

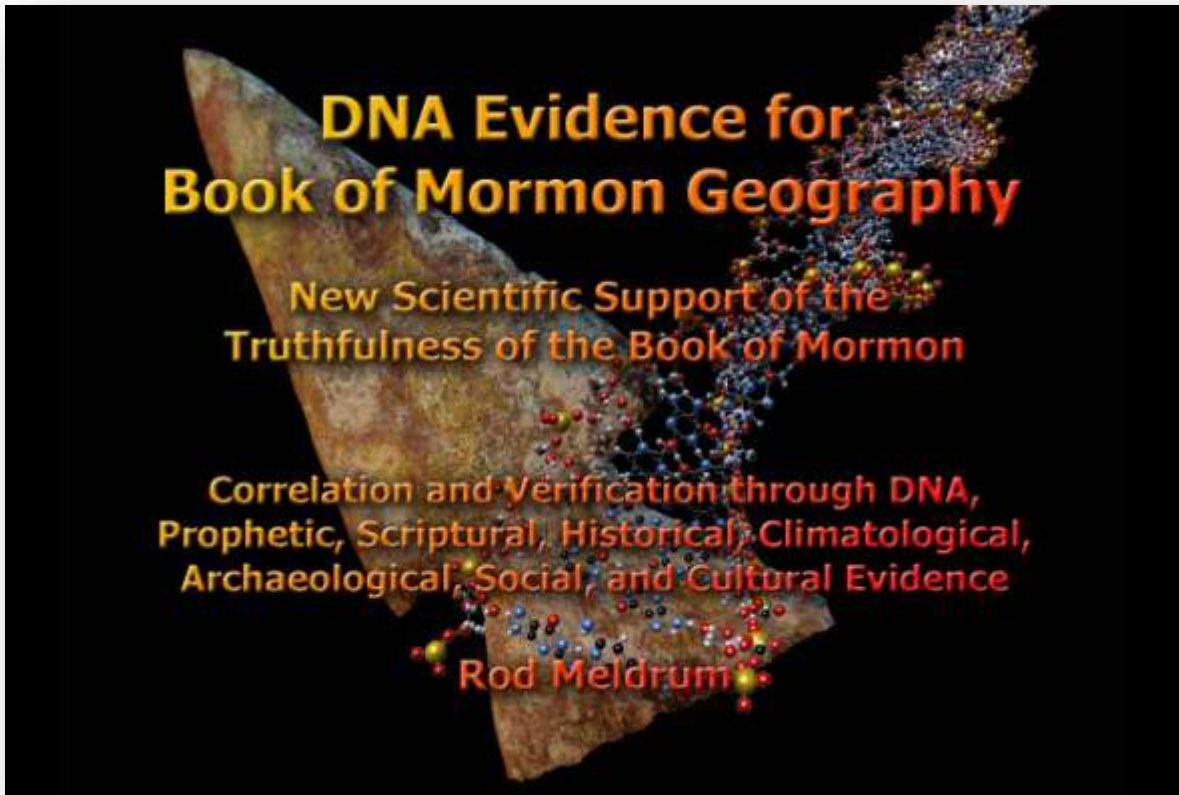
DNA Evidence for Book of Mormon Geography

Transcript of Sections 4 & 5 of the DVD video presentation

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Presenter: Rod Meldrum; DVD released 2008



Following is a transcribed portion of a presentation given 'live' before an actual audience. The original presentation was over four and a half hours in duration, and was not scripted. Some of the material had to be edited out to fit a dual-layer DVD format. It was not meant to be the definitive work on this geographical model, but merely to present the information and research.

This non-scripted presentation is not meant to be equivalent to a written document. This was never the intent of this presentation, and a written book project is in progress to address those needs. Some editing of non-important and 'crutch' words used in the live presentation have been done to reduce distraction. After over a year of giving free presentations in the intermountain area, it was video recorded at the request of many who could not attend the several live presentations or who could not stay for the full 4-5 hour lectures.

