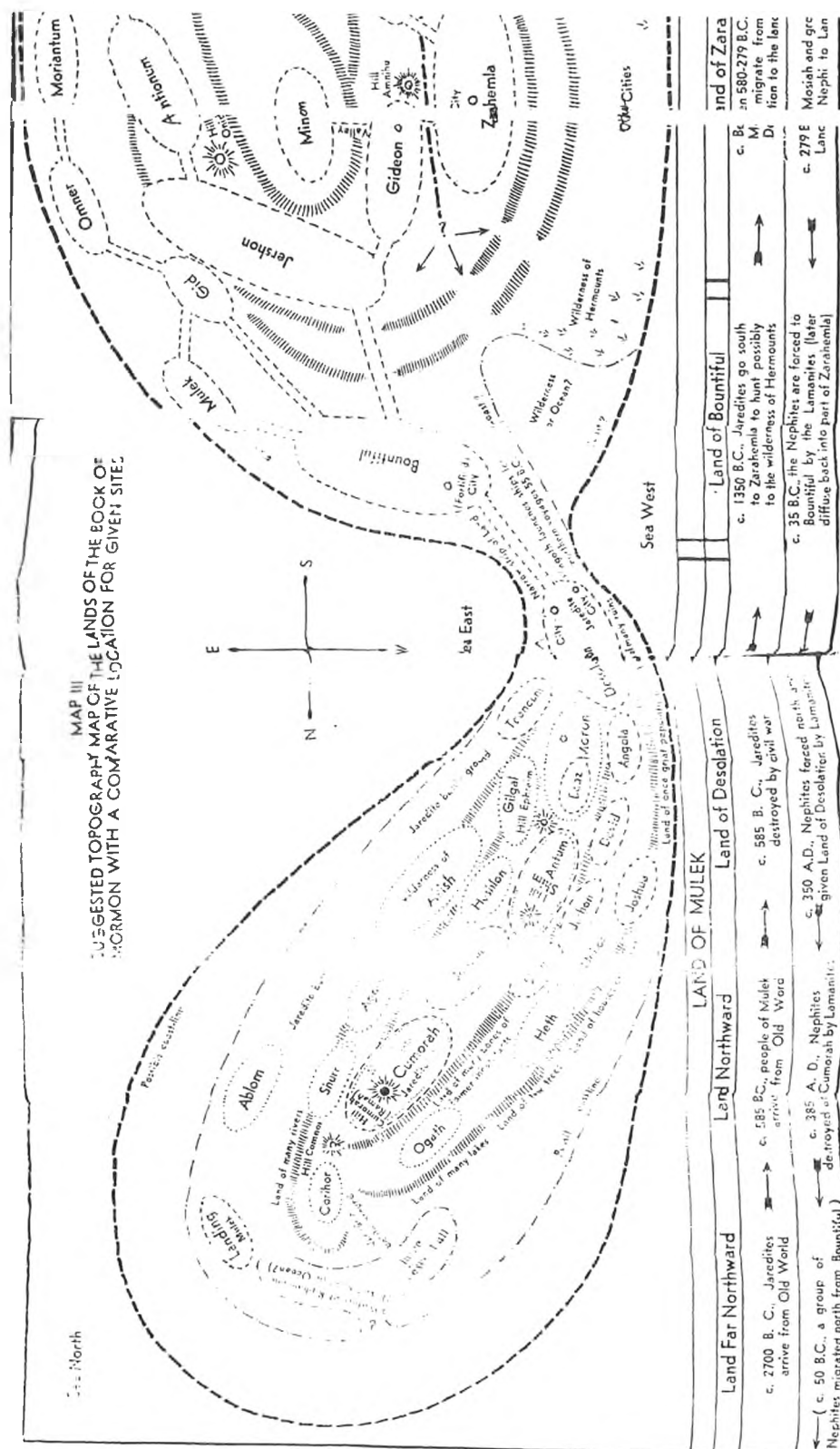
(3) Either Peru as a whole or the northern Peruvian highlands.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

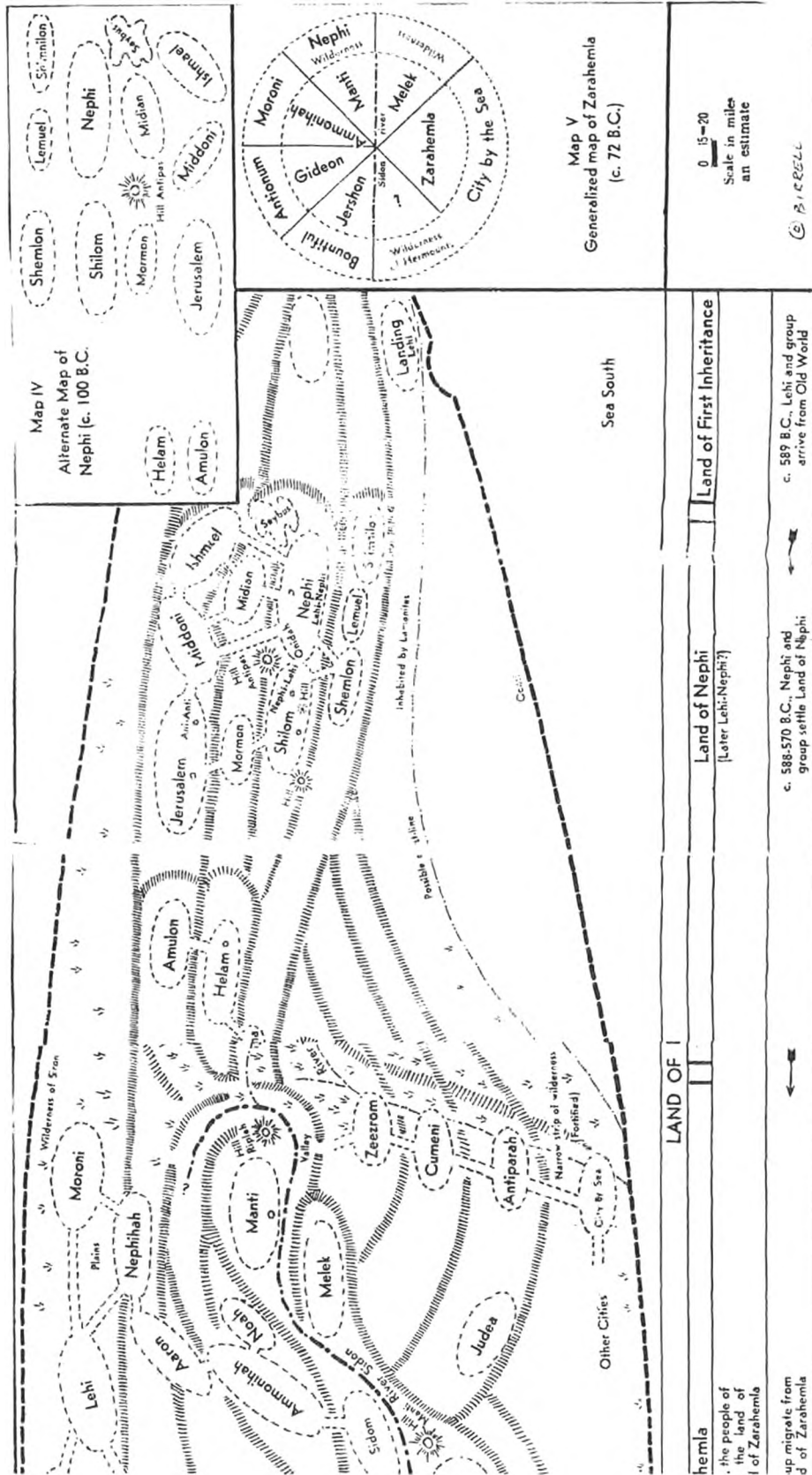
Land of Zarahemla: (1) Paramonga to Lambayeque, Peru.

(2) Marañon River narrows to Giron, Ecuador.

(3) El Tambo to Quito, Ecuador.



Birrell



City of Zarahemla: (1) Caras or Cajamarca.
(2) Zaraguro and Zaruma.
(3) Guaranda or Cajabamba.

Land Bountiful: (1) Northern Peru west of the Amazon basin.
(2) Giron to El Tambo, Ecuador.
(3) Northern Ecuador.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: (1) Southern and Central Ecuador.
(2) El Tambo to Quito, Ecuador.
(3) Tulcan to San Augustín, Colombia.

Land of Moron: (1) City of Moron near Cuenca or Riobamba, Ecuador.
(2) City near Quito, Ecuador.
(3) San Augustín, Colombia.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: At least important local features could have changed.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little. Claims this model is original.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Very little.

Source:

Verla Birrell. *The Book of Mormon Guide Book*. The Author: Salt Lake City, 1948.

Christensen (Christiansen?) 1969 (Minimal External) Model

Originator: Keith Christensen (Christiansen?).

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The neck was probably 210 miles across on its north side and 140 miles on its south. It was probably located immediately south of the Yucatan Peninsula where the land would have been lower and thus a smaller distance across.

Land Southward: Not indicated clearly but implied to be Central America south and east of the Motagua River valley.

Land Northward: Yucatan peninsula.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not indicated.

Hill Cumorah: Not indicated, but inferable as in Yucatan (Belize?)

Sidon River: Ulua River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Implied to be southern Honduras.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not indicated.

Land of Zarahemla: Implied to be western Honduras.

City of Zarahemla: Not indicated.

Land of Bountiful: Not indicated.

Narrow Pass: Apparently the Motagua River valley. The pass traversed the narrow neck of land "diagonally and led into the land northward from the east sea on the south to the west sea on the north."

Land of Desolation: Not indicated.

Land of Moron: Not indicated.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: "[The name of] a small town in El Salvador called Jerusalé [by Spanish speakers, obviously] closely resembles the Book of Mormon town of Jerusalem that was destroyed . . . by being sunk into the sea."

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Formerly the "neck" across the southern Yucatan peninsula was narrower than now.

Scope of Model Specification: Skeletal.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Essentially none.

Source:

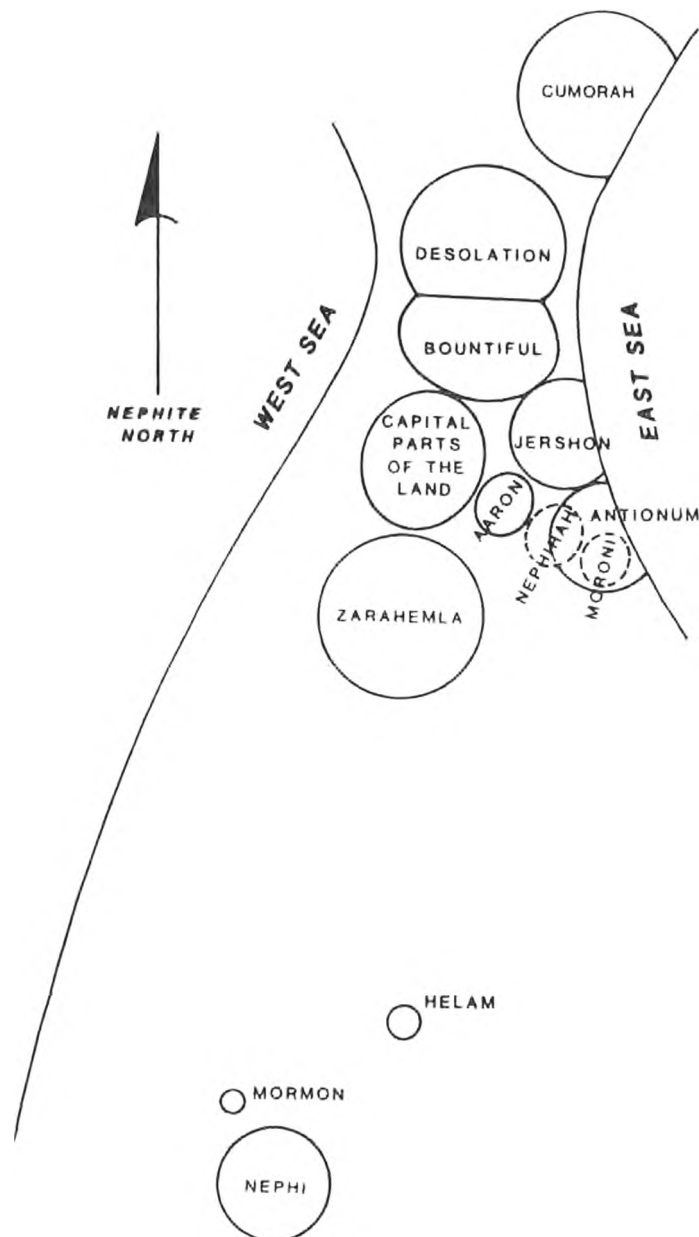
Keith Christiansen [sic]. Southern Yucatan Theory. 1969.
Unpublished paper in the possession of Paul R. Cheesman. (So cited in Cheesman, *These Early Americans* (Deseret Book: Salt Lake City, 1974.) In Cheesman's *The World of the Book of Mormon* (Deseret Book: Salt Lake City), 1978, page 3, he cites and summarizes points from "Keith Christensen [sic], unpublished paper." This paper is not now found in the BYU library.

Clark 1989 (Internal) Model

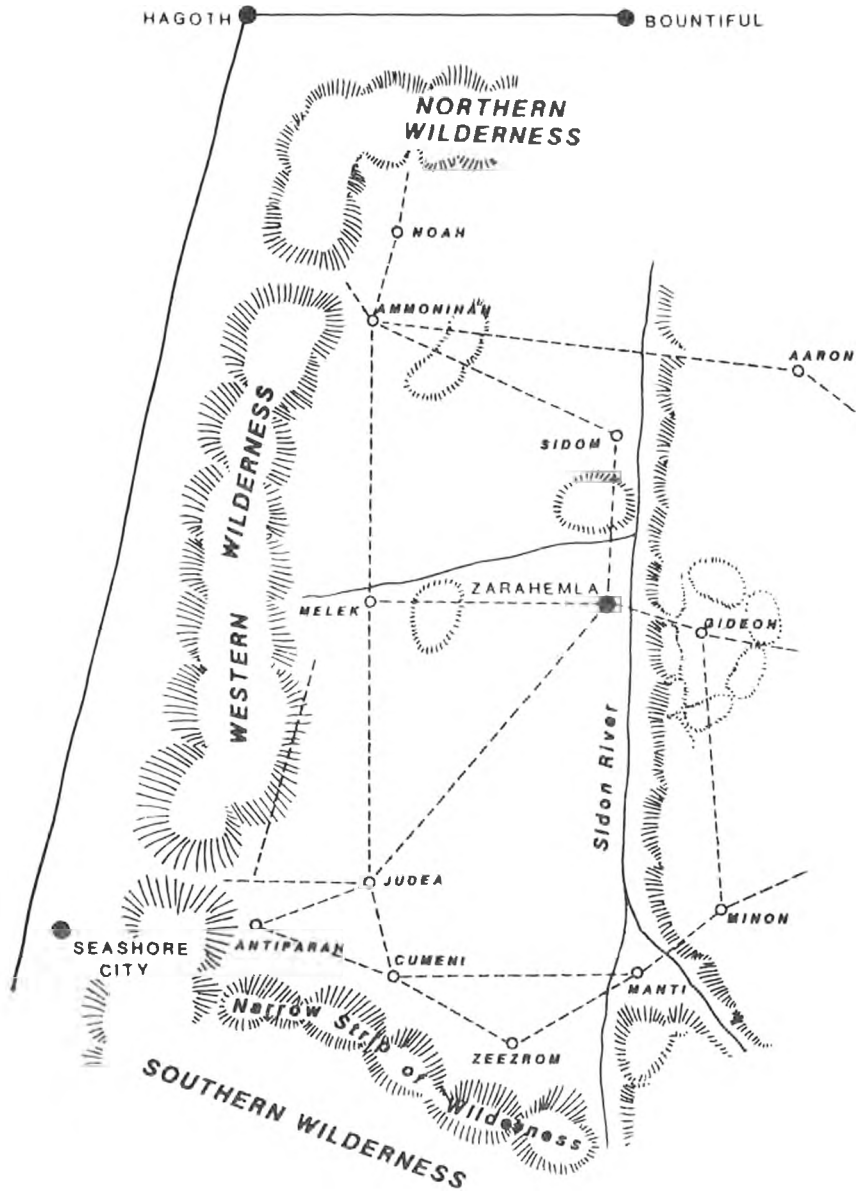
Originator: John E. Clark.

Degree of Detail: Substantial, with detailed logic, including distances in terms of standardized "units of standard distance" expressed as days of travel under normal conditions.

Source: John E. Clark, Review of, *Deciphering the Geography of the Book of Mormon*, by F. Richard Hauck. *Review of Books on the Book of Mormon*, vol. 1 (1989): 20-70. This review is subtitled, *A Key for Evaluating Nephite Geographies*.



Clark



Comer/Maeser 1880 (External) Model

Originator: Heber Comer and Karl G. Maeser.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: From Panama northward including North America (the map is only of South America; the land northward attribution is only implied).

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York (implied).

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: "Nephi" is written across the entire continent of South America near 10 degrees south latitude.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): In highlands south of Lake Maracaibo.

Land of Zarahemla: Andean Colombia.

City of Zarahemla: East side of the Magdalena River halfway up its course.

Sidon River: Magdalena River.

Land of Bountiful: Easternmost Panama.

Narrow Pass: Not indicated.

Land of Desolation: Not indicated.

Land of Moron: Not indicated.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated.

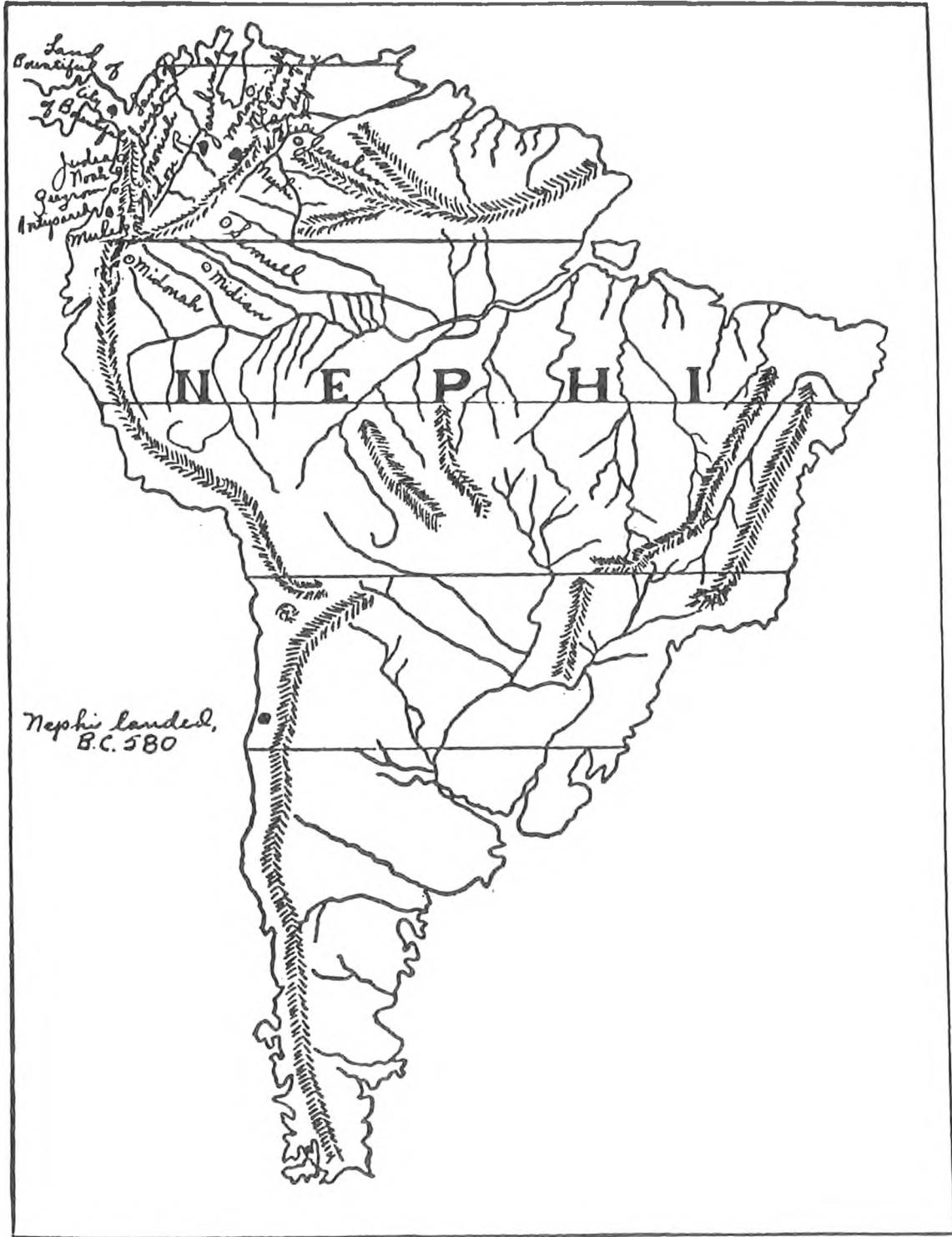
Other Cities or Areas Specified: On or near the west coast of Colombia, from south to north: Mulek, Antiparah, Zeezrom, Noah and Judea. Land of Jershon, immediately east of Panama. Moroni: on the east side of the Lake Maracaibo. Jerusalem: on the middle Orinoco. Middonah (sic), Midian and Samuel (sic): in the upper reaches of the Amazon drainage in Ecuador and Colombia.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Not indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Map only.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.



Source:

See J. A. and J. N. Washburn, *An Approach to the Study of Book of Mormon Geography*. Authors: Provo, Utah, 1939. On page 212 they reproduce a "map . . . carefully prepared" from "a large one made in 1880 by Brother Heber Comer, of Lehi, in the old Brigham Young Academy, under the personal direction of Dr. Karl G. Maeser."

Curtis 1988 (1939?) (External) Model

Originator: Delbert W. Curtis.

Area Focus: Northeastern North America.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The isthmus between Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Land Southward: "All of the narrow neck of land from the City of Desolation to the River Sidon. Today it would be from Hamilton [Ontario] to the Niagara River."

Land Northward: Lower Ontario, Canada (Lake Huron was the "sea north").

Nephi's Landing Place: At the west end of Lake Ontario, after a voyage from south Arabia, around Cape of Good Hope, northward through the entire Atlantic Ocean into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Not clear.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: A strip a few miles wide immediately west of the Niagara River.

City of Zarahemla: Near where the Niagara River enters Lake Ontario.

Land of Desolation: A part of the north shore of Lake Erie.

City of Zarahemla: Where the Niagara River enters Lake Ontario.

Sidon River: Niagara River.

Land of Bountiful: A strip a few miles long on the New York side of the Niagara River.

Narrow Pass: A segment of land between the Grand River and Twenty Mile Creek within the isthmus between Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Land of Desolation: A small area of the isthmus immediately south of the western tip of Lake Ontario.

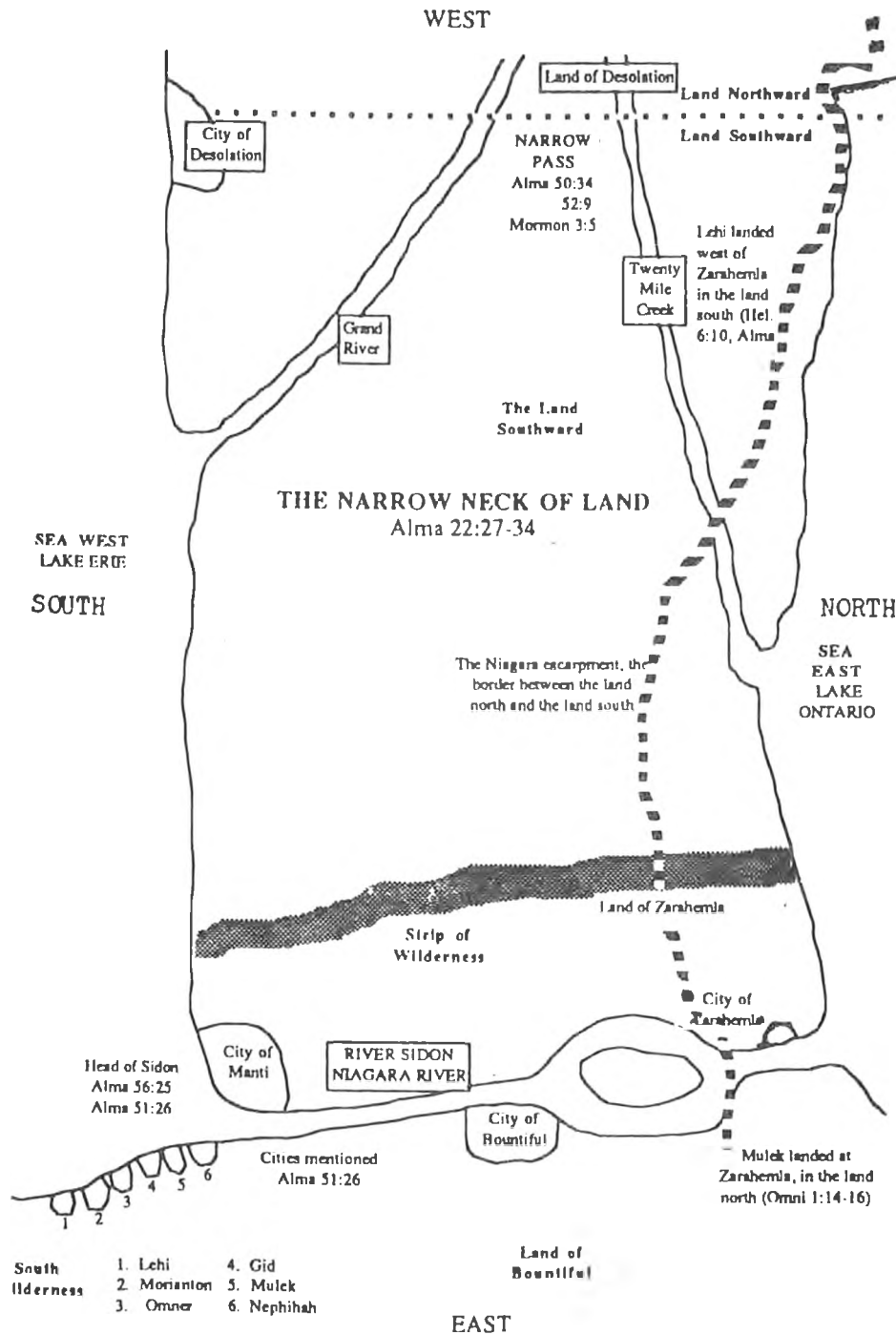
Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Unclear but apparently the northeastern North America seaboard.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, a spot on the New York side of the Niagara River half way between Lakes Erie and Ontario, less than ten miles from the city of Zarahemla. Lehi, Morianton, Omner, Gid, Mulek and Nephiah (each about a mile from the next one) form a line on the New York side where the Niagara River originates. Manti is directly across the river from Nephiah.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Slight.

Curtis



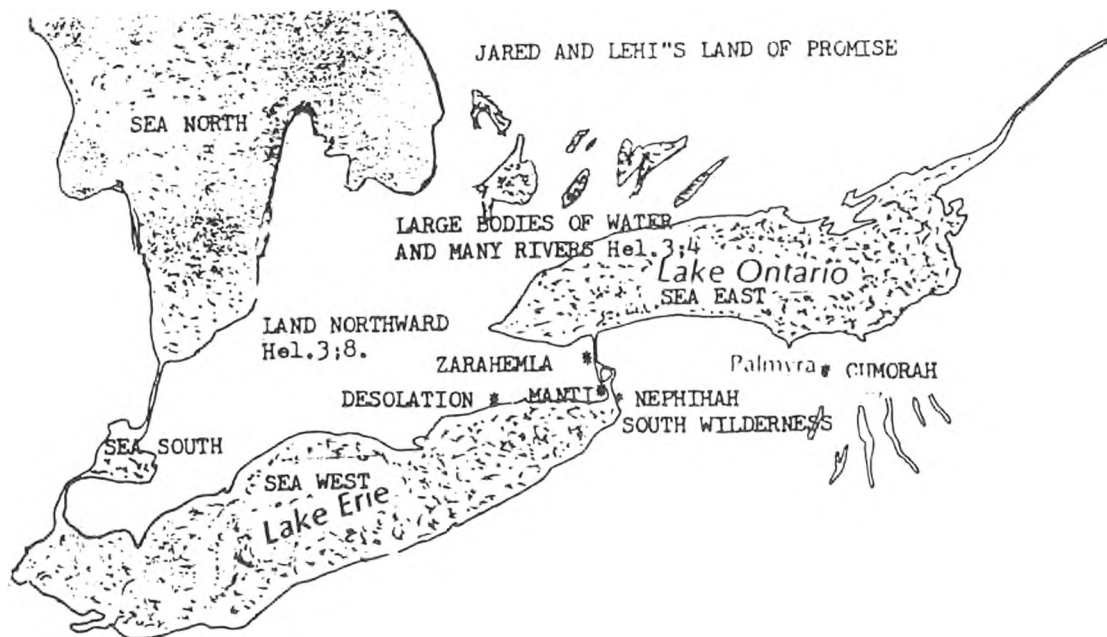
Scope of Model Specification: Scattered observations, three maps.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Essentially none. [Note: Washburn and Washburn 1939, page 194, mention that "Only within the past few months the authors have had brought to their attention the suggestion that the narrow neck is between the southern extremities of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie." They lived in American Fork, Utah, Curtis' home, so he may have held this view, and communicated it to them, as early as 1939.]

Use of Current External Scholarship: Essentially none.

Source:

Delbert W. Curtis. *The Land of the Nephites*. The Author: American Fork, UT, 1988. 40 pp.



Davila 1961 (External) Model

Originator: Jose O. Dávila.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec northward and westward.

Nephi's Landing Place: At the mouth of the Nahualate River on the Pacific coast of Guatemala.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Highland Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Nahuala, Guatemala.

Land of Zarahemla: Usumacinta River basin implied.

City of Zarahemla: At or near El Cayo, on the west bank of the Usumacinta River near Yaxchilan.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Land of Bountiful: The lower drainage of the Usumacinta.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Palenque is the city Bountiful. Tikal is Jerushon. The Waters of Mormon, Lake Atitlan. Totonicapan, Guatemala, is Shemlon. After Mulek's group landed on the delta of the Usumacinta, some rebelled, and Mulek and others fled to the Orinoco basin in Venezuela.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Not clarified, but at least the wet areas of Tabasco first appeared at the time of the crucifixion (implying emergence from the sea).

Scope of Model Specification: Limited, incidental to a travelogue.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None indicated.

Source:

Jose O. Dávila. *An Account of our Book of Mormon Lands Tour, Jan. 27th to Feb. 16th, 1961*. Duplicated, 48 pages (BYU Library).

“DeLong-Steede-Simmons” 1977 (External) Model

Originator: Richard A. DeLong (?)

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica east and south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: Mesoamerica north and west of the Isthmus.

Nephi’s Landing Place: Not specified.

Hill Cumorah: In the state of Puebla (apparently the eastern part) and reaching over 6000 meters above sea level.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Not specified.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Possibly Copan.

Land of Zarahemla: Apparently the basin of the Usumacinta.

City of Zarahemla: Palenque.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified.

Land of Moron: Not specified, but the Olmecs are considered the Jaredites.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The city of Aaron may be Tikal. Copan may be either Ishmael or Nephi.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Unknown.

Scope of Model Specification: General terms only.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None apparent.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Some indicated.

Sources:

Personal communications from Robert F. Smith to John L. Sorenson dated 5 Oct. 1977 and 27 Feb 1978 reporting lectures by DeLong to the Foundation for Research on Ancient America in Independence, MO, on Oct. 2 and 5 Feb. respectively. See also *FRAA Newsletter* 23 (11 May 1976), which

reports some information from an earlier DeLong lecture, 1 Feb. 1976. Smith's personal contacts with DeLong led him to refer to the "DeLong-Steede-Simmons Hill Cumorah," hence the naming of the model above.

Dixon 1958 (External) Model

Originator: Riley Lake Dixon.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: South of Panama?

Land Northward: From Panama northward, including the lands of Bountiful and Zarahemla (sic, p. 20).

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: In New York.

Sidon River: Not specified (vaguely said to be in Central America, p. 26).

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: The Nephites may have called all South America the land of Nephi, or perhaps only the northern part.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: North of Bountiful. The Nephites may have called all North America the land of Zarahemla.

City of Zarahemla: In Central America near the west coast.

Land of Bountiful: Panama. (but page 8, Panama was the wilderness between the land of Nephi and the land of Zarahemla.)

Narrow Pass: Not distinguished.

Land of Desolation: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec an indefinite distance northward.

Land of Moron: Near or north of the Isthmus of Mexico (but page 101, "near the central part of Mexico").

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The city of Mulek was in the land of Bountiful.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: There were major changes in Central America at least.

Scope of Model Specification: Rambling and unsystematic through 26 pp.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Essentially none.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Source:

Riley Lake Dixon. *Just One Cumorah*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1958.

Driggs 1925 (External) Model

Originator: Jean Russell Driggs.

Area Focus: Northern Central America.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: At the Bay of Honduras.

Land Southward: South of the Motagua River.

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec south to the Motagua River, but also North America in a general sense.

Nephi's Landing Place: The Gulf of Fonseca, El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: In eastern Guatemala or Belize.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Implies highland Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): "May have been" around Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Land of Zarahemla: The Ulua River basin.

City of Zarahemla: On the Ulua River.

Sidon River: Ulua River.

Land of Bountiful: The lower parts of the Ulua and Chamelecon Rivers.

Narrow Pass: Around the point formed by the Omoa Mountains just west of the Motagua River.

Land of Desolation: In eastern Guatemala, though in a larger sense, North America.

Land of Moron: Not specified, but in a restricted area in Central America, implied to be Guatemala.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated but surely in Central America.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Helam may be not far from Lake Yojoa, Honduras. Moroni was on the Bay of Honduras.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Limited; some subsidence around Moroni has surely altered the shoreline.

