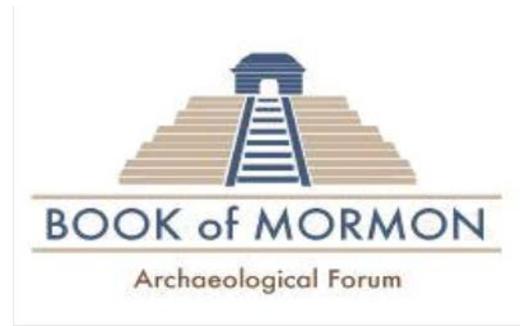




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Book of Mormon Objective Geographic Standard No. 3: West-Sea Bountiful, Desolation, the Line between Them, and the West Sea

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Abstract: This article is the third of a series of articles that will provide readers and students of the Book of Mormon with specific, provable geographic standards without reference to any real-world geography. The specific standard identified in this article will be referred to hereafter as Geographic Standard No. 3 and will focus on the relationships among west-sea Bountiful, Desolation, the line between them, and the west sea. Following a discussion of this objective standard, currently proposed models will be compared with this standard, and the areas where this standard has not been followed will be shown and discussed.



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Book of Mormon Objective Geographic Standard No. 3: West-Sea Bountiful, Desolation, the Line between Them, and the West Sea

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This article is the third of a series of articles that will provide readers and students of the Book of Mormon with specific, provable geographic standards without reference to any real-world geography. The specific standard identified in this article will be referred to hereafter as Geographic Standard No. 3 and will focus on the relationships among west-sea Bountiful, Desolation, the line between them, and the west sea. Following a discussion of this objective standard, currently proposed models will be compared with this standard, and the areas where this standard has not been followed will be shown and discussed.

Joseph Smith stated that the Book of Mormon (1) “was the most correct of any book on earth”¹ and (2) “that it says what it means and means what it says.”² Surely it was not translated by revelation so that only “scholars” could understand it. It shouldn’t take intricate chiasmic structures—although they are fascinating and helpful—to understand it. It was translated into the English language by Joseph Smith so that unsophisticated readers could understand it. The Book of Mormon, including its geography, should be able to be understood by even the ordinary, reasonable reader.

In the face of so many divisive and vastly different models, maps, books, etc. that seem to be increasing exponentially regarding the geography of the Book of Mormon, what seems to be helpful—for those intent on locating the lands of the Book of Mormon—are some objective geographic standards that are specifically described in the Book of Mormon. All proposed models would then have to conform to these standards or be deemed invalid when applied to that particular standard. Several of these specific geographic standards are described in the Book of Mormon.

Any average reader of the Book of Mormon, knowing that Nephi correctly knew that the east side of the Red Sea ran in a “*south-southeast*” direction (1 Nephi 16:13), should reasonably believe that the writers of the Book of Mormon knew and correctly used cardinal directions. Even more importantly, the average reader would also reasonably believe that the Lord would not allow Joseph Smith to deceive people by using the direction of east and secretly mean north. There is no deception in the Book of Mormon.

This Geographic Standard No. 3 must apply—give or take a couple of miles and directional variations of a few degrees—regardless of where a proponent geographically places the west-sea Bountiful, Desolation, the line between them, and the west sea. In the discussion that follows, all Book of Mormon scriptures will be italicized, and emphasis will be shown via bolding. One day’s travel by a marching army will be deemed to be about ten air miles. (In that respect, see Joseph and Blake Allen’s and Kirk Magleby’s excellent explanations.)³ All maps made by Joseph and Blake Allen and by Kirk Magleby have been used with their permission.

The Relevant Facts from the Book of Mormon

Following are relevant geographic facts and provable conclusions associated with the relationships of Bountiful, Desolation, the line between them, and the west sea:

1. **Only one west sea** is described in the Book of Mormon.
 - a. The west sea is located west of Zarahemla, west of the narrow strip of wilderness, west of the land of Nephi, and west of the line between Desolation and Bountiful (Alma 22:28; 3 Nephi 3:23–24).
 - b. The west sea must be located west of the land Bountiful (Alma 22:33).
 - c. The west sea must be located west of the land Desolation (Alma 50:34).

2. **Only one line between Desolation and Bountiful** is described in the Book of Mormon.⁴
 - a. It ran in an east-to-west direction (Alma 22:32).
 - b. It started on the west-sea coast (Alma 22:32; Helaman 4:6-8).
 - c. It was in length the distance of only a day and a half's journey for a Nephite (Alma 22:32).
 - d. The distance of the line between Desolation and Bountiful was, therefore, only about fifteen miles long.⁵
 - e. Lachoneus located his people for seven years on the south side of this line and east of the west sea in a mountainous area because the robbers came up to attack them (see endnote No. 4).

3. **City and land Desolation:**
 - a. Was the Nephite name of the land located northward from the line (Ether 7:6).
 - b. Began at the very point on the west sea where the line began (Alma 22:32; 63:5).
 - c. Desolation was a part of the Jaredite land northward at the time of the Jaredites; however, it was not designated or known by the Jaredites as Desolation (Ether 7:6).
 - d. Only one land Desolation is described in the Book of Mormon.
 - e. No part of Desolation can be located within the land southward.

