

Prophecies and Promises

North America and the Book of Mormon

The desire to find a geographical setting for The Book of Mormon has been a subject of interest and research for many years. Subsequently, this has promoted and produced many books, theories and maps of proposed locations for cities, rivers, seas, and lands described within the text (i.e. geographical passages). These maps and theories are produced primarily by the use of inconclusive geographical passages while searching modern day oceans and shorelines and trying first to find a match. This is usually done at the exclusion of the prophetic references about the “Promised Land” and other witnesses that that are even more clear, concise and sure. Many who read the Book of Mormon recognize that the prophecies and promises are fulfilled with the establishment of the United States, and in the next breath fall back to a Mesoamerican setting espoused in the popular presentations of tradition.

Research that use geographical passages only, or as a first witness, might claim out of necessity, that a hypothesized or ‘mental’ geographical map supersedes all else in determination of a proposed location for the Book of Mormon. This process prefers to take geographical passages and indicators such as, a “narrow neck” or “narrow passage” of land, strips of wilderness, and directional orientation deciphered from the text, over the spiritual prophecies and promises recorded in it. The use of geographical scriptures as primary indicators, and often the only witness has been established by theorists espousing a Central American setting for the Book of Mormon. This has resulted in a bias that has produced a popular consensus among scholars which propose that any theory is flawed that does not apply these physical and geographical passages first. New research can shatter and reverse old methodologies overnight, as often happens to theories for which a consensus has long been established

The application of geographical passages must of necessity and logic be subordinate to the inspired prophecies and promises in the Book of Mormon itself. Any theory claiming to establish the lands of the Book of Mormon must first pass the tests outlined by these spiritual guides before application of ‘real world’ evidence or physical features of the landscape. The plethora of geographical theories or models witness the futile effort in creating this map at the expense of the prophecies and promises contained within the scriptural text and the words of Joseph Smith. Neglecting these prophetic references of the Prophet and his translation has resulted in confusion, disorder and a profound disorientation of the theoretical maps. Therefore, any geography claiming to be the lands of The Book of Mormon must first meet this internal test of witnesses before the application of any hypothetical map or model.

The Prophecies and Promises

3 Nephi 21:2-4, 22.	Doctrine and Covenants 10:46-53.
<p>2 And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign—for verily I say unto you that <i>when these things</i> which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be given unto you of the Father,</p> <p><i>shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know concerning this people</i> who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them;</p> <p>3 Verily, verily, I say unto you, <i>when these things shall be made known unto them</i> of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you;</p> <p>4 For it is wisdom in the Father that <i>they should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed</i>, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;</p> <p>22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, <i>I will establish my church among them</i>, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;</p>	<p>46 And, behold, all the remainder of this work does contain all those parts of my gospel <i>which my holy prophets, yea, and also my disciples, desired in their prayers should come forth unto this people.</i></p> <p>47 And I said unto them, that it should be granted unto them according to their faith in their prayers;</p> <p>48 Yea, and this was their faith—<i>that my gospel, which I gave unto them</i> that they might preach in their days, <i>might come unto their brethren the Lamanites</i>, and also all that had become Lamanites because of their dissensions.</p> <p>49 Now, this is not all—<i>their faith in their prayers was that this gospel should be made known also, if it were possible that other nations should possess this land;</i></p> <p>50 And thus <i>they did leave a blessing upon this land in their prayers, that whosoever should believe in this gospel in this land might have eternal life;</i></p> <p>51 Yea, <i>that it might be free unto all of whatsoever nation, kindred, tongue, or people they may be.</i></p> <p>52 And now, behold, according to their faith in their prayers will I bring this part of my gospel to the knowledge of my people. Behold, I do not bring it to destroy that which they have received, but to build it up.</p> <p>53 And for this cause have I said: If this generation harden not their hearts, <i>I will establish my church among them.</i></p>

The “Gentiles”

What then are the qualifications necessary for any group of people to be “the Gentiles” prophesied of in The Book of Mormon? The following is a listing of prophetic qualifiers for any group considered as the Gentiles referred to in the Book of Mormon.