It is hoped that this information will stimulate those who read this transcript or watch the DVD presentation to renew their desire to read the Book of Mormon. A testimony of the Book of Mormon comes only through spiritual witness, not by physical evidences, and as such this information should be viewed as supportive to the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, but not

definitive 'proof' of its truthfulness. To this author 'Proof' only comes through revelation by the Lord, and the Lord has not revealed the geography of *The Book of Mormon* as of this time. Still, some clues have been left that if we are diligent in trying to discover them, a clearer understanding of the possible locations of *The Book of Mormon* may be obtained.

As written by Austin Farrar on the relationship between rational argument and belief:

“Though argument does not create conviction, lack of it destroys belief.

What seems to be proved may not be embraced;
but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned.

Rational argument does not create belief,
but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish.”

It is hoped that the following research and information will demonstrate that there are several separate lines of reasoning that point to two primary conclusions. *The Book of Mormon*, while first and foremost a spiritual record, is also a literal historical record of actual people and places, and secondly that Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet of God. If these two ideas are more firmly established in the minds of those reviewing the information, it will have been successful.

Deep gratitude and thankfulness is expressed to those that have made this DVD and transcript possible, along with all those who have supported this project through their attendance at presentations and sharing this information with others. A profound 'THANK YOU' is extended.

A brief overview from the DVD navigation is found below. There are 18 sections totaling 4 hours of exciting new information involving *The Book of Mormon*.

1. DNA evidence supporting *The Book of Mormon*
2. Geography basics
3. Joseph Smith's knowledge
4. Promised Land in scripture
5. Prophecies and promises of the Promised Land of *The Book of Mormon*
6. Tents, temples and teepees
7. Weather and climate indicators
8. Buffalo evidence
9. Chronological evidence and information
10. Nephite defensive strategies
11. Nephite building structures
12. The Hopewell Mound Building culture
13. Nephite & Hopewell culture correlations
14. Nephite implements and Hopewell artifacts
15. Proposed Book of Mormon geography
16. Travel indications in *The Book of Mormon*
17. Conclusions and results of this research
18. Contact information



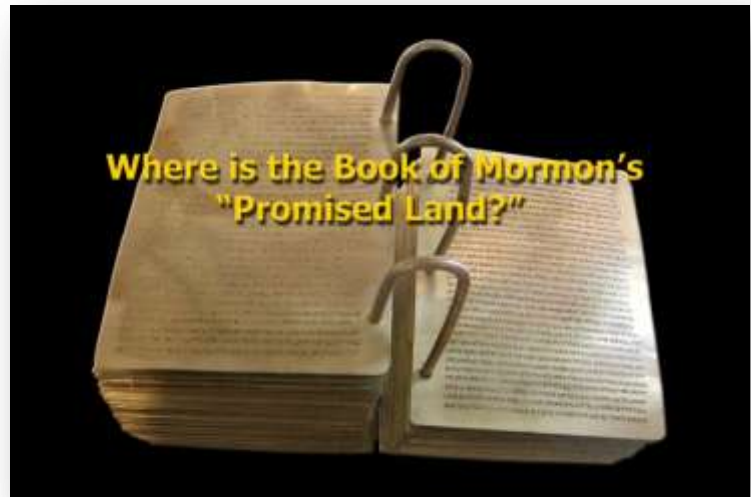
SECTION 4: The Promised Land

Begin Transcript:

So let's talk about things, I think we've tried to establish a firm foundation where Joseph thought it [*The Book of Mormon*] was but that's not enough because *The Book of Mormon* also testifies to some things.

We need to find out what does *The Book of Mormon* itself say? So this next section is actually one of my favorite ones. You've heard of scriptural chains, right? Where you connect one scripture to the next to the next. Well, I like to call this section a scriptural chain maille. You know what chain maille [is], the armor that the knights wore?

This is scriptural chain maille. That's where each link isn't just linked on to another link, because if you have one weak link then you've got a problem. This is links upon links. And I think it's very powerful, but this is the question.



**Does revealed scripture
testify to the geographical location
of the Book of Mormon?**

Does revealed scripture testify to the geographical location of *The Book of Mormon*?

Let's take a look at this. In *Doctrine & Covenants* 42 verse 62 it says:

"Thou shalt ask, and it shall be revealed unto you in mine own due time where the New Jerusalem shall be built."