4. **West-sea land Bountiful:**
 - a. Began at the very same spot on the west sea that Desolation and the line began (Alma 63:5; 22:32).
 - b. No part of the west-sea land Bountiful was located north of the line between Desolation and Bountiful or within the Jaredite land northward (Alma 22:32).
 - c. Was considered by Mormon as part of the land southward (Mormon 2:29; 3:5–6).

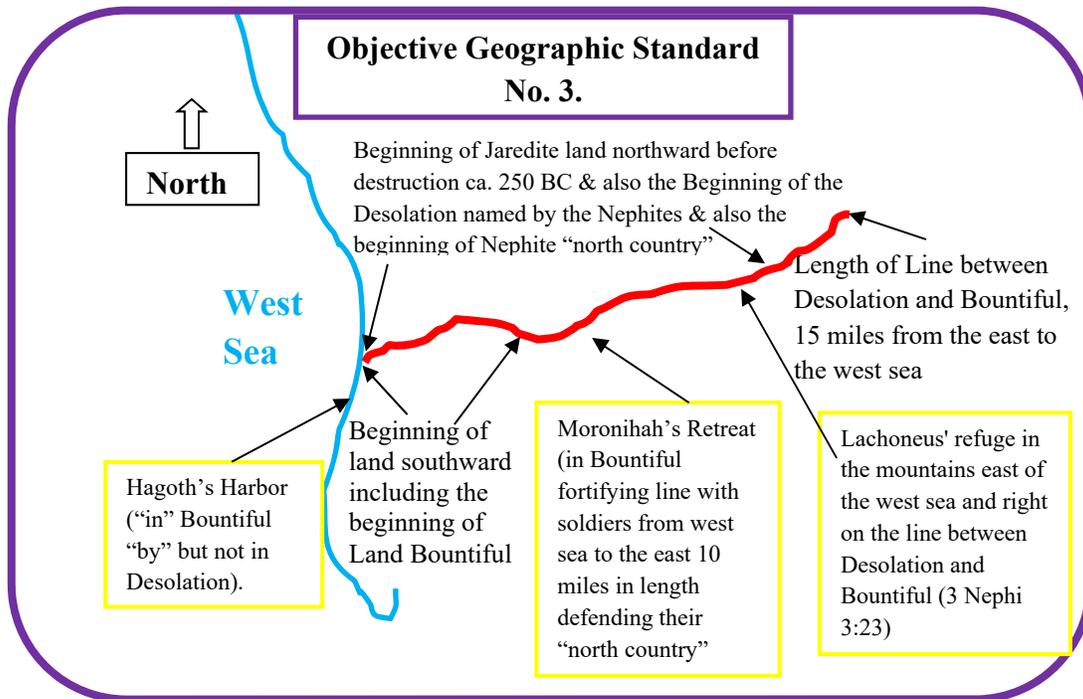
5. “Hagoth’s Harbor,” where Hagoth launched his ships, was located on the west seacoast, within land Bountiful, and by, but not in, land Desolation (Alma 62:5–7).

6. “Moronihah’s Retreat” was located within land Bountiful, starting at a line that began on the west sea, which line was fortified by Moronihah with his soldiers for a distance of about ten miles. This line started on the west sea and ran for the distance of one day, about ten miles eastward. The purpose was to defend the Nephites’ “north country”—everything north of the line (Helaman 4:6–8 and Ether 1:1). Therefore, this was the same line that divided Desolation from Bountiful because Mormon tells us that the “*Lamanites*

had obtained all the possession of the Nephites which was in the land southward” (Helaman 4:8) and because the dividing line between the land northward and the land southward was the same line that divided Desolation from Bountiful.

7. The Lamanites conquered and controlled the entire land southward in the year 35 BC except only this defensive line area, identified for purposes of this article as “Moronihah’s retreat” (Helaman 4:6–8).
8. The Nephite “north country” is synonymous with the Jaredite land northward, including Desolation (Ether 1:1, Helaman 4:7).⁶

Geographic Standard No. 3, therefore, graphically looks approximately like the following— noting that the line (in red) certainly did not have to go exactly east to west and did not have to go straight but probably followed natural geographic defensive barriers:



Although the above Standard No. 3 is made without reference to any real-world geography, nevertheless, in discussing the following proposed models, the reader needs to realize that the only sea on the west side of the entire continent of North, Central, and South America is the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, the west sea described in the Book of Mormon must be located somewhere within the Pacific Ocean.

Also, it might be helpful to understand that one definition of the word “only,” according to the 1828 Webster’s dictionary, is “few.”⁷ Therefore, when the Book of Mormon states that the distance of the “line” was “*only the distance of a day and a half,*” then the word “only” should

operate to define a short distance as would have been understood by Joseph Smith and other reasonable readers of his time.