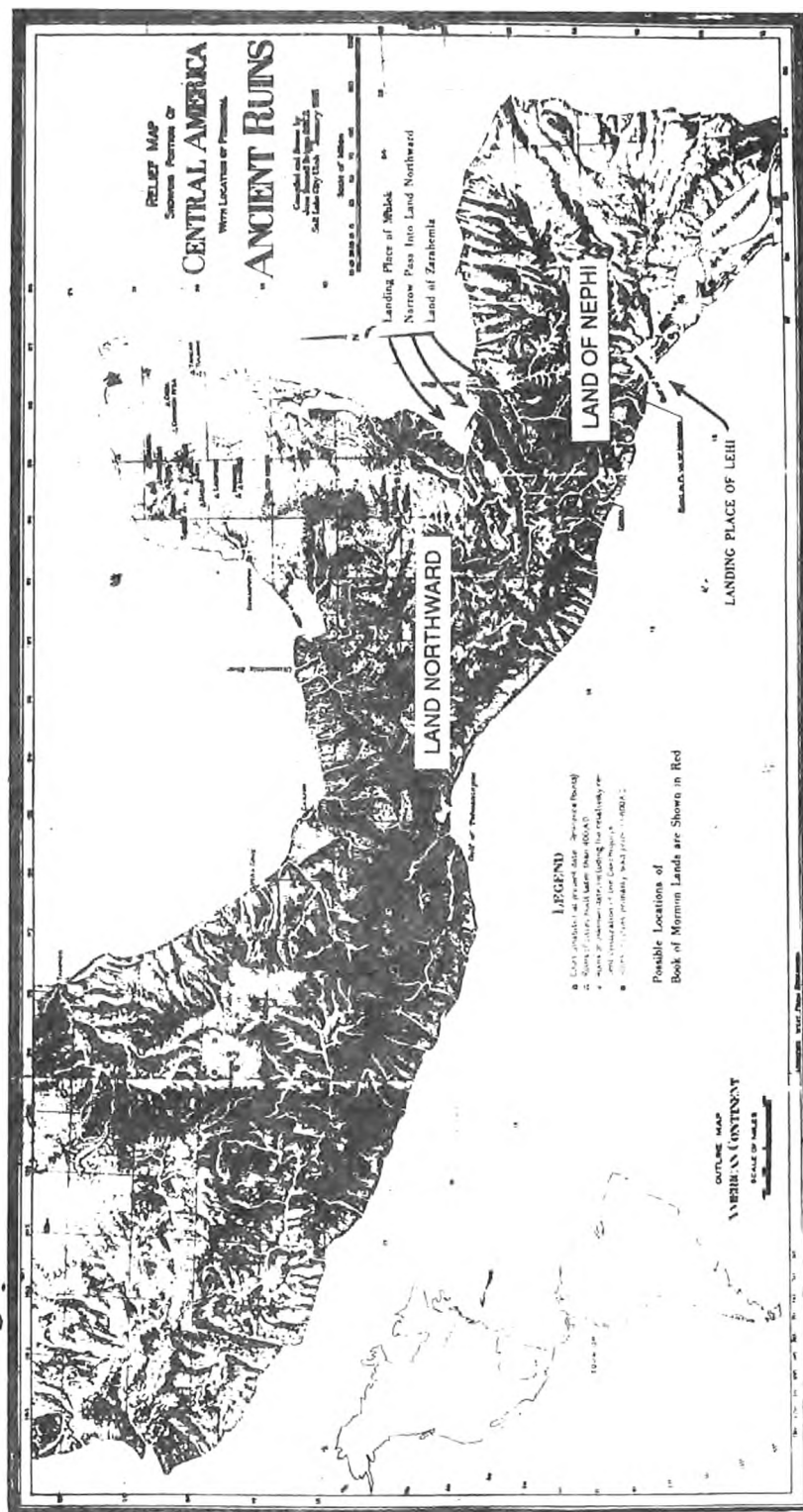
Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Considerable.

Source:

Jean Russell Driggs. *The Palestine of America*. The Author: Salt Lake City, 1925, consisting of three maps and eight unnumbered pages of text.



Ellsworth 1980 (Internal/Minimal External) Model

Originator: Robert B. Ellsworth.

Area Focus: Costa Rica. [Note: The text consists almost entirely of an outline of topics for a lecture. Most topics are statements derived from the Book of Mormon text giving characteristics of or relationships between lands and other features. A few comments indicate the external correlation, which must have come across much clearer via the lecture.]

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Not specified, but somewhere in Costa Rica.

Land Southward: Costa Rica.

Land Northward: Impliedly, northern Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not indicated.

Hill Cumorah: Near the city of Rama, an inland port city today on the Escondido River in Nicaragua. The Rama River today flows past the proposed site of the Hill Ramah/Cumorah.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Impliedly, southern Costa Rica.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not indicated.

Land of Zarahemla: Not indicated.

City of Zarahemla: Not indicated.

Sidon River: Not indicated.

Land of Bountiful: Not indicated.

Narrow Pass: Not indicated.

Land of Desolation: Impliedly in northern Costa Rica.

Land of Moron: Not indicated.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Substantial changes: "A simple land form change has taken place some time between Book of Mormon times and the present" which he has identified using satellite photos. Specifically, Lake Nicaragua was an arm of the sea 2000 years ago.

Scope of Model Specification: Incidental to a lecture on internal matters.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Claims some, but not specified.

Source:

Robert B. Ellsworth, *Lecture Notes on an Interpretation of a Map of Zarahemla and the Land Northward as Described in the Book of Mormon*. Author (dba "Rob-Ell"): Ogden, Utah, 1980. 17 photocopy pages, within thick paper coverings.

Erickson 1991 (External) Model

Originator: Duane Erickson

Area Focus: North America

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Not specified.

Land Southward: Not specified.

Land Northward: Not specified.

Nephi's Landing Place: Implied, Pacific coastal Guatemala.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Mississippi River

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Modern Utah.

City of Nephi: Nephi, Utah.

Land of Zarahemla: Upper and Middle Mississippi River Valley.

City of Zarahemla: At the Mormon settlement of "Zarahemla" across the river from Nauvoo.

Land Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Ontario.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: "Northeast part of the United States."

Other Cities or Areas Specified:

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No evidence of such.

Scope of Model Specification: Extremely limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Effectively none.

Source:

Duane Erickson, Untitled, self-published brochure of 33 pp. available from the author in Salt Lake City.

Ferguson 1947 (Minimal Internal/Minimal External) Model

Originator: Thomas Stuart Ferguson

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Keys:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: "Just south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec."

Land Northward: Between the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Valley of Mexico.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified, but implied in Veracruz.

Others:

Land of Nephi: Not specified.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Not specified.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Sidon River: Not specified.

Land of Bountiful: Just south of the isthmus.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified, but impliedly in south-central Veracruz.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Scope of Model Specification: Skeletal.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Some. Ancestry of the model is not discussed, but the author's previous long association with Jakeman was one influence.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Essentially none.

Source:

Thomas Stuart Ferguson. *Cumorah—Where?* The Author: Oakland, CA, 1947.

Ferguson/Hunter 1950 (Minimal Internal/External) Model

Originators: Thomas Stuart Ferguson and Milton R. Hunter

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica south and east of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: The area between the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Valley of Mexico.

Nephi's Landing Place: Guatemala or near there on the south.

Hill Cumorah: In the Tuxtla Mountains of southern Veracruz.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Highland Guatemala, and perhaps Honduras, implied.

City of Nephi: Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Not specified.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River implied.

Land of Bountiful: Just south and east of the isthmus.

Narrow Pass: Along the eastern edge of the narrow neck.

Land of Desolation: Equivalent to land northward.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Scope of Model Specification: Skeletal.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: This model is a slightly expanded version of Ferguson 1947. Slight indication of previous models, but both originators were close associates of Jakeman's in the 1930s and clearly follow his general model as well as that of the Washburns.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Considerable.

Source:

Milton R. Hunter and Thomas Stuart Ferguson. *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon*. Kolob Book: Oakland, California, 1950 (see especially maps on pages 83, 139, 159, 186).

Subsequent Modification

Personal communications to Sorenson and Lowe in 1952-53, in connection with the first field season of the New World Archaeological

Foundation in which they were engaged, made clear that Ferguson was then supposing Zarahemla to be in Tabasco on the west side of the Grijalva River around Huimanguillo.

Also, in Ferguson's *One Fold and One Shepherd* (San Francisco: Books of California, 1953, p. 252) he suggests that the site of La Venta could be the city that Lib built at the narrow neck of land.

General 1830s (External) Model

Originator: Unknown (Joseph Smith?).

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Uncertain, probably Panama.

Land Southward: Uncertain, probably South America.

Land Northward: North America (and Central America?)

Nephi's Landing Place: Evidently Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Uncertain.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Uncertain, probably in South America.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Uncertain.

Land of Zarahemla: Uncertain, probably in South America.

City of Zarahemla: Uncertain.

Land Bountiful: Uncertain, probably in northern South America.

Narrow Pass: Uncertain.

Land of Desolation: North America.

Land of Moron: Uncertain.

Jaredite Landing Place: Uncertain.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None indicated.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Uncertain but likely.

Scope of Model Specification: Fragmentary.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Not applicable.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Source:

See Appendix A. Those relevant are few and fragmentary:

Oliver Cowdery on the Jaredites and Nephites being destroyed in New York.

Lucy Mack Smith: Joseph may have referred to the hill near their home as "Cumorah" immediately after an early visit there (but see Whitmer 1878).

The 1834 Zelp incident, particularly Joseph Smith's use of the expression for the Illinois prairies, "the plains of the Nephites."

The Kirtland Saints (Joseph Smith the source?) on the "City of Manti" at Huntsville, Missouri.

Joseph Smith on North America as the "land of desolation" in Levi Ward Hancock, and W. W. Phelps 1832).

Gunsolley 1922 (Minimal External) Model

Originator: Jeremiah A. Gunsolley.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Panama.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: North of Panama.

Nephi's Landing Place: Implied in Chile.

Hill Cumorah: In southern Mexico.

Sidon River: Magdalena River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Ecuador and southward.

City of Nephi: Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Colombia and nearby.

City of Zarahemla: On the Magdalena.

Land Bountiful: Immediately adjacent on the east and south to the Isthmus of Panama.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Central America implied.

Land of Moron: In Central America.

Jaredite Landing Place: "North of the Isthmus of Panama."

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Perhaps, implied by his statement: "To make a detailed map of ancient America is impossible."

Scope of Model Specification: Slight.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Source:

Jeremiah A. Gunsolley. *A Study of the Book of Mormon Zion's Religio-Literary Society, at Herald Publishing House: Lamoni, Iowa, 1917* (and the same in 1916 and 1917 issues of *The Religio Quarterly, Senior Grade*), merely reproduces the Weston maps. But in his *More Comment on Book of Mormon Geography*, in *Saints Herald* 69 (Nov. 15, 1922), pages 1074-1076, he argues, uniquely for that day among RLDS, that the Hill Cumorah must be in

Mexico. It is for that notable innovation that his thought is listed here as a separate model.

Hammond 1959 (Internal-Minimal External) Model

Originator: Fletcher B. Hammond.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Not specified but implied to be the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: (At least a portion of) Northern Mesoamerica.

Land of Zarahemla: Possibly the basin of the Usumacinta River.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified but in Mesoamerica.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified but implied in central Mexico?

Sidon River: Possibly the Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Not specified but implied in Guatemala and perhaps southward. He also defines a small "land of Nephi" around the mouth of the Sidon River on the east sea and containing the cities of Mulek, Gid and Omner; this is implied to be around the mouth of the Usumacinta River.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Not specified.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Land Bountiful: Not specified, but implied to be in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Implied to be the portion of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec just west of the narrowest point.

Land of Moron: On the west coast of the land northward, implied to be north and west of the isthmus.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

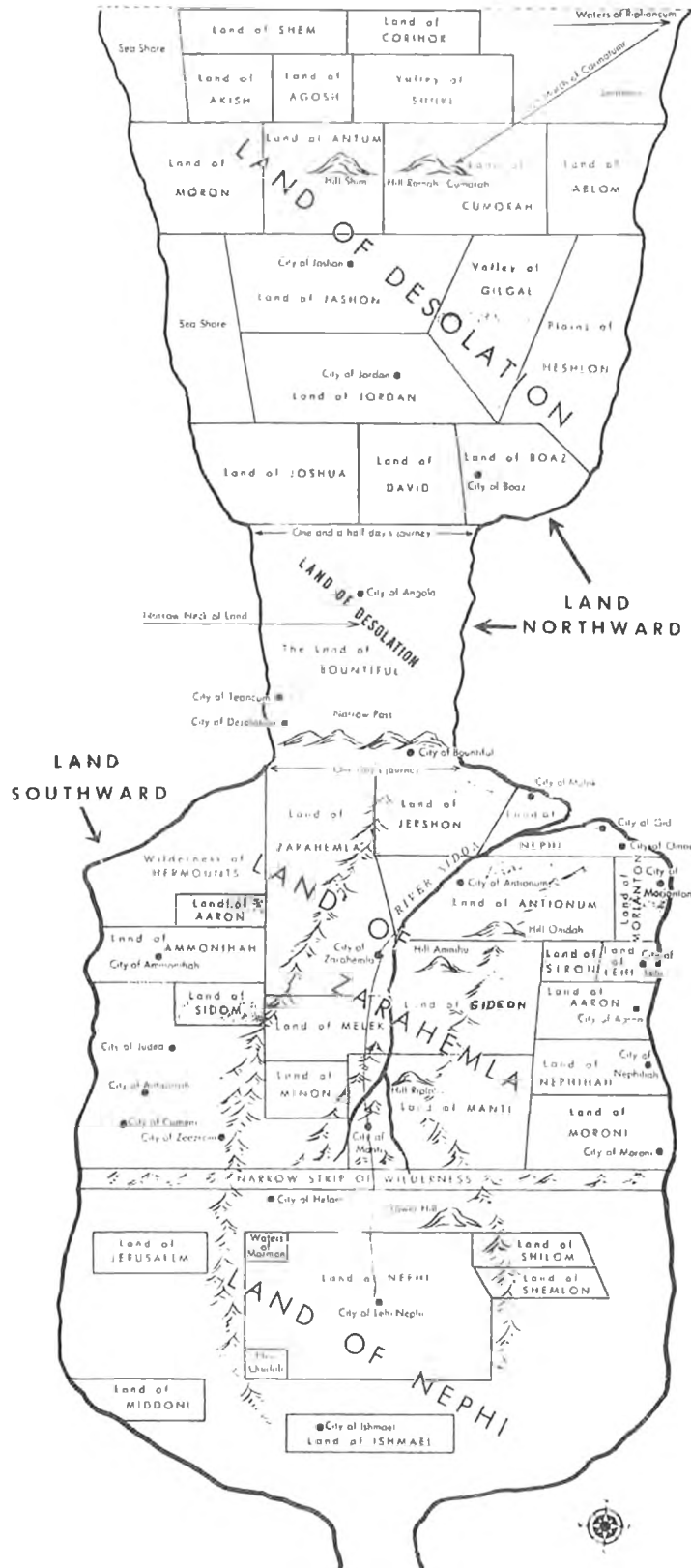
Other Cities or Areas Specified: None, but gives two detailed internal maps. Has two lands of Aaron and two Desolations (a small one at the narrow neck adjacent to Bountiful, the other consisting of the entire land northward).

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Modern features would be derived from pre-catastrophe features, although substantial changes now prevent our identifying specifics with confidence.

Scope of Model Specification: External model, very limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little and unsystematic.

Hammond



Use of Current External Scholarship: Very little.

Source:

Fletcher B. Hammond. *Geography of the Book of Mormon*. Author: Salt Lake City, 1959.

Hanson 1951 (Minimal External) Model

Originator: Paul M. Hanson.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

(This is a general espousal of a Tehuantepec correlation, after first explaining why the "1894" [Weston 1900?] map prepared by the RLDS Committee on Archaeology fails to pass important tests in the scriptural text.)

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica south and east of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: South-central Mexico, west of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified.

Hill Cumorah: Near the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (implied by his approving citation of Washburn and Washburn).

Sidon River: Not specified.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: The southern portion of Southern Mesoamerica implied.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Not specified.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

City of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Mexico west of Tehuantepec.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Implies none important.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Acknowledges the older RLDS tradition in order to refute it. Evident influence from the Washburns.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Practically none.

Sources:

Foreshadowed in Paul M. Hanson, *Jesus Christ among the Ancient Americans*. Herald House: Independence, Missouri, 1945 (note XX, page 202).

As above in Paul M. Hanson, Book of Mormon Geography, *Saints' Herald*, January 8, 1951; reprinted verbatim, but with the addition of Lesh's 1980 map, in *Recent Book of Mormon Developments: Articles from The Zarahemla Record*, ed. by Raymond C. Treat, pages 77-78. Zarahemla Research Foundation: Independence, Missouri, 1984.

Hauck 1988 (Internal-External) Model

Originator: F. Richard Hauck.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The coastal plain of Chiapas in the Tres Picos-Tonala area.

Land Southward: The highlands extending across Guatemala from the Bay of Honduras to the Soconusco.

Land Northward: A sinuous strip from the Chiapas coast around Tonala, across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and into and through Veracruz to Jalapa.

Nephi's Landing Place: Near Izapa on the Guatemalan-Chiapas border.

Hill Cumorah: In the Tuxtlas Mountains.

Sidon River: The Chixoy, a tributary of the Usumacinta.

Others:

Land of Nephi: The locality of Mixco Viejo in the Motagua River valley of Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Mapped around Zacualpa in the upper Motagua River valley.

Land of Zarahemla: The Chixoy River area of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

City of Zarahemla: In the Laguna Lachua-Montaña Nueve Cerros locality of Alta Verapaz in the transition zone to the Guatemalan lowlands.

Land Bountiful: He has two. One is near the Sarstoon River on the Gulf of Honduras, where was located the city of Bountiful. The other is on the Pacific Coast of Chiapas or Soconusco area, but without a city.

Narrow Pass: Some particular spot within the narrow neck area.

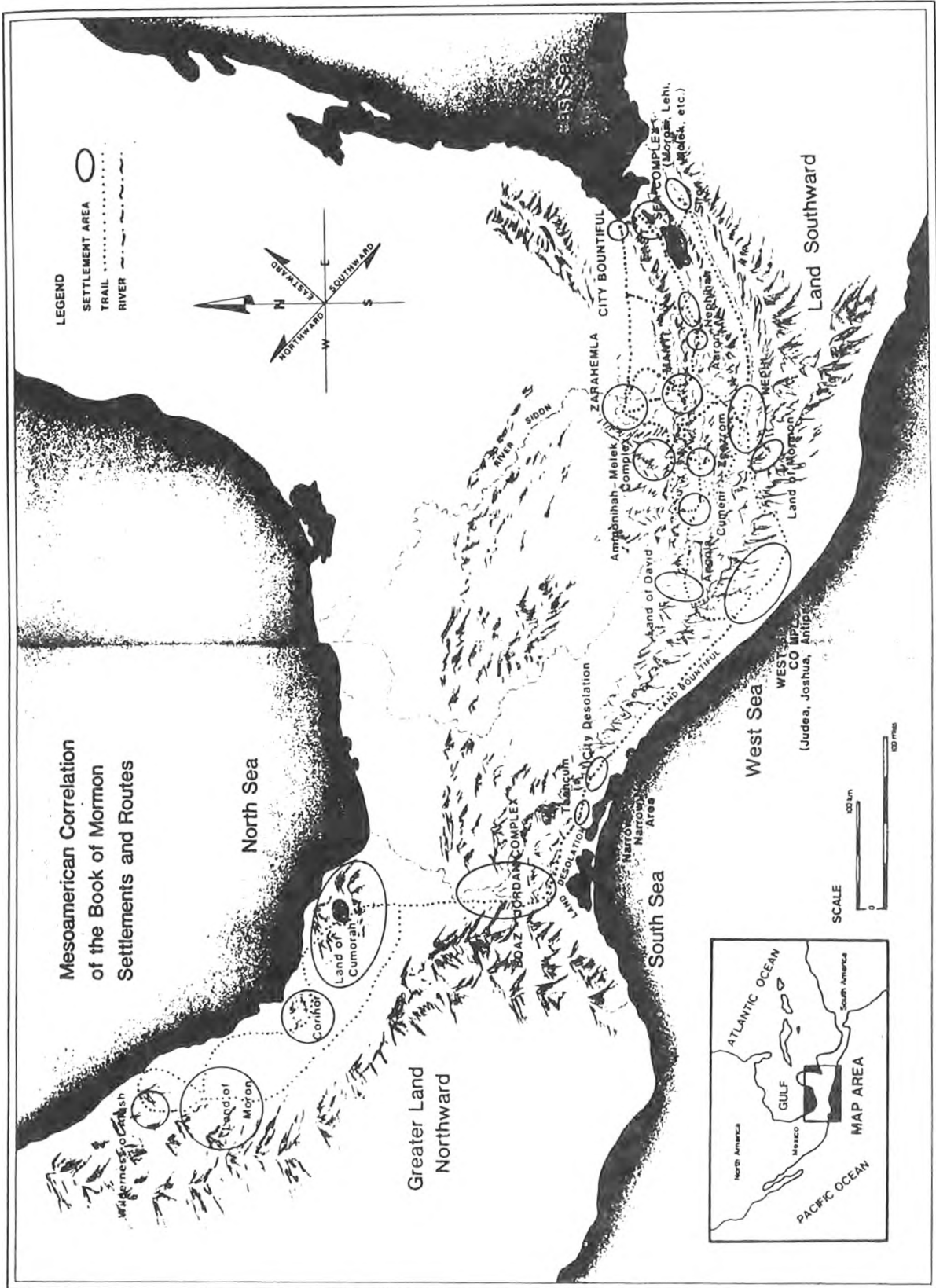
Land of Desolation: Plains on the Pacific side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec around the lagoons.

Land of Moron: Near Jalapa, northern Veracruz state.

Jaredite Landing Place: On the Gulf of Mexico near Moron.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Valley of Gideon, the Chisec area of Guatemala. Antiparah and Judea, very near Izapa. Zeezrom, probably in the Sacapulas region of interior Guatemala. City of Manti, around modern Coban. Nephihah, in the Polochic River valley. Others are mapped. A number of maps give his separate internal model.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: The Laguna Izabal was formed after the city of Moroni was founded nearby.



Scope of Model Specification: In detail.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little indicated. Credits influence from Norman.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Substantial.

Source:

F. Richard Hauck. *Deciphering the Geography of the Book of Mormon: Settlements and Routes in Ancient America*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1988.

Hills 1917 (External) Model

Originator: Louis Edward Hills.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: Northern and western Mesoamerica.

Nephi's Landing Place: Gulf of Fonseca, El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: In the Valley of Mexico.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River and especially its Rio Pasion tributary.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Honduras and El Salvador.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Copan.

Land of Zarahemla: The middle and upper Usumacinta basin.

City of Zarahemla: Mapped at about Altar de Sacrificios.

Land of Bountiful: The Isthmus of Tehuantepec extending eastward to near the lower and Middle Usumacinta river.

Narrow Pass: Not indicated to be separate from the narrow neck.

Land of Desolation: Oaxaca state and extending to Cholula.

Land of Moron: From Cholula to Tampico on the Gulf of Mexico.

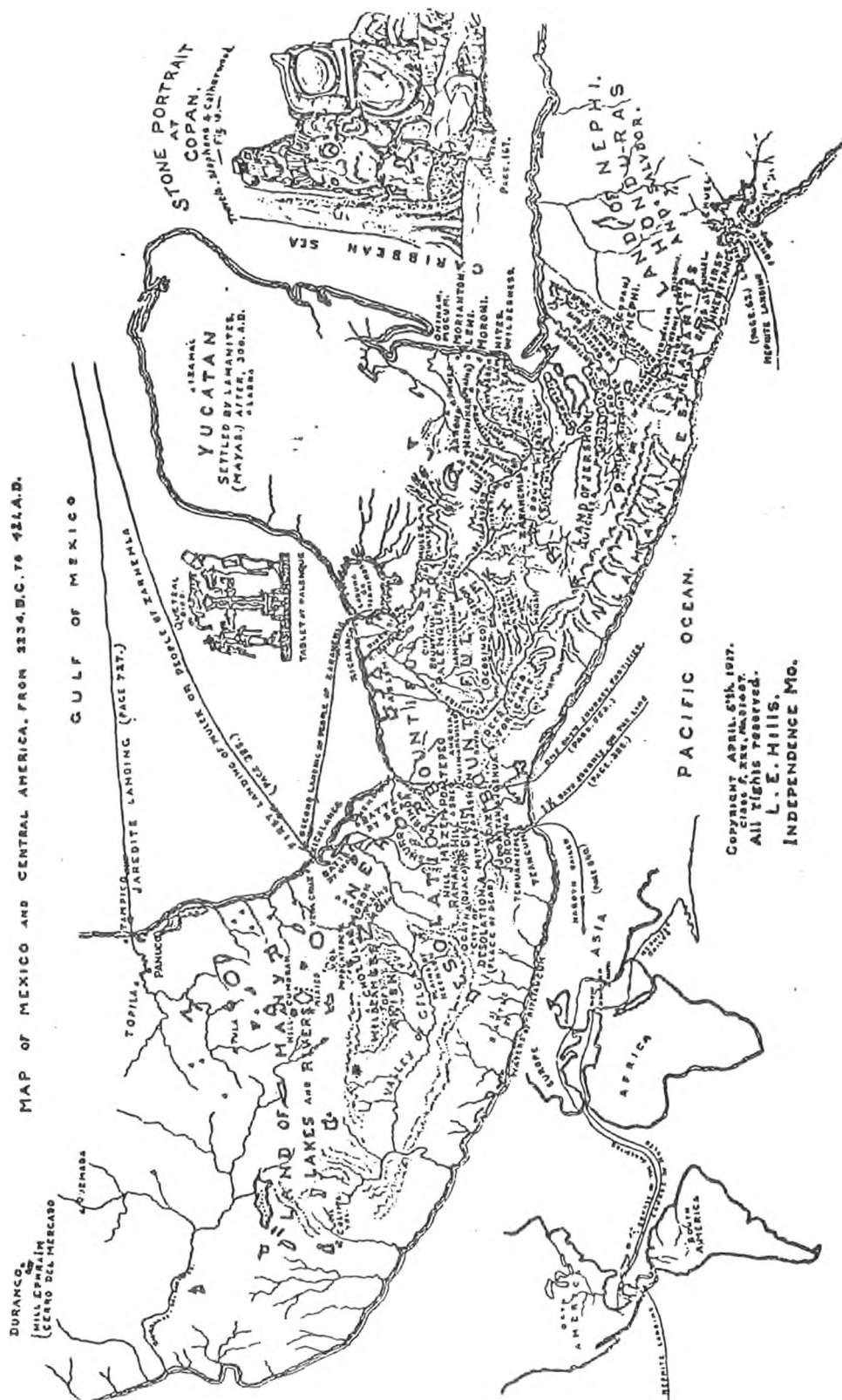
Jaredite Landing Place: Tampico.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Ablom, the Chontalpa (western Tabasco). Aaron, the site of Naranjo in the northern Peten. A second Aaron is in highland Chiapas. Waters of Mormon, Lake Guija. Mulek, the site of Mulke, south of the Laguna de Terminos. Sidom, Ocosingo. Nephiah, Morianton, Lehi and Moroni are in northern British Honduras. Antiparah is at about Holmul in the northeastern Peten. Jerusalem and the Waters of Mormon are at or near Lake Yojoa, Honduras. The land of Jershon is the Quiche area of Guatemala. The land of Antionum is the Motagua River valley. Bountiful city is Palenque. Angola is "Huim-anguillo" [Spanish suffix]. Teancum is Tehuantepec and the name is derived from it. Moron, Cholula. The city of Desolation is Mitla. Jordan is Juchitan. The Quiche Maya are descended from the people of Ammon (but Melek is just west of the Usumacinta River). Nahuas are Nephites. Mayas are Lamanites. "Olmecs" (of the traditions, not the archaeological Olmecs) are the "Muleks."

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Explicitly denied.

Scope of Model Specification: Significant.

Hills



MAP OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA. FROM 3234.B.C. TO 424.A.D.

Copyright April, 6th, 1917.
Class A, XCV, Map 1007.
All Rights Reserved.
L. E. Hills.
INDEPENDENCE MO.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little indicated except that this piece constitutes a refutation of the RLDS/Weston 1900? Model.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Considerable, particularly Bancroft on documentary history and traditions.

Sources:

Louis Edward Hills. (A Short Work on the) *Geography of Mexico and Central America from 2234 B.C. to 421 A.D.* n. p.: Independence, Missouri, 1917. 42 pp. Louis Edward Hills. *A Study of the Geography of the Book of Mormon.* n.p., 1920. Louis Edward Hills. *Friendly Discussion of the Book of Mormon Geography.* n. p.: Independence, Missouri, 1924. Louis Edward Hills. *Historical Data from Ancient Records and Ruins of Mexico and Central America.* The Author: Independence, Missouri, 1919, contains a "Map of the World. Showing Probable Course of the Ancient Colonies across the Ocean," which appears to be the Weston map on that topic. The legend on Hills' version identifies Quinames crossing the Atlantic "about 2234 B.C.," the Nahuas crossing the Pacific in 591 B.C. to El Salvador, and the Olmecs crossing the Atlantic 588 B.C., reaching Veracruz then moving to Campeche.

Hobby/Smith 1988 (External) Model

Originators: Michael Hobby and Troy Smith.

Area Focus: North America and Northern South America.

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: From the Atrato River in Colombia, adjacent to Panama, and including all of Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, parts of northern and western Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. "Conceptually, and by definition, it included the entire South American continent; but in a practical sense, it included the areas listed."

Land Northward: The North American continent and south through Panama.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not given.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: The limited land not specified, but compare the statement on the land southward.

City of Nephi: Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: A strip of northern South America from the Atrato River extending south and east from the Caribbean on the north to the geologic ridge which separates the Orinoco and Amazon watersheds.

City of Zarahemla: "Almost to the headwaters" of the Orinoco River. (See Hobby, *The Mulekite Connection*, page 36.)

Sidon River: Orinoco River (however, "the Atabapo [River] . . . is an equal candidate for the main river.")

Land of Bountiful: The Atrato-San Juan River basin of northwestern Colombia, including tributaries, plus all of the land surrounding the Gulf of Uraba (into which the Atrato River discharges). However, "The land of Bountiful-Jershon [an entirely separate area] was the area between the eastern side of the Guayana Shield, and the Atlantic, drained by the Essequibo/Cuyuni/Puruni and other parallel rivers, north to . . . the Orinoco Delta."

Narrow Pass: Equivalent to the entire isthmus.

Land of Desolation: Beginning east of the Uluá River Basin in western Honduras and extending south to the Atrato-San Juan River basin.

Land of Moron: Uluá River basin.

Jaredite Landing Place: Northern Honduras.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Copan was the city of Moron.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Some, not spelled out.

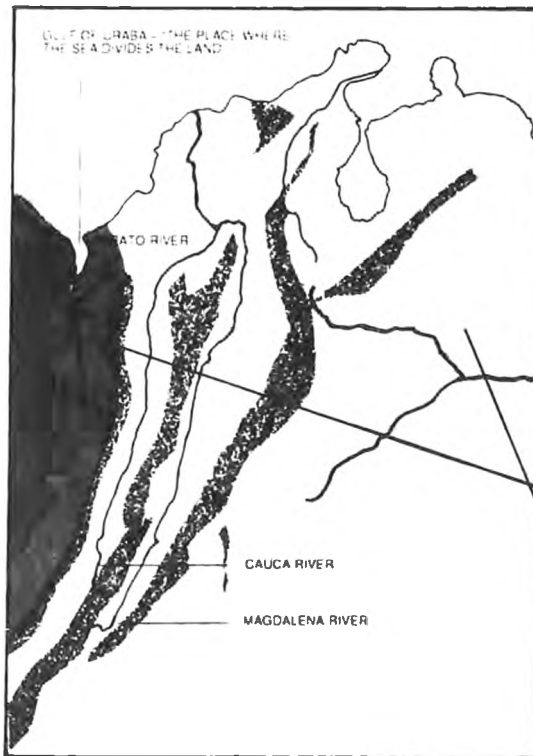
Scope of Model Specification: Brief but systematic.



MORON—The most ancient capital of the Jaredites, "Now the land of Moron, where the king dwelt, was near the land which was called Desolation by the Nephites."

THE NARROW PASS (NECK)

LAND OF DESOLATION



**NEPHITE GEOGRAPHY NEAR
THE NARROW PASS**

Land Bountiful - Atrato River Basin to the Andes

Land between Bountiful & Zarahemla - Area encompassed by the Cauca-Magdalena Basins

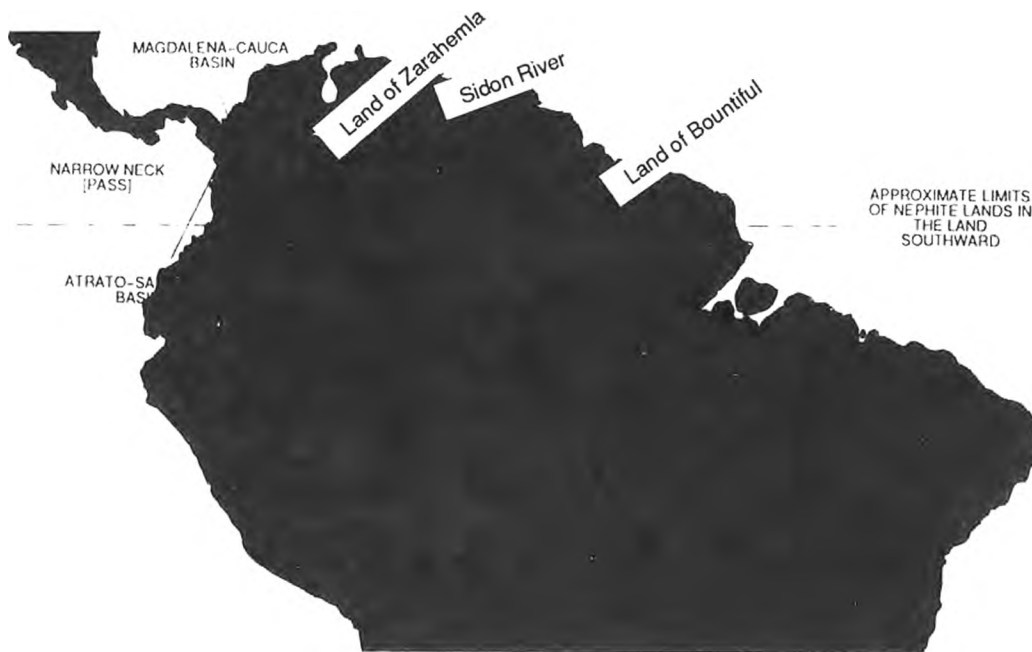
Land of Zarahemla - Area east of the Andes, but probably including the Lake Maracaibo area

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Very little. The resemblance to Reynolds and Ricks is so close that they must be supposed primary influences.

