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Type: Book Chapter

Background to Jaredite Geography

Author(s): Jerry D. Grover, Jr.

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Chapter 10

Background to Jaredite Geography

One purpose of this book is to build on prior work and provide new insights into Jaredite geography. Currently, there is virtually no specificity to Book of Mormon Jaredite geographic sites in the land northward, since the Book of Ether is not extensive and contains few directions or overt indications of geographic features that are easily discernable. Sorenson, in his model in *Mormon's Codex*, provides conjectured locations, but he acknowledges that most of the locations that are known to be in the land northward are just based on reasonable inference, since the text contains only few specific details regarding geography. The conceptual geography in Sorenson's model, as extracted from previous publications, is identified in figure 27, which is followed by a legend of locations. A map of uniquely Jaredite locations as applied to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec was extracted from previous publications and is shown in figure 28.



"Mormon's Map" shows the most plausible arrangement of Nephite and Lamanite geographical features based on all the information in the record of Mormon and his son Moronia. (Capitalization of names follows the practice of the published text of the Book of Mormon.) LEGEND 1. waters of Ripliancum limit of Nephite final retreat
Shiz's death; plates left
hill Shim 5. narrow pass or passage 6. Hagoth's shipbuilding site 7. Moroni₁'s camp Moroni,'s camp
Nephites' refuge between the land Bountiful and the land of Zarahemla (see 3 Nephi 3:23, 25) 9. hill Onidah 10. hill Amnihu 11. hill Riplah 12. valley of Alma13. dispersal point of the sons of Mosiah₂ 14. waters of Mormon 15. hill north of Shilom 16. mount Antipas 17. place Onidah 18. wilderness on the west of the land Zarahemla 19. wilderness on the west in the land of Nephi 20. Lamanite king's land 21. land of first inheritance 22. wilderness (see Alma 43:22) 23. mountain pass 24. Hag oth's possible destination 25. wilderness of Hermounts 26. "line" between Desolation and Bountiful 27. defense "line"

Figure 27. Conceptual Book of Mormon geography from Mormon's Map and legend. (Grover, 2014)



Figure 28. Conceptual Jaredite geography from *Mormon's Codex*. (Grover, 2014)

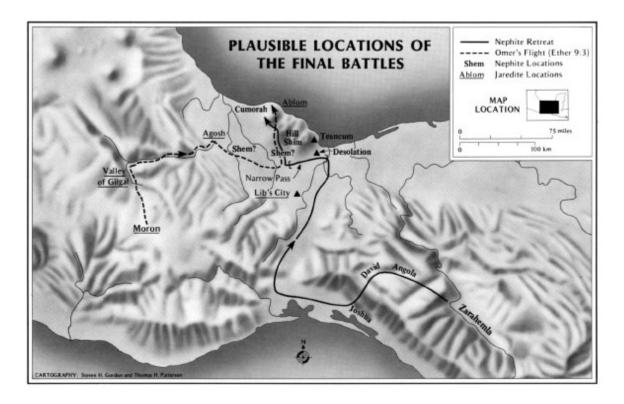


Figure 29. BYU Studies map of some locations in the land northward. (BYU Studies 2015a)

Jaredite Directions

The issue of directions and the relative skew of Mesoamerican models has confused some readers of the Book of Mormon. In the Jaredite area, the terms northward and southward are relatively easy to accommodate northward essentially means "in a northwesterly cardinal direction" and southward is "in a southeasterly cardinal direction." The term north countries is different but is consistent with the general terminology of the land northward and the land southward. The term eastward is used twice in the book of Ether, with both journeys eastward ending up at the sea. There is no mention of a west direction in the book of Ether. The directional system used in the Book of Mormon utilizes, at least in part, a form of the Egyptian system, which relied on the directional flow of the river system to determine north and south (Grover 2015). Since the Jaredite plates were translated during the Nephite period where the river utilized was the upper Grijalva River as the River Sidon (according to the Sorenson model), the "east sea" is consistent with the Gulf of Campeche (Gulf of Mexico), and so the translation into the Nephite language of traveling eastward would also be consistent.