Applying this standard to various proposed Book of Mormon maps or models yields the following results:

The Heartland Model⁸

The Heartland Model places the west sea as Lake Michigan, and/or the Gulf of Mexico, but does not attempt to locate the “line between Desolation and Bountiful,” the place where Hagoth launched his ships into the west sea, or the place to where Hagoth sailed his ship on a course northward. The Heartland Model makes no attempt at locating where Moronihah took refuge for two years defending the Nephite north country. Readers should remember that Joseph Smith said that the Book of Mormon “says what it means and means what it says.” A sea means a sea and not a lake.⁹ Because a lake is not a sea, then, by definition, Lake Michigan cannot be the west sea. Even if Lake Michigan was considered the west sea of the Book of Mormon, there is no place where the required defensive fifteen-mile-long line between Bountiful and Desolation could have been located, therefore, the Heartland Model is incorrect. For many more reasons why this theory is incorrect, see the numerous articles at www.bmaf.org.^{11, 12}

The Sorenson Model

The Sorenson Model places the west sea as the Pacific Ocean and Hagoth’s harbor near the lagoons within the Gulf of Tehuantepec. However, Sorenson makes no attempt at defining or locating the line between Desolation and Bountiful. In fact, the word “line” is not included in the index of his book.¹³ Moronihah, son of Moroni, is not mentioned in the index, nor is the reference to a one day’s journey within which Moronihah placed his soldiers to defend their north country. “North country” is also not indexed. Sorenson’s book apparently contains no discussion about this very important specific objective geographical statement. There is a discussion on page 17 wherein he points out that a reasonable distance of a day and a half would be 75 to 125 miles, but that involves a Nephite runner traveling all night and all day as a means of traveling from the Pacific Ocean at the base of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the Gulf of Mexico at the top of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Readers could naturally ask, “Is that what Mormon had in mind? Did Moronihah station soldiers on a line from the west sea fifty to seventy-five miles” to the north instead of east? This distance and direction is certainly not what the Book of Mormon clearly describes. For these reasons and others, this model does not conform to Geographic Standard No. 3.

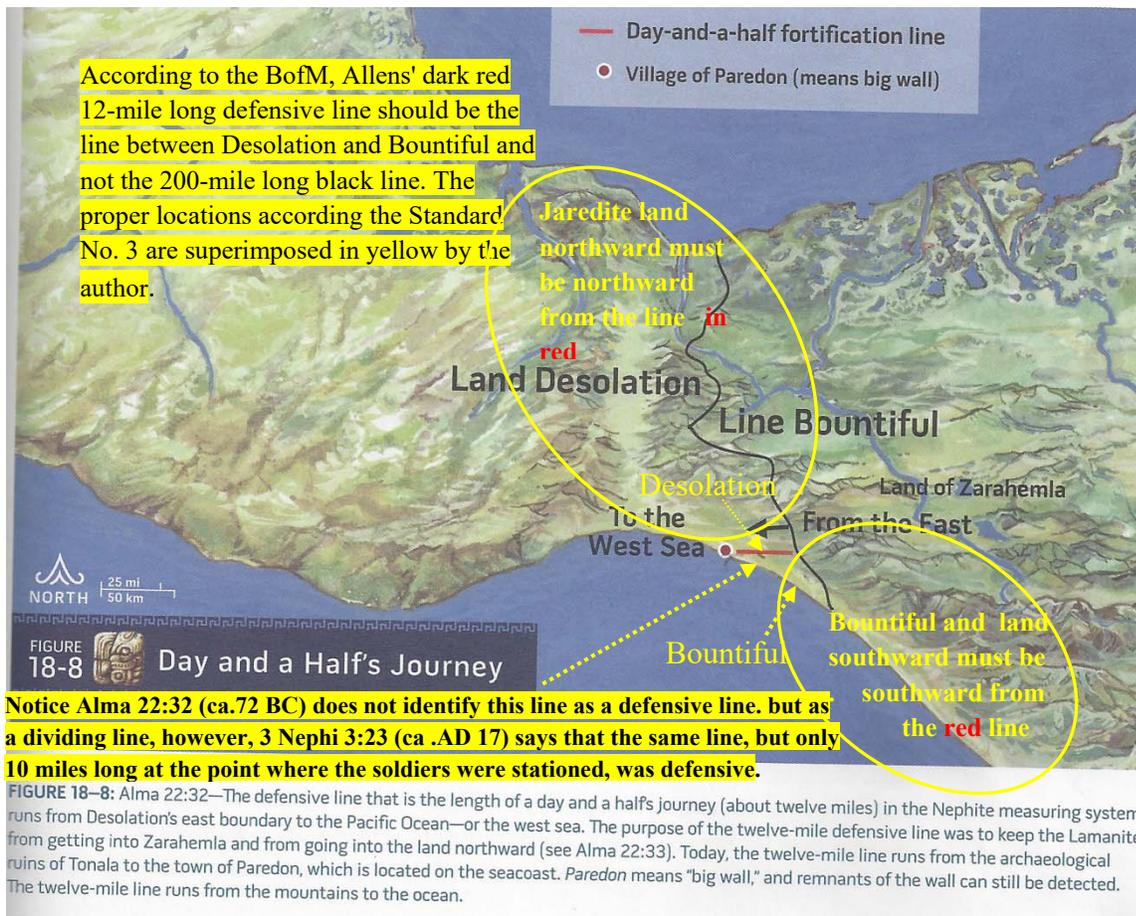
The Model of Joseph Allen and Blake Allen

Joseph and Blake Allen also do not reference any “line” in their index and do not identify any line as the line between Desolation and Bountiful on any map except on page 411 where they call it “line Bountiful.” It is shown in black and extends from the Gulf of Mexico —southerly instead of westward—to the Pacific a distance of about 200 miles.