Now, about a month and a half or so later, the Lord gave Joseph Smith another revelation here in *D&C* 45. He says:

"...gather ye out from the Eastern lands, ...go ye forth into the western countries,..." He says: "And it shall be called the New Jerusalem,"

So now we know that this is going to be in the western countries is where this New Jerusalem is going to be. Well, about a year and a half or so later, the Lord fulfilled his promise to Joseph Smith by this revelation in *D&C* 84 wherein he says,

"A revelation of Jesus Christ, unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jr. to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem which city shall be built beginning at the temple lot which is appointed by the finger of the Lord in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri,...that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple."

So now we know, Missouri USA = the New Jerusalem.

Everybody agree with that?

Okay, good.

"62 Thou shalt ask, and it shall be revealed unto you in mine own due time where the New Jerusalem shall be built."
D&C 42:61 - 62, Revelation to Joseph Smith, Feb. 9, 1831

One month latter, on March 7th, 1831, the Lord began to fulfill this promise to Joseph.

"64 ...gather ye out from the eastern lands, ...go ye forth into the western countries,..."

"66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God;"
D&C 45:64 - 66, March 7, 1831

Over one and a half years later, on September 22-23, 1832, the Lord completed his promise to Joseph by giving him the exact location of the New Jerusalem.

"1 A REVELATION of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jun.,....
2 ...to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem.
3 Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun.,....
4 Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple,..."
D&C 84:1 - 4

Missouri, USA = the New Jerusalem

[D&C] Section 45:

“And it shall be called the New Jerusalem... and it shall be called Zion.”

“66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem,
a land of peace, a city of refuge,
a place of safety for the saints
of the Most High God;
67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and
the terror of the Lord also shall be there,
insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it,
and it shall be called Zion.”

D&C 45:66 - 67

Pearl of Great Price, Moses, it says,
“and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.”

And then, of course, most all of us
could quote this:

“We believe in the literal gathering
of Israel and in the restoration of the
Ten Tribes that Zion, the New
Jerusalem, will be built upon the
American continent;”... Article of
Faith # 10.

“62 And righteousness will I send down out of heaven;...
and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood...
I shall prepare, an Holy City,...
for there shall be my tabernacle,
and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.”
PGP Moses 7:62

“10 We believe in the literal gathering of Israel
and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes;
that Zion (the New Jerusalem)
will be built upon the American continent;...”
PGP Articles of Faith 1:10

Missouri, USA = New Jerusalem = Zion

So now we know, Missouri, USA is
where the New Jerusalem is going
to be built which also equates to
Zion. Now is it ‘the’ Zion? Because there’s been more than one Zion. We’re talking about the
Zion that is dealing with *The Book of Mormon* here.

[D&C] Section 57:

“Hearken, O ye elders of my
church saith the Lord...” in this
land which **“is the land of
Missouri.”** **“This is the land
of promise.”** Missouri is the
land of promise. **“And the place
for the city of Zion.”** So there’s
double links there. And
**“Independence is the center
place.”**

So now we know that Missouri
is the New Jerusalem which is
Zion, which is also the Land of
Promise.

“1 HEARKEN, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord
your God, ... in this land, which is the land of Missouri,
which is the land which I have appointed
and consecrated for the gathering of the saints.
2 Wherefore, this is the land of promise,
and the place for the city of Zion.
3 And thus saith the Lord your God,
if you will receive wisdom
here is wisdom. Behold, the place
which is now called Independence is the center place;
and a spot for the temple is lying westward;...”
D&C 57:1-3

**Missouri, USA = the New Jerusalem
= Zion = the Land of Promise**

Then we go to *The Book of Mormon*.

This is *The Book of Mormon* testifying of itself here. It says, a New Jerusalem will be upon this land. This is *The Book of Mormon's* author writing this. What was the real estate that they were standing on?

Wherever that real estate is, it is where this New Jerusalem is going to be built. And the New Jerusalem is going to be built where? Missouri, right?