Use of Current External Scholarship: They write as if they are aware of some but cite very little.

Source:

Michael Hobby and Troy Smith. A Model for Nephite Geography. *Zarahemla Quarterly* 2(1)(1988): 4-14. Hobby, The Mulekite Connection. *Zarahemla Quarterly* 2(1)(1988): 36ff.



Holley 1983 (External) Model

Originator: Vernal Holley.

Area Focus: New York area.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The isthmus immediately west of the Niagara river.

Land Southward: Western New York, western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio.

Land Northward: Lower Ontario.

Nephi's Landing Place: Mouth of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: The Genesee River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. The immediate land of Lehi-Nephi is the same as Lehigh County, eastern Pennsylvania.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Western New York.

City of Zarahemla: On the west bank of the Genesee within a few miles of the south shore of Lake Ontario.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified.

Land of Moron: A little north of Lake Ontario.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Shilom, in southern Pennsylvania.

Valley of Alma, the Ohio River valley around Pittsburgh. Teancum, near Windsor, Ontario. Morianton, a little east of Detroit. Angola, near and south of Niagara Falls.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Nothing said.

Scope of Model Specification: Very short, mainly on two maps.

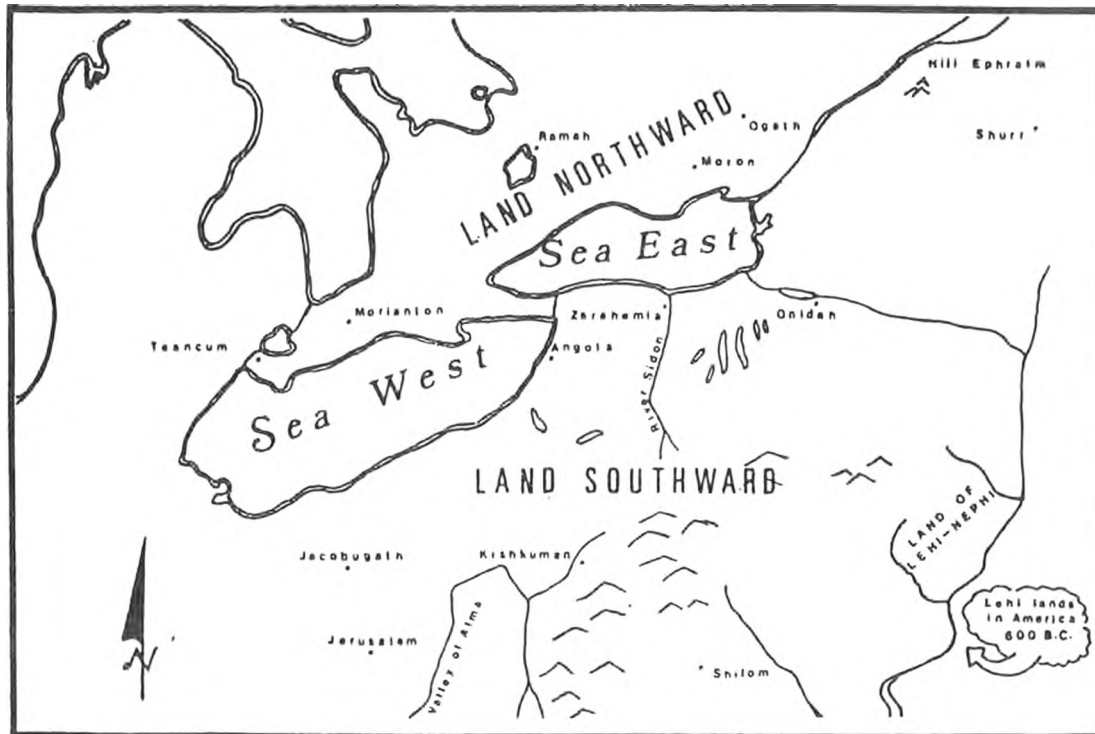
Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Essentially none.

Source:

Vernal Holley. *Book of Mormon Authorship: A Closer Look*. Zenos Publications: Ogden, Utah, 1983. 46 pp. [The author asserts that the Book of Mormon originated when Joseph Smith, Jr., plagiarized the "Spaulding

Manuscript" and that the basic geography and place names were taken from the area where Joseph lived. The site names on Holley's maps are derived, often tortuously, from historical names in the states and province indicated.]



Proposed Book of Mormon Lands

Holmes 1903 (External) Model

Originator: Robert Holmes

Area Focus: Central America

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Implied, at the Bay of Honduras

Land Southward: Southern Central America and South America, implied.

Land Northward: Implied, northward from the Bay of Honduras, including specifically Arizona (ruins).

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile

Hill Cumorah:

Sidon River: Usumacinta River

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Ecuador

City of Nephi: Lehi-Nephi, Shilom and other Lamanites cities seem to lay east and south of Lake Nicaragua.

Land of Zarahemla: The narrow strip of wilderness was Panama and Central America. Mosiah left South America and passed through this "strip" to reach Zarahemla (implied in Honduras).

City of Zarahemla:

Land of Bountiful:

Narrow Pass:

Land of Desolation:

Land of Moron: Their bones finally lay scattered from some distance south of the line of the Bay of Honduras to the Gulf of Mexico.

Jeredite Landing Place:

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Lib was by the Bay of Honduras. Manti was at the head of the Usumacinta River. The waters of Mormon were Lake Nicaragua.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Not specified.

Scope of Model Specification: Sketchy and less than logical.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Mentions first seeing Orson Pratt's geographical footnotes to the Book of Mormon in 1885 and being "amazed" for he thought it elsewhere. He then began his 15 years of study of the subject.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None

Source:

Robert Holmes, *Geographical Sketches of the Book of Mormon*, 1903.

Located in the LDS Church Historical Department. Ten long sheets. The first eight are filled on both sides in the writer's own hand; one is wholly blank on both sides; the last sheet consists of nothing but quotations from the Book of Ether. At the very end is written "Spanish Fork".

Jakeman 1940s (External) Model

Originator: M. Wells Jakeman

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to western Honduras and El Salvador

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec at least to the Valley of Mexico.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified but on the Pacific Coast of Central America.

Hill Cumorah: In the Valley of Mexico.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: The mountainous highlands of southern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras and El Salvador.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: "The lower hill country and plains of northern Guatemala, northern Chiapas, Tabasco, and southern Campeche."

City of Zarahemla: The vicinity of El Cayo on the west bank of the middle Usumacinta River.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Land of Bountiful: The lower part of the Usumacinta, together with its joint delta with the Grijalva and including the Laguna de Terminos.

Narrow Pass: The beach around the east side of the Tuxtla Mountains.

Land of Desolation: Not specified.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, the site of Aguacatal, Campeche, on the Laguna de Terminos. Mulek he supposed to be immediately south of Aguacatal. Moroni, implied to be on the Bay of Honduras.

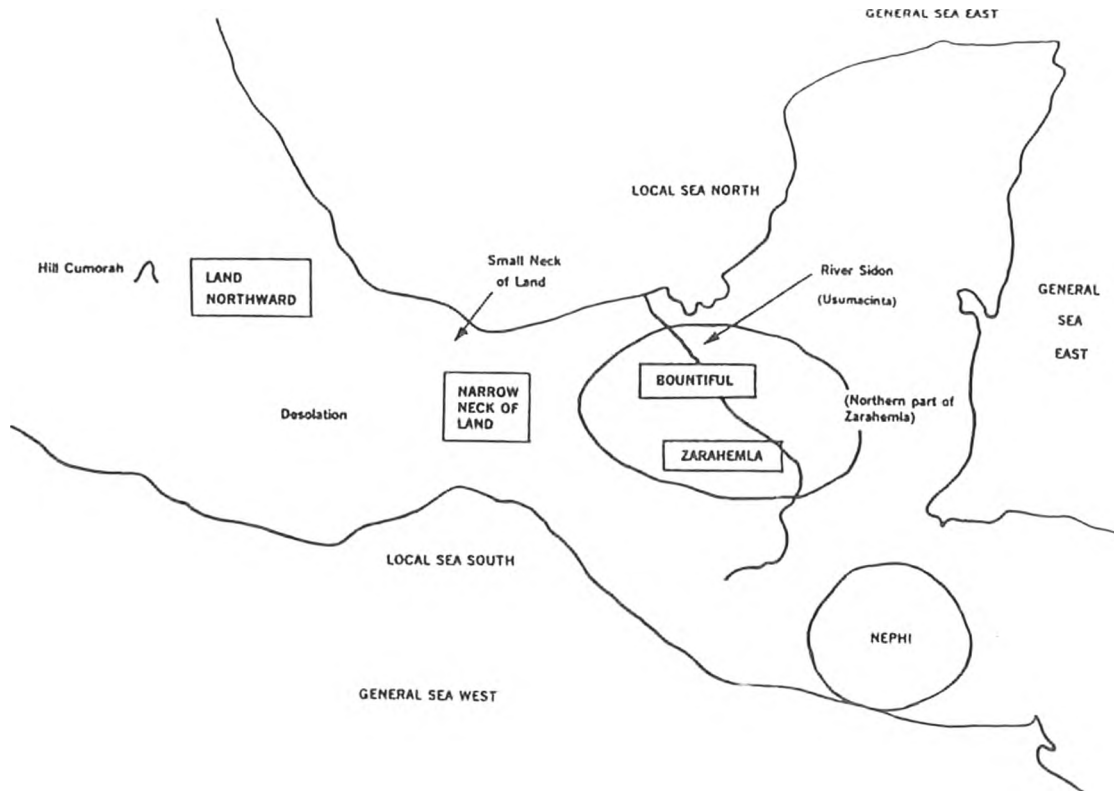
Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Only slight changes.

Scope of Model Specification: Scattered observations.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Unknown.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Significant but selective.

Jakeman



After Cheesman, These Ancient Americans

Sources:

M. Wells Jakeman. The Book-of-Mormon Civilizations: Their Origin, and Their Development in Space and Time. In, *Progress in Archaeology: An Anthology*, comp. and ed. Ross T. Christensen, pages 81-88. *University Archaeological Society Special Publication No. 4*. Provo, Utah. Also, *Discovering the Past*. Brigham Young University: Provo, Utah, 1954, pages 81-84. (Summarized in Paul R. Cheesman, *These Ancient Americans*. Deseret Book: Salt Lake City, 1974, pages 164-166.) And, Ross T. Christensen, The River of Nephi: An Archaeological Commentary on an Old Diary Entry, *Newsletter and Proceedings of the Society for Early Historic Archaeology* 158 (December 1984), pages 1-8, who discusses a statement attributed to Joseph Smith (1844) equating "the river of Copan" with "the river of Nephi." Christensen notes that this agrees well with Jakeman's placement of the city of Nephi on a classroom map which the latter prepared and used at BYU in the 1950's; that placement was within the boundaries of the Copan River basin. The map is reproduced on page 4.

Also oral information available at BYU in 1949-55 when Sorenson was a student and later colleague of Jakeman's.

Kocherhans 1986 (External) Model

Originator: Arthur J. Kocherhans.

Area Focus: Andean South America.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Andes Mountains around Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: Unclear, but implied to be at least Colombia and other parts of South America north of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: Not indicated.

Sidon River: Mantaro River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Included the valley of Cuzco.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not indicated.

Land of Zarahemla: Included the Pachacamac Valley, coastal Peru.

City of Zarahemla: Pachacamac, Peru.

Land of Bountiful: Not indicated.

Narrow Pass: Not indicated.

Land of Desolation: Not indicated.

Land of Moron: Not indicated.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Shilom is a small district within the Cuzco Valley.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: All of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina rose out of the sea in three hours at the time of the crucifixion.

Scope of Model Specification: Slight.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Virtually none.

Source:

Untitled typescript in two parts, "Lehi/Kocherhans Preface" of 16 pp. and "Lehi/Kocherhans Appendix 1" of 35 pp., received in FARMS archives 1986.

Arthur J. Kocherhans. *Lehi's Isle of Promise*. Salt Lake City, 1990.

Lauritzen n.d. (Internal) Model

Originator: Kenneth A. Lauritzen.

Degree of detail: About four dozen features are shown on a single map sheet (none Jaredite). The other side of the sheet contains geographical references. Covers only the land southward and narrow neck areas .

Source:

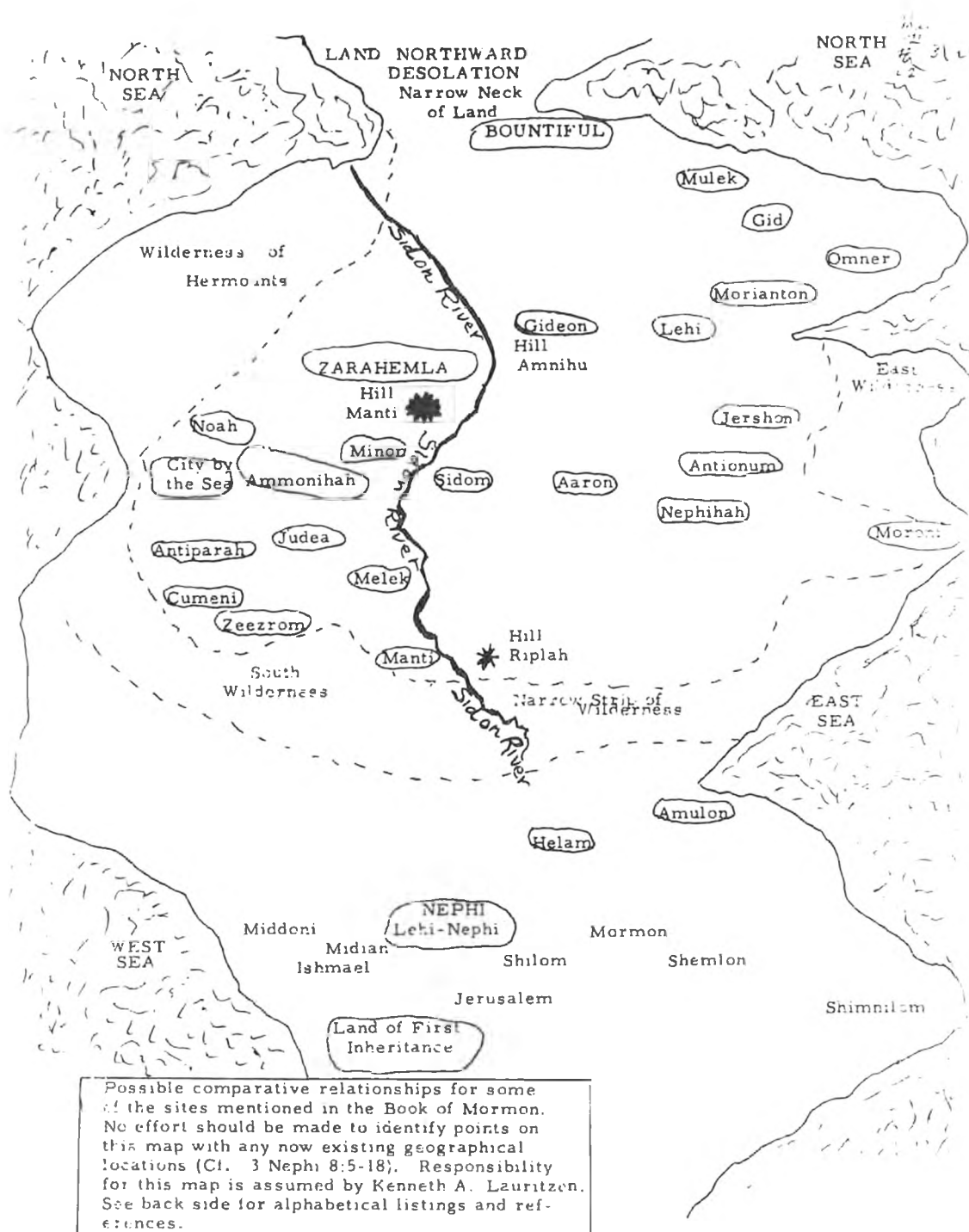
Kenneth A. Lauritzen. Possible Comparative Relationships for Some of the Sites Mentioned in the Book of Mormon. Mormon Americana collection, BYU library (call number, MOR M222 A1a #33). The "title" of the document is the first sentence of the legend enclosed in a box in the lower left-hand corner of the map. The remainder of the legend is: "No effort should be made to identify points on this map with any now existing geographical locations (Cf. 3 Nephi 8:5-18). Responsibility for this map is assumed by Kenneth A. Lauritzen. See back side for alphabetical listings and references."

This map is identical in practically all substantive details to Ludlow *et al.* n.d. On the latter, the positions of Noah and Ammonihah are more or less reversed from the former, and instead of the attribution to Lauritzen we read, "Prepared by Daniel H. Ludlow, J. Grant Stevenson, F. Kent Nielsen, and Richard Cowan." A few ever-so-slight positional differences in the placement of certain lands or cities can be observed which are hardly more than a product of the evident retyping.

Another map in Sorenson's files, "Anon. n.d. (Internal) Model", of unknown date and provenance, is essentially the same but has still a different legend, simply: "Possible Comparative Locations for Some of the Sites Mentioned in the Book of Mormon". The typing of names is identical to Ludlow *et al.* n. d. (Internal) Model, but the positions for Minon, Ammonihah and Noah are now notably different than on either of the other two.

The near identity of these three maps raises a question of directions of unattributed influence. If not plagiarism, at least an odd kind of liberty comes to mind.

Lauritzen



Layton 1938 (Internal) Model

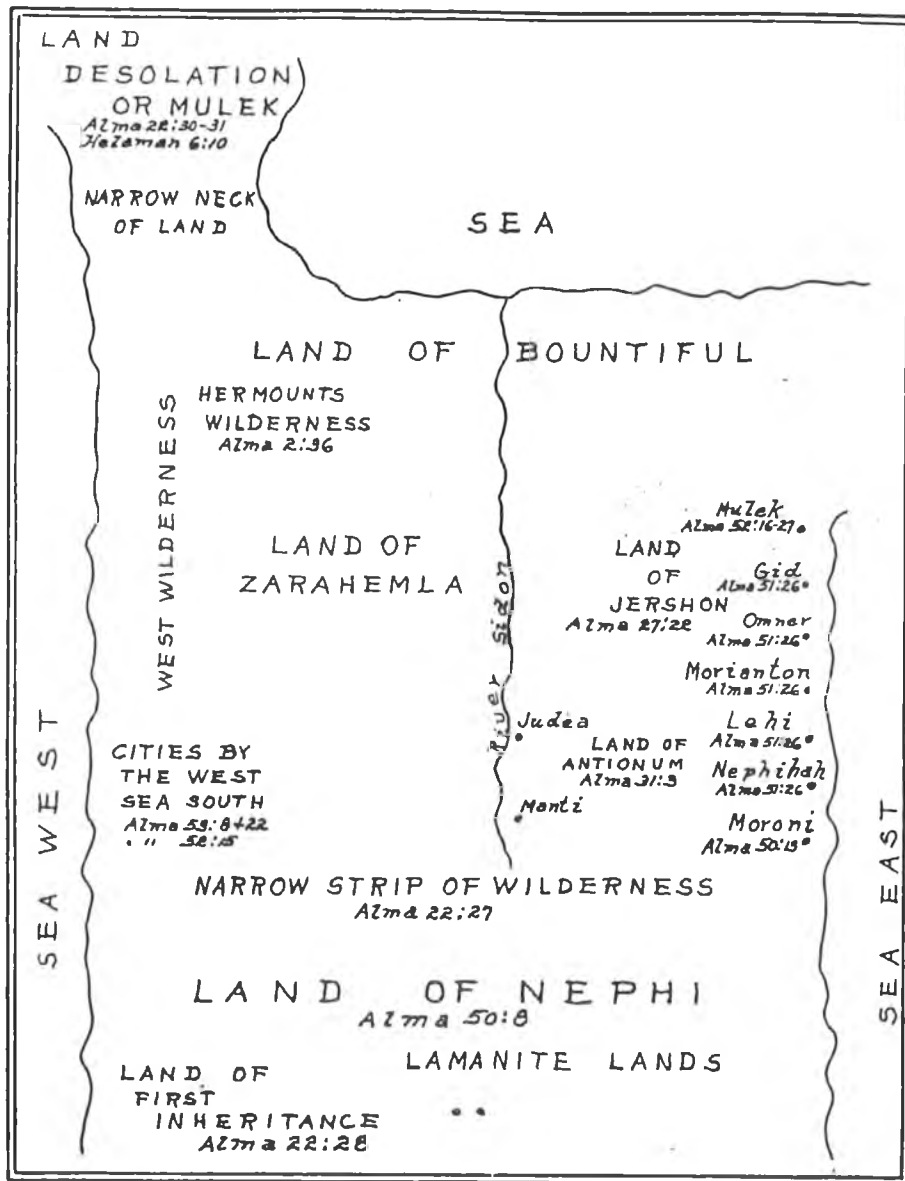
Originator: Lynn C. Layton

Degree of Detail: Limited

Source:

Lynn C. Layton, *Al "Ideal" Book of Mormon Geography, Improvement Era* 41 (July 1938): 394-395.

THE IMPROVEMENT ERA, JULY, 1938



Layton 1940? (1939 Internal/Minimal External) Model

Originator: Lynn C. and H. J. Layton.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: North and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not indicated.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River ("answers the location requirements as does no other").

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: In southern Guatemala or Honduras.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Copan.

Land of Zarahemla: Evidently the Usumacinta basin.

City of Zarahemla: On the Middle Usumacinta.

Land of Bountiful: Not indicated.

Narrow Pass: Not indicated.

Land of Desolation: North and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land of Moron: Evidently Colima or thereabouts.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful is on the Laguna de Terminos. Mulek is roughly around La Venta (at least on the west of his composite Sidon River mouth). Morianton and Lehi, around the Laguna de Terminos. Aaron and Nephihah, in Belize (two Aarons). Moroni is on the Gulf of Honduras. Lehi and Morianton are inland from Chetumal Bay. Ammonihah, in Tabasco (the Chontalpa). Land of First Inheritance, El Salvador. Manti could be the site of Menche "at the head" of the Usumacinta. Judea "could easily be" Piedras Negras.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None indicated.

Sources:

Lynn C. and H. J. Layton. *Book of Mormon Lands*. n.p., n.d. (5 pp. duplicated). Compare, Lynn C. Layton. An "Ideal" Book of Mormon Geography, *Improvement Era* 41 (July 1938): 394-395, 439 (purely internal), from which the date of the former item is considered to be "1940?" (The copy in BYU Special Collections has on it in pencil, "1940?")

Le Poidevin 1977 (External) Model

Originator: Cecil G. Le Poidevin.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: Andean South America from Bolivia northward.

Land Northward: From Panama north.

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Southern Peru and perhaps northern Bolivia.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): In highland southern Peru (perhaps

Cuzco?)

Land of Zarahemla: Northern Peru and Andean Colombia.

City of Zarahemla: Near the Ecuador-Peru border.

Sidon River: The Marañon River?

Land of Bountiful: Northern Ecuador and Andean Colombia.

Narrow Pass: The narrowest part of Panama.

Land of Desolation: Western Panama and Costa Rica.

Land of Moron: In Central America.

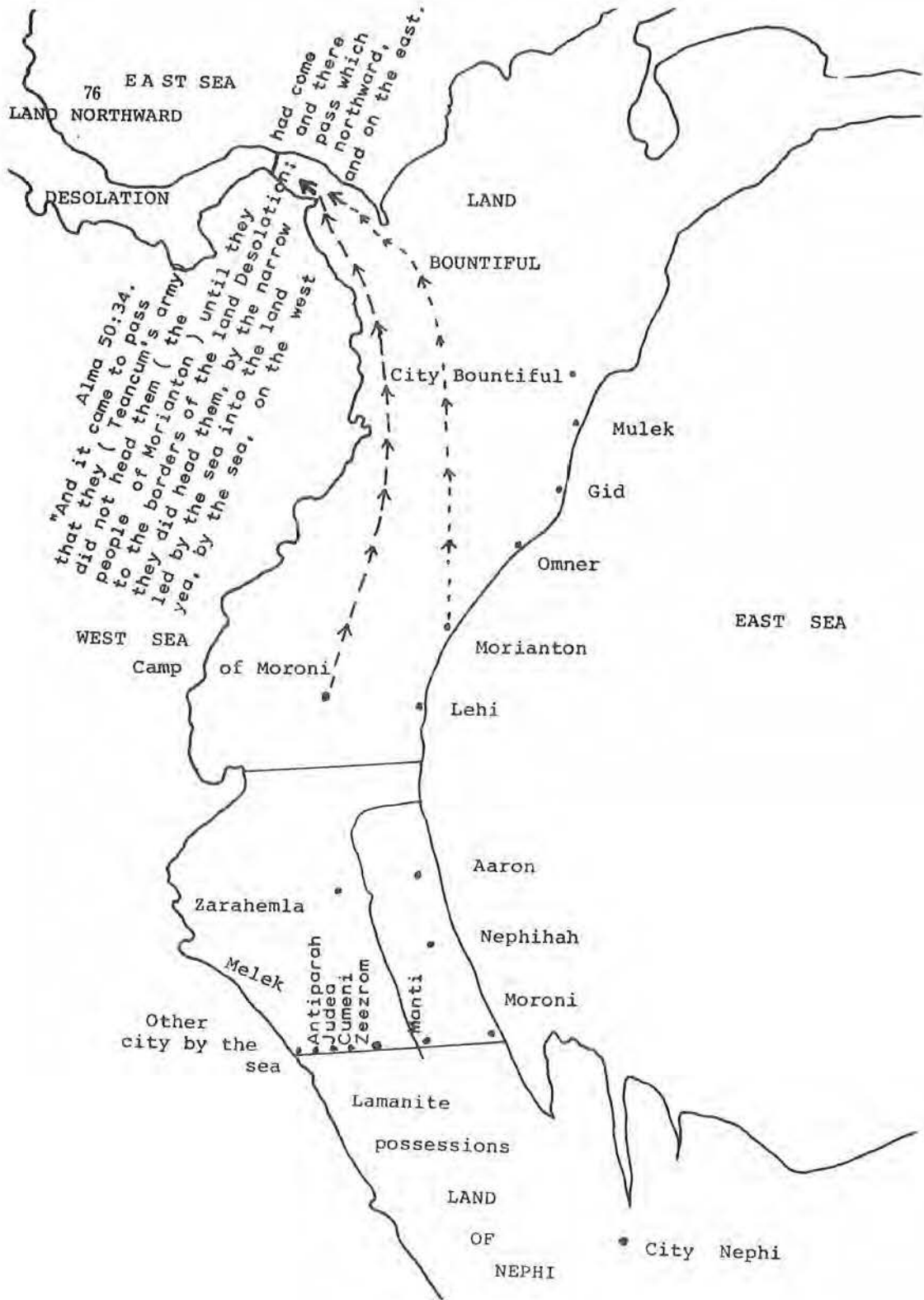
Jaredite Landing Place: In Central America.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The Amazon basin and east of the Colombian extension of the Andes was submerged, forming the "mysterious East Sea" until raised at the time of the crucifixion. Manti was on the upper Marañon River, and Zeezrom, Cumeni, Judea and Antiparah stretch in a straight line westward to near the sea. Melek would be on the coast of extreme northern Peru. Moroni, Nephihah, Aaron, Lehi, Morianton, Omner, Gid and Mulek stretch from north-central Peru to a latitude near Bogota all lying along the eastern foothills of the Andes, at that time a shoreline. The city Bountiful is around Bogota. The cities of Desolation and Teancum were in central Panama. The final Nephite retreat and Lamanite pursuit carried all the way to New York. (Remnant righteous Nephites sailed to Scandinavia to join the Norsemen who are of the Ten Tribes.)

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Yes, but selective, apparently producing a sudden rise of the Amazon and Orinoco basins but no other area.

Scope of Model Specification: Unfocused discussion and many (highly redundant and subjective) maps.

Le Poidevin

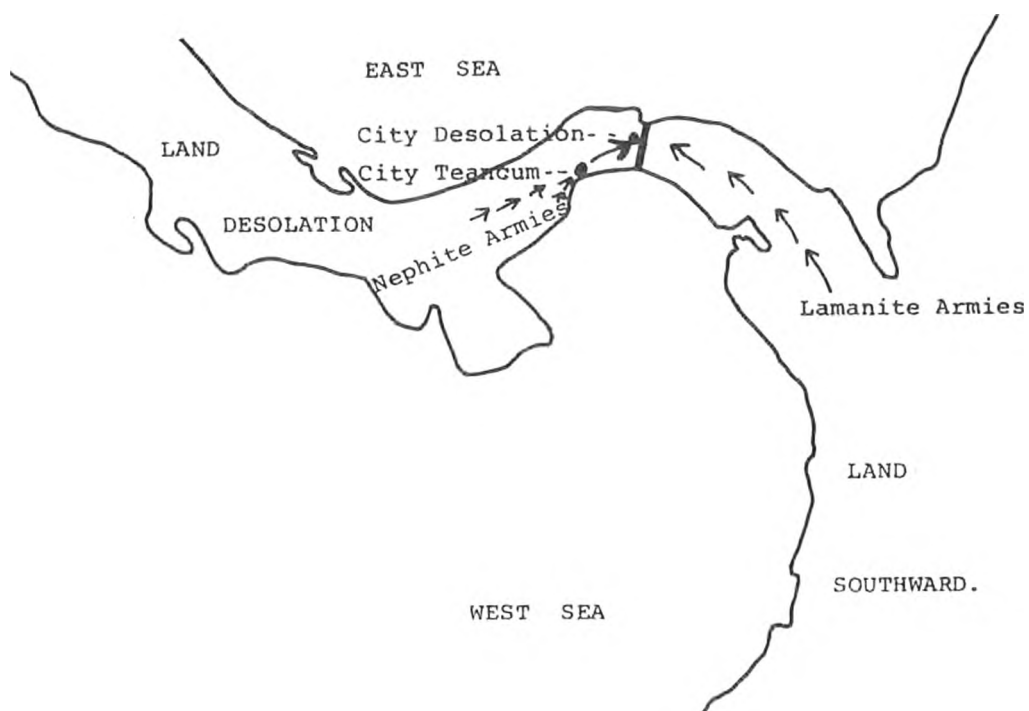


Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None acknowledged.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Virtually none.

Source:

Cecil G. Le Poidevin. *Zion, Land of Promise: An Atlas Study of the Book of Mormon*. Author: n.p., 1977. 132 pp.



Lesh 1980 (External) Model

Originator: Ralph F. Lesh.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica south and east of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: Mesoamerica north and west of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Southern Guatemala.

Hill Cumorah: In Veracruz state, along the Papaloapan River near where it emerges from the mountains.

Sidon River: Usumacinta.

Others:

Land of Nephi: Highland Guatemala. The city and local land of Nephi apparently are placed in the Valley of Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Mapped in the Valley of Guatemala.

Land of Zarahemla: A triangular territory with limits having an apex around the Laguna de Terminos and another angle at the Bay of Honduras. The base cuts across the highlands to include Alta Verapaz and Chiapas all the way to near the Tehuantepec lagoons, then angles northeastward to near the mouth of the Usumacinta River.

City of Zarahemla: Mapped around the site of Yaxchilan.

Land of Bountiful: Tabasco.

Narrow Pass: Vaguely south of the city Bountiful and east of the Usapanapa River.

Land of Desolation: Apparently from Morelos and the Valley of Mexico to the Coatzacoalcos River.

Land of Moron: Essentially Guerrero and southern Oaxaca. The city of Moron is mapped at about the Valley of Oaxaca.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not far from Acapulco.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, apparently at about La Venta. Moroni is on the Bay of Honduras. Land of Siron is the Laguna Izabal area. Nephihah and Aaron are on the west margins of the Peten, the edge of Nephite lands cutting across the peninsula from Moroni to the Laguna de Terminos. Omner, Morianton and Lehi are near the mouth of the Usumacinta. Mulek is west of there, and Joshua is in the same vicinity. Ammonihah would be on the Rio Jatate. The cities of Zeezrom, Cumeni, Judea, Antiparah and the city-by-the-seashore are strung on a line from the Cuchumatanes Highlands across the Central Depression of Chiapas to near Tonalá. Jerusalem is on Lake Atitlan. The lands of Midian and Ishmael are in the mountains above the Soconusco (Izapa area). The far land of waters is the

Valley of Mexico, and the city of Nehor around Morelos. Jaredite areas are assigned throughout Veracruz and states to its west (Nehor, in Morelos; Gilgal, at about Cuicuilco; Corihor, around Jalapa).

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Implies none important.

Scope of Model Specification: Substantial detail on map only. ("Positions of specific sites are tentative and may be changed as later editions are printed.")

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None mentioned except Steede and Simmons.

Use of Current External Scholarship: No indication.

Sources:

Ralph F. Lesh, *Ancient Mesoamerica: A Preliminary Study of Book of Mormon Geography*. Map, approximately 30 by 24 inches. Produced by The Zarahemla Research Foundation: Independence, Missouri, 1980. Also Lesh discusses "Development of the Map" in *Recent Book of Mormon Developments: Articles from The Zarahemla Record*, ed. by Raymond C. Treat, pages 81-82. Zarahemla Research Foundation: Independence, Missouri, 1984.

Loving 1976 (External) Model

Originator: Albert L. Loving.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: West and north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec as far as the Valley of Mexico.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified.

Hill Cumorah: The hill at Xochicalco, Morelos, Mexico.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Chiefly the Guatemalan and Honduran highlands.