They do show seven different lines separating seven different lands Desolation/Bountiful. On page 553 they show an almost invisible dotted black line going from the Pacific due north, rather

than east to west, about twelve miles between a Desolation and a Bountiful. However, the visual has no explanation except as it relates to Hagoth. Then, they place everything that relates to the line between Desolation and Bountiful on the Gulf coast of Mexico. On page 481, they place Bountiful near the Usumacinta delta and Desolation near the Coatzacoalcos River. Then, on page 425, they state that the division between Desolation and Bountiful was the “small neck of land” and state that that small neck of land was the entire Isthmus of Tehuantepec (see also page 400)—this is the blue line on the following Google map. These confusing geographic decisions (see maps below) do not agree with the equivalent locations as defined in the Book of Mormon.

Then on page 411 they show a dark red line that they call the "defensive line" or "fortification line" of a day and a half journey from Paredon to Tonala but do not call it the line between Desolation and Bountiful because they show the 200-mile long line to be in black and call it "line Bountiful" and show it, without declaring it, as the line between Desolation and Bountiful. Their line in red in fact properly describes the approximate location, direction and length of the one and only line between Desolation and Bountiful as shown in Geographic standard No. 3. The following is Allens' map on page 411—with the author’s insertions in yellow:



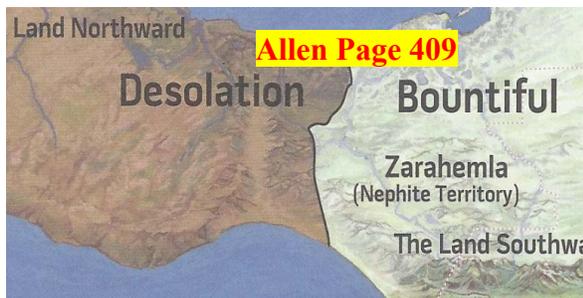
This red dividing line, according to the Book of Mormon, does not run from Desolation's east boundary to the Pacific. It runs from the west sea eastward for 12 to 15 miles. Northward from

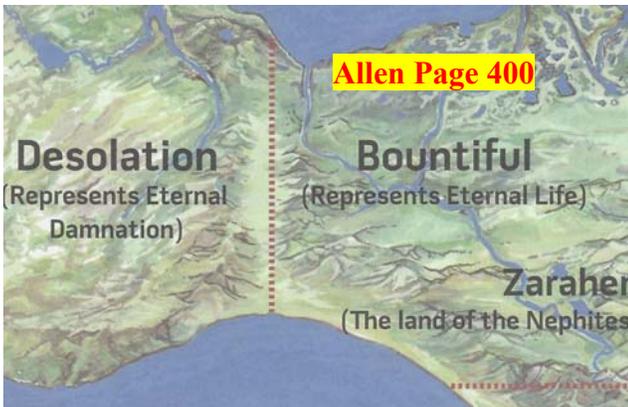
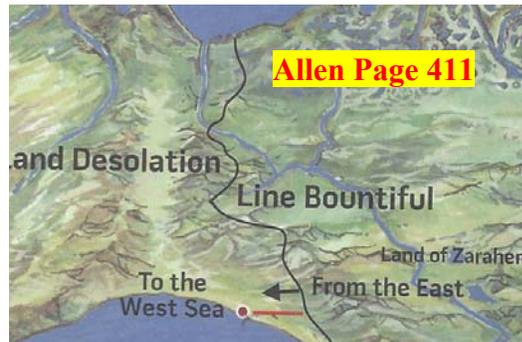
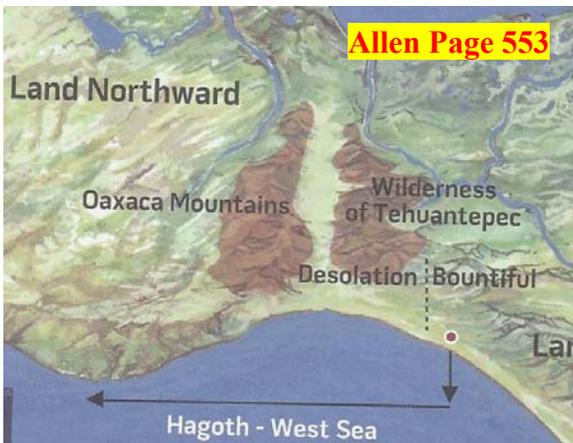
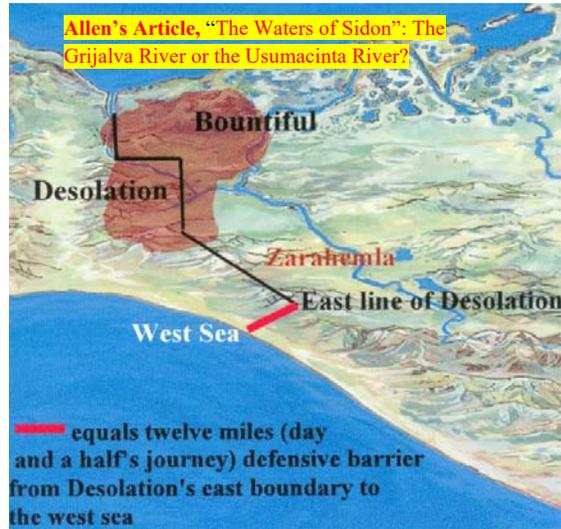
that line is the land Desolation and southward from that line is Bountiful. There is nothing in the Book of Mormon to justify placing a north bearing line between land Desolation and Bountiful for 200 miles from the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico. This understanding is emphasized by the use of “yea” in 3 Nephi 3:23 which says “*yea, to the line which was between the land Bountiful and the land Desolation,*” and that line was the distance of only a day and a half.