"And that a New Jerusalem should be built upon this land unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph." So there's two examples of the New Jerusalem being the, 'this land' of *The Book of Mormon*. When they say 'this land', we now know where we're talking about. Now, this is from 2nd Nephi, chapter 1 verse 5.

"Notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise." Now we already covered that, but they also say that this "is a choice land above all other lands." What does it mean to be above all other lands? Does it mean the average elevation above sea level was higher than anywhere else? Because, the Himalayas, would probably win that one. But what does it mean to be a choice land?

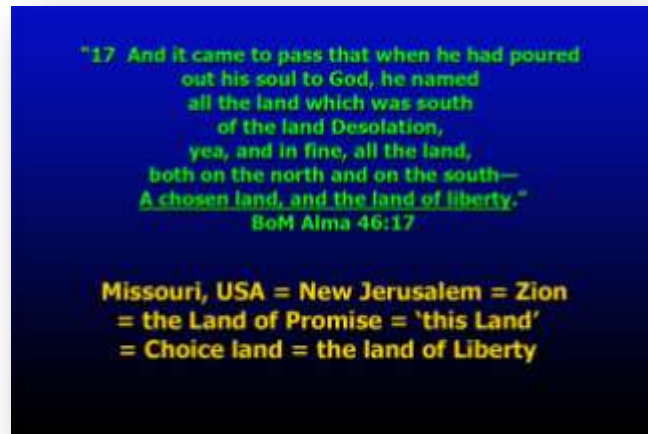


I did some pondering about that and something very profound to me [was realized], it may not be that amazing, but wouldn't a choice land be a land where people would choose to live? If it's a choice land, you'd think that people would choose to live there. So it's a "choice land above all other lands" "for the inheritance of my seed" and "all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord." So we know that this land of *The Book of Mormon* is also a choice land above all other lands.

Alma 46:17, he says:

It's "a chosen land and the land of liberty." Ah, now it makes sense. Why would people choose to live in this land? Because whatever this land is, is going to be known as the land of liberty.

So now Zion is... and so forth, this choice land, is known as the land of liberty.



This is critical.
1st Nephi 13.

It says, "Nevertheless, thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity."

What Gentiles came forth out of captivity? The French [and other explorers], they came, [but] not out of captivity. They actually came to conquer, right? I'll give a couple of other clues. They've "been lifted up by the power of God, above all other nations." What is a nation?

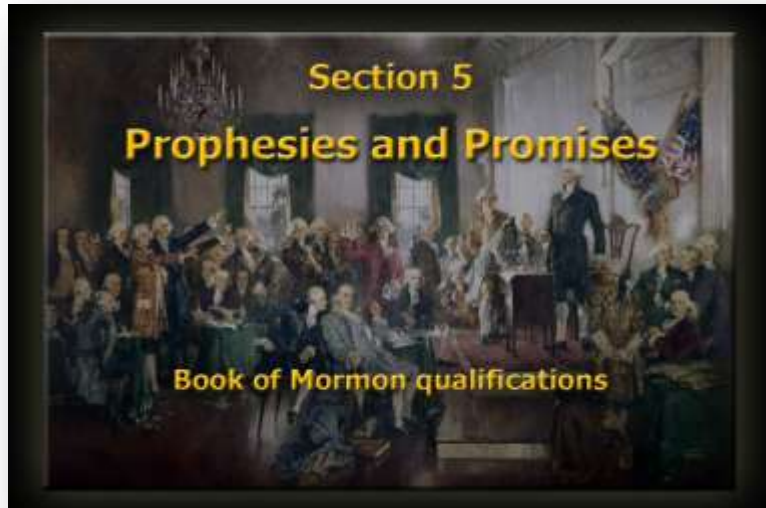
It's a political boundary, right? Well, if it's a nation then it cannot be all of North and South and Central America because that's not 'a' nation. Whatever this is, it's got to be a nation that is going to be above all other nations. Now what does that mean, does that mean militarily? There are a lot of different things that that could be. That could mean above all other nations in spirituality. It could be a lot of different things, but it's upon the place of the land which is "choice above all other lands" "that his seed should have for the land of their inheritance."