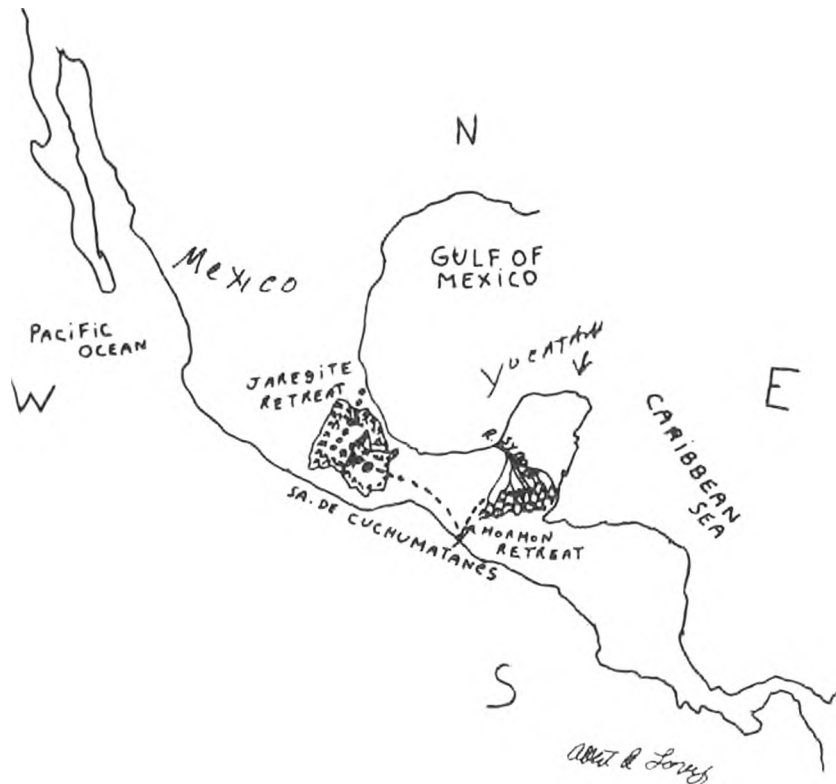
City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Usumacinta basin and nearby.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Land of Bountiful: Implied to be Tabasco?



Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Oaxaca state, particularly the Pacific side?

Land of Moron: Near the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Oaxaca?)

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The waters of Ripliancum were the lake in the basin of Mexico. The state of Morelos, the land of Cumorah. Teancum, near the Pacific Coast in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec near Salina Cruz. Ablom, on the Vera Cruz coast. The valley of Mexico, the Jaredite land of Corihor. The "Basilica of Quetzalcoatl" at Teotihuacan could have been where the prisoners from Sherrizah were kept; Sherrizah may have been the round pyramid at Cuicuilco.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited discussion, but only two of his maps are of much informational value.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None acknowledged.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Virtually none.

Source:

Albert L. Loving. *From the Tower of Babel to the Hill Ramah/Cumorah in Mexico*. The Author: Independence, Missouri, 1976.

Lowe 1960a (External) Model

Originator: Gareth W. Lowe.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The indentation of the coast around Laguna Izabal and the Bay of Honduras.

Land Southward: South and east of the Motagua River valley reaching to Lago Nicaragua.

Land Northward: Guatemala northward from the Motagua River valley and east of the Chixoy River (headwaters of the Usumacinta).

Nephi's Landing Place: The Gulf of Fonseca, eastern El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: In southern Belize; Cumorah, Shim and Antum were all "within 50 miles of the Laguna Izabal."

Sidon River: Ulua River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: In the highlands around Laguna de Guija on the border of El Salvador and Honduras.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): At Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Land of Zarahemla: Ulua River valley, Honduras.

City of Zarahemla: On the middle Ulua River.

Land of Bountiful: Around the mouth of the Motagua River.

Narrow Pass: Around the mouth of Laguna Izabal.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Eastern Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, north of the Sierra de las Minas and west of Laguna Izabal.

Land of Moron: In Alta Verapaz around Coban.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Ammonihah, around Esquipulas, Guatemala. Ishmael, Middoni and Jerusalem were in the valley extending northwestward from the Lago de Nicaragua. Judea was in the lowlands around the Gulf of Fonseca, which was the western (southern) anchor of Moroni's defensive line against Amalickiah. Gideon was near Lake Yojoa. Lehi, Moroni and Nephiah were on or near the coast east of the Ulua River. The city of Bountiful was near the mouth of the Motagua River.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None.

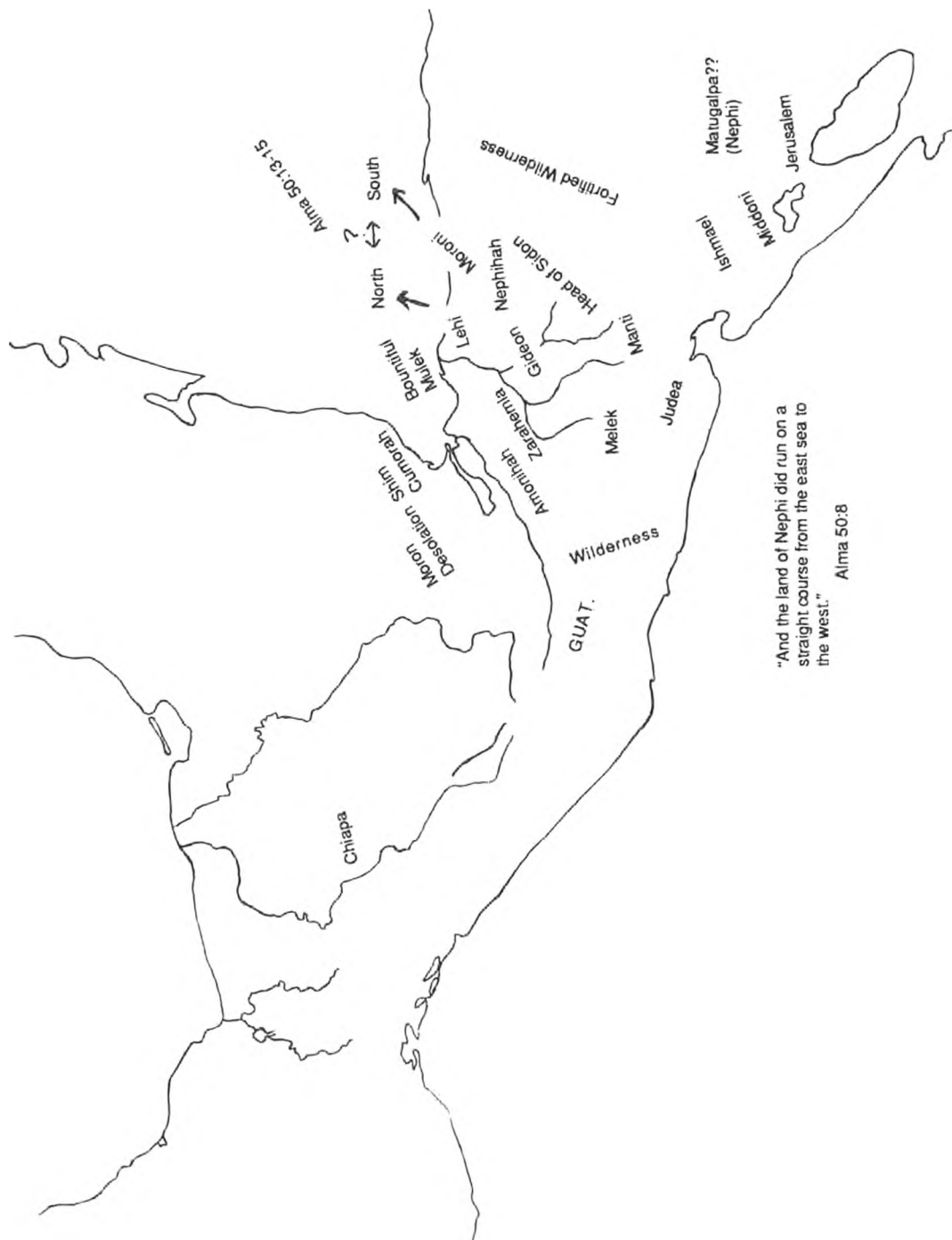
Scope of Model Specification: Personal letter and original map.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Not indicated, but his extensive knowledge made this inevitable.

Source:

Personal communication, 19 July 1960, to J. L. Sorenson, together with a 15 August 1960 personal communication to Bruce W. Warren (copy in Sorenson's possession).



Lowe 1960b (External) Model

Originator: Gareth W. Lowe.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Keys Features:

Narrow Neck: Possibly the strip of coastal dunes along the Tabasco coast.

Land Southward: State of Chiapas, plus Honduras-El Salvador (but not highland Guatemala, a Book of Mormon "no-man's-land").

Land Northward: Everything west of Tonalá (on the Pacific Coast of Chiapas), plus the central depression of Chiapas and Tabasco.

Nephi's Landing Place: Gulf of Fonseca in eastern El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified (Tuxtla Mountains implied).

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: In highlands around Laguna de Guija on the border of El Salvador and Honduras.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: West of the middle Usumacinta River (implied).

City of Zarahemla: Tonina, Chiapas, or thereabouts.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified (implied in Tabasco).

Land of Moron: Ulua Valley?

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Onidah, the place of arms, Volcan Ixtepeque near Asuncion Mita, Guatemala. Jerusalem had sunk beneath Laguna de Guija. Shemlon = Copan. (Kaminaljuyu and the valley of Guatemala were occupied by Jaredite survivors and miscellaneous Lamanites and constituted no part of the mentioned Book of Mormon lands.)

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None.

Scope of Model Specification: Four-page, single spaced letter.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Substantial.

Ancestry of the Model: Explicitly his own.

Source:

Personal communication to Bruce W. Warren, 5 Oct. 1960, copy in John Sorenson's possession.

Lowe 1970s (External) Model

Originator: Gareth W. Lowe.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Keys:

Narrow Neck: Pacific coastal lowland strip around Tonala, Chiapas.

Land Southward: Central Chiapas as well as Honduras and El Salvador.

Land Northward: From Tonala, Chiapas northward through the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and beyond.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified but probably El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: Implied to be in the Tuxtla Mountains.

Sidon River: Grijalva River.

Others:

Land of Nephi: In highlands on the border of El Salvador and Honduras.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: The central depression of Chiapas.

City of Zarahemla: The site of Santa Cruz on the Grijalva.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: The pass between the mountains and also the site of Horcones between Perseverancia and Tonala on the west coast of Chiapas.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified (implied as possibly the west portion of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec).

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Manti, the site of Santa Rosa on the Grijalva. Ammonihah, the site of Chiapa de Corzo. Gideon, around Venustiano Carranza. The Soconusco was always Lamanite territory, while highland Guatemala was "a no-man's land" occupied by a mixture of Lamanites and Jaredite survivors but not involved at all in the Book of Mormon account. Moroni's fortified line ran from around Pijijiapan on the Pacific Coast straight east to and beyond La Libertad on the Chiapas-Guatemala border. The Chiapas highlands were "east wilderness."

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None.

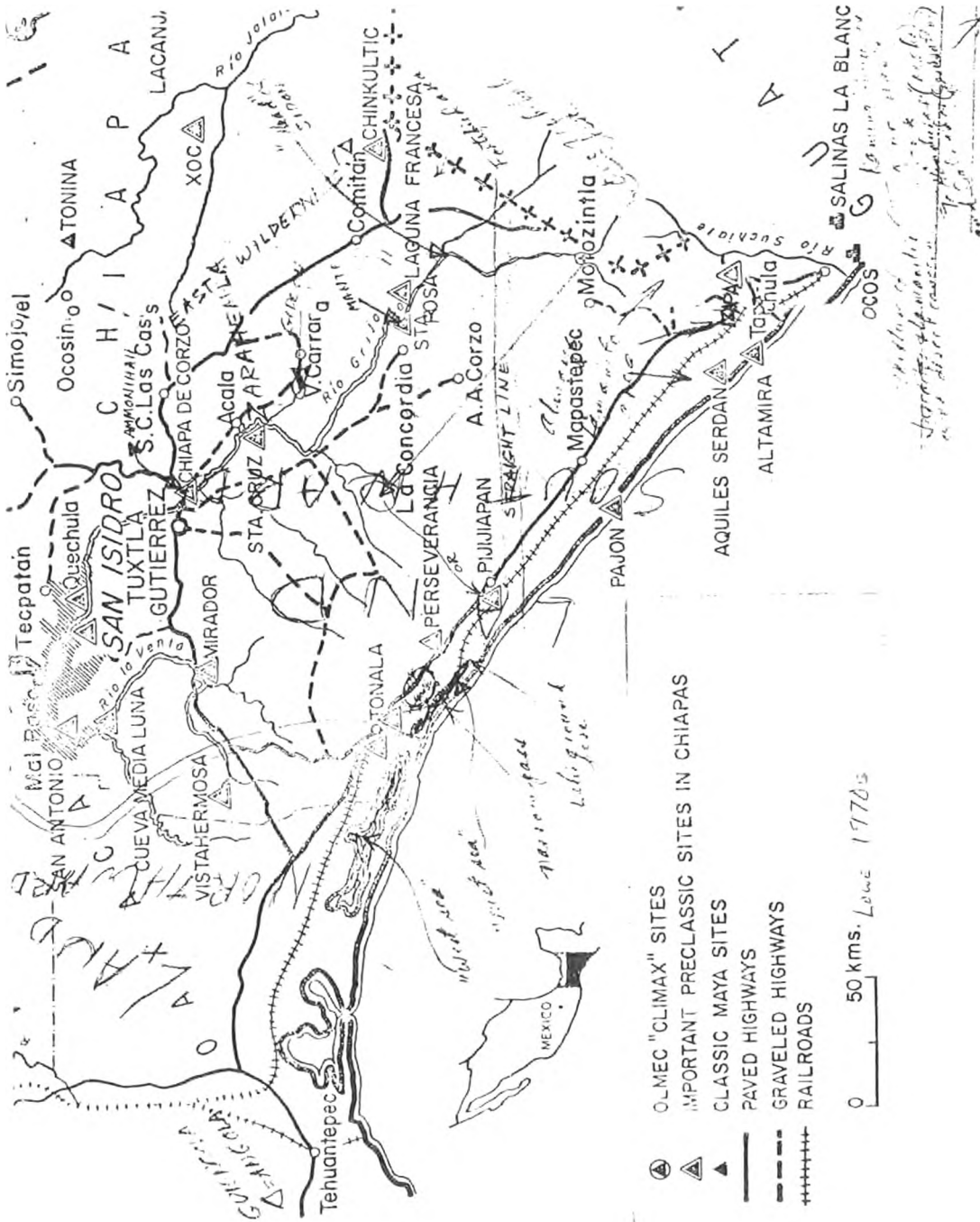
Scope of Model Specification: Personal letter and map.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Not indicated, but he was very knowledgeable.

Source:

Personal communication to John Sorenson, exact date unrecoverable but probably early in the 1970s.



Ludlow *et al.* n. d. (Internal) Model

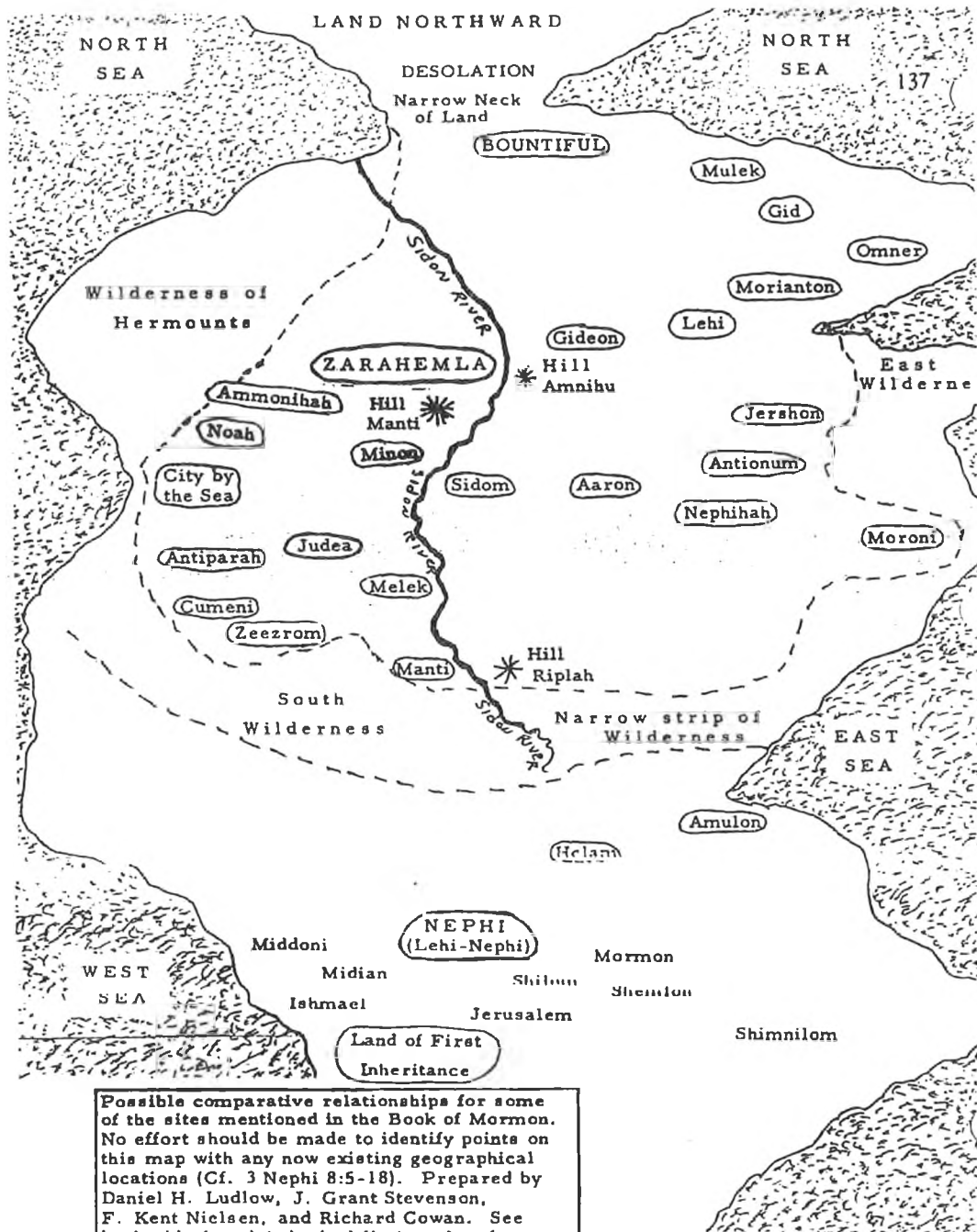
Originators: "Prepared by Daniel H. Ludlow, J. Grant Stevenson, F. Kent Nielsen, and Richard Cowan." [Compare, Lauritzen n.d. (Internal) Model.]

Degree of Detail: A single sheet, with map on one side and Book of Mormon geographical references on the reverse. Some 47 features (none Jaredite) are mapped, in only the land southward and narrow neck areas.

Source:

"Possible Comparative Relationships for Some of the Sites mentioned in the Book of Mormon." This appears catalogued under the name Daniel H. Ludlow in the Mormon Americana collection in the BYU library (call number, MOR M222 .A1a #26). It consists of a single sheet with a map on one side and scriptural references on the reverse; a legend appears in a box on the lower left-hand corner. The title used above is the first sentence of that legend. The remainder of the legend reads: "No effort should be made to identify points on this map with any now existing geographical locations (Cf. 3 Nephi 8:5-18). Prepared by Daniel H. Ludlow, J. Grant Stevenson, F. Kent Nielsen, and Richard Cowan. See back side for alphabetical listings of references."

The F.A.R.M.S. Book of Mormon Bibliography contains the following possibly related item which has not been located to consult for this volume: "Ludlow, Daniel H., and Sidney B. Sperry. The Geography of the Book of Mormon (1964) (Collection: Cheesman)." Its date, 1964, may be broadly indicative of the date for Ludlow *et al.* n.d.



Possible comparative relationships for some of the sites mentioned in the Book of Mormon. No effort should be made to identify points on this map with any now existing geographical locations (Cf. 3 Nephi 8:5-18). Prepared by Daniel H. Ludlow, J. Grant Stevenson, F. Kent Nielsen, and Richard Cowan. See back side for alphabetical listings & references.

Ludlow 1976 (Internal) Model

Originator: "Originally prepared by Daniel H. Ludlow with later adaptations by J. Grant Stevenson, F. Kent Nielsen, and Richard Cowan."

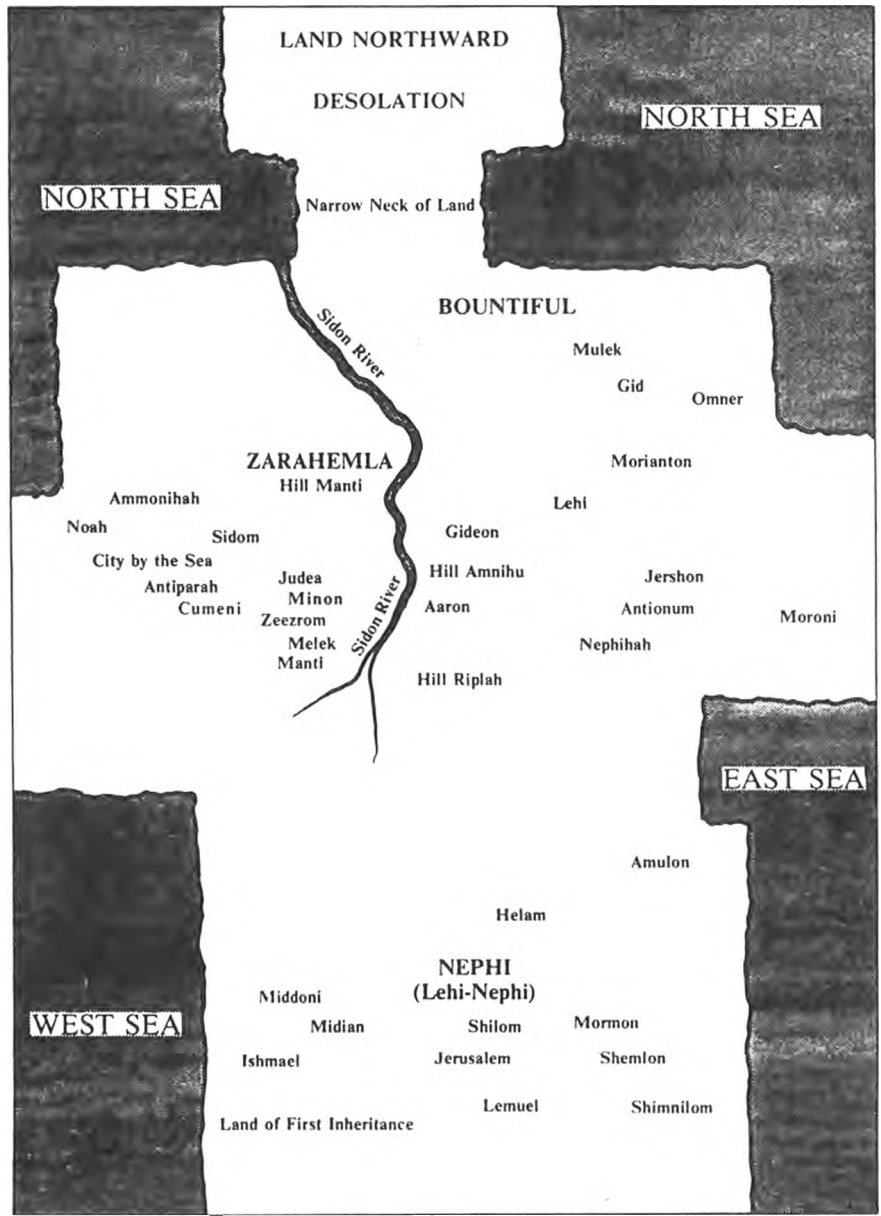
Degree of Detail: Forty seven features are mapped; only the land southward and the narrow neck are involved.

Source:

Daniel H. Ludlow. *A Companion to Your Study of the Book of Mormon*. Deseret Book: Salt Lake City, 1976. The legend at the top of this map is largely the same as for the Ludlow *et al.* n.d. (Internal) Model. The outline of the land is more schematized and certain features are either juggled about a bit or omitted, compared with the earlier map.

POSSIBLE BOOK OF MORMON SITES

Possible comparative relationships for some of the sites mentioned in the Book of Mormon based on internal evidences. No effort should be made to identify points on this map with any now existing geographical locations (Cf. 3 Nephi 8:5-18.) Originally prepared by Daniel H. Ludlow with later adaptations by J. Grant Stevenson, F. Kent Nielsen, and Richard Cowan.



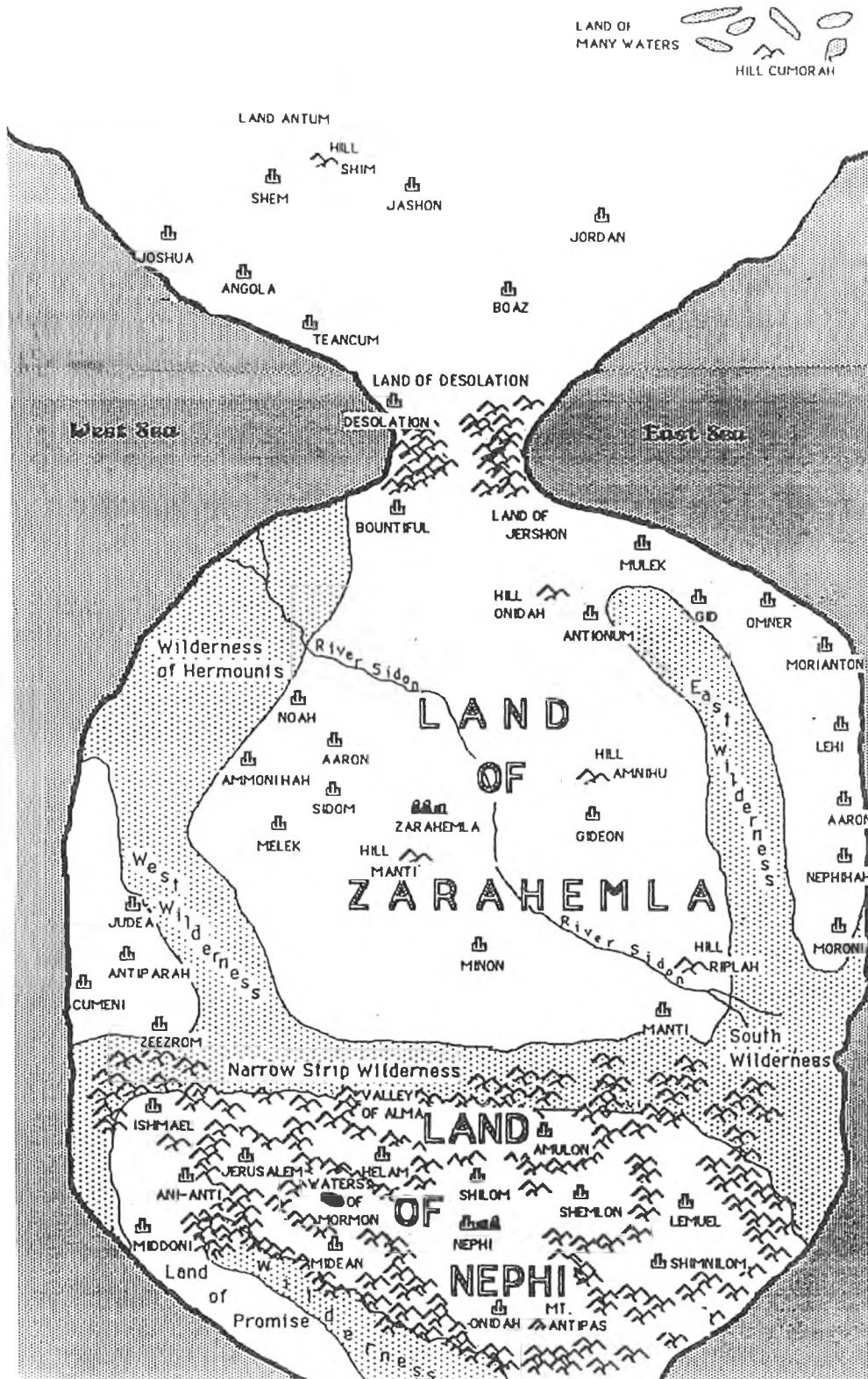
Nielson 1987 (Internal) Model

Originator: Harold K. Nielson.

Degree of Detail: Sixty-eight features are mapped on the comprehensive map, none Jaredite and most in the land southward. A computer-generated standard map base is repeated with differing details as the sequence of maps moves through the historical account.

Source:

Harold K. Nielson. *Mapping the Action Found in the Book of Mormon*. Cedar Fort: Orem, Utah, 1987.



Norman 1966 (External) Model

Originator: V. Garth Norman

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec (broadly).

Land Southward: Mesoamerica south and east of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: Mesoamerica west and north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Not specified.

Hill Cumorah: (Implied) In southern Tamaulipas state.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Not specified, but implied in highland Guatemala or beyond.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Most of the states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Campeche and that portion of Guatemala across the Usumacinta river from Chiapas.

City of Zarahemla: (By map placement) Palenque or nearby.

Land Bountiful: In the large sense, from sea to sea, from the mouth of the Usumacinta river through western Chiapas to Mar Muerto on the Pacific. The City of Bountiful was at or near Comalcalco, Tabasco.

Narrow Pass: The strip between Mar Muerto and the Sierra Madre on the extreme northerly (Pacific) coast of Chiapas.

Land of Desolation: Immediately north and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, including the valley of Oaxaca.

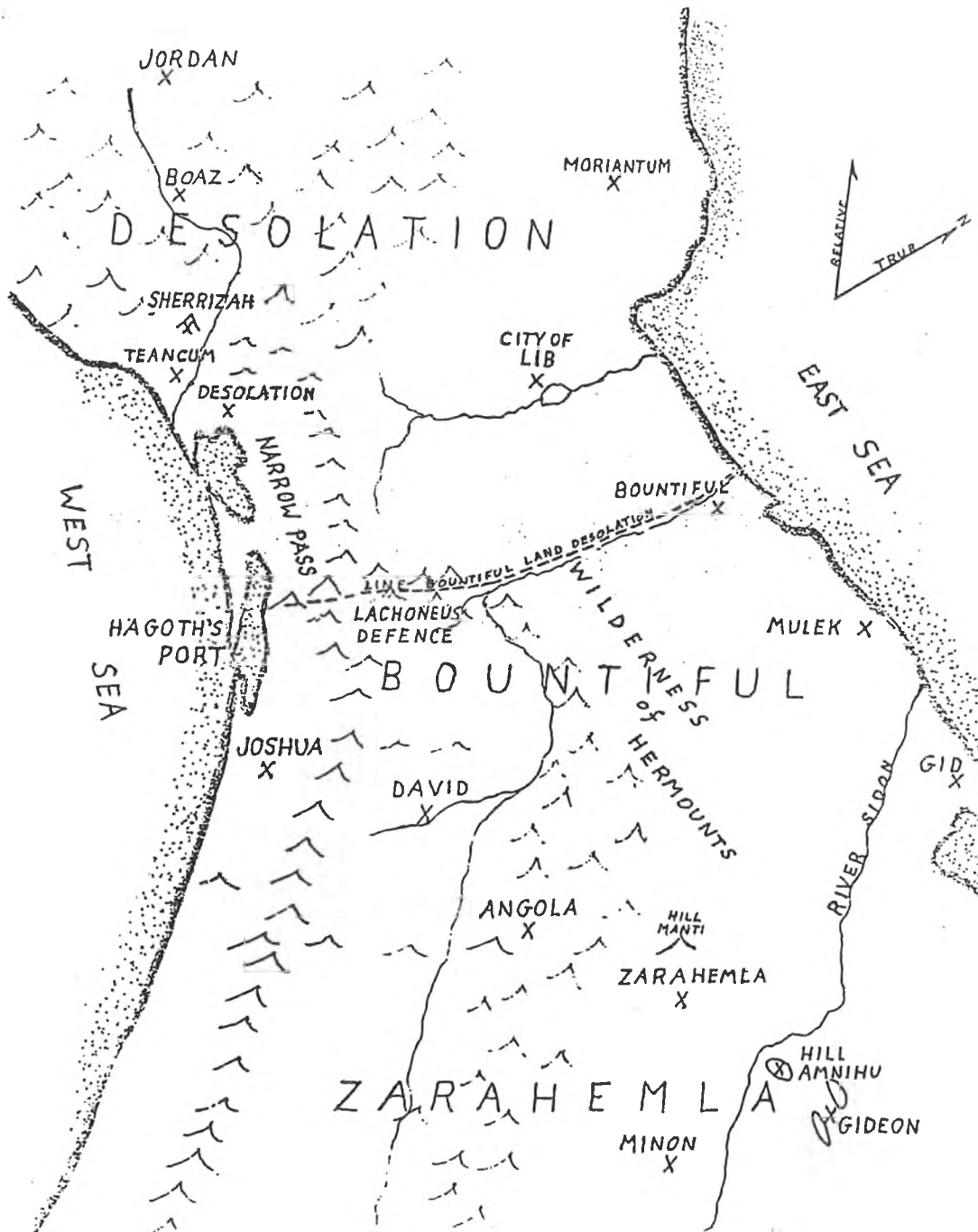
Land of Moron: Likely in the state of Puebla, central Mexico.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Land of large bodies of water to which some Nephites migrated, basin of Mexico. Cities of Desolation and Teancum, around the present cities of Tehuantepec and Juchitan on the southern side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The city of Lib, the archaeological site of San Lorenzo Tenochtitlan. Tower of Sherrizah, the archaeological site of Giengola near the Rio Tehuantepec. Waters of Ripliancum, the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) separating Texas and Mexico. Land of Cumorah, the coastal plains around the mouth of the Panuco river.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No.

Norman



Scope of Model Specification: Substantial.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little indicated; influence from Jakeman is evident.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Considerable.

Sources:

V. Garth Norman. Book-of-Mormon Geography Study on the Narrow Neck of Land Region. *Book of Mormon Geography Working Paper No. 1* (duplicated). Author: St. Michaels, Arizona, 1966/1972/1974. 124 pp.