Allens' seven different "lines" between seven different Desolations and seven different Bountifuls are shown on the following maps:



Allens' 7 Maps of The 7 Lines Between Desolation and Bountiful





If the isthmus is the line between Desolation and Bountiful, then Mormon had it all wrong and should have said that that "line" went from north to south—from the north sea to the south sea.

And he should have said that that line was not fifteen miles in length but “only” 140 miles. If the isthmus was that “line” between Desolation and Bountiful, then Desolation and the Jaredite land northward would have been located west instead of northward. And the land Bountiful would have been east rather than southward. Thankfully, the Book of Mormon contains no deceptions and it means what it says without confusion.

The Allens then locate the place where Lachoneus took refuge for eight years (ca. AD 18–26) in the area between Palenque and Villahermosa. Then on page 481, without any Book of Mormon justification, they show the tens of thousands of Nephites gathering to this place—remember they took their “chariots” —from Dzibanche, Yucatan, (260 air miles), from El Mirador (160 miles)—where millions of Maya lived, from Cancuen (175 miles), from Izapa (175 miles), and from Monte Alban (280 miles)! And there is not even a “line” on the map on page 481! The Book of Mormon clearly explains this area to be “*yea, to the line which was between the land Bountiful and the land Desolation*” (3 Nephi 3:23). There is only one line between Bountiful/Desolation and it is located near, and begins on, the west sea and is “only” about 15 miles long. The Book of Mormon says that and means that. We should take Mormon at his word and not second guess him and not arbitrarily extend his line between Desolation/Bountiful.

Two of the most important specific geographic standards referenced in the Book of Mormon are referencing the nature and location of the “line” (1) the line between Bountiful and Desolation, which began on the west sea and ran “only” about fifteen miles eastward from the west sea (Alma 22:32)¹⁴ and (2) the one-day line (ten miles), which ran from the west sea to the east across the small neck of land that Moronihah stationed his troops upon so that he could protect “*their [Nephite] north country*” (Helaman 4:6-7),¹⁵ and they are not indexed in *Exploring*.

Because these two lines are so similarly described, and because the ten-mile line is described as the line to where the Lamanites had “*obtained all the possession of the Nephites which was in the land southward,*” and since the only line described in the Book of Mormon— that divided the land southward from the land northward— is the line between Desolation and Bountiful that was located within the small neck of land—then these two lines must be the same line. And that line began on the only west sea, the Pacific, and ran in an east to west direction as stated in the Book of Mormon, exactly as shown by the Allens as the dark red line on page 411 of *Exploring* and the dark red line shown on their map located within their article “The River Sidon”; The Grijalva or the Usumacinta? (http://www.bmaf.org/articles/sidon_grijalva_or_usumacinta_allen_et_al).

Except only for the dark red lines described above, this model does not conform the Geographic Standard No. 3.

Garth Norman’s Map¹⁶

The map proposed by Garth Norman does show the “line” between Desolation and Bountiful (item No. 15 on his map) but incredibly shows it starting at about Arriaga or Paredon and then running due north about twenty miles (instead of east only fifteen miles) and then west (instead of eastward) along the continental divide for seventy miles and then turning north for about another seventy miles toward the Ramah/Cumorah area. Norman does properly show the location of “Hagoth’s port” on the west sea, the Pacific, close to the area of Tonalá. However, he

incredibly shows Bountiful near Tabasco. He also shows Desolation not northward from Bountiful but due west. The following map shows Norman’s information from his map transposed to a Google map.



How is this model justifiable?

*And now, it was **only** the distance of a day and a half’s journey for a Nephite, on the line [between, see 3 Nephi 3:23] Bountiful and the land Desolation, from the east to the west sea. (Alma 22:32)*

He also does not describe the very specific geographic location where Moronihah placed his troops on a line of defense defending the “north country,” and the distance of that line was ten miles with the starting point at the west sea and running easterly from the west sea:

*And the Nephites and the armies of Moronihah were driven even **into** the land of Bountiful. And **there** they did fortify against the Lamanites, from the west sea, even unto the east; it being a day’s journey for a Nephite, on **the line which they had fortified and stationed** their armies to defend their north country. (Helaman 4:6–7)*

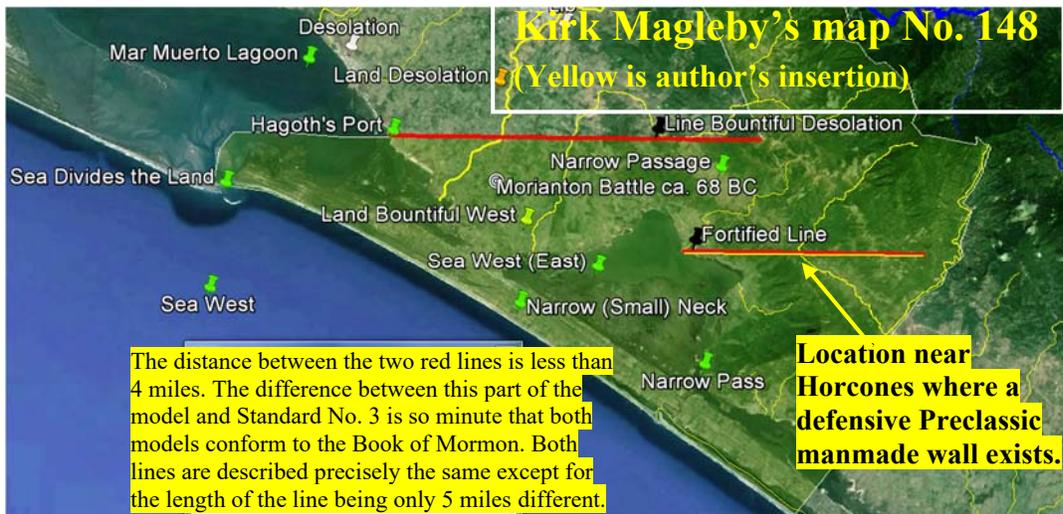
Fundamentally, in his model, Norman does not follow Geographic Standard No. 3; therefore, his map is contrary to what is required by the Book of Mormon.