He also says "that the Lord God would not suffer that the Gentiles will utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed which are among thy brethren. Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles will destroy the seed of thy brethren." So whatever this land of liberty, this choice land is, it's also a nation and it's above all other nations. So where exactly is the *Book of Mormon's* promised land? Well, what nation makes up all the promises, that makes up the *Book of Mormon's* Promised Land? Part of the reason why it's called a Promised Land is because there's promises given in *The Book of Mormon* about this land.

Whatever this nation is, it has to fulfill the revelations given in *The Book of Mormon* prophesying about the things of this land.



SECTION 5: Prophecies and Promises of the Promised Land



Let's take a quick look at some of those prophecies here.

Where exactly is the Book of Mormon "Promised Land?"

**Missouri, USA = New Jerusalem = Zion
= the Land of Promise = 'this Land'
= Choice land = the land of Liberty =
which is a NATION above all other NATIONS**

What nation then makes up the Book of Mormon "Promised Land?"

Who are the Gentiles prophesied of in *The Book of Mormon*?

Because it does talk about the Gentiles.

**Who are the 'Gentiles'
prophesied of
in the Book of Mormon?**

It says in 1st Nephi 13:

“And it came to pass that I beheld the spirit of God that it wrought upon other Gentiles and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters.”

So we know that wherever these Gentiles were going to come from, they were going to come across the ocean to get here.

"13 And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters."

BoM 1 Nephi 13:13



"35 For, behold, saith the Lamb:

I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things..."

"and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the

seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb."

BoM 1 Nephi 13:35



But this [next scripture] nails it down a little bit further because it could be any Gentiles that came over from Europe. But this is from *The Book of Mormon* itself. [In] 1st Nephi 13:35. It says:

“For, behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed that they shall write many things...” “and after thy seed shall be destroyed...” See, Nephi knew that was going to

happen. “after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief and also the seed of thy brethren”... are going to “dwindle in unbelief”... “behold these things shall be hid up to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb.” Who are these Gentiles? Well, who brought forth the record that was hid up? Joseph Smith. His ancestors. The Gentiles of *The Book of Mormon* are the predecessors of Joseph Smith who brought the record forward. And who were they? They were American colonists.

**The 'Gentiles'
of the Book of Mormon
=
the predecessors
of Joseph Smith, (from whom
the Book of Mormon came forth)
...and they were
American Colonists**

Let's read a couple of other things here. This is from 2nd Nephi, chapter 10:

“this land shall be a land of liberty” unto these American colonists, these Gentiles. It's going to be known as a land of liberty.

“there shall be no kings upon this land... And I will fortify this land against all other nations. And he that fighteth against Zion shall perish saith God for he that raiseth up a king against me shall perish for I, the Lord, the king of heaven, will be their king.”



Brothers and sisters, [this was] the first nation ever established by [upon] Christian principles brought forward by men of God, who came here and established the Constitution. “I, the Lord, the king of heaven, will be their king.” Told right here, prophesied to us in *The Book of Mormon*.



First Nephi, 13.

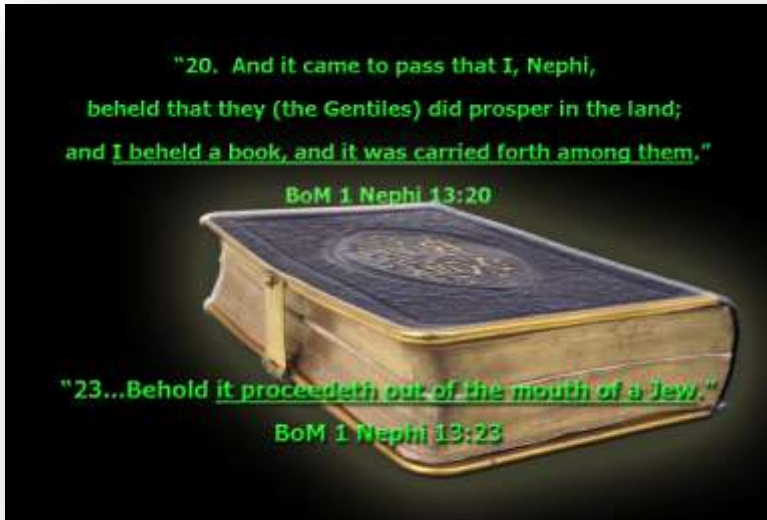
“And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them.”