V. Garth Norman. Reconstruction and Correlation of the Geography of the Land Southward, Border Regions of the Book of Mormon. *Book of Mormon Geography Working Paper No. 2* (duplicated). Author: St. Michaels, Arizona, 1966/1974/1975. 32 pp.

Palmer 1981 (External) Model

Originator: David A. Palmer.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to El Salvador.

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec at least to the Valley of Mexico.

Nephi's Landing Place: On the Pacific Coast south and east of Guatemala City.

Hill Cumorah: Cerro El Vigia, Veracruz, Mexico.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Mountainous southern Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala.

Land of Zarahemla: Essentially the central depression of Chiapas.

City of Zarahemla: Probably the site of Santa Rosa, Chiapas.

Sidon River: Grijalva River.

Land of Bountiful: The area immediately east of the Coatzacoalco River.

Narrow Pass: Gravelly ridge extending from the Coatzacoalcos River west to Acayucan, Veracruz.

Land of Desolation: Area immediately west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land of Moron: Valley of Oaxaca.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Mulek = La Venta. City of Desolation = Laguna Zope. Ammonihah = the site of Mirador in western Chiapas. Aaron = San Isidro. Sidom = Chiapa de Corzo. Manti = the site of La Libertad. Lib's city = San Lorenzo. Helam = Chalchitan. City of Moron = San Jose Mogote, Oaxaca. "Nephite temple city" = Teotihuacan.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None.

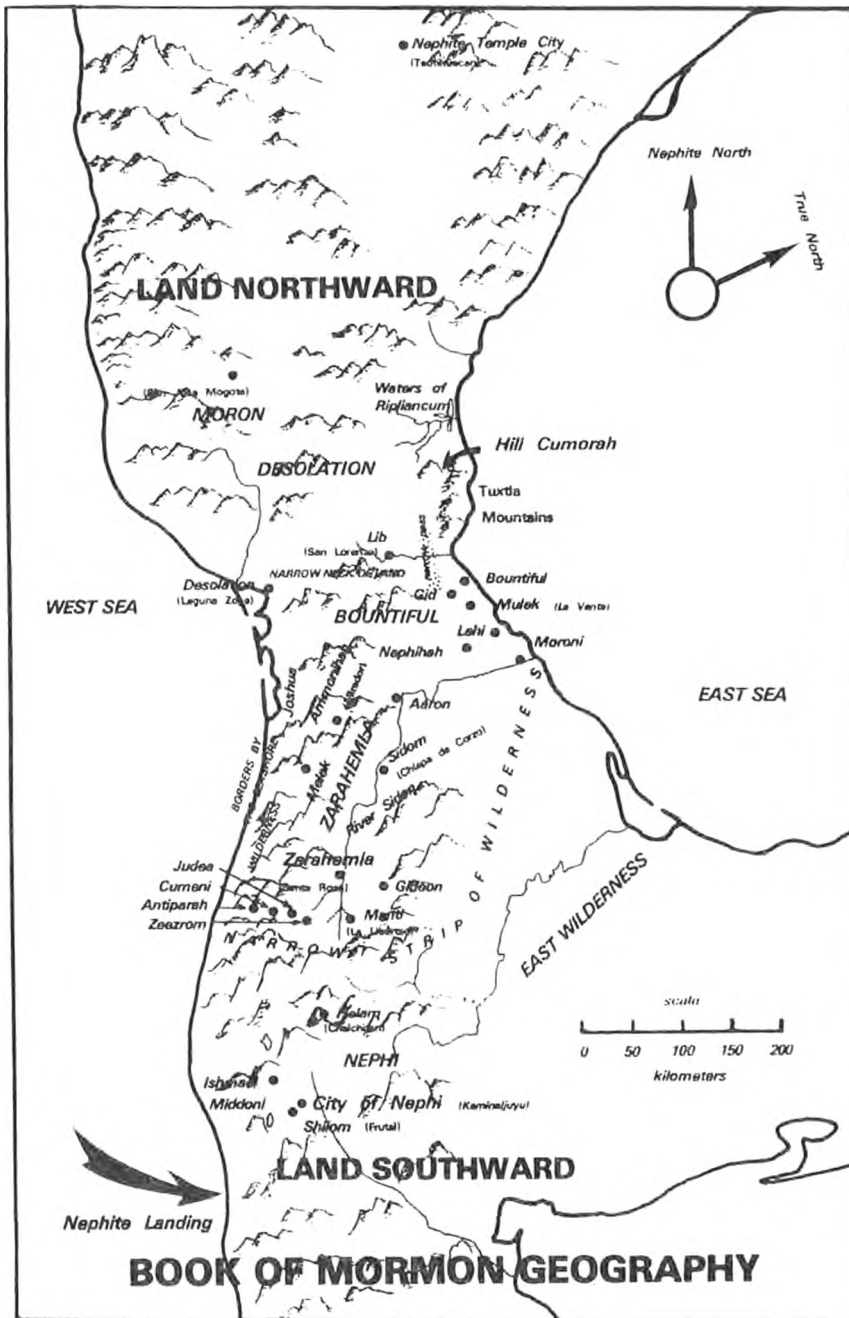
Scope of Model Specification: Systematic exposition.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Considerable. Acknowledges following Sorenson's model with some modifications.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Substantial.

Source:

David A. Palmer. *In Search of Cumorah: New Evidences for the Book of Mormon from Ancient Mexico*. Horizon: Bountiful, Utah, 1981.



Peay 1992 (External) Model

Originator: Eugene L. Peay

Area Focus: Southern (Eastern) Mesoamerica

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Across the middle of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Land Southward: South and east of a line from Lake Izabal to about Izapa.

Land Northward: Basically the northern part of the Yucatan peninsula, but "sometimes the land northward was the land of Zarahemla, and the land southward was the land of Lehi-Nephi." Also, sometimes the land northward was "central 'Mexico', or northern Yucatan, or the United States."

Nephi's Landing Place: Implied, Pacific coastal Guatemala.

Hill Cumorah: Not clear.

Sidon River: A river in northern Belize.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Especially western Honduras or El Salvador.

City of Nephi: Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Basically lowland northern Guatemala and adjacent parts of the Yucatan peninsula.

City of Zarahemla: Implied at or near Tikal.

Land Bountiful: Eastern Campeche.

Narrow Pass: Line of islands at Laguna de Terminos (?).

Land of Desolation: Part of western Yucatan.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jeredite Landing Place: Not specified but somewhere in Yucatan.

Other cities or Areas Specified: See map

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Unknown, probably not.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited, mainly via maps.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None evident.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Not evident.

Source:

Eugene Peay, *The Lands of Zarahemla: A Book of Mormon Commentary*. A ms, 1992, at F.A.R.M.S.

Pierce 1954 (External) Model

Originator: Norman C. Pierce.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: A stretch of a few score miles between the Golfo Dulce
Land Southward: Honduras and Costa Rica.

Land Northward: The Yucatan Peninsula.

Nephi's Landing Place: El Salvador (supposedly all southern El
Salvador was submerged, so the landing spot was up in what is now
mountainous territory).

Hill Cumorah: In the Golfo Dulce (Lake Izabal) area of eastern
Guatemala.

Sidon River: Ulua River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Southwestern Honduras.

City of Nephi: At Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Land of Zarahemla: The Ulua River drainage (chiefly) of western and
northern Honduras.

City of Zarahemla: On the lower Ulua.

Land of Bountiful: The lower Motagua River valley.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: In the mountains or foothills (Alta Verapaz) of
Guatemala.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

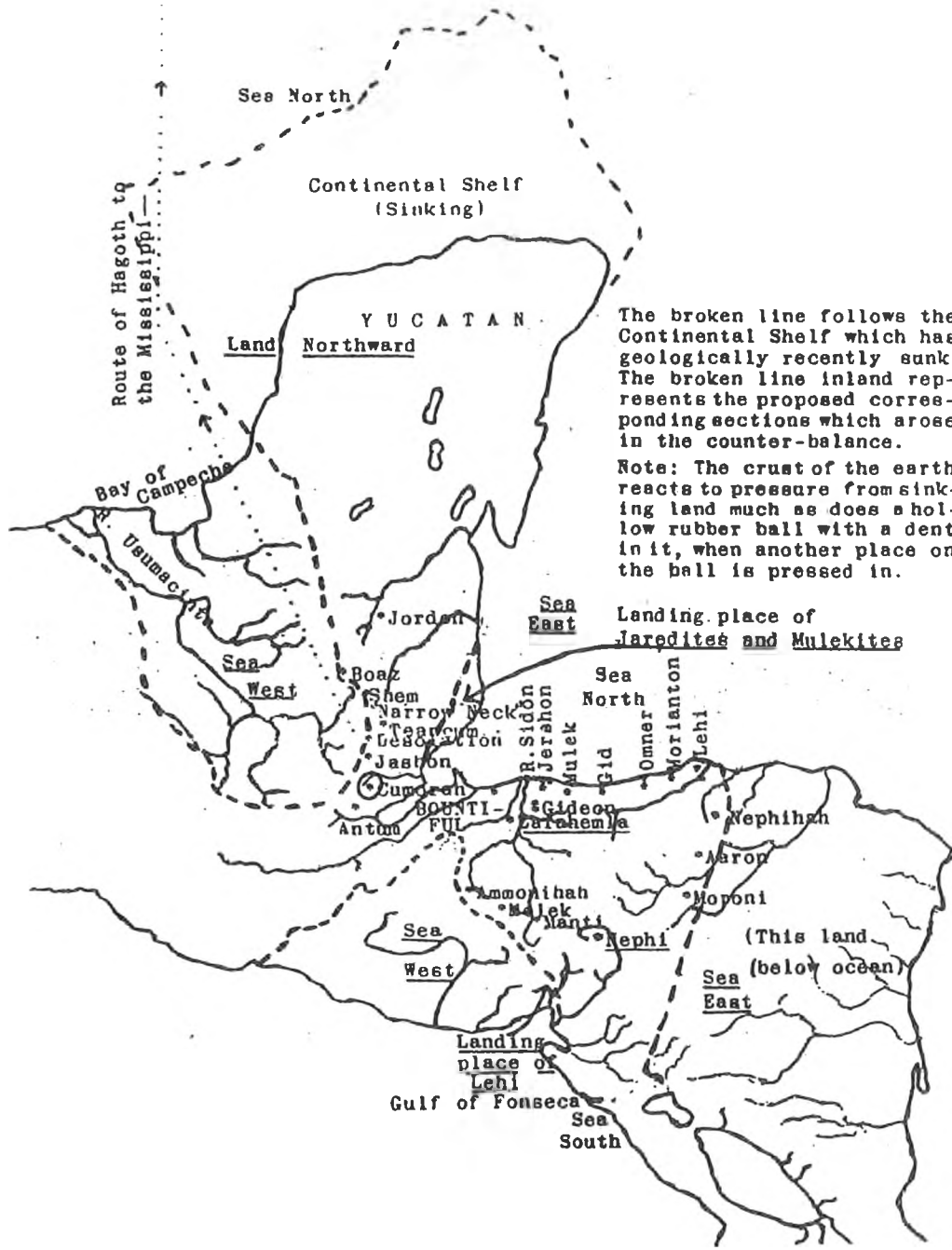
Jaredite Landing Place: Belize.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, on the coast near
the mouth of the Motagua River (Lake Izabal) and the then-submerged
Usumacinta River drainage. Moroni was in what is now central-eastern
Honduras, the eastern part of that country supposedly then being submerged.
Morianton and Lehi were on the north coast of Honduras, east of the Ulua
River. Nephihah and Aaron were on the (former) coast north of Moroni.
Manti and Melek were on upper tributaries of the Ulua River. Ammonihah
was at Lake Yojoa.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Major changes at the
time of the crucifixion, with the entire Usumacinta drainage, El Salvador and
part of Honduras and Nicaragua all under water, while the continental shelf
north and west of Yucatan was formerly exposed.

Scope of Model Specification: Substantial.

Pierce



The broken line follows the Continental Shelf which has geologically recently sunk. The broken line inland represents the proposed corresponding sections which arose in the counter-balance.

Note: The crust of the earth reacts to pressure from sinking land much as does a hollow rubber ball with a dent in it, when another place on the ball is pressed in.

Landing place of Jaredites and Mulekites

(This land below ocean)

“Plain Facts” 1887 (Minimal External) Model

Originator: Unknown.

Area Focus: South America and Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: South America (the map only extends to Mexico on the north and Colombia on the south).

Land Northward: Chiefly southern Mesoamerica and Central America.

Nephi's Landing Place: Evidently Chile.

Hill Cumorah: Unclear. (The text says: “Most of the descendants of the genuine race of Lamanites, possibly live in Yucatan or Central America.”)

Sidon River: Magdalena.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Nephi and his party left the original landing site “for the valley of the Magdalena or the tributaries of the Orinoco.”

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not indicated.

Land of Zarahemla: Colombia.

City of Zarahemla: Evidently on the Magdalena River.

Land Bountiful: Around the mouths of the Atrato River.

Narrow Pass: Not indicated.

Land of Desolation: Evidently Central America.

Land of Moron: “About Guatemala or Chiapas.”

Jaredite Landing Place: “Probably” in Yucatan or Guatemala.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, on the Atrato River. Jershon is mapped west of Lake Maracaibo. Lib's city was between the Atrato and San Juan Rivers.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Very limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None (little to cite at the date).

Use of Current External Scholarship: Slight; does cite Bancroft, published five years before.

Plain Facts



Source:

Plain Facts for Students of the Book of Mormon, with a Map of the Promised Land. n. p., n. d. (A four-page pamphlet preceded by an "Outline Map of the Occidental Promised Land." A photocopy of the dog-eared original exists at BYU.) The text cites a letter from President John Taylor, dated 1886, to a nameless addressee in Logan, Utah, giving permission to undertake missionary work among Maya Indians but warning that only a single wife was to accompany anybody going. The text, which emphasizes the importance of preaching to the "genuine" Lamanites found in Yucatan, indicates that Pres. Taylor was alive at publication; since he died in 1887, the pamphlet is taken as published that year. While the "model" is unclear, it seems distinctive and notable in its emphasis on Mesoamerica as the de facto land northward (perhaps the final battleground was considered to be there).

Porritt 1985 (External) Model

Originator: Gail B. Porritt

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica south and east of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: South-central Mexico (Oaxaca and southern Veracruz), west and north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: Cerro Vigia in the Tuxtlas Mountains.

Sidon River: Grijalva River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Highland Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Chiapas.

City of Zarahemla: The site of Santa Rosa, Chiapas.

Land Bountiful: (Implied) Immediately east of the Coatzacoalcos river all across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Narrow Pass: Geological ridge extending west from the Coatzacoalcos River near Minatitlan.

Land of Desolation: Immediately north and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Veracruz.

Jaredite Landing Place: Pánuco on the Gulf of Mexico coast.

Land of Moron: In the Oaxaca valley, perhaps around Monte Alban.

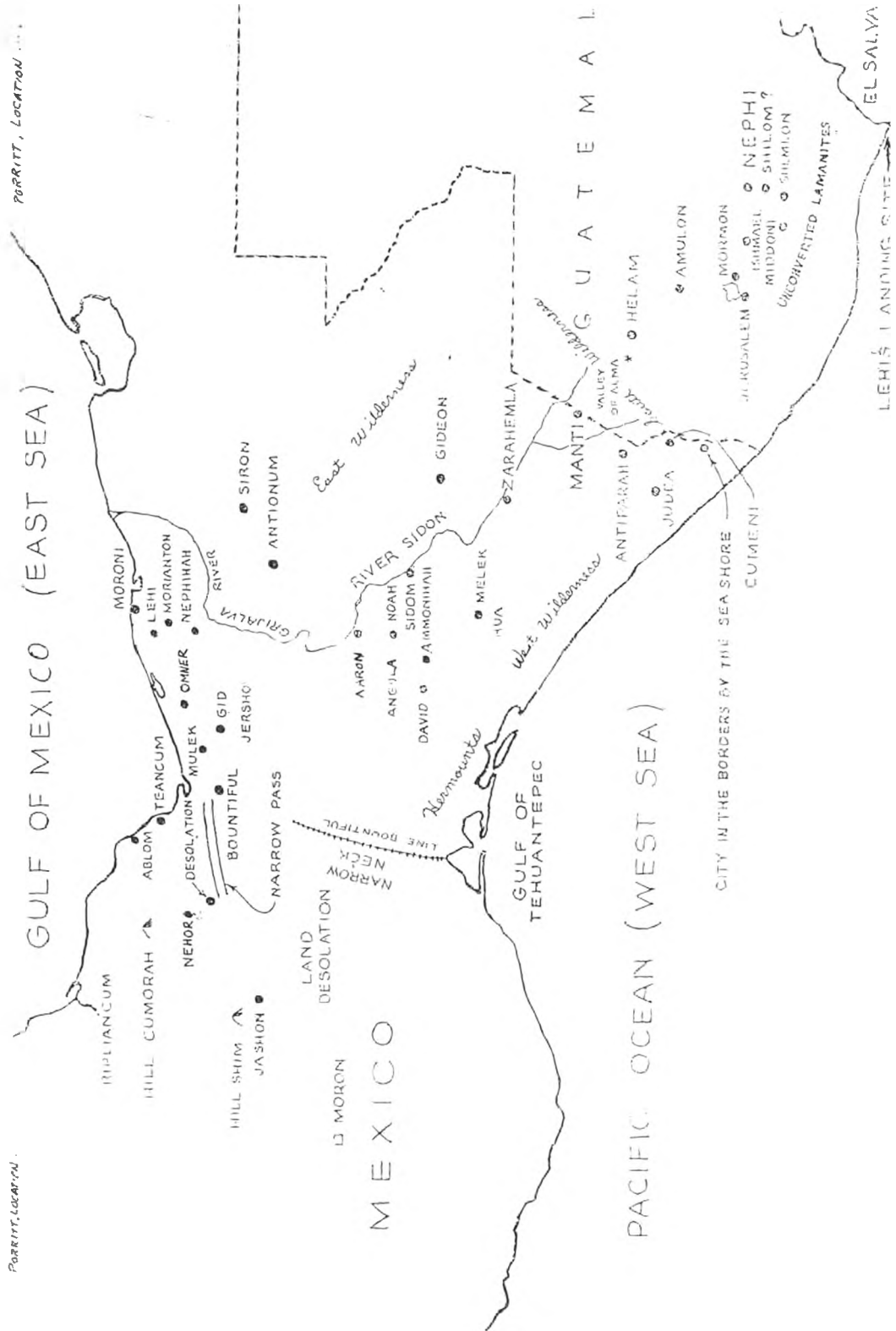
Other Cities or Areas Specified: Nehor, probably the archaeological site of San Lorenzo Tenochtitlan. Hill Shim, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada about 40 miles south of Ramah/Cumorah, with Jashon nearby on the southeast. Ablom, at the shore on the north side of the Tuxtlas mountains.

Waters of Ripliancum, the lagoons and rivers near Alvarado, Veracruz.

Wilderness of Hermounts, in extreme eastern Oaxaca immediately east of (in) the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the same area as the hunting preserve of the Jaredites. City of Lib, in the vicinity of San Lorenzo or La Venta. Other places identical to those in Sorenson's 1985 book.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Implied no.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.



Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Some. Relationships are evident to Hunter and Ferguson and particularly to Sorenson.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Limited.

Sources:

Gail B. Porritt. The Jaredites. Duplicated paper, 42 pages plus illustrations. Copy in the possession of John Sorenson.

Gail B. Porritt. Location of the Nephite Hill Cumorah. Duplicated paper of 12 pages plus five pp. of supplementary material and two maps. Copy in the possession of John Sorenson.

Pratt 1866 (External) Model

Originator: Orson Pratt.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Panama.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: All north of Panama. ("About fifty-four years before Christ, five thousand four hundred men, with their wives and children, left the northern portion of South America, passed through the Isthmus, came into this north country. . . and began to settle up North America." "When they came into North America they found all this country covered with the ruins of cities, villages and towns [of the Jaredites]. . .")

Nephi's Landing Place: "As near as we can judge from the description of the country contained in this record the first landing place was in Chili, not far from where the city of Valparaiso now stands"

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Magdalena River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: "The land of Nephi is supposed to have been in or near Equador, South America" ("near the headwaters of the Amazon River"). (Also, JD 1872, pages 324-331: "The Nephites were commanded of the Lord to ... leave the first place of colonization in ... Chili. They came northward from their first landing place traveling, according to the record, as near as I can judge, some two thousand miles")

Land of Zarahemla, Colombia and nearby.

City of Zarahemla: A few days up the Magdalena.

Land of Bountiful: Immediately south of Panama.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Central America.

Land of Moron: Implied in Central America.

Jaredite Landing Place: On the Pacific coast south of the Gulf of California and north of the land of Desolation which was north of Panama.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Waters of Ripliancum, "supposed to be Lake Ontario." In the first century B.C. colonists to the land northward who "came to large bodies of water and to many rivers and fountains" reached the Mississippi Valley. Ablom was in New England. The sea north was the Arctic Ocean.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Vast geologic changes are supposed, but he gives no evidence of thinking that either the outline or overall configuration of the land changed.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated (evidently there had been little or none). Yet expressions such as “supposed to be” and “as near as we can judge” suggest that his views had resulted in part from discussion with others.

Use of Current External Scholarship: At least as editor of the *Millennial Star* in 1865-1866 he reprinted extensive portions of John Lloyd Stephens’ 1841 book.

Sources:

See Appendix A. See also geographical footnotes to the 1879 edition of the Book of Mormon, which Pratt prepared. These are all listed on pages 12-15 of a duplicated paper by V. Mack Sumner, *An Exploration of the Footnotes in the 1911 Edition, Used by the Talmage Committee* (a report submitted in partial fulfillment of the course requirements of Graduate Religion 622, External Evidences, Dr. Daniel Ludlow, Instructor, August 1967). Copy in F.A.R.M.S. library.

Priddis 1975 (External) Model

Originator: Venice Priddis.

Area Focus: Northwestern South America.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: A constriction of the cordillera with the Gulf of Guayaquil on the west and the "Amazon Sea" (at sea level then) on the east.

Land Southward: The Andean area from south of the Gulf of Guayaquil, Ecuador, to northern Chile.

Land Northward: Northern Ecuador and Colombia.

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: Mount Imbabura, northern Ecuador.

Sidon River: Montaro River (a tributary of the Apurimac in the central highlands of Peru). It flows through the Valley of Gideon (p. 105).

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Bolivia, southern Peru and northern Chile.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Cuzco, Peru.

Land of Zarahemla: Coastal Peru.

City of Zarahemla: Archaeological site of Pachacamac, Peru.

Land of Bountiful: Area immediately south of the Gulf of Guayaquil.

Narrow Pass: A mountain pass within the cordilleran constriction that constituted the narrow neck.

Land of Desolation: On the Gulf of Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Andean valleys nearby.

Land of Moron: Riobamba, Ecuador, near Mount Chimborazo.

Jaredite Landing Place: On the north shore of the Gulf of Guayaquil.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, Cajamarca, Peru. Ammonihah is on the Apurimac River, with Noah, Sidom and Melek nearby. And other places are shown on her maps.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: At the time of the crucifixion, within three hours Tiahuanaco rose 3400 feet above its previous level, southern Chile emerged from the ocean's bottom, and previously submerged Panama rose above the surface of the ocean; however, Zarahemla and the Sidon River remained unchanged.

Scope of Model Specification: Detailed.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Practically none.

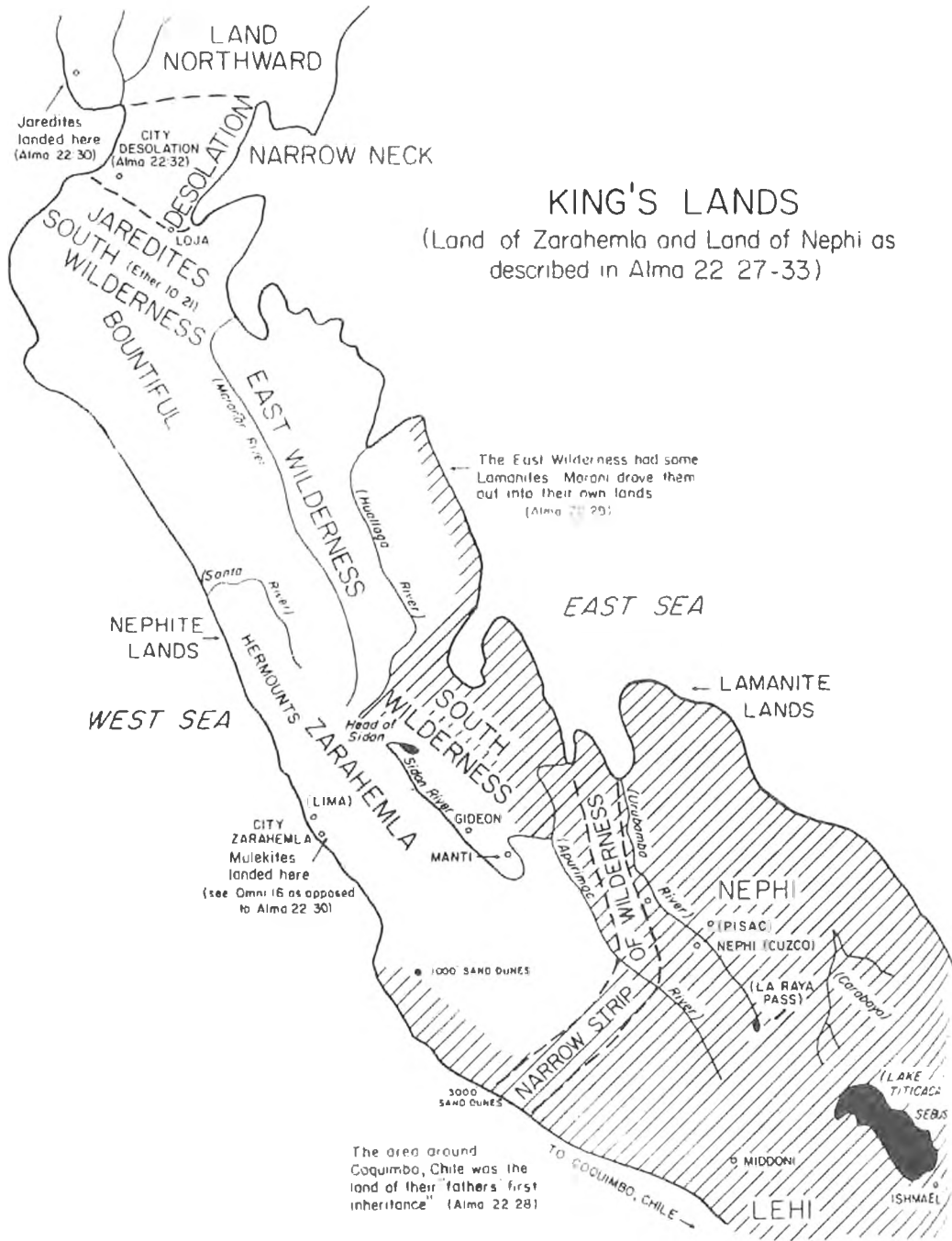
Use of Current External Scholarship: Slight.

Priddis



THE ORIGINAL LAND OF NEPHI
THE COMBINED LANDS OF NEPHI-LEHI

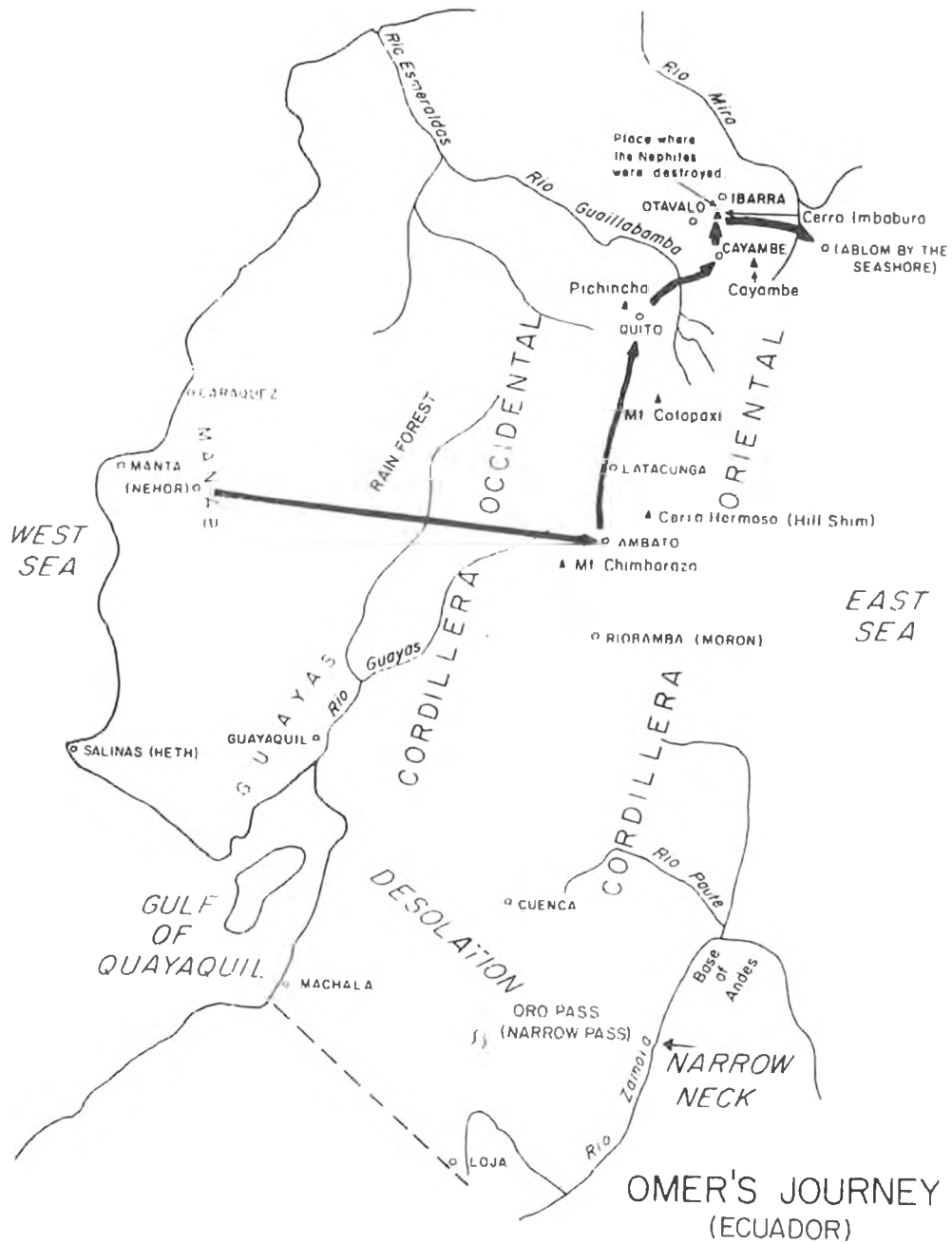
Priddis



Ancestry of the Model: Claimed original. Acknowledges Birrell's model as an independent development.

Source:

Venice Priddis. *The Book and the Map: New Insights into Book of Mormon Geography*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1975.



Proctor 1988 (Internal) Model

Originator: Paul Dean Proctor

Degree of Detail: A single detailed map of the land southward covering "589 B. C.-400 A.D." On it are placed sites and natural features with the general position of lands and certain natural features; some short notes are included within boxes positioned on the map, but basically there is no commentary.

Source: *American Book of Mormon Map*. Copyright Paul Dean Proctor, 1988. (Sold at BYU Bookstore) (1989): 20-70. This review is subtitled, A Key for Evaluating Nephite Geographies.

Quilter 1988 (External) Model

Originator: Charles H. Quilter.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: At the base of the Yucatan Peninsula between swampland or sluggish drainage areas.

Land Southward: Highland Guatemala.

Land Northward: Yucatan Peninsula.

Nephi's Landing Place: Pacific Coast of Guatemala.

Hill Cumorah: Somewhere in Campeche.

Sidon River: Holmul River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Highland Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: The Peten (lowland Guatemala).

City of Zarahemla: Tikal.

Land Bountiful: The area immediately north of Tikal.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not indicated.

Land of Moron: The city was San Lorenzo Tenochtitlan on the Coatzacoalcos River, the land the surrounding area to include La Venta.

Jaredite Landing Place: Near the mouth of the Coatzacoalcos River.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The land of Helam, perhaps the area around the site of Seibal. Land of Jershon, in Belize around the site of Barton Ramie. Ablom, around Nohmul or Cuello, Belize. City of Jordan, Becan in the middle of the Yucatan peninsula. Boaz, the site of Oxpemul. The Nephite retreat went into Yucatan, then when Lamanites agreed to a final battle, they moved to Cumorah in the Rio Candelaria drainage of Campeche. Various Nephite settlements around Zarahemla (e.g., Moroni, Nephiah, Antionum) are also specified, all within the Peten.

