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

Author(s): George Reynolds
Source: Juvenile Instructor, Vol. 15, No. 24 (15 December 1880), pp. 286
Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Abstract: A series of essays on Book of Mormon geography. To the earlier Nephites “the whole of North America was known as the land of Mulek, and South America as the land of Lehi.” From the period of Mosiah until Christ South America was “divided into two grand divisions”: Zarahemla and the land of Nephi.
people, except to strengthen the conviction that he was not the
man chosen by the Almighty to be their leader.

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

(To be Continued.)

THE LANDS OF THE NEPHITES.

THE LAND OF NEMPH.

ZARAHEMLA was situated on the Sidon, certainly a con-
siderable distance from its head waters, as other lands
and cities, such as Minom and Manif, are mentioned as lying
far afield. If we were sure the distance from such a point
southward, either 200, 300 or 400 miles, all these measure-
ments will bring us into the country now called Ecuador.
This is one of the reasons why we think Nephi's settlement
was in that region.

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

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

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

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

Ammon "came to a hill, which is north of the land of Shi-
low" (Mosiah vii. 5).

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

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

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

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

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

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

(To be Continued.)

**LETTER TO THE BOYS.**

SALT LAKE CITY,

December 10th, 1880.

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

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

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