[This is the] *Book of Mormon* again, these are all scriptures, Brothers and Sisters. I'm not using some off-the-wall reference.

“And I, Nephi, beheld the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.”

[Is] this ringing some bells?





"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they (the Gentiles) did prosper in the land; and I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them . Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew."

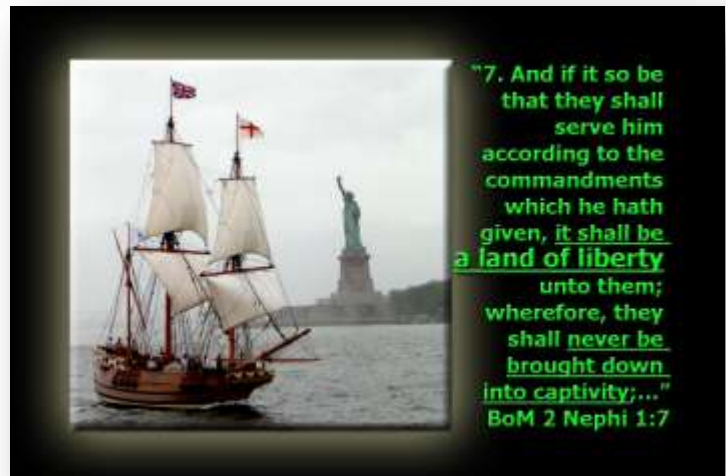
Whoever these Gentiles were, [they] were also going to bring the Bible with them out of captivity.

2 Nephi 1 verse 7;

"And if it so be that they serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; wherefore they shall never be brought down into captivity. "

[D&C] Section 98:

"And that law of the land which is constitutional supporting that principle of freedom in maintaining rights and privilege belongs to"... who? "...to all mankind, and is justifiable before me."



As far as I know this is the first and only time that a government, that a political entity...that a national form of government has actually received the stamp of approval by God himself ...

He says it "belongs to all mankind."

So what nation then fulfills the prophecies concerning *The Book of Mormon's* Promised Land?

What **nation** then fulfills the prophecies concerning the *Book of Mormon's* Promised Land?

They'd have to have the Gentiles blessed upon the land, it would have to be a land of liberty, there should be no kings, it will be fortified against all other nations.

It will contain Zion and the New Jerusalem.

The Gentiles will afflict the Lamanites but ultimately they will be like a father to them.

The Gentiles will bring the record of the Jews, the Bible, to the Lamanites,

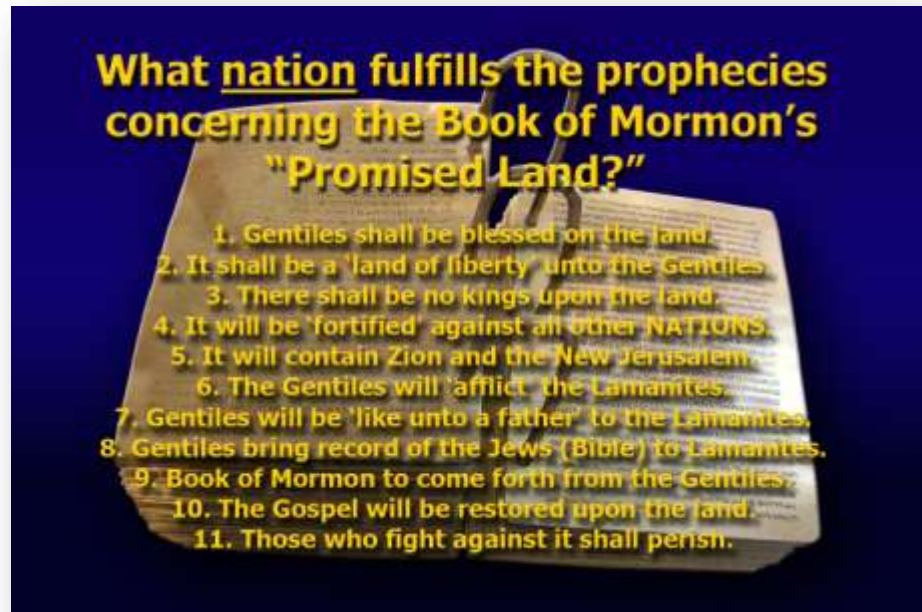
The Book of Mormon is to come forth from these particular Gentiles. The gospel will be restored upon 'this land' and those who fight against it shall perish.