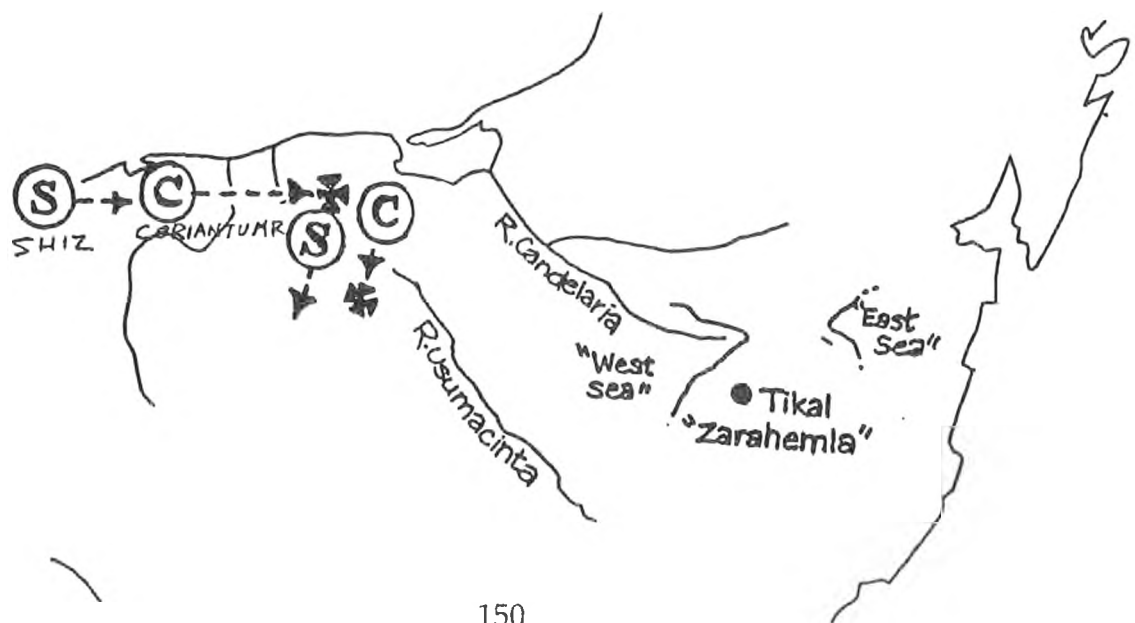
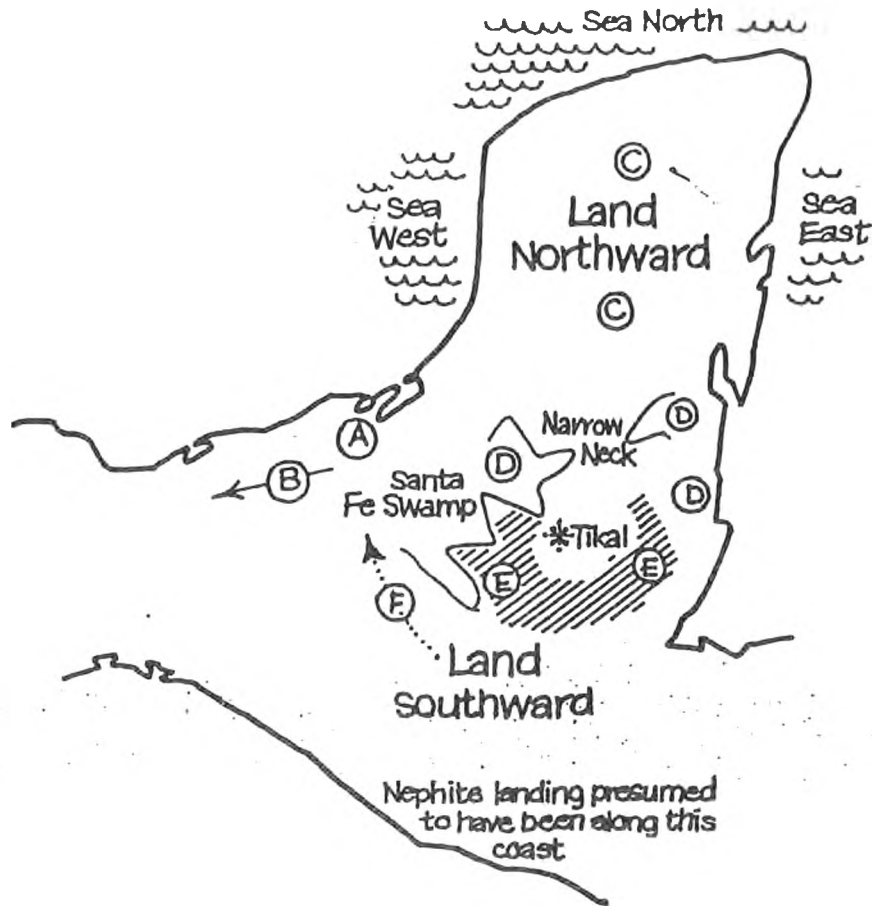
Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No.

Scope of Model Specification: Substantial detail.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None. Claimed original.

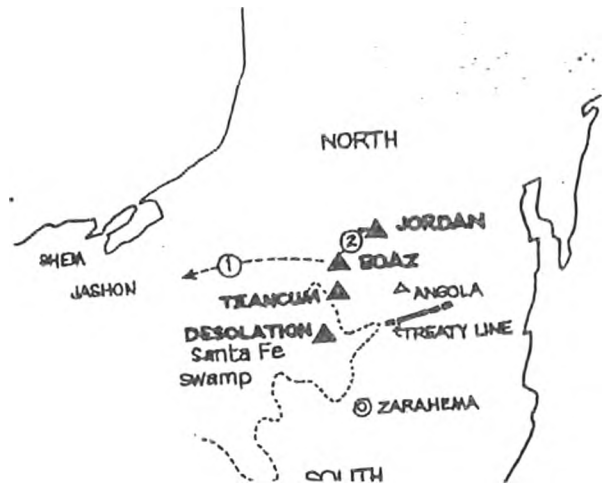
Use of Current External Scholarship: Extensive secondary sources.

Quilter



Source:

Untitled 83-page ms. by Quilter (of Salt Lake City) in the F.A.R.M.S. archives.



Reynolds 1880 (External) Model

Originator: George Reynolds.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: Central and North America.

Nephi's Landing Place: Near Valparaiso, Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: "Generally understood" to be the Magdalena.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: All South America from Ecuador south. In a narrower sense, probably the area now known as Ecuador (or at least, "one of the higher valleys, or extensive plateaus of the Andes"). The Nephites under Nephi first removed from central Chile only a short distance, then moved progressively northward.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): In the days of Mosiah, in upland Ecuador.

Land of Zarahemla: Essentially Colombia, Venezuela and the Guianas.

City of Zarahemla: On the Magdalena.

Land of Bountiful: That part of Colombia adjacent to Panama.

Narrow Pass: Equivalent to or within the Isthmus of Panama.

Land of Desolation: "It is generally supposed to have embraced . . . the region known to moderns as Central America."

Land of Moron: Somewhere in Central America.

Jaredite Landing Place: In Central America (implied on the Atlantic side).

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The city of Bountiful was on the Caribbean coast near the Panama-Colombia border. It is "far from improbable" that Helam was at the headwaters of a tributary of the Amazon in Ecuador. Mulek, Gid, Omner, Lehi and Morianton were on the Caribbean shore of Colombia and Venezuela. Moroni was in "Guiana."

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Implied to be not significant, although the coast of Chile is said to have been "entirely changed since those days," and the crucifixion catastrophe is said to have changed things "greatly." Yet the identification of specific cities and features implies that he considers the changes only limited.

Scope of Model Specification: Moderate detail.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Regarding the placement of the city of Nephi, he explicitly agrees with Orson Pratt, while acknowledging that “other brethren have placed it considerably farther south,” and acknowledging that the exact whereabouts “cannot be answered authoritatively.” He also follows Pratt’s footnotes in the 1879 Book of Mormon in having two Nephiahahs. Regarding the City Bountiful, he notes “an idea held by some” that it was located on the west shore of Colombia, but he puts it on the Atrato River.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: He makes apparent his debt to O. Pratt.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Significant changes.

Scope of Model Specification: Substantial detail.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Considerable (uncritical).

Sources:

The basics appeared in Reynolds’ series in *The Juvenile Instructor* between 15 November 1880 and 1 February 1881. This was amplified in *The Story of the Book of Mormon* [1st ed., Joseph Hyrum Parry: Salt Lake City, 1888; 2d ed., George G. Cannon and Sons: Salt Lake City, 1898 (sic); 3d ed., H. C. Etten: Chicago, c. 1888; 4th ed., Hillison and Etten: Chicago, 1888; 5th ed., Zion’s Printing and Publishing: Independence, Missouri, 1888]; see especially pages 382ff. in the 5th ed. Also in *A Dictionary of the Book of Mormon*. Joseph Hyrum Parry: Salt Lake City, 1892, pages 155-156, 187, 197-200, 203-205, 213-217, 224-225, 267-277, 320-321, 323-324, and 360-361 [Reprinted 1910, Salt Lake City: Deseret Sunday School Union; and 1954, Salt Lake City: Philip C. Reynolds].

Phillip C. Reynolds reprinted all the geographical information from the above, first in *Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 7 volumes, “arranged and amplified from the notes of George Reynolds and Janne M. Sjordahl” by Phillip C. Reynolds and David Sjordahl King. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1955-1961; then again in *Book of Mormon Geography: The Lands of the Nephites and Jaredites*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1957. Bruce Van Orden in an unpublished paper (“George Reynolds and Janne M. Sjordahl on Book of Mormon Geography”) documents that Reynolds and Sjordahl never collaborated, actually holding quite different views on geography. For unknown reasons, Phillip C. Reynolds took egregious editorial license in constructing a false picture of collaboration by mixing materials by the two.

Ricks 1904 (External) Model

Originator: Joel Ricks.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: Western South America.

Land Northward: Panama and northward to include North America.

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Magdalena River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Highland Ecuador. However, he says that Nephi's temple was at Tiahuanaco, Bolivia, where Nephi first settled, his people subsequently slowly expanding northward into Ecuador. He distinguishes Bolivia as the "Old Land Nephi" while the Lamanite kingdom, in Ecuador, is simply the "Land Nephi."

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Western and central Colombia and to the Gulf of Maracaibo. (1906: Includes a map of his local land of Zarahemla, including the wilderness of Hermounts abutting on the city, the city Melek some 10 miles from the city of Zarahemla, and Minon upriver less than 20 miles, all drawn on local Magdalena River basin topography.)

City of Zarahemla: On the central Magdalena River at the point where navigation is interrupted, 250 miles southeast of the isthmus of Panama and 250 north of the headwaters of the Magdalena.

Land of Bountiful: The valley of the Atrato river in western Colombia.

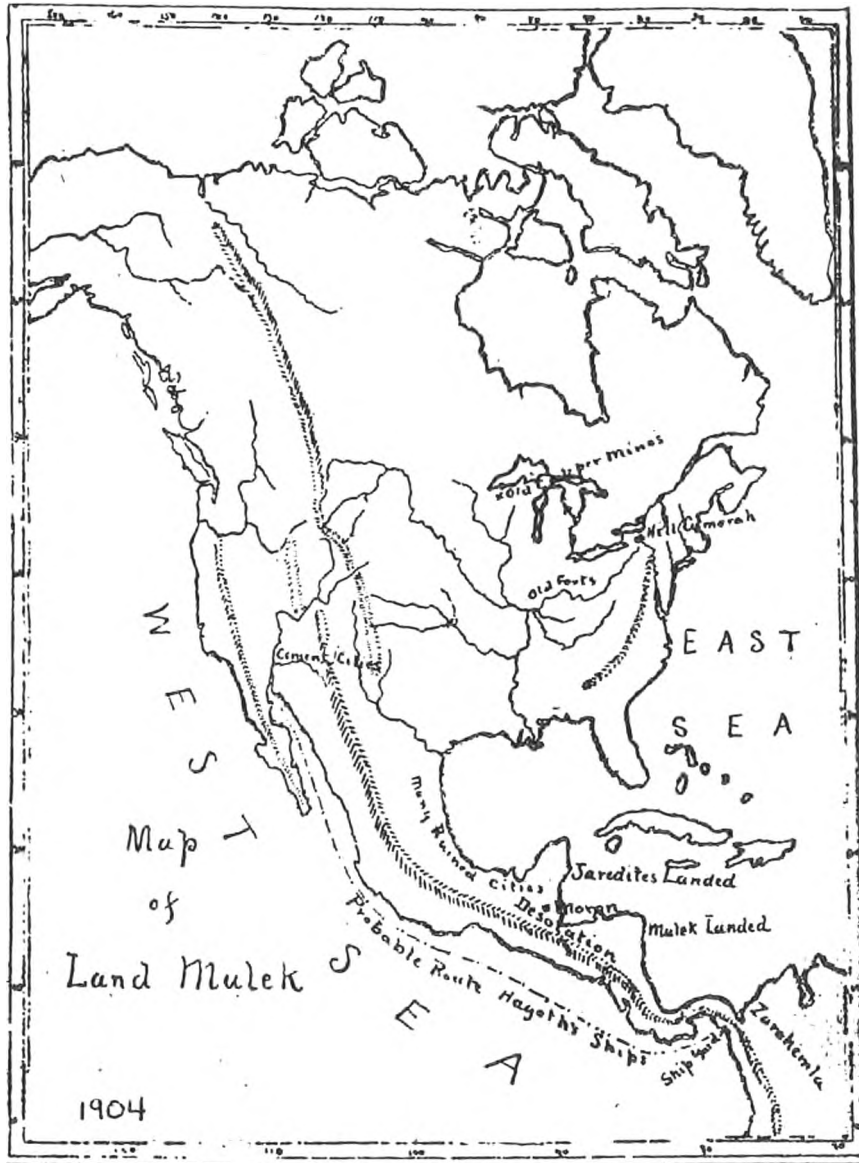
Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Central America, including Panama.

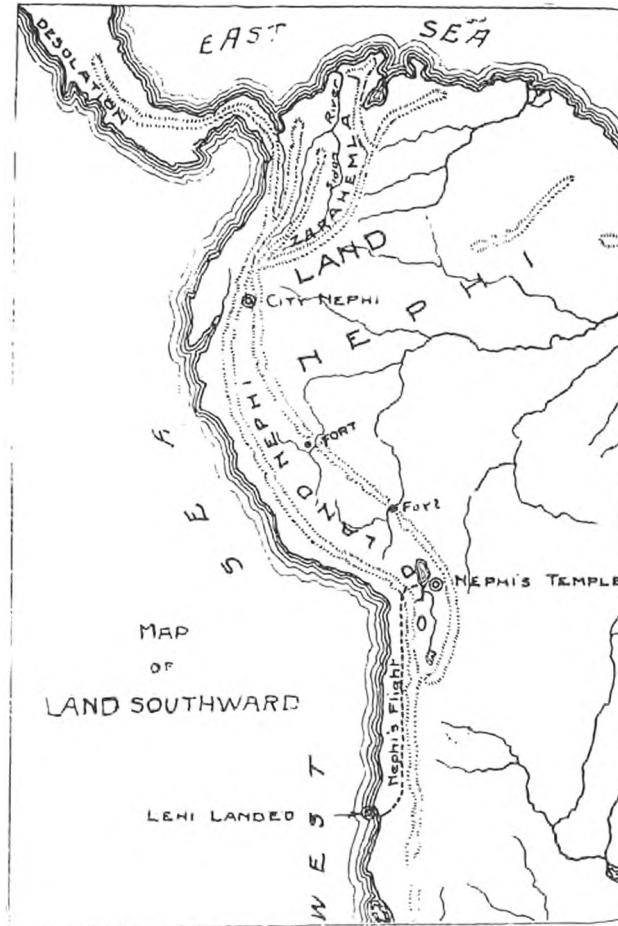
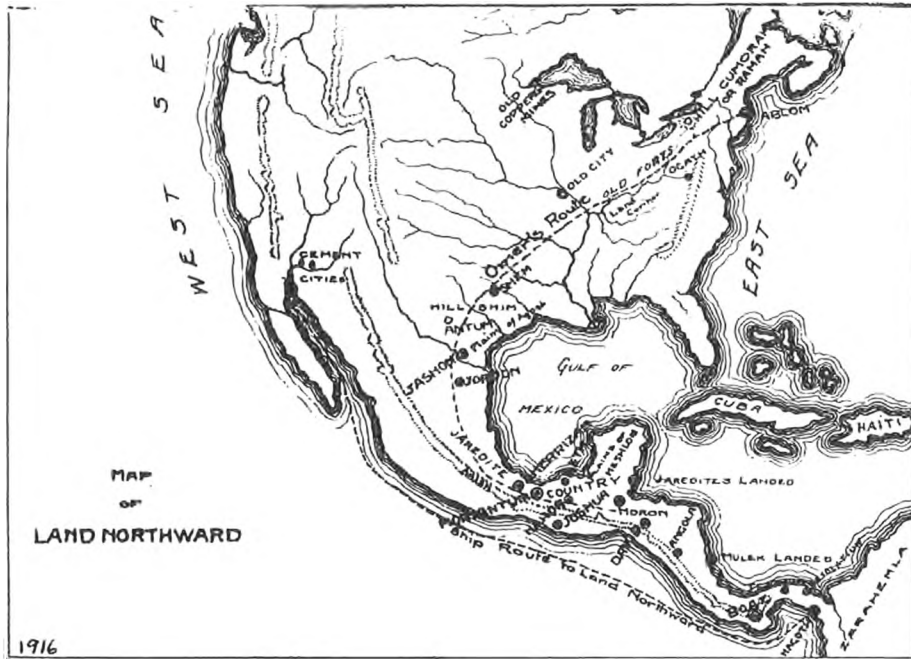
Land of Moron: Near the landing place on the Bay of Honduras.

Jaredite Landing Place: Bay of Honduras.

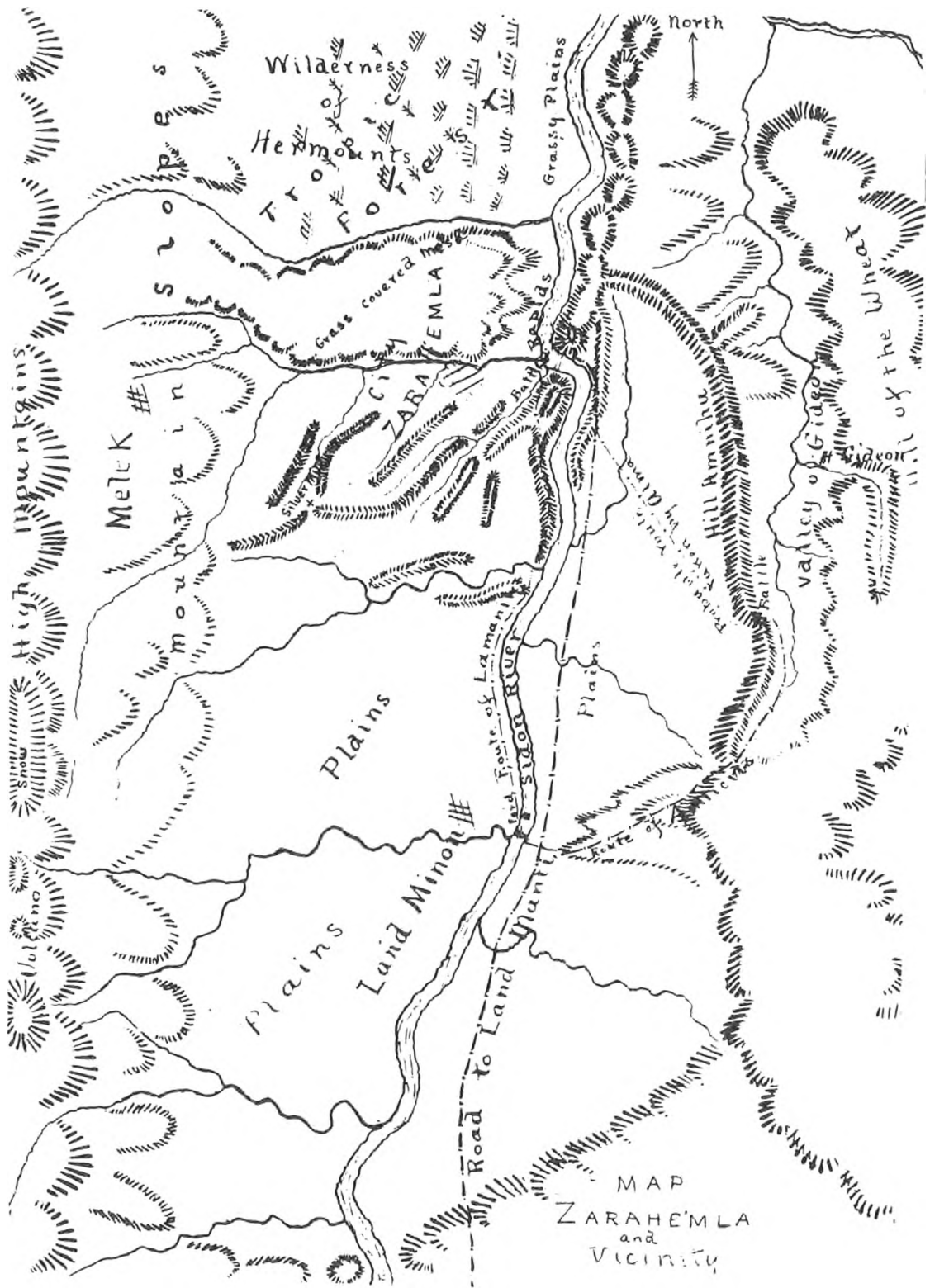
Other Cities or Areas Specified: Maps in his 1916 work show many cities at particular points, but the text does not discuss most of them. The city of Bountiful was at the head of the Gulf of Darien near the Colombia-Panama border. The 1904 maps place Omner on the lower Sidon with Gid to its west at a river mouth. Cumeni and Judea are on the upper Rio Cauca. Manti is on the upper Magdalena at 3 degrees north. Antionum and Siron are in mountains about 30 miles east-northeast of Zarahemla city. Moroni lies in the swamps at the south extremity of Lake Maracaibo.



Ricks







Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Only modest changes resulted from the catastrophe at the time of the crucifixion.

Scope of Model Specification: Substantial.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated. He credits and follows Orson Pratt. Sjordahl 1927, page 412, considers Ricks' model to be a modification of Reynolds'.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Very little.

Sources:

Brigham Young College Society of American Archeology. Society Report: Book of Mormon Geography. *Brigham Young College Bulletin* 3(2)(December) 1904 [Logan, Utah]. [Ricks wrote this report as chairman of their Committee on Book of Mormon Geography; the two maps are specifically "by Joel Ricks."]

Also a series of short articles in *The Juvenile Instructor* in 1906: The River Sidon, 41 (Mar. 1): 130-134; The Land Zarahemla, 41 (April 1): 193-196, continued April 15, pages 225-228; A Visit to the Temple in the Land Jerushon 41 (Nov. 1): 641-645; and, The City Zarahemla and Vicinity 41 (Nov. 15): 673-676.

Essentially unchanged in Joel Ricks. *Helps to the Study of the Book of Mormon*. Author: Logan, Utah, 1916. (Three pages of text and several maps.) Subsequently he issued *Helps to the Study of the Book of Mormon*, n.p., n.d. 96 pp. Later this was essentially the same as his *The Geography of the Book of Mormon*. Author: n.p., [1939?] (maps unchanged). See also his *Whence Came the Mayas?* Author: n. p., 1943. Within this item he advertised "A Large Wall Map, 30 X 40 inches, showing Nephite and Jaredite civilizations." n.p., n.d.

RLDS/Weston 1900? (External) Model

Originator: Committee on American Archaeology, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, drawn by G. F. Weston.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Panama.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: Central and North America.

Nephi's Landing Place: Precisely at 30 degrees south, Coquimbo, Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Magdalena River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Peru and Ecuador.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): On headwaters of the Amazon near Huánuco, Peru. But the City of Lehi-Nephi was a different city, at about the Ecuador-Peru border.

Land of Zarahemla: Colombia and western Venezuela.

City of Zarahemla: On the Magdalena River.

Land Bountiful: Panama.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Costa Rica through Guatemala.

Land of Moron: Inland from the Bay of Honduras.

Jaredite Landing Place: Bay of Honduras.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Antipas-Onidah, on Amazon headwaters near Huanuco, Peru. Moroni, at Puerto Cabello, near Caracas, Venezuela. Morianton and Lehi, on the Caribbean coast nearer Panama. Middoni and Jerusalem were on the north Peruvian coast. Lake Lauricocha was the waters of Sebus. Amulon was around the Chimborazo volcano, Ecuador. There were two Aarons. Jacobugath was by Lake Maracaibo. Joshua was in El Salvador and Heth in north central Mexico. the land of Nehor was Yucatan. The land northward included most of the present-day United States. Ablom was in Massachusetts.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Maps only, where some detail is given.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Little or none.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.



Sources:

G. F. Weston. *Book of Mormon Maps*. Buchanan, Michigan, n.p., n.d.
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. *Report of Committee on American Archaeology* Lamoni, Iowa: Herald Publishing Co. 1910. (The committee was appointed by the church's general conference in 1894. The 1910 report is evidently a revision of one c. 1900 which already contained Weston's maps, for which the committee furnished him all information.)
Weston maps were used without comment or discussion in: Louise Palfrey, editor, *Lessons on the Book of Mormon and Archaeology* (*The Religio-Quarterly: Senior Grade*, volume 4) Independence, Missouri: Zion's Religio-Literary Society, at Ensign Publishing House, 1906; and also in Jeremiah A. Gunsolley, ed. *The Religio Quarterly: Senior Grade*, volume 15, numbers 1-3. Zion's Religio-Literary Society: Lamoni, Iowa, 1916-1917.

Hanson 1984 discusses the origin of the Weston maps (see the reference under Hanson 1951 Model, and also see Simmons 1977, page 108, under Simmons 1948 Model).

Roberts 1903 (External) Model

Originator: Brigham H. Roberts.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: South America.

Land Northward: From Panama northward, including North America.

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: "It is generally supposed" to be the Magdalena.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Explicitly follows Geo. Reynolds and O. Pratt, supposing that the Nephites progressively moved under Lamanite pressure from Chile to Ecuador.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): At the time of Mosiah, in Ecuador.

Land of Zarahemla: Implied to be Colombia.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified; implied to be on the Magdalena.

Land of Bountiful: Implied to be around the Colombia-Panama border.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Central America, perhaps from some point in Panama extending at least through Guatemala and perhaps including Yucatan and Chiapas.

Land of Moron: "In some part of the region we know as Central America."

Jaredite Landing Place: Follows O. Pratt, "probably south of the Gulf of California" on the Pacific side.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Ablom, in New England.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: The "considerable" catastrophic changes make conjectures "worthless about Nephite lands . . . except in a very general way."

Scope of Model Specification: Slight.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Knows and generally follows Pratt and Reynolds, while eschewing detail.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None indicated.

Sources:

Brigham H. Roberts. *New Witnesses for God. II. The Book of Mormon*, vol. II. Deseret News Press: Salt Lake City, 1909. In his preface, however, Roberts says that the material essentially as in the book was used for YMMIA instruction in 1903-5. But before that, in 1888, he had published a series of articles in the *Millennial Star* ("compiled and published" as *A New Witness for God* by Lynn Pulsipher, n.p., 1986) which served as an outline for Roberts's later volumes, and the few statements on geography are all consistent with what he put out in 1909, hence the date assigned the model here. In his volume III on *The Book of Mormon*, pages 499-504, "The Geography of the Book," he acknowledges belated doubts about the statement on Lehi landing in Chile. If those doubts are justified, he says, then "much found in this treatise of the Book of Mormon relative to the Nephites being in South America . . . will have to be modified," but he never made clear thereafter that his doubts carried through to any new model.

Robison 1977 (External) Model

Originator: Stanford Robison.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: West of Chetumal Bay—the Peten lakes may have been an arm of the sea (it remains unclear whether the west side of the Yucatan peninsula is considered to have been submerged/indented).

Land Southward: Essentially Guatemala.

Land Northward: Northern Yucatan.

Nephi's Landing Place: Caribbean coast (traveled around the Cape of Good Hope and up the South Atlantic).

Hill Cumorah: Adjacent to the site of Becan in central Yucatan.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: A strip of mountains shown extending from Palenque and Tonina on the northwest to Laguna Izabal.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Palenque.

Land of Zarahemla: The middle Usumacinta basin, from Altar de Sacrificios (Manti) downstream past Piedras Negras—adjacent to Gideon—to Palenque (Nephi)(sic).

City of Zarahemla: The site of Yaxchilan on the Usumacinta River.

Land Bountiful: Immediately around Lake Yaxha in the southern Peten.

City of Bountiful: At or near Lake Yaxha.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

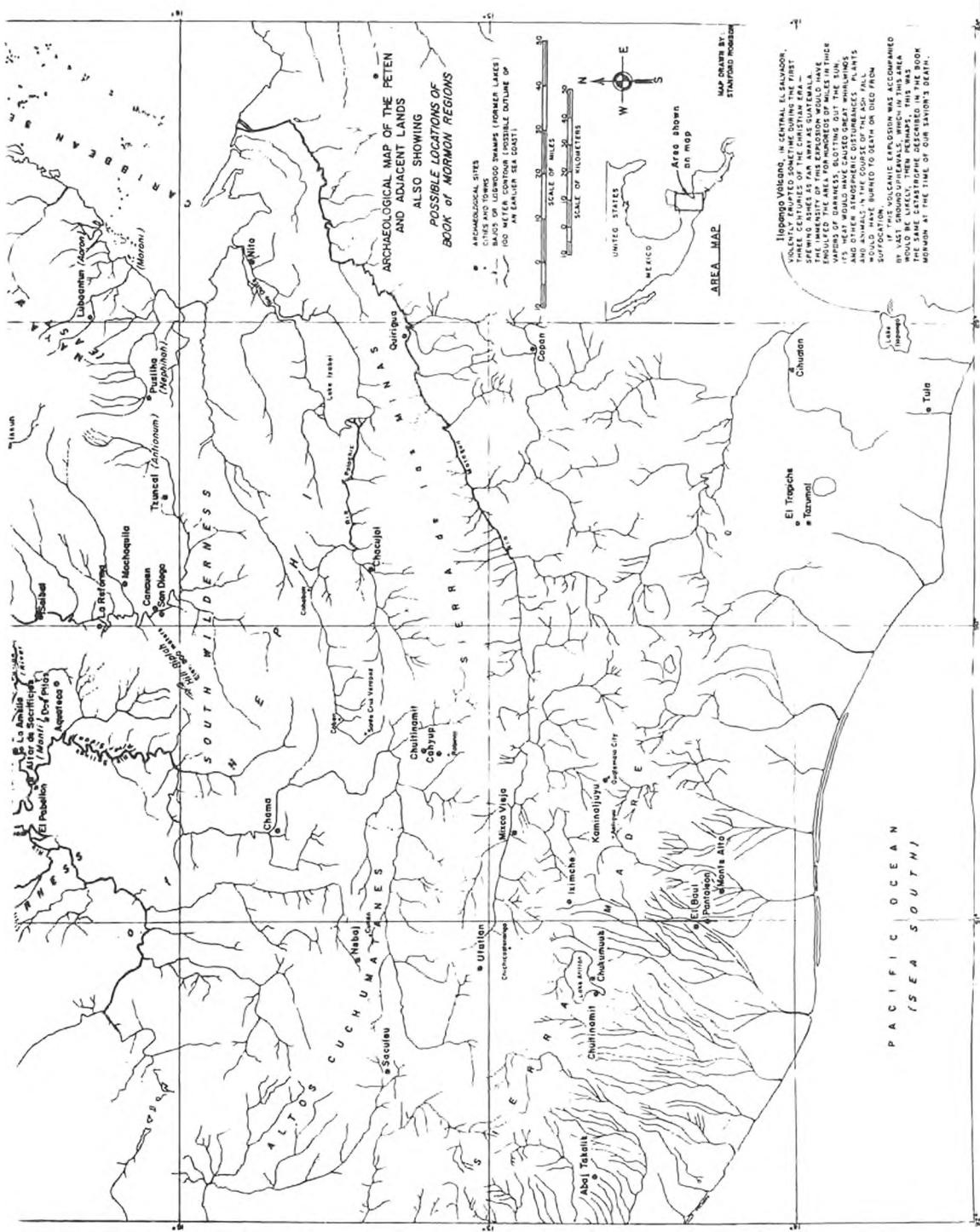
Land of Desolation: Mapped as a small swampy area surrounded by Tikal, Uaxactun, Holmul and Yaxha in the Peten.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Moroni, on the Bay of Honduras. Nephihah, at the site of Pusilha west of Moroni. Morianton, the site of Benque Viejo. Melek, Bonampak. The narrow strip of wilderness lay immediately west of the Usumacinta River and parallel to it.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: The Laguna de Terminos was "once a bay," while the "100 meter contour outlines the possible boundaries of the sea during the early Maya period, extending up the Rio San Pedro almost to Tikal. The same contour line around the Rio Hondo on the east also represents former sea extending almost to Uaxactun.



Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Practically none.

Source:

Stanford Robison. *The Maya Legacy: A Sequel to the Book of Mormon Story*. The Author: Las Vegas, Nevada [c. 1977].

Sahlin 1987 (External) Model

Originator: Ingemar Sahlin.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Not specified.

Land Southward: The states of Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche and Yucatan.

Land Northward: West and north from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Laguna Inferior at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified (but implied to be beyond the north border of his Mesoamerican map, for Teancum is put at about Veracruz city and Boas around Tuxpan farther to the north).

Sidon River: Grijalva River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: In the foothills or mountains west of Veracruz.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Directly east of Teotihuacan about half way to the coast.

Land of Zarahemla: Chiefly east of the middle Grijalva River in the highlands of Chiapas but also a small section on the west of the river near the present Nezahualcoyotl Dam. From the dam upstream on the Grijalva to the Guatemalan border is a greater "land of Manti," including along the river Zeezrom, Cumeni, Antiparah (at about Santa Cruz), Judea, David and Angola (at about the Guatemalan border).

City of Zarahemla: Just west of the middle Grijalva River, around Las Palmas.

Land Bountiful: In the narrowest part of the isthmus.

City of Bountiful: Between the mouth of the Coatzacoalcos River and the Tuxtla Mountains.