- 1. Gentiles to scatter and afflict remnant**
- 2. Gentiles to bring forth a Marvelous Work (The Book of Mormon)**
- 3. Gentiles shown mercy by the Lord and receive the Gospel**
- 4. Gentiles to bring the Gospel to the remnant**
- 5. Gentiles to obtain this land of promise for an inheritance**
- 6. Gentiles to be blessed and prosper on this land**
- 7. Gentiles to become a mighty nation upon the land**
- 8. Gentiles not to remain in blindness**
- 9. Gentiles inspired to come out of captivity to this land**
- 10. Gentiles to come “upon the many waters”**
- 11. Gentiles upon this land are protected by God**
- 12. This land to be a land of liberty to the Gentiles**
- 13. Gentiles to become multitudes upon the land**
- 14. Gentiles not to destroy the remnant**
- 15. The Lord’s Servant (Joseph Smith) to be among the Gentiles**
- 16. Gentiles to have other books of truth**
- 17. Gentiles to bring Bible to the remnant**
- 18. Church to be established among Gentiles of this land**
- 19. Mother Gentiles to battle against Gentiles who came out of captivity**
- 20. Gentiles to have care for the House of Israel**

The Table of Prophecies and Promises About the Land, the Remnant, and the Gentiles

#	# of uses	Prophecies and Promises	Book of Mormon Scriptural References
1	33	Land of Promise	1 Ne. 2:20; 4:14; 5:5, 22; 7:1, 13; 10:13; 12:1; 13:12, 14; 14:2; 17:13; 18:8, 22, 23, 25; 2 Ne. 1:3, 5, 12, 24; Jacob 2:12; Mosiah 1:7; Alma 37:44, 45; Hel. 7:7; Ether 2:7, 8, 9; 6:8, 12, 16; 7:27.
2	20	Land obtained and consecrated for an inheritance	1 Ne. 13:30; 2 Ne. 1:3, 5; 3:2; 4:11; 10:10, 19; Jacob 2:12; Enos 10; Mosiah 28:2; 3 Ne. 15:13; 16:16; 20:14, 22; 21:22; Ether 1:38; 2:15; 13:7, 8, 21.
3	14	Land choice and precious above all other lands	1 Ne. 2:20; 13:30; 2 Ne. 1:5; 3:2; 10:19; Alma 46:17; Ether 1:42; 2:7, 10, 12, 15; 9:20; 13:2.
4	12	Land will be cursed because of wickedness	2 Ne. 1:7, 12; Jacob 2:29; 3:3; Enos 10; Jarom 9; Mosiah 29:27; Alma 37:25, 28; 45:16; Hel. 13:17; Ether 14:1.
5	8	Land is consecrated and Holy to those led by the Lord	2 Ne. 1:5, 7; Ether 2:7, 8, 9, 10; 9:20; 13:2.
6	8	Land of prosperity and security	1 Ne. 13:15; 2 Ne. 1:31, 32; Jarom 9; Mosiah 1:7; Alma 9:13; 48:15.
7	6	Land shall be a Land of Liberty	2 Ne. 1:7; Mosiah 29:32; Alma 46:10, 16, 17; Ether 2:12.
8	5	The New Jerusalem is built upon this land	3 Ne. 21:33; Ether 13:3, 4, 6, 8.
9	4	Land where all shall worship God or be destroyed	2 Ne. 10:19; Ether 2:8, 9, 10.
10	3	Land prepared for those led to it by the hand of the Lord	1 Ne. 13:13; 17:13, 55.
11	2	Land never to be brought into captivity	2 Ne. 1:7; Ether 2:12.
12	3	Land fortified against all other nations	1 Ne. 13:18; 2 Ne. 1:9; 10:12.
13	1	Land only for those brought by the Lord	2 Ne. 1:6
14	1	Land kept from the knowledge of other nations	2 Ne. 1:8.
15	1	Land where none shall molest or remove their inheritance	2 Ne. 1:9.
16	2	Land not to be governed by Kings or Kings of Gentiles	2 Ne. 10:11, 14.
17	1	Seed of Lehi to be visited by Christ on this land	1 Ne. 13:35.
18	2	The Record to be kept about those having possessed the Land	1 Ne. 19:3; Mosiah 28:15.