Anybody want to take a guess what land we're talking about?

The only nation that fulfills every *Book of Mormon* requirement to be the Promised Land [of The Book of Mormon] is...

The United States of America!

Now, I'm not just trying to be 'rah rah' here. This is from revelation. This is from the scriptures.



D&C 28. "And now, behold I say unto you that you shall go unto the Lamanites and preach my gospel unto them." "And now behold I say unto you that it is not revealed and no man knoweth where the city of Zion shall be built."

This is the predecessor [scripture] before God showed Joseph where the New Jerusalem was going to be built, the City of Zion. But he says, behold I say unto you that it shall be on the borders by the Lamanites.

"8. And now, behold, I say unto you that you shall go unto the Lamanites and preach my gospel unto them; and inasmuch as they receive thy teachings thou shalt cause my church to be established among them;...

9. And now, behold, I say unto you that it is not revealed, and no man knoweth where the city Zion shall be built, but it shall be given hereafter. Behold, I say unto you that it shall be on the borders by the Lamanites."

D&C Section 28:8 - 9, Dec. 1, 1831

Missouri, USA =
the Borders by the Lamanites

"8. And thus you (Newel Knight) shall take your journey into the regions westward, unto the land of Missouri, unto the borders of the Lamanites."

D&C 54:8

Missouri, USA =
the Borders by the Lamanites

"And thus you, Newel Knight shall take your journey into the regions westward to the land of Missouri to the borders of the Lamanites."

Missouri, USA equals the borders of the Lamanites.

Skipping to Section 17 of DVD presentation transcript:

And this is [D&C] section 71, because I've had people say, well, even if it is the case, should you really go out there and try to do anything about it.

Just let the sleeping dogs lie, so to speak. But I'm taking my cue from the scriptures and that cue is this [scripture].
[Audience reads]

"4 Wherefore, labor ye in my vineyard. Call upon the inhabitants of the earth, and bear record, and prepare the way..."

"7 Wherefore, confound your enemies; call upon them to meet you both in public and in private; and inasmuch as ye are faithful their shame shall be made manifest.

8 Wherefore, let them bring forth their strong reasons against the Lord.

9 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you— there is no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper;

10 And if any man lift his voice against you he shall be confounded in mine own due time."

D&C 71:4, 7-10

Brothers & Sisters let me just close real quick with my personal testimony. Having done this research for the last three and a half years, has brought me to a much deeper appreciation and understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I can stand before you as a witness that not only do I know that *The Book of Mormon* is true spiritually, I believe that that is the most important of all the possible ways that you can know that *The Book of Mormon* is true.

But the *Book of Mormon* is more than just a spiritual record. The *Book of Mormon* is a literal history of real people and they really existed. And their evidence [exists] and their DNA was left behind and their civilizations were left behind. And all we have to do is look where the prophet, Joseph Smith, said to look and we will find the evidence.

My hope is that with this DVD and the information we can, at least, have some discussion about *The Book of Mormon* being where Joseph Smith and *The Book of Mormon* itself testify that it happened. And if that happens and if we can touch the lives of as many people as possible and strengthen the testimonies, just like it [D&C 93: 24, 33-34, 36-37] said, **the fullness of joy comes from the spiritual and the physical coming together.**

Brothers & Sisters, that is my testimony. I know that the gospel is true. When I say I *know* it, again, it's in the same way that when we know things. It's when the spirit has testified and then the knowledge comes... and then our faith is dormant [BoM Alma 32:34]. But I just want you to know that I appreciate your time. I would hope that this can make a difference in somebody's lives. I know it's already made a difference in mine.

End Transcript of this section