Kirk Magleby’s Model¹⁷

Kirk Magleby proposes the following maps Nos. 148 and 32. Map No. 148 appears to be consistent with Geographical Standard No. 3 with the exception that he places most of land Bountiful north of the line between Bountiful and Desolation. The Book of Mormon does not justify placing both the land Desolation and the land Bountiful north of the “line” between them. Therefore, his Bountiful is wrong, with the exception of that very small part of land Bountiful that he has located south of the line between Desolation and Bountiful.

A careful analysis shows that the line between Desolation and Bountiful should be the same line as the fortified line where Moronihah stationed his soldiers—a distance of about ten miles. However, the distance between Magleby’s two red lines is only about four or five miles. Certainly, this part of his map is sufficiently close to Geographic Standard No. 3 to be considered consistent given the exception noted above that Bountiful cannot be located north of the line between Bountiful and Desolation.

Magleby does this because of his perceptions that there is only one land Bountiful and that the land Bountiful must touch both the east sea and the west sea. In a personal conversation with me, Magleby stated that he realizes that because he has concluded that city Bountiful on the east sea is located at Dzibanche in the Yucatan and because the millions of Maya at El Mirador and Lamanai—and many other Early Preclassic sites—had occupied the Peten and Belize areas since before the Nephites arrived, he therefore had to “stretch” or manipulate the land Bountiful to the north of this area. He did this by connecting the east-sea Bountiful to the west-sea Bountiful by going almost seven hundred miles through the most impassible route, crossing the Usumacinta and the Grijalva—including the swampy deltas—to the Coatzacoalcos River—his line between the land northward and the land southward—and then coming south through the impassible Uxpanapa/Chimalapa wilderness to the Pacific to connect up to the south of the line between Bountiful on the west sea and Desolation. Certainly there are no scriptures in the Book of Mormon to corroborate this manipulation of the geography of the Book of Mormon.¹⁸



Apparently, Magleby is claiming that Alma 22:32 means “sea on the west” and “sea on the east” because he shows a “narrow (small) neck” as the sliver of land bordering the west sea. On the east of that sliver of land, there is an estuary that he calls “sea west (east).”



How can 99 percent of land Bountiful be located north of the line between Desolation and Bountiful? In ca. 200 BC, no Nephite lived north of the narrow strip of wilderness. Eighty years later in 120 BC, Zarahemla was only about the size of the Salt Lake Valley.¹⁹ How could the Nephites have then expanded to all the area in green in about another eighty-five years—120 to 35 BC—when the Lamanites conquered all the land southward except the “line?” If Magleby’s model is correct, then the Nephites would have conquered all of the Yucatan, all of Peten, and half of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (including a major part of the Olmec heartland). There is no archaeological or scriptural support for this idea.

In ca. 80 BC, Alma 22:33 says that “*the Nephites had inhabited the land bountiful even from the east unto the west sea.*” There is no possible way the Nephites could have inhabited the area in light green by 80 BC (in forty years from 120 to 80 BC)—let alone all the other areas in dark green, including most of the Peten and all of Belize! Clearly, this scripture is talking only about inhabiting the very limited west-sea Bountiful area.

I agree with Magleby’s placement of city Desolation, the small neck of land, and his red lines as the division of lands Bountiful and Desolation, land Desolation, and land Bountiful as shown on his map No. 148 because they seem to be consistent with the Book of Mormon.

Robert Roylance’s New Theory

In Robert Roylance’s new theory about Book of Mormon geography, the Yucatan is viewed as the Jaredite land northward. The city/land of Zarahemla is located at Ceibal on the Pasion River

about eight miles before its confluence with the Usumacinta. He locates three west seas: (1) the Gulf of Mexico, (2) the Pacific Ocean, and (3) the Lake Peten Itza. He places the line between Desolation and Bountiful as a line between two lakes in the Peten—Lake Peten Itza being the one called the west sea. Apparently, he claims that there was a lake about nine miles from Itza that was the east sea. He also claims the east sea to be the Caribbean. In his model, he shows Bountiful to be a small area within the Peten basically surrounding the Lake Peten Itza and the several smaller lakes in the area. The following is his map taken from his recent draft of his pending article entitled, “A Comparative Analysis of the Geographic Location of the ‘Land Northward.’” He calls his model the Pasion River Model.

This model is impossible because in the Yucatan, there is no definite decline in the population of the Maya about 300 BC when the Maya in that area were at their apex expanding and finishing their fabulous temples and pyramids—including the largest and highest pyramid in the world, La Danta. The only area where there was a definite and precipitous collapse of the population about 250–300 BC was in the heartland area of the Olmec.