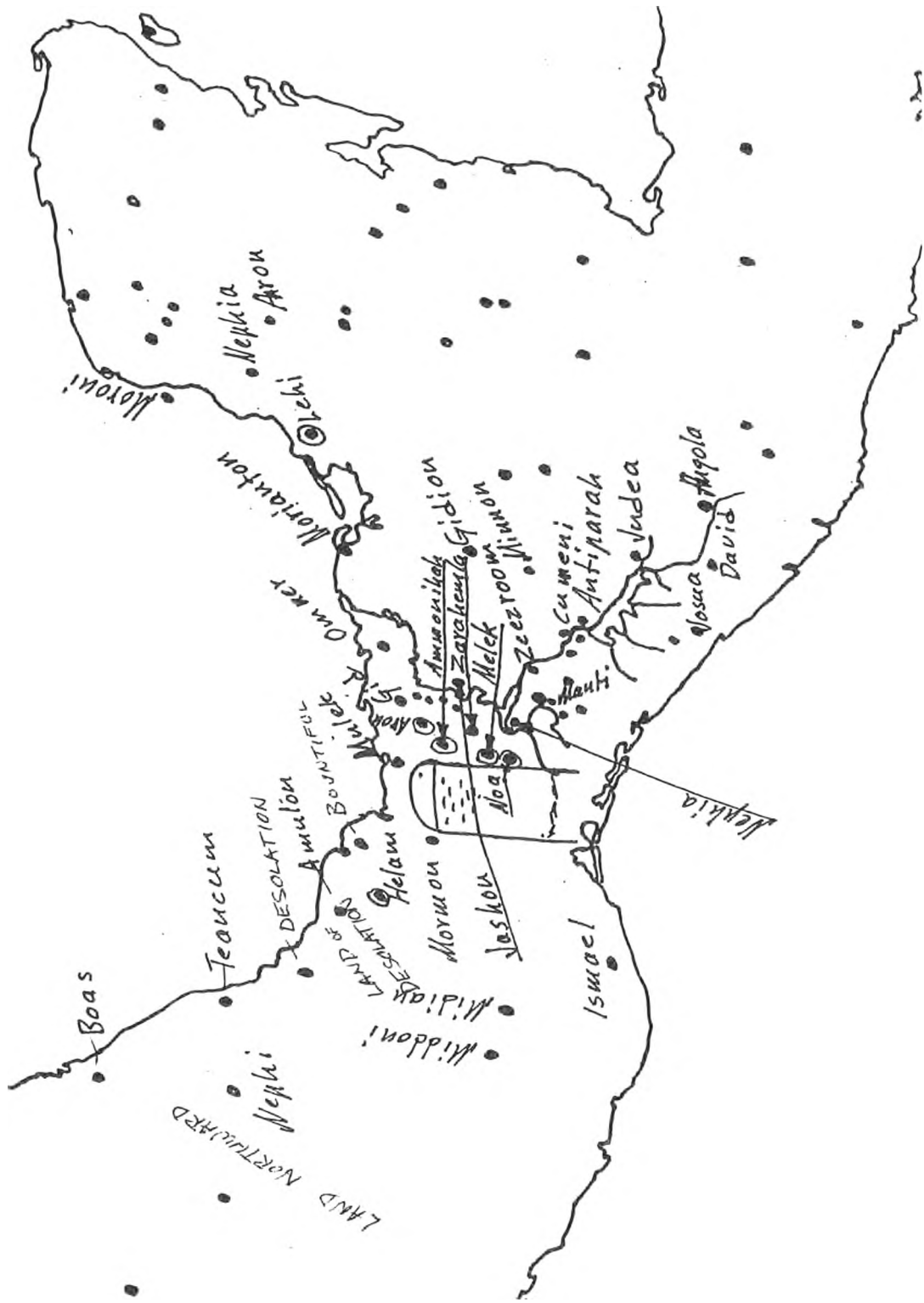
Narrow Pass: From the Coatzacoalcos River area near its mouth to the Tuxtla Mountains (almost identical to Sorenson's narrow pass but conceived without knowledge of Sorenson's book). The Wilderness of Akish = the Wilderness of Hermounts and occupies the center of the Isthmus (much of the upper Coatzacoalcos River drainage).

Land of Desolation: Immediately west of the Coatzacoalcos River.

Land of Moron: Loosely, Oaxaca.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Cities or Areas Specified: The land of Helam, in the Papaloapan basin. Jerusalem, around Tres Zapotes. Midian and Middoni the valley of Oaxaca. The land of Ishmael, Pacific coastal Oaxaca. The land of Amulon, the Tuxtla



Mountains. Mulek, around La Venta. Morianton, the west end of the Laguna de Terminos. Lehi and Moroni, in Campeche state. Manti is on the La Venta River not far from Ocozocuatla. (Mosiah discovered Zarahemla by traveling from near Orizaba peak to the middle Grijalva River.) The land of Nehor was the same as the area later known as Zarahemla.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: A number of maps, legends in Swedish.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Not evident.

Sources:

Personal communication from the originator to LDS Church headquarters, December 1987, forwarded to John L. Sorenson. Also personal communication from Sahlin to Sorenson, February 1988.

Simmons 1948 (External) Model

Originator: Verneil W. Simmons.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern Mesoamerica and northern Central America.

Land Northward: Mesoamerica west and north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Implies the Gulf of Fonseca, El Salvador (see Maps 6 and inside cover).

Hill Cumorah: Implied in eastern or central Veracruz inland from an embayment (lower Papaloapan River drainage?).

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Honduras, El Salvador and southern Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Usumacinta River basin.

City of Zarahemla: "Might well be" the site of Yaxchilan.

Land of Bountiful: In the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (page 119 implies that the Tabasco-Chiapas area is meant, but the map on the inside cover shows the area west of the isthmian neck constriction).

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Central Veracruz and westward into the highlands.

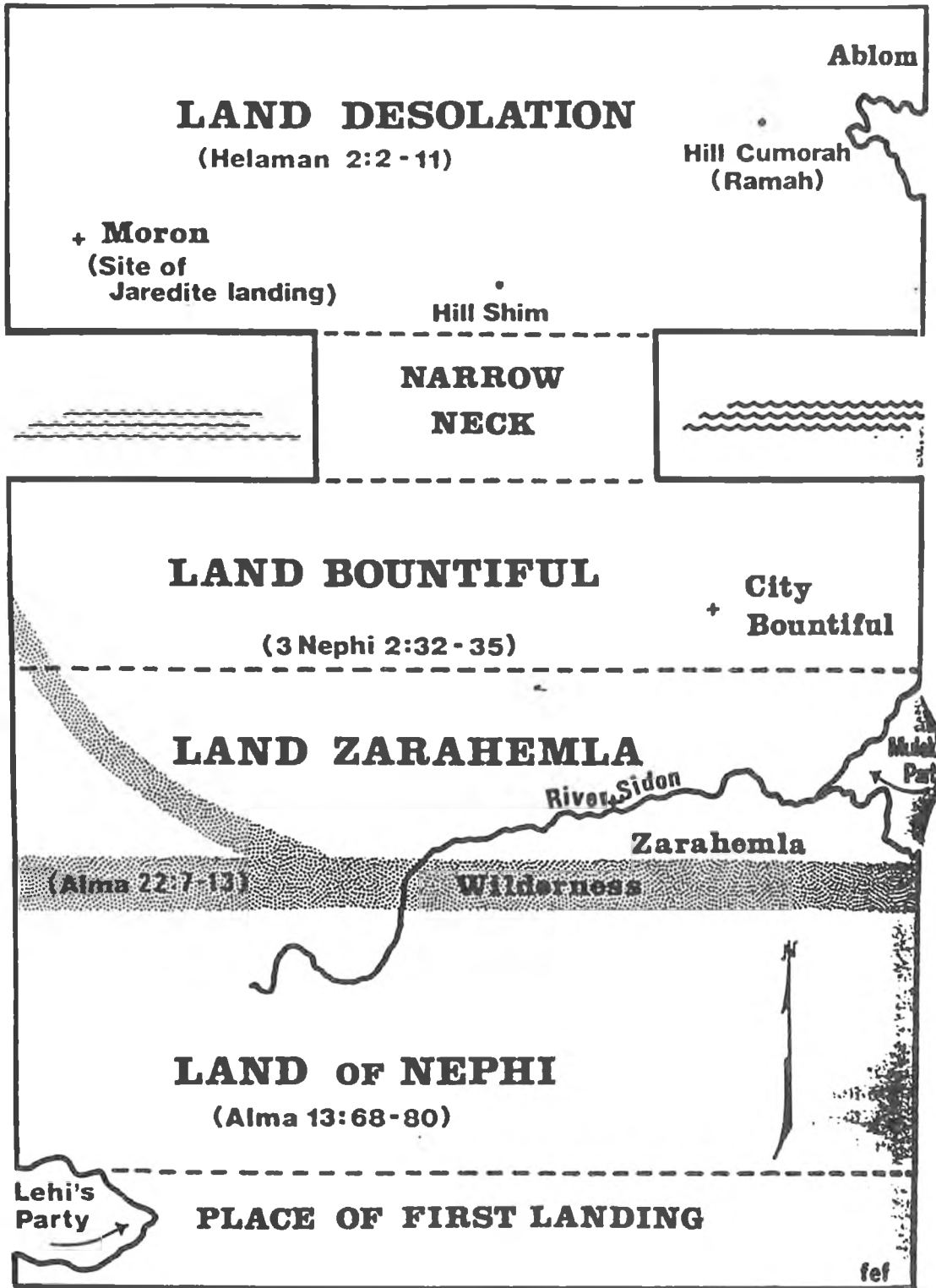
Land of Moron: Implies Guerrero or Oaxaca.

Jaredite Landing Place: Implies Guerrero or Oaxaca.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: The generalized map shows Mulek's party landing at the mouth of the Sidon (Usumacinta). The hill Shim is in the middle of the land just north of the neck. Ablom is by the sea north of an embayment (lower Papaloapan River drainage hinted). The city of Bountiful is mapped in a generalized position considerably inland between the Sidon (Usumacinta) and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Implies no major changes.

Scope of Model Specification: Little detail.



Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Only Paul Hanson and Louis E. Hills are cited.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Some.

Source:

Verneil W. Simmons, Lest We Forget the Lamanite, *Saints' Herald*, September 25, 1948. More in her *Peoples, Places and Prophecies: A Study of the Book of Mormon*. The Author: [McAllen, Texas], 1977.

Sjodahl 1927 (External) Model

Originator: Janne M. Sjodahl.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec through Central America and South America to Chile.

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec northward to include all North America.

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile.

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: "There are two lands of Nephi" (page 422). One is in "the place of their father's first inheritance," also called Lehi-Nephi. The other is Nephi in the land of Bountiful. The latter "was Central America, between the Isthmus of Darien and Tehuantepec" (page 424).

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Unclear.

Land of Zarahemla: The Atlantic drainage of Central America (page 426), "from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mosquito coast on the Caribbean Gulf" (page 432).

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Sidon River: Not specified.

Land of Bountiful: Extended from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec southward to encompass all Central America, ending in a "narrow strip of wilderness" constituting Panama. It was composed, further, of two areas lying side by side, the land of Nephi on the Pacific side and the land of Zarahemla on the Atlantic side (page 426), "from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mosquito coast on the Caribbean Gulf" (page 432). A city of Bountiful is not specified.

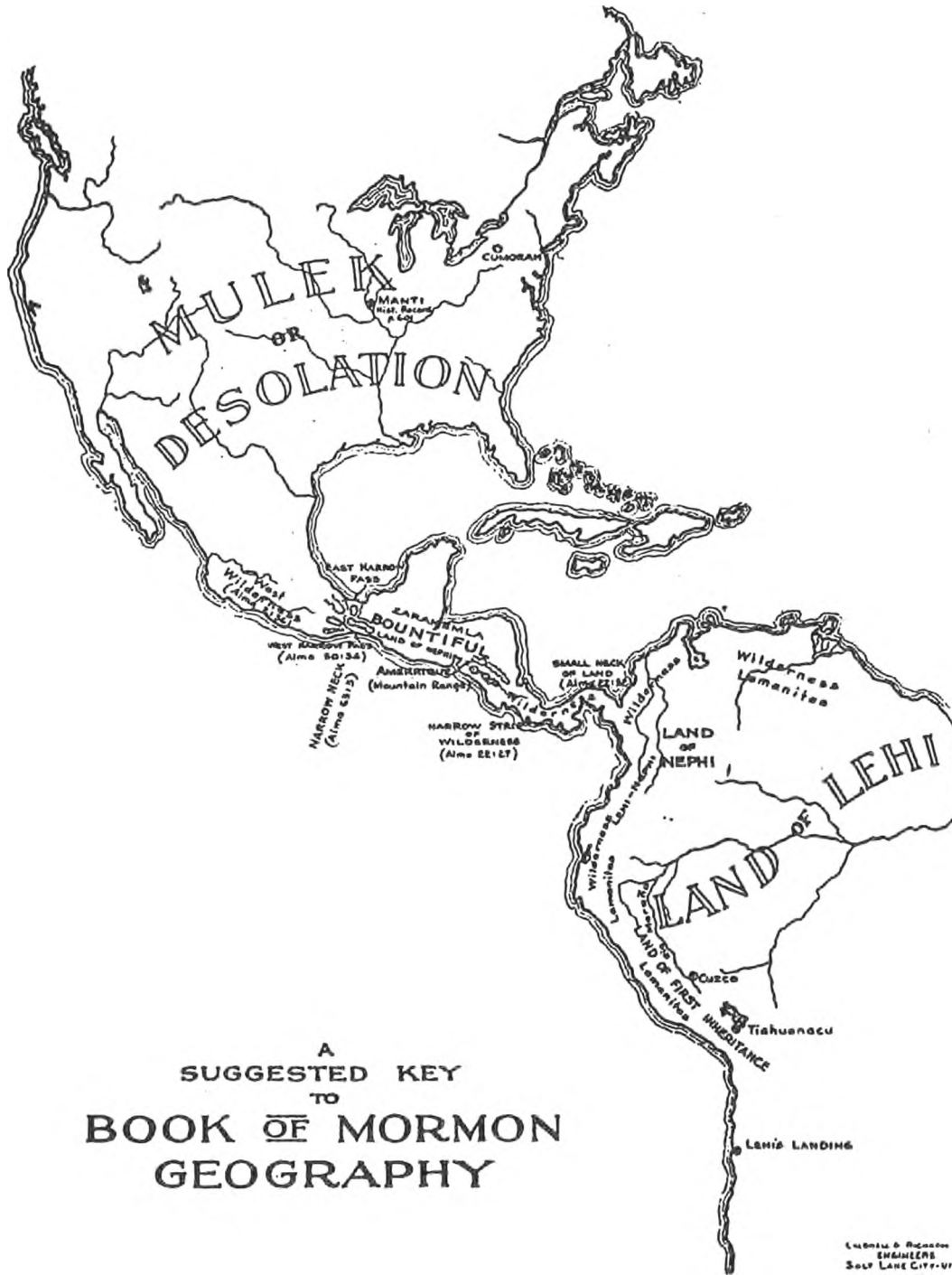
Narrow Pass: The coastal strip on the Pacific side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, however, the map on page 420 shows this "west narrow pass" and also a corresponding "east narrow pass" on the Gulf of Mexico side.

Land of Desolation: All of Mexico north of Tehuantepec plus North America (i.e., the same as the land northward and also the same as the land of Mulek).

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.



A
SUGGESTED KEY
TO
BOOK OF MORMON
GEOGRAPHY

CHARLES S. RICHMOND
ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No statement. (Implies little concern.)

Scope of Model Specification: Brief discussion summarized in one map.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Pages 410-418 summarize theories of geography by Reynolds, Ricks, Young and Bagley.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Some.

Source:

Janne M. Sjodahl. Suggested Key to Book of Mormon Geography, *Improvement Era* 30 (September 1927), pages 974-87. Included as part of *An Introduction to the Study of the Book of Mormon*. The Author: Salt Lake City, 1927. See Reynolds 1880 Model for a note on a gratuitous attempt in the 1950s to meld Sjodahl's views with those of Reynolds.

Sorenson 1955 (Internal/External) Model

Originator: John L. Sorenson

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mexican states of Chiapas and Tabasco and part of Campeche, southern (highland) Guatemala and western El Salvador.

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec northward and westward a few hundred miles.

Nephi's Landing Place: Within a few miles of the Guatemalan-El Salvador border.

Hill Cumorah: Cerro El Vigia in the Tuxtlas Mountains of southern Veracruz.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Generally the highlands of southern Guatemala; more specifically, the valley of Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Very probably the archaeological site of Kaminaljuyu in suburban Guatemala City.

Land of Zarahemla: Most of the state of Chiapas and western Tabasco.

City of Zarahemla: Most likely the archaeological site of Santa Rosa, Chiapas.

Sidon River: Grijalva River.

Land of Bountiful: The immediate eastern side of the Coatzacoalcos River basin.

Narrow Pass: A gravelly ridge about 30 miles long extending from the Coatzacoalcos River near Minatitlan west to Acayucan.

Land of Desolation: An area near the Tuxtlas Mountains immediately west of the Coatzacoalcos River.

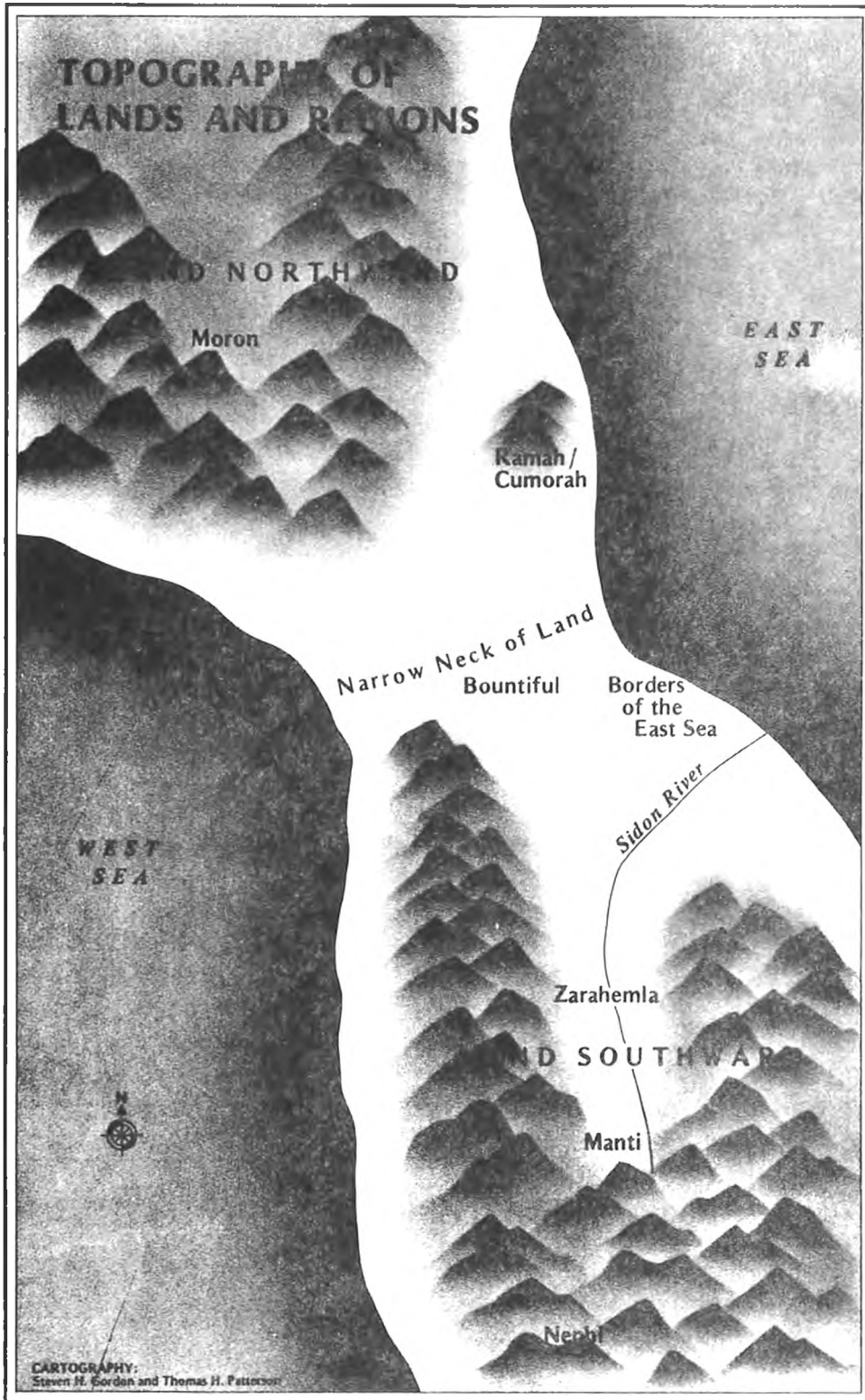
Land of Moron: Most likely in the valley of Oaxaca, although other possibilities can be considered.

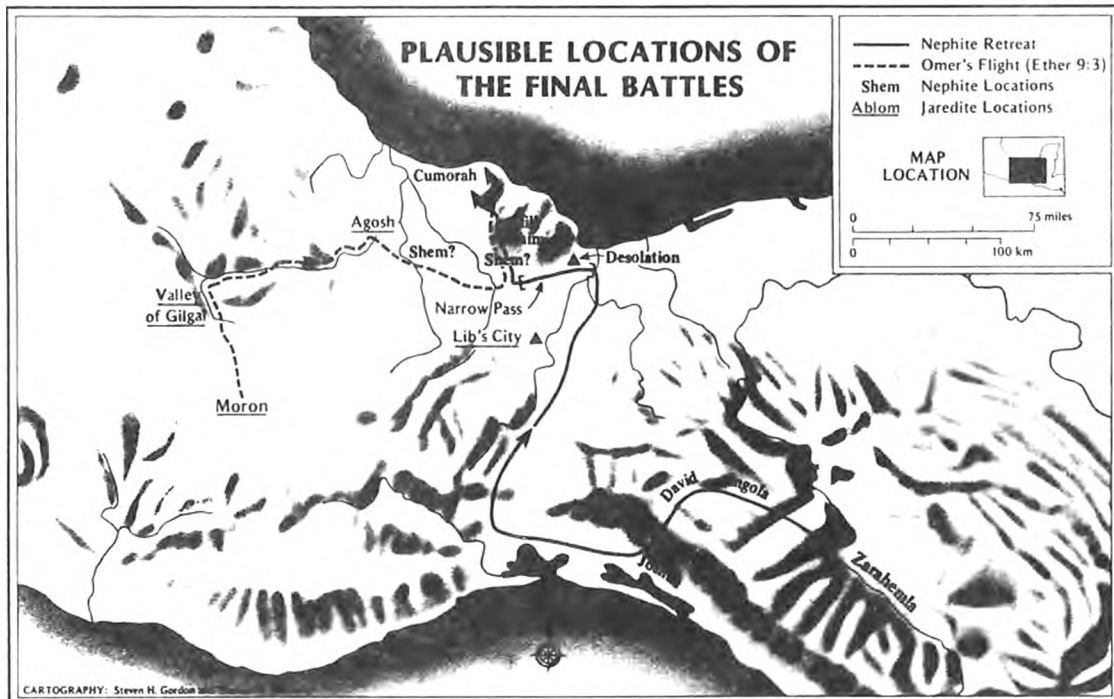
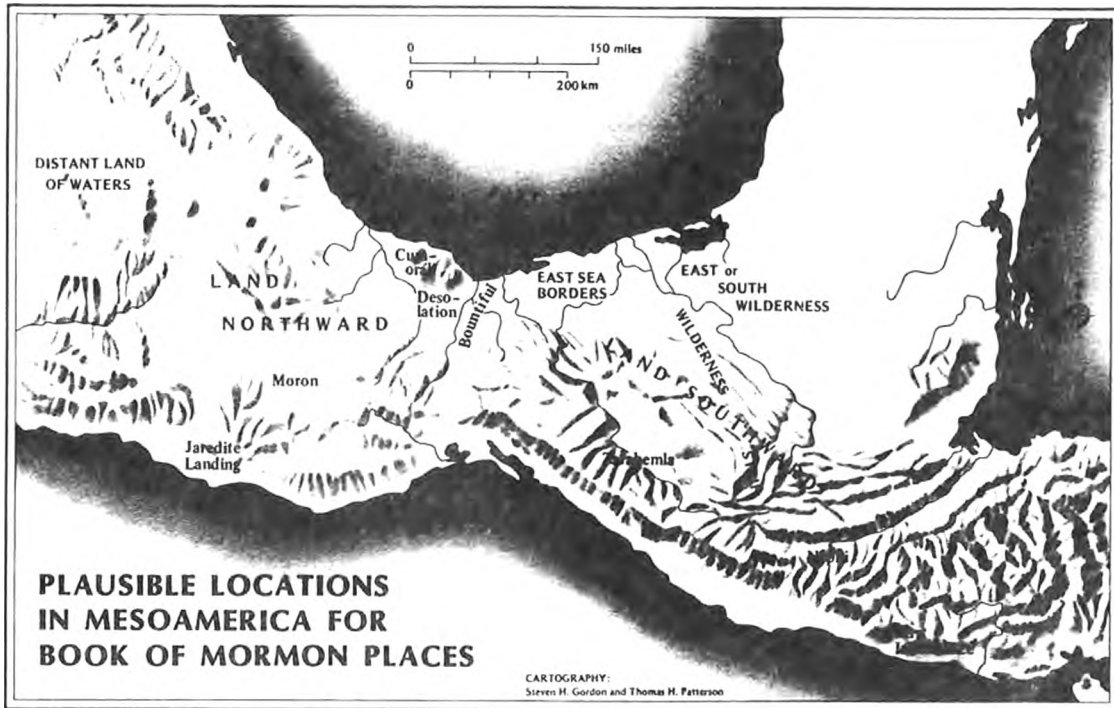
Jaredite Landing Place: Around Acapulco (Pacific crossing), but with some possibility of lying on the Gulf of Mexico (Atlantic crossing).

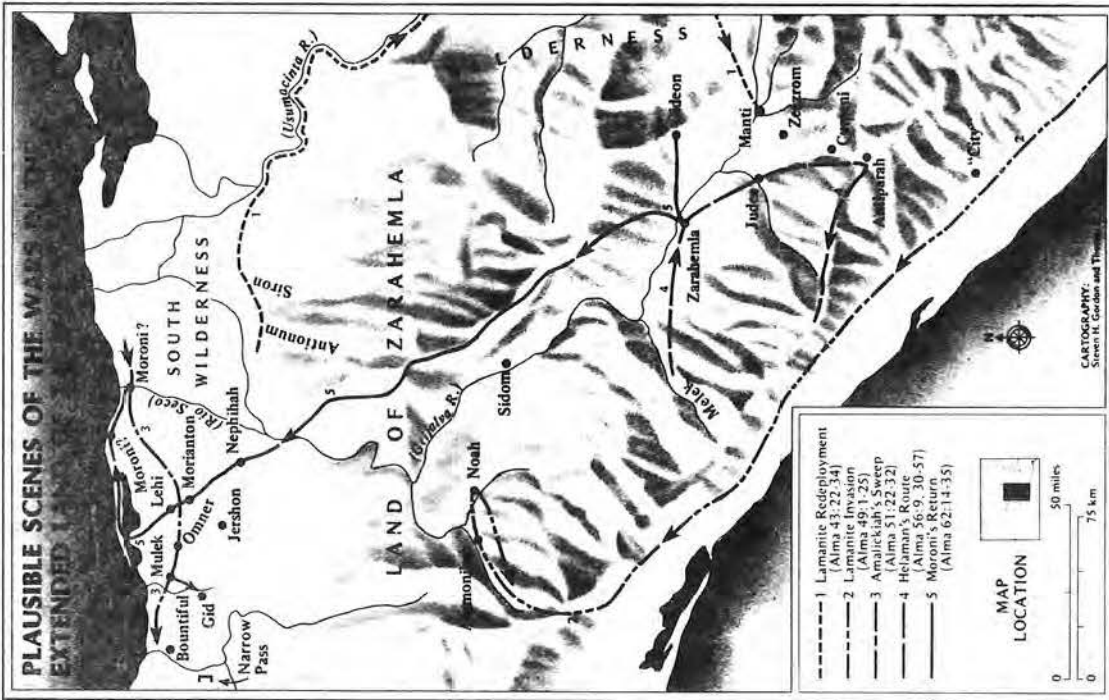
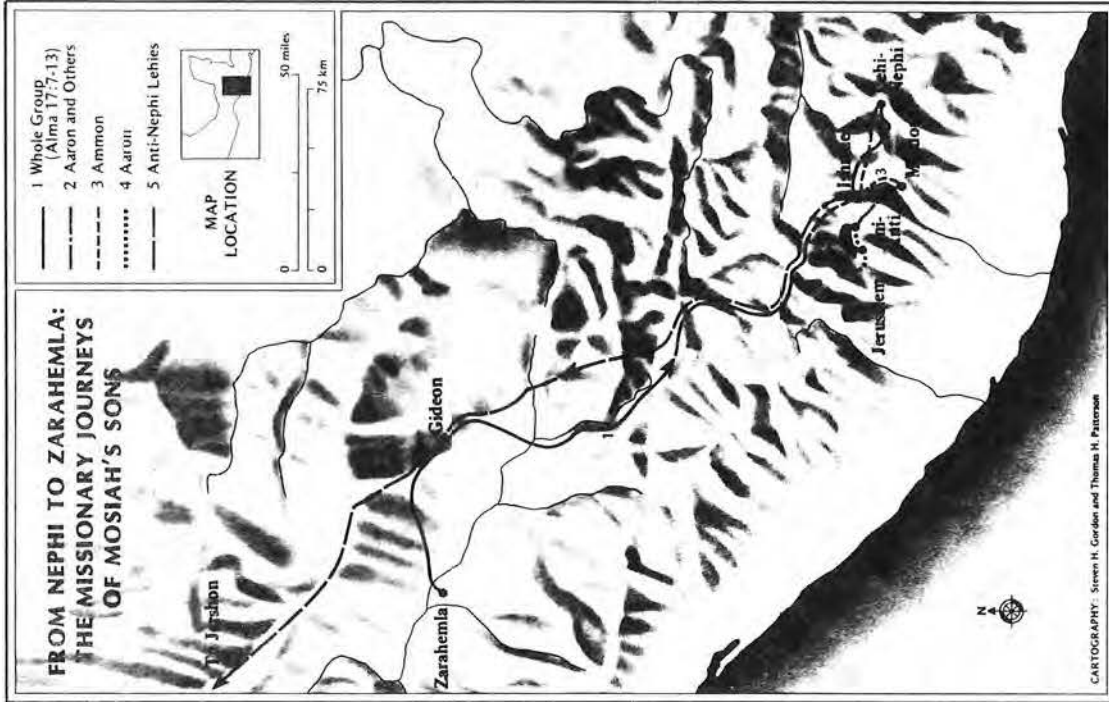
Other Cities or Areas Specified: Virtually every city mentioned in the Book of Mormon for which data are sufficient to suggest a location is represented at a plausible spot by an archaeological site of appropriate age.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No "major" ones.

Scope of Model Specification: Fairly detailed exposition of internal geography and of the external correlation.







Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Some. Brief acknowledgment is made of influence from Jakeman and Ferguson, but many major ideas and all details of the model are original.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Very extensive.

Source:

John L. Sorenson. *An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon*. Deseret Book and Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, 1985, particularly chapter 1. The basics were formulated conceptually in April 1953 while the author was in the field in Chiapas, then were committed to paper around 1955 as a working paper (entitled, *Where in the World*). After further revision of details, an expanded paper (with, Appendix. Some Specific Tests of the Correlation) was circulated in ms. late in 1974 to participants in the so-called Book of Mormon Non-Conference Symposium arranged by David A. Palmer.

Steede 1975 (External) Model

Originator: Neil Steede.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Mesoamerica east and south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: Mesoamerica north and west of the isthmus.

Nephi's Landing Place: Eastern El Salvador.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified (in Tuxtlas Mountains implied).

Sidon River: Not specified (Usumacinta River implied).

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Mapped as the "Land of Nephi-Lehi." Highland Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: The states of Chiapas, Tabasco, and Campeche and the Yucatan Peninsula, plus northern, lowland Guatemala and Belize.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Land of Bountiful: The area in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec east of the Coatzacoalcos River.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: South-central Veracruz state.

Land of Moron: The Pacific coastal lowlands of Guerrero-Oaxaca..

Jaredite Landing Place: Mapped on the Pacific coast at about the Guerrero-Oaxaca border.

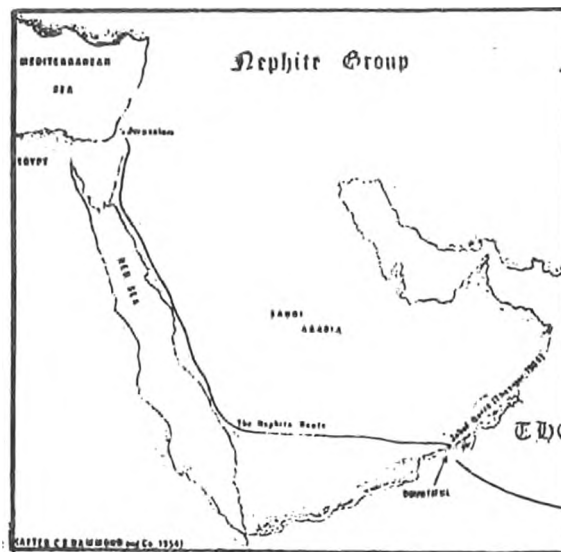
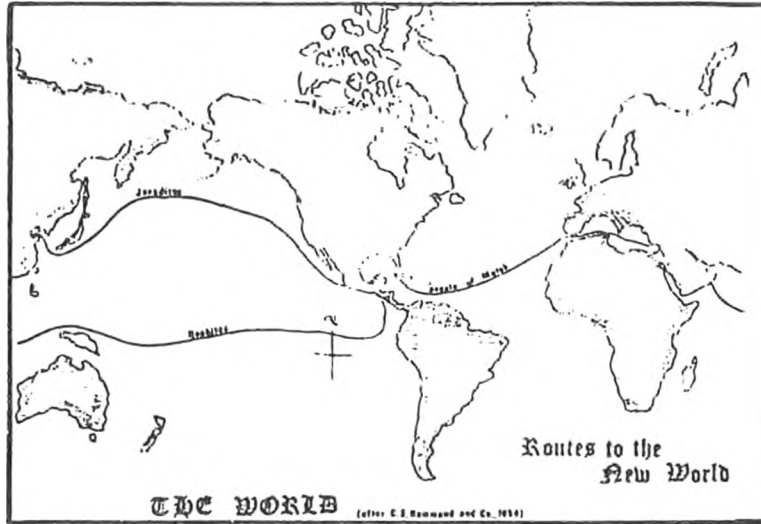
Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Unknown.

Scope of Model Specification: One map only.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated. "Based on Verneil Simmons' research," according to Lesh 1984. In turn Steede is credited by Lesh with being the prime inspiration (c. 1975) for Lesh's 1980 model.