19	13	Gentiles to scatter and afflict remnant	1 Ne. 13:14, 30, 34; 22:7; 2 Ne. 10:18; 3 Ne. 16:4, 8; 20:15, 27, 28; 21:2; Mormon 5:15, 20.
20	10	Gentiles to bring forth a Marvelous Work (The Book of Mormon)	1 Ne. 13:35, 40; 22:8; 3 Ne. 16:4; 21:2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11.
21	9	Gentiles shown mercy by the Lord and receive the Gospel	1 Ne. 13:33, 34; 14:1; 3 Ne. 16:7, 8; 20:15, 27; Mormon 5:15.
22	6	Gentiles to bring the Gospel to the remnant	1 Ne. 22:8; 3 Ne. 16:4; 21:3, 4, 5, 6.
23	5	Gentiles to obtain this land of promise for an inheritance	1 Ne. 13:15; Mosiah 12:8; 3 Ne. 16:8; 21:4; Mormon 5:19.
24	4	Gentiles to be blessed and prosper on this land	1 Ne. 13:15, 20; 14:2; 2 Ne. 10:10.
25	3	Gentiles to become a mighty nation upon the land	1 Ne. 13:30; 22:7; 3 Ne. 20:27.
26	3	Gentiles not to remain in blindness	1 Ne. 13:32, 34; 14:1.
27	2	Gentiles come out of captivity to this land	1 Ne. 13:13, 30.
28	2	Gentiles upon this land are protected by God	1 Ne. 13:19, 30.
29	2	This land to be a land of liberty to the Gentiles	2 Ne. 10:11; 3 Ne. 21:4.
30	2	Gentiles to become multitudes upon the land	1 Ne. 12:1; 13:14.
31	2	Gentiles not to destroy the remnant	1 Ne. 13:31; 2 Ne. 10:18.
32	2	The Lord's Servant to be among the Gentiles	3 Ne. 21:10, 11.
33	2	Gentiles to have other books of truth	1 Ne. 13:39, 40.
34	1	Gentiles to bring Bible to the remnant	1 Ne. 13:38.
35	1	Church to be established among Gentiles of this land	3 Ne. 21:22.
36	1	Mother Gentiles to battle against Gentiles who came out of captivity	1 Ne. 13:17.

Christ Speaks to All Nations

An important question asked by the Lord in scripture and about scripture is: “Know ye not that there are *more nations than one*?” There is no limit to the Lord’s love and concern for the nations, kindred’s, and tongues of the world. Having reviewed a few scriptures about “other sheep” that are usually associated with the House of Israel, a review of passages about other nations might be helpful. These nations are discussed in scripture, beyond the scope of the historical setting and people of the Book of Mormon. However, the Lord has seen a need for the scriptural text of the Nephites to include information about these nations, lands, and records that lie beyond the borders of the particular Land of Promise. The paraphrased passages below give insight beyond “this land” into other peoples and other lands.

7 Know ye not that there are *more nations than one*? . . . and that *I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?*

8 . . . *that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another.*

9 . . . that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. *And because that I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another. . .*

10 Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; *neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.*

11 For *I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them. . .*

12 For behold, I shall speak unto the **Jews** and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the **Nephites** and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the **other tribes of the house of Israel**, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and *I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it.*

(2 Nephi 29:7-12)

Could these other “nations” in the verses above, include the highly advanced civilizations of Asia, and the Far East, perhaps the nations of northern Europe. Could these passages even include the peoples, and cultures of Central and South America? Of course they could. There can be no limitations on the Lord and the work He might do as He questions and declares: “*Know ye not that there are more nations than one? . . . I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it*”. The fact that Christ spoke unto all nations would mean that his teachings and perhaps visitation would be manifest in their art, architecture, myths, symbols and traditions, even if these groups were not in the “Promised Land” as mentioned in scripture. There are only two “promised lands” that are discussed in the standard works, one for the Children of Israel and the other the land of Joseph as described in the Book of Mormon.