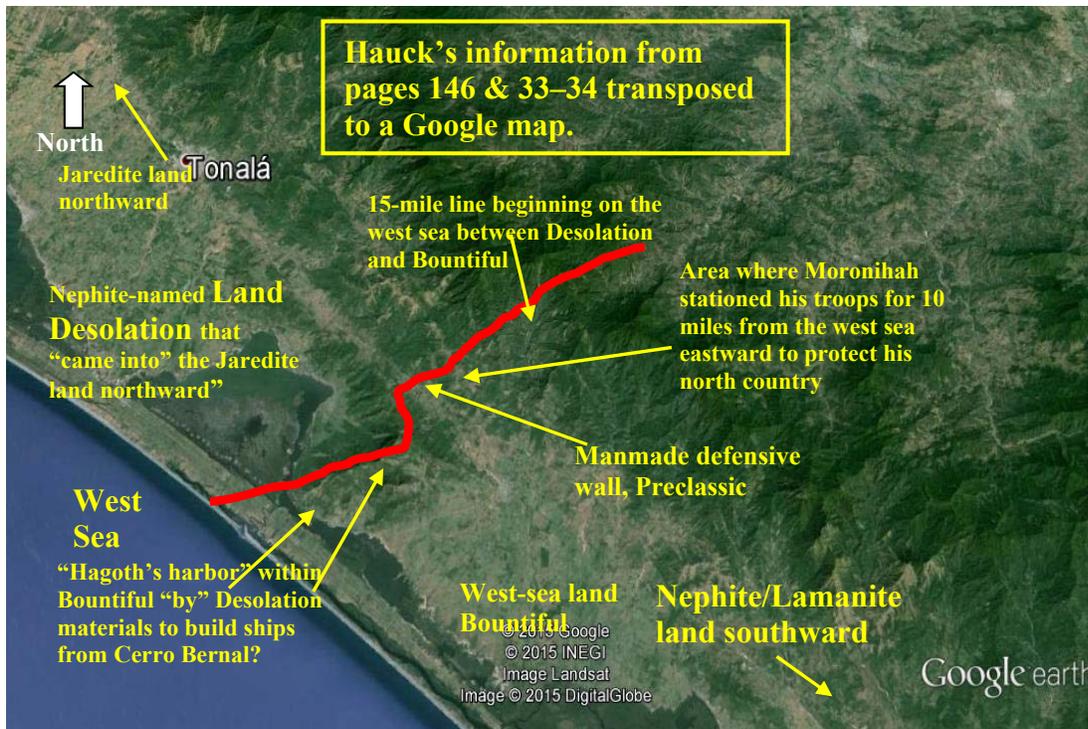
This model has Hagoth setting sail from about Campeche, which was located in his land northward—instead of from the required land Bountiful in the land southward—about two hundred miles north of Royslance’s Bountiful and the “line” between Bountiful and Desolation. This violates the Book of Mormon. Hagoth set sail from within Bountiful near but not in Desolation and into the west sea—not a lake and certainly not in the Gulf of Mexico. The west sea must be the same sea where Lehi landed. And that sea was located west of Zarahemla, west of the narrow strip of wilderness, and west of the land of Nephi according to the Book of Mormon.

There is only one sea that qualifies as the west sea, and that is the Pacific. The line between Desolation and Bountiful must begin on the Pacific and must run easterly “only” about fifteen miles. Desolation must border the Pacific, and Bountiful must also border the west sea.

Bottom line: The Pasion Model is not consistent with what the Book of Mormon requires.

Richard Hauck’s Map²⁰

The geographic information provided by Richard Hauck has been transposed to a Google map. He properly places Hagoth near the estuaries along the Pacific coast near the area of Horcones and south of the “line.” He places the Nephite-named Desolation northward of that area and the west-sea land Bountiful southward of that area. These geographic locations seem to conform to Geographic Standard No. 3 and are the same basic areas where Kirk Magleby has now located these same strategic objective geographic criteria, with the exception of the size and location of any part of Bountiful northward from that line.



Notes

1. "Introduction," *The Book of Mormon: An Account Written by the Hand of Mormon upon Plates Taken from the Plates of Nephi* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981).

2.. Larry E. Dahl and Donald Q. Cannon, eds., *Encyclopedia of Joseph Smith's Teachings* (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997), under "Scriptures."

. According to Joseph and Blake Allen, "In the Nephite measuring system," a day's travel is equal to about eight miles. (Joseph Lovell Allen and Blake Joseph Allen, *Exploring the Lands of the Book of Mormon*, 2nd ed. rev. [American Fork, UT: Covenant Communications, 2011], 412)

According to Kirk Magleby, "We can say with confidence that 10 air (straight line) kilometers [6.2 miles] per day are on the low end of what we would reasonably expect from Book of Mormon journeys. Fifteen air kilometers [9.3 miles] per day are probably typical of Book of Mormon travels led by well-informed guides, and 20 air kilometers [12.4 miles] per day (or more) are not unreasonable." (Kirk Magleby, "Land Southward Travel Times," Book of Mormon Resources Blog, <http://bookofmormonresources.blogspot.com/2011/10/land-southward-travel-times.html>, [accessed October 19, 2015])