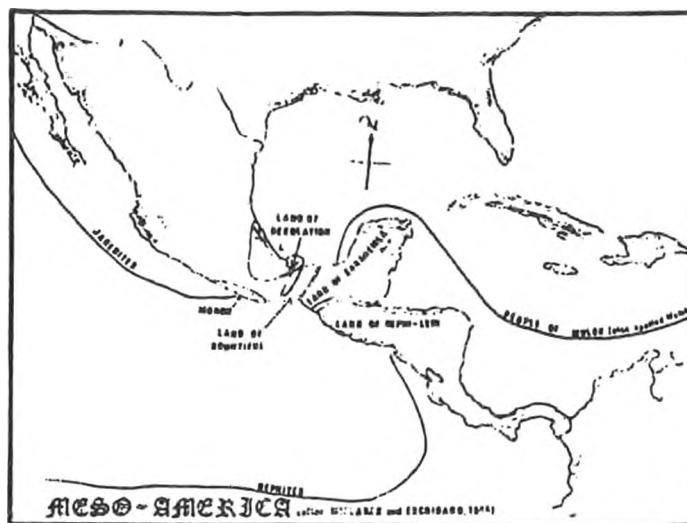
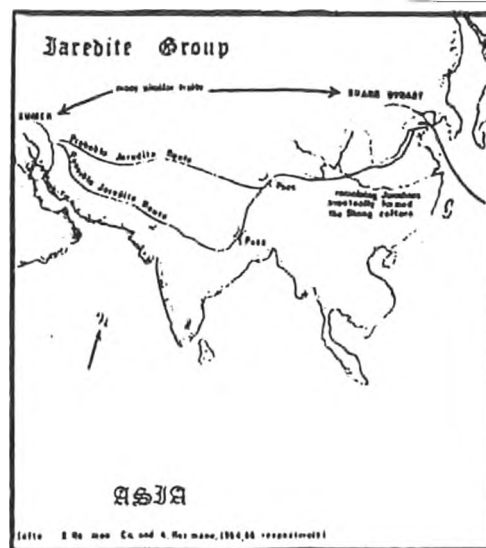
Use of Current External Scholarship: None indicated.



Sources:

Alexander Von Wuthenau. *Unexpected Faces in Ancient America, 1500 B.C. - A.D. 1500; the Historical Testimony of Pre-Columbian Artists*. New York: Crown, 1975. On the same page where he salutes Lord Kingsborough, Von Wuthenau reproduces four maps prepared for him by Steede while a student of Von Wuthenau's at the University of the Americas, Puebla, Mexico, in the early 1970's. Three of the maps, for which no useful comment is given, show "possible routes" of Book of Mormon peoples to the New World; the fourth contains the Meso-American information.

See also Ralph Lesh, Development of the Map. In, *Recent Book of Mormon Developments: Articles from The Zarahemla Record*, ed. by Raymond C. Treat, pages 81-82. Zarahemla Research Foundation: Independence, Missouri, 1984.



Stout 1950 (External) Model

Originator: Walter M. Stout.

Area Focus: Costa Rica-Nicaragua.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Base of the Nicoya peninsula.

Land Southward: Costa Rica.

Land Northward: Nicaragua.

Nephi's Landing Place: Implied to be in southern Costa Rica.

Hill Cumorah: At the southeast end of Lake Nicaragua.

Sidon River: An unnamed river in northern Costa Rica.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Southern Costa Rica.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Northern Costa Rica.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Land Bountiful: A strip from east-west between the Gulf of Nicoya and the Caribbean.

City of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Western and northern Nicaragua.

Land of Moron: In eastern Nicaragua.

Jaredite Landing Place: Eastern Nicaragua.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: See maps.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Implies that no major changes have taken place.

Scope of Model Specification: Considerable. On the top of the map on the back of his 1972 synopsis (the same map as in 1970), is written: "The location of cities here are inaccurate, but the area is dependable."

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None.

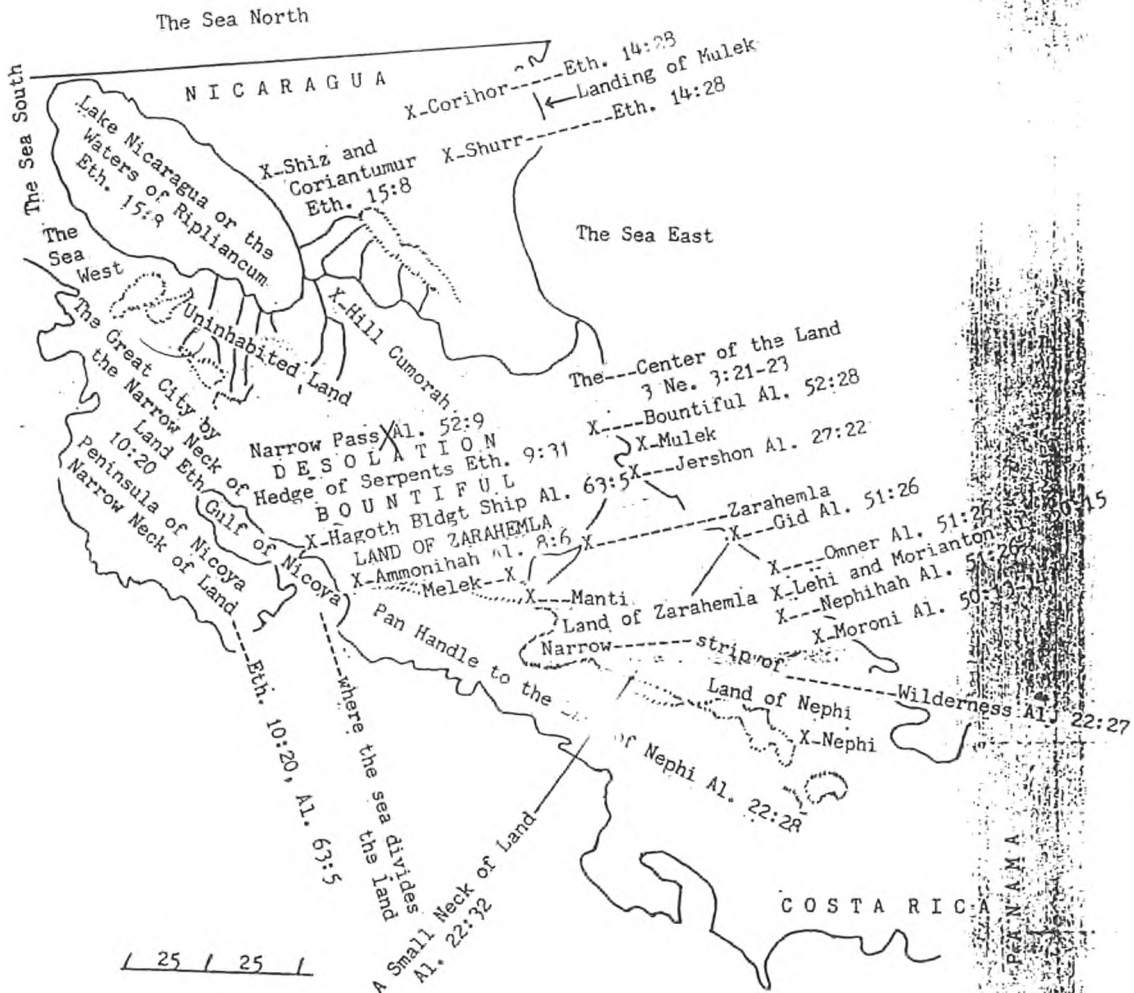
Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Sources:

Walter M. Stout. *Landing Places of Book of Mormon Colonies*, n.p., n.d. ["copyright 1950" on map]. *Book of Mormon Practical Geography*. Upland, California: Author, 1970. Walter M. Stout. *A Synopsis of The Book of Mormon Practical Geography*. Author: Upland, California, 1972., 7 pp. duplicated.

Stout

The location of cities here are inaccurate, but the area is dependable.



Times and Seasons 1842 (External) Model

Originator: Joseph Smith or John Taylor

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Not stated explicitly, but logically it had to be north of Guatemala, given the positioning of Zarahemla in Central America (see below). (“They lived about the narrow neck of land, which now embraces central America”)

Land Southward: Central America and perhaps South America too.

Land Northward: All the land to the north of some point which was northward from Guatemala and Yucatan.

Nephi’s Landing Place: Not indicated, but in the same issue of Times and Seasons as the basic statement (15 September 1842), the statement is made that Nephi/Lehi “landed a little south of the Isthmus of Darien [i.e., Panama]” (page 922).

Hill Cumorah: New York.

Sidon River: Not specified.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: “Central America or Guatemala The city of Zarahemla . . . stood upon this land. We are not going to declare positively that the ruins of Quirigua are those of Zarahemla, but . . . we are of the opinion that it would require more proof than the Jews could bring to prove the disciples stole the body of Jesus from the tomb to prove that the ruins of the city in question are not one of those referred to in the Book of Mormon” (1 October 1842, page 927).

City of Zarahemla: One of the ruined cities of Central America or Guatemala, possibly Quirigua.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Not specified.

Land of Moron: Not specified.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None. Palenque is supposed to be a product of the Nephites, although no specific Book of Mormon city is placed there (15 September 1842, page 914).

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Not indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited and incidental.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: The phrasing at the beginning of the *Times and Seasons* piece seems significant: “. . . We have found another important fact relating to the truth of the Book of Mormon” (emphasis added). I infer from this statement, as well as from the excitement mirrored in the rest of the piece, that the discoveries of Stephens and Catherwood which triggered these comments in the paper were in the process of producing change in the model of Book of Mormon geography held generally until then (but so little is known about the General 1830 Model that what changes those were remains dim).

As to who was responsible for the phrasing of this piece, Joseph Smith, Jr., had announced himself the responsible editor (15 March, 1842, page 710), while John Taylor was the managing editor. John A. Widtsoe has said that the announcement of the Prophet’s editorial responsibility “gives subsequent statements in the newspaper on Book of Mormon geography an authority which they might not otherwise have,” and “offers the only solid Church authoritative base upon which one may pursue a study of Book of Mormon geography” (*Improvement Era*, July 1950, page 129). Apparently nothing more was published at Nauvoo on the subject. Considering the press of ecclesiastical and practical activities that faced the leaders in the months until the martyrdom in 1844, it would not be surprising if this relatively minor topic had to be put aside as a subject of thought and writing despite the initial interest it clearly engendered.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Frankly based on Stephens’ book, then the latest word.

Sources:

See Appendix A.

But Orson Pratt seems to follow this model in the *Millennial Star* in 1848 (15 November), volume 10, pages 346-357) which see in Appendix A.

"Tyler" n.d. (Internal) Model

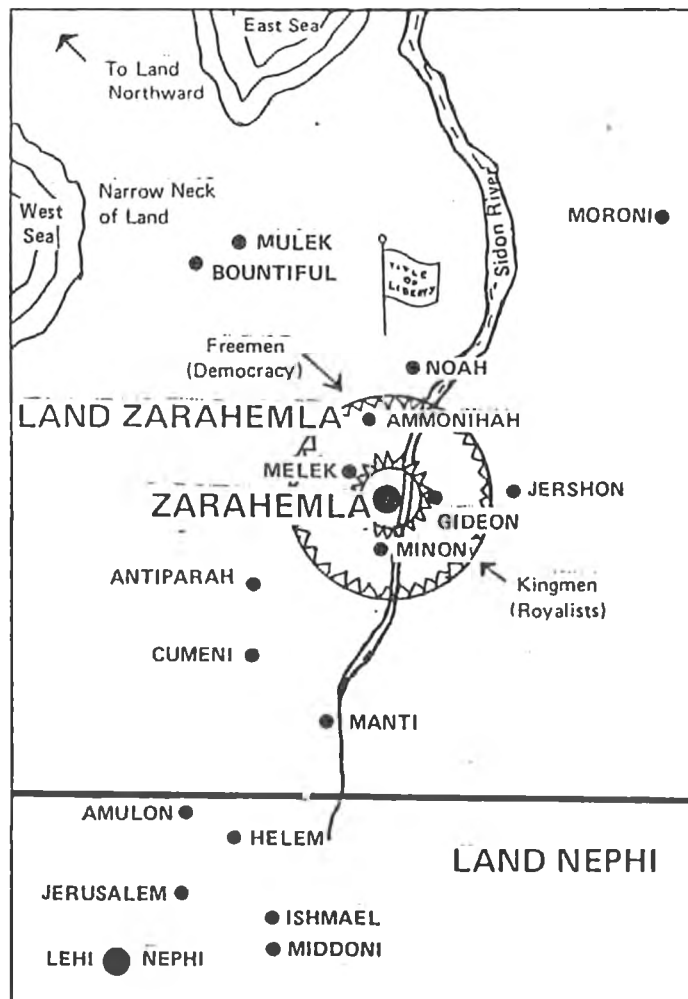
Originator: Thomas L. Tyler.

Degree of Detail: Major communities are mapped but natural features, including configuration of the overall land, are all but completely omitted.

Source:

A sample of individual, unbound, computer-generated (?) maps, apparently selected from an extensive series, is found in a folder in the FARMS' archive. The author is a CES employee and the maps are evidently intended for classroom use. Only one map is reproduced here. Correction: A letter from Tyler after the first printing of this volume disclaims authorship of these maps. They were circulated among some CES teachers a number of years ago. There is a possibility that Karl Wood originated them.

SUPPRESSION OF THE KINGMEN PAHORAN, CHIEF JUDGE, SUSTAINED (ALMA 51)



Vincent 1960? (External) Model.

Originator: Joseph E. Vincent.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: Northern and western Mesoamerica and West Mexico (beyond the usual Mesoamerican boundary).

Nephi's Landing Place: Not indicated.

Hill Cumorah: In or near the Valley of Mexico.

Sidon River: He includes only a single river and refuses to choose between the Grijalva and Sidon, placing his river on his map halfway between the positions where the two actual ones would be.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: In southern Guatemala or Honduras.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not indicated.

Land of Zarahemla: Chiapas and/or Guatemala.

City of Zarahemla: On the upper middle portion of his single river.

Land of Bountiful: The Isthmus of Tehuantepec and westward to about the Valley of Oaxaca.

Narrow Pass: Vaguely in the middle of the Isthmus.

Land of Desolation: Colima-Michoacan-Guerrero-southern Oaxaca.

Land of Moron: Evidently Colima in west Mexico or thereabouts.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not indicated.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: City of Bountiful, at about the city of Coatzacoalcos. Mulek is La Venta or thereabouts (at least on the west of his Sidon River mouth). Morianton and Lehi, around the Laguna de Terminos. He has two Aarons.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Evidently some, but not decisive.

Scope of Model Specification: Limited.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Nothing explicit, but he indicates awareness of a variety of other models, including Jakeman's.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None indicated.

Sources:

Joseph E. Vincent. *Book of Mormon Lands*. GEMAC Corporation: Mentone, California, 1960. (One map and one page, duplicated). Joseph E. Vincent. Some Views on Book of Mormon Geography. *Papers of the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures*, edited by Forrest R. Hauck, pages 61-69. Brigham Young University Department of Extension Publications: Provo, Utah, 1963.

Warren 1960 (External) Model

Originator: Bruce W. Warren.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Not clear, but probably the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: Area of north and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec as far as the Valley of Mexico.

Nephi's Landing Place: Pacific coast near Izapa.

Hill Cumorah: In the Valley of Mexico.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Extreme western part of highland Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Near the Chiapas border of Guatemala.

Land of Zarahemla: Not clear. While the Usumacinta is the Sidon and Manti is at its "head", the city of Zarahemla is shown on the Grijalva around the site of Santa Cruz.

City of Zarahemla: On the Grijalva River around the site of Santa Cruz.

Land of Bountiful: The city, at least, is the site of Aguacatal on the Laguna de Terminos.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: Around Coatzacoalcos.

Land of Moron: Either in the Mixteca Alta of Oaxaca (Yucuñudahui) or to the northeast of there in the mountains.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Each specification is marked with a question mark. Sidom, around Chiapa de Corzo. Land of First Inheritance, the Soconusco coast and into coastal Guatemala. Ablom, near the city of Vera Cruz. Ammonihah, in the Chiapas highlands just west of the Grijalva. Melek, in western Chiapas around Ocozocuaula.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: No.

Scope of Model Specification: Single map.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated, although obviously influenced in part by being a student under Jakeman. Also influenced by personal communication with Sorenson.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Not indicated.

Source:

Personal communication by Warren to J. L. Sorenson sometime in 1960..

Warren 1961 (External) Model

Originator: Bruce W. Warren.

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Strip of coastal dunes facing Lagunas Carmen and Machona in Tabasco state.

Land Southward: Southern and eastern Mesoamerica.

Land Northward: Area of undetermined extent north and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Nephi's Landing Place: Pacific coast of Guatemala.

Hill Cumorah: In the western Tuxtlas Mountains.

Sidon River: Usumacinta River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: West highlands of southern Guatemala.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Near the Chiapas border of Guatemala.

Land of Zarahemla: West of the middle Usumacinta River.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Land of Bountiful: The Laguna de Terminos area.

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: The La Venta area of Tabasco.

Land of Moron: In the mountains east of the Valley of Oaxaca.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Each specification is marked with a question mark. City of Bountiful, the site of Aguacatal on the Laguna de Terminos. Sidom, around Chiapa de Corzo. Moroni, around the mouth of the Motagua River. Lehi, on the coast near Cozumel. Morianton and Omner, in northwestern Yucatan. Mulek, south of Aguacatal on the Laguna de Terminos. Ishmael, Pacific coastal Guatemala. Helam, on the Cuilco River (tributary of the upper Grijalva River). Jacobugath, near Panuco, the Huasteca.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: None indicated.

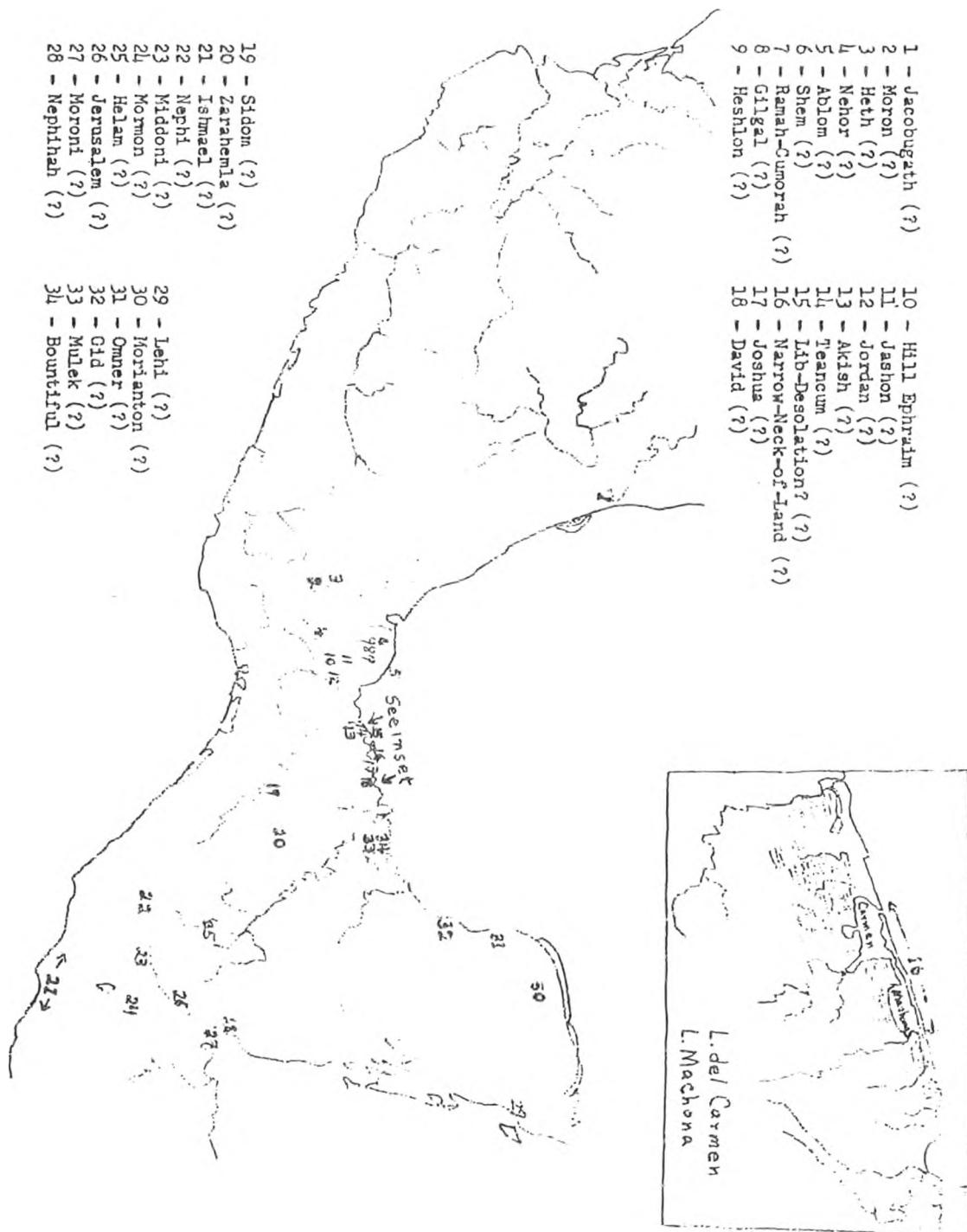
Scope of Model Specification: Seven-page single-spaced letter plus map.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: None indicated, although obviously influenced in part by being a student under Jakeman.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Substantial.

Source:

Personal communication by Warren to J. L. Sorenson, 17 Feb. 1961.

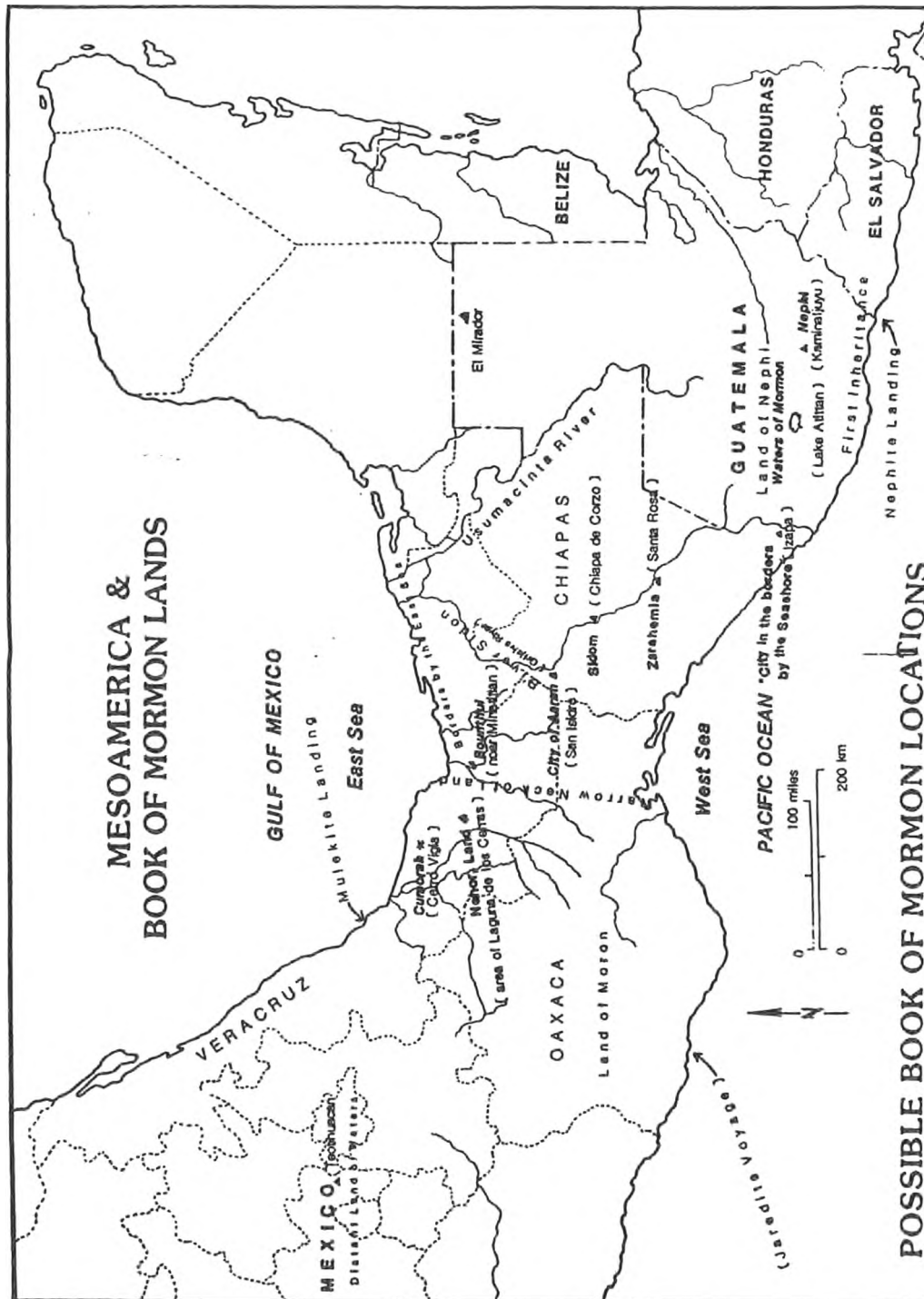


Warren 1963 (External) Model

In the 1963 symposium presentation which was later published as Vincent 1963, Vincent projected a map furnished him by Warren, which he does not reproduce in the printed account. Warren is said to have Yucatan as the land northward and the highlands to the south as Nephi.

Warren 1987 (External) Model

Warren has now essentially adopted Sorenson's model (adding Nehor at Laguna de los Cerros), as seen in the end map in Bruce L. Warren and Thomas Stuart Ferguson, *The Messiah in Ancient America*, Provo, Utah: Book of Mormon Research Foundation, 1987.



Washburn/Washburn 1939 (Internal/Minimal External) Model

Originators: J. A. Washburn and J. N. Washburn

Area Focus: Mesoamerica.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: The Isthmus of Tehuantepec ("For want of something better, the writers tentatively accept the view that the Isthmus of Tehuantepec was the narrow neck." However, "it might perhaps as well have been the Isthmus of Honduras.")

Land Southward: In Central America south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land Northward: From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec northward perhaps a few hundred miles.

Nephi's Landing Place: On the Pacific Coast in the Land Southward.

Hill Cumorah: Not specified although surely in Central America near the narrow neck.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Not specified.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: Not specified.

City of Zarahemla: Not specified.

Sidon River: Not specified.

Land of Bountiful: Not specified.

Narrow Pass: Not specified, but considered a feature within and part of the narrow neck, while not the same as the neck.

Land of Desolation: Implied to be the area immediately west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Land of Moron: Near the Gulf of Mexico coast and the narrow neck (the 1968 map alone details a "suggested setup of Jaredite homeland" while that of 1977 still shows Moron; all others show only Ablom of the Jaredite places).

Jaredite Landing Place: On the Gulf of Mexico.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Maybe.

Scope of Model Specification: Detailed exposition of internal geography but only scattered, diffident comments regarding an external correlation.

Washburn/Washburn



NOTE: It must be remembered that this map is not intended to indicate or represent any actual present-day territory or geography.

1984

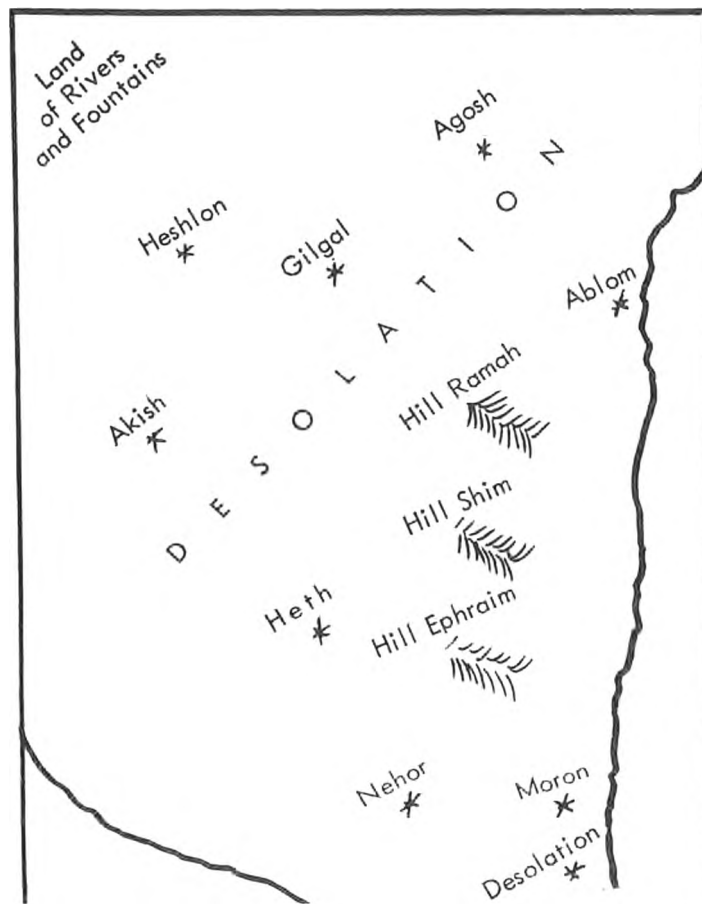
Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Some (vague, usually not documented). They make slight comments on W. Young and B. H. Roberts, but largely they consider their view original.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Sources:

J. A. Washburn and J. N. Washburn. *An Approach to the Study of Book of Mormon Geography*. New Era: Provo, UT, 1939. Jesse A.'s master's thesis at BYU in 1940 (*A Study of the Geography of the Book of Mormon*) was, if anything, even less committal on external correlation.

J. Nile, the son, in later publications continued presenting the model without further external correlations, although with increasing internal detail. See his *Book-of-Mormon Guidebook (Where They Went and How They Got There—with Sundry Related Matters)*. Author: n.p., 1968; *Book of Mormon Lands and Times*, Horizon Publishers: Bountiful, Utah, c. 1974; and his last, *The Miracle of the Book of Mormon*. Author: Orem, Utah, 1984. If anything, he became even more vague about outside correlations as time went on.



Wilde 1947 (External) Model

Originator: Orrin G. Wilde.

Area Focus: Hemisphere.

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Panama.

Land Southward: South of Panama? [Impossible to define, as the author's language and logic defy my deciphering them—see pp. 12-14).]

Land Northward: From Panama northward, including the lands of Bountiful and Zarahemla (sic, p. 20).

Nephi's Landing Place: Chile implied.

Hill Cumorah: In New York.

Sidon River: Not specified (vaguely said to be in Central America, p. 26).

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: The Nephites may have called all South America the land of Nephi, or perhaps only the northern part.

City of Nephi (Lehi-Nephi): Not specified.

Land of Zarahemla: North of Bountiful. The Nephites may have called all North America the land of Zarahemla [sic].

City of Zarahemla: In Central America near the west coast.

Land of Bountiful: Panama. (But, page 8, also Panama was the wilderness between the land of Nephi and the land of Zarahemla.)

Narrow Pass: Not specified.

Land of Desolation: The same as the land of Zarahemla

Land of Moron: In Central America.

Jaredite Landing Place: Not specified.

Other Cities or Areas Specified: None clearly.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Not indicated.

Scope of Model Specification: Rambling and unsystematic through 26 pp.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Essentially none.

Use of Current External Scholarship: None.

Source:

Orrin G. Wilde. *Landmarks of Ancient American People*. Author: n. p., 1947.

Young Pre-1920? (External) Model

Originator: Willard Young.

Area Focus: Northern Central America. ["The whole story of the Book of Mormon is in the area of 9 and a half degrees west of Washington to 12 degrees west of Washington, and from 13 degrees to 16 degrees north"]

Features:

Key Features:

Narrow Neck: Implied, at the Bay of Honduras/Bay of Amatique. "The line between the land northward and the land southward is a little west of the mountains" just west of the Chamelicon River.

Land Southward: Western Honduras.

Land Northward: From the Motagua River valley into "Lower Mexico".

Nephi's Landing Place: Bay of Fonseca, El Salvador/Honduras.

Hill Cumorah: In the upper part of the Motagua River valley, Guatemala, In the vicinity of Chiquimula.

Sidon River: Ulua River.

Other Features:

Land of Nephi: Upper Humuya River Valley, Honduras.

City of Nephi: Near the Hill Congoca of modern Honduras, near Tegucigalpa.

Land of Zarahemla: All of the land north of the city of Zarahemla to the Bay of Honduras and east of the mountains, from 11 to 10 degrees latitude and 15 - 16 degrees longitude.

City of Zarahemla: Near the junction of the rivers Blanco, Humuya and Santiago.

Land Bountiful: Immediately west of the River Chamelicon.

Narrow Pass: Along the coast near the Bay of Honduras.

Land of Desolation:

Land of Moron: "Lower Mexico" including Palenque and southward to Honduras.

Jaredite Landing Place:

Other Cities or Areas Specified: Land of Manti is the valley of the Sulaco River, Honduras. Jerusalem is adjacent to Lake Yojoa. East of the mouth of the River Sidon was called the sea east and west of the mouth was the sea west. Hogoath left from near the mouth of the Ulua River and sailed to Florida; his descendants were probably the mound builders of the Mississippi River valley. Temple in the land Bountiful where the Savior appeared was at Ouirigua. Waters of Ripliancum were the River Motague.

Belief in Major Geological/Physiographic Changes: Apparently none.

Scope of Model Specification: Extensive, in discursive format only.

Use of Past Book of Mormon Scholarship: Not explicit.

Use of Current External Scholarship: Appends a chart of civilizations from H. Spinden.⁰

Source:

Janne M. Sjodahl. *An Introduction to the Study of the Book of Mormon*. The author: Salt Lake City, 1927, pages 413-415. Sjodahl's summary indicates that the originator's "forcefully advocated" presentation of this view, apparently by lecture, is "of more recent date" than Ricks' model published in 1916. Young was among four persons who in 1921 presented their opinions at "what appears to be a quasi-official meeting at Church headquarters on the question of geography" (so Bruce Van Orden in an unpublished paper, "George Reynolds and Janne M. Sjodahl on Book of Mormon Geography"). This indicates that his views probably were well known by a few years before 1920.

Also, Willard Young, *Notes on Geographical References in the Book of Mormon*. Typescript, copy in LDS Church Historical Department. No date, but he refers to the 1920 edition of the *Book of Mormon*.