4. Only two scriptures defining the line between Desolation and Bountiful are found in the Book of Mormon. Mormon was the author of both; therefore, they should refer to the same location. The one and only line between Desolation and Bountiful began on the west sea; ran in an east to west direction; and was in length the distance of only a day and a half's journey—a distance of only about twelve to fifteen miles. There is no room for any other interpretation. The Book of Mormon says what it means and means what it says:

*Alma 22:32: And now, it was only the distance of a day and a half's journey for a Nephite, **on the line Bountiful and the land Desolation**, from the east to **the west sea**; and thus the land of Nephi and the land of Zarahemla were nearly surrounded by water, there being a small neck of land between the land northward and the land southward.*

3 Nephi 3:23: *And the land which was appointed was the land of Zarahemla, and the land which was between the land Zarahemla and the land Bountiful, yea, to the line which was between the land Bountiful and the land Desolation.*

Therefore, the area where Lachoneus finally settled “in one place” must have been right on that line within the land southward and not in the land northward because of the drought and because Lachoneus located them “*together in the land southward, because of the curse which was upon the land northward.*” The location must have been in the foothills or mountains to the east of the west sea because the robbers came up to attack them.

5. According to Joseph and Blake Allen, a day’s travel to a Maya or a Nephite is equal to about eight miles. (Joseph L. Allen and Blake J. Allen, *Exploring the Lands of the Book of Mormon*, 2nd ed. rev. [American Fork, UT: Covenant Communications, 2011], 412)

According to Kirk Magleby, “We can say with confidence that 10 air (straight line) kilometers [6.2 miles] per day are on the low end of what we would reasonably expect from Book of Mormon journeys. Fifteen air kilometers [9.3 miles] per day are probably typical of Book of Mormon travels led by well-informed guides, and 20 air kilometers [12.4 miles] per day (or more) are not unreasonable.” (Kirk Magleby, “Land Southward Travel Times,” Book of Mormon Resources Blog, <http://bookofmormonresources.blogspot.com/2011/10/land-southward-travel-times.html>, [accessed October 19, 2015])

6. *And now I, Moroni, proceed to give an account of those ancient inhabitants who were destroyed by the hand of the Lord upon the face of this north country.* (Ether 1:1)

And there they did fortify against the Lamanites, from the west sea, even unto the east; it being a day’s journey for a Nephite, on the line which they had fortified and stationed their armies to defend their north country. (Helaman 4:7)

7. Noah Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language* (New York: S. Converse, 1828), s.v. “only.”

8. See Jonathan Neville, *The Lost City of Zarahemla: From Iowa to Guatemala and Back Again*,” (Rochester, NY and Cottonwood Heights, UT: Legends Library Publishing, 2015), 332.

9. One definition of “sea” in Webster’s 1828 dictionary is the following: “A large body of water, nearly inclosed by land, as the Baltic or the Mediterranean; as the sea of Azof. Seas are properly branches of the ocean, and upon the same level. Large bodies of water inland, and situated above the level of the ocean, are lakes. The appellation of sea, given to the Caspian lake, is an exception, and not very correct. So the lake of Galilee is called a sea, from the Greek.” (Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language*, s.v. “sea”)

10. See the article, “The “Heartland Model”: The Rest of the Story,” (http://www.bmaf.org/heartland_model_rest_story—andersen).

11. See the article, The Prophecies and Promises of 1 Nephi 13:30–31 That Invalidate the Heartland Theory for New World Book of Mormon Geography, (http://www.bmaf.org/prophecies_promises_invalidate_heartland_geography—andersen-Stoddard).

12. John L. Sorenson, *An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book and Provo, UT: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, 1996)

13. *And the land which was appointed was the land of Zarahemla, and the land which was between the land Zarahemla and the land Bountiful, yea, to the line which was between the land Bountiful and the land Desolation.* (3 Nephi 3:23)

And now, it was only the distance of a day and a half’s journey for a Nephite, on the line Bountiful and the land Desolation, from the east to the west sea; and thus the land of Nephi and the land of Zarahemla were nearly surrounded by water, there being a small neck of land between the land northward and the land southward. (Alma 22:32)

14. *And the Nephites and the armies of Moronihah were driven **even into** the land of Bountiful; And there they did fortify against the Lamanites, from the west sea, even unto the east; it being a day's journey for a Nephite, on **the line which they had fortified** and stationed their armies to defend their north country. And thus those dissenters of the Nephites, with the help of a numerous army of the **Lamanites, had obtained all the possession of the Nephites which was in the land southward.** And all this was done in the fifty and eighth and ninth years of the reign of the judges (Helaman 4:6–8). [Because the Lamanites had taken possession of all the land southward, the division of which was the line between Bountiful and Desolation, then this line must have been the same line].*

15. V. Garth Norman, *Book of Mormon—Mesoamerican Geography: History Study Map*, 3rd ed. (American Fork, UT: ARCON with Ancient American Foundation, 2008).

16. Kirk Magleby's Map No 148 of 149 maps. Book of Mormon Resources Blog, <http://bookofmormonresources.blogspot.com/2011/12/gideon.html> (accessed October 28, 2015).

17. See my article entitled "Three Separate Lands Bountiful: Where Located? What Size? To Which Bountiful Did Christ First Appear?" (http://www.bmaf.org/articles/three_bountifuls__andersen).

18. See the article, "Zarahemla: Its Size and its Rise and Fall," (http://www.bmaf.org/zarahemla_size__andersen).

19. Richard F. Hauck, *Deciphering the Geography of the Book of Mormon* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1988), 33–34, 146.