

The Land of Nephi

F. Richard Hauck spent several years researching possible locations for the land of Nephi and after looking at Kaminaljuyu, Mixco Viejo and Salama Valley they decided that the ancient sites in Salama Valley were a much better choice. After several years of excavating and studying the area they felt that they are 95% certain that Salama was an excellent fit. This conclusion was reached after comparing their findings to forty criteria from the text in the Book of Mormon.

I had the opportunity of working with Richard Hauck on this project for short periods of time for two years. I help organize tour groups that would come in and do humanitarian projects in the villages where the archeological crews wanted to excavate. This was done in hopes that they would be more inclined to allow us to work there. However, the main reason that I was interested in this project was to ascertain if the Salama location for the city of Nephi was for real. If so, it would go a long way in validating the Zarahemla location at Ceibal.



This map is an overview of the Greater Land of Nephi and shows its relationship between the Narrow Strip of Wilderness and the land of Zarahemla.



The paper will evaluate the following twenty-one locations that make up the Greater Land of Nephi:

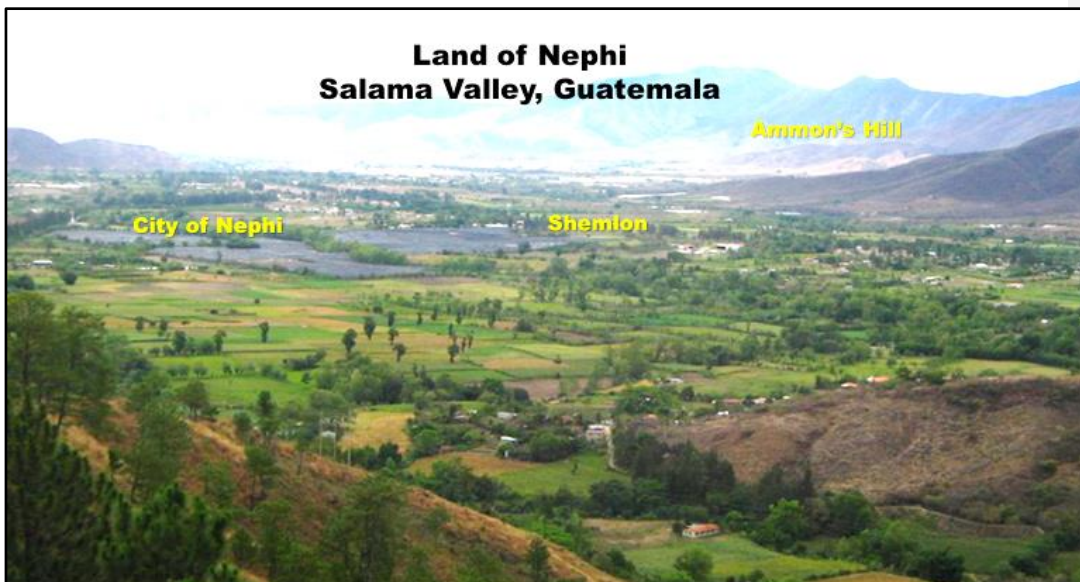
1. Land of Nephi

2 Nephi:

7...we had journeyed for the space of many days we did pitch our tents.

8 And my people would that we should call the name of the place Nephi; wherefore, we did call it Nephi.

11 And the Lord was with us; and we did prosper exceedingly; for we did sow seed, and we did reap again in abundance. And we began to raise flocks, and herds, and animals of every kind.

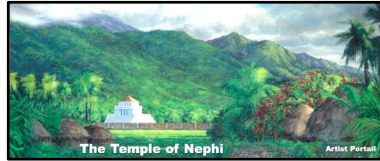


The13 And it came to pass that we began to prosper exceedingly, and to multiply in the land.

The following evidences are associated with the Book of Mormon:

- It is one of the most desirable valleys in the Guatemala and one that Lord would likely guide Nephi to.
- The triangulation between Shilom, Shemlon, city Nephi and Ammons hill are remarkable.
- The ages of these sites match the Book of Mormon timeline.
- The distance between the land of first inheritance and this valley is around 200 km. A distance that would seem reasonable.

- The proposed location of the waters of Mormon appear to be less than five miles from this valley. A distance that seems reasonable.
- The distance and direction to the proposed city of Zarahemla seems to be reasonable.
- The correlations between the cities of Helam, Jerusalem, Amulon and the narrow strip of wilderness are remarkable.
- There is a mound that is close to the proposed city of Nephi that comes close to matching the dimensions of the Sol omens temple. Unfortunately, they were denied permission to excavate this mound.



2 Nephi 5:16 And I, Nephi, did build a temple; and I did construct it after the manner of the temple of Solomon save it were not built of so many precious things; for they were not to be found upon the land, wherefore, it could not be built like unto Solomon's temple. But the manner of the construction was like unto the temple of Solomon; and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine.

2. Ammon's Hill

Mosiah 7:16 And now, king Limhi commanded his guards that they should no more bind Ammon nor his brethren, but caused that they should go to the hill which was north of Shilom, and bring their brethren into the city, that thereby they might eat, and drink, and rest themselves from the labors of their journey; for they had suffered many things; they had suffered hunger, thirst, and fatigue.

- There is a sizable hill north of the cities of Nephi and Shilom that is situated to where the travelers could look down and observe the activities within the valley.

3. Land of Helam

Mosiah 23:3 And they fled eight days' journey into the wilderness.4 And they came to a land, yea, even a very beautiful and pleasant land, a land of pure water.

- Tactic is the proposed city of Helam and it is famous for its numerous springs of pure water. Some of these springs, like the picture to right, is considered sacred.
- Helam is associated with group of cities that is under the control of Amulon, therefore Helam is a relative short distance from these cities which would allow Amulon access to govern them.
- Alma initial escape from the Lamanites only took one day. This would imply that Alma was only a short distance from a place where they would feel secure. If this is so, a place that would match this description could be bordering the narrow strip of wilderness and as soon as they traveled to the north side of this wilderness, they would be in Nephite territory.



4. Valley of Alma

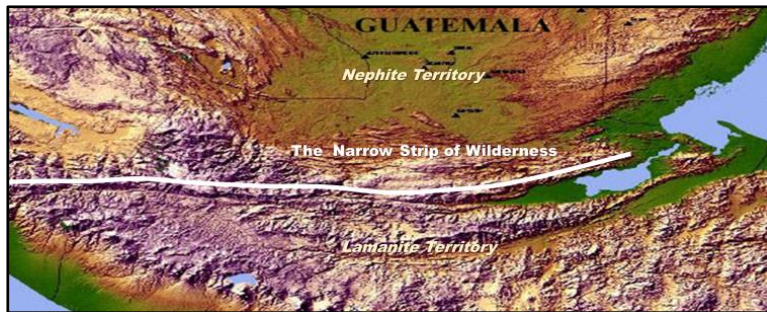
Mosiah 24:20 And Alma and his people departed into the wilderness; and when they had traveled all day they pitched their tents in a valley, and they called the valley Alma...

- The Lord had to warn Alma to keep going because if our views on this situation is right the Lamanites would have had to have come through the gap in the narrow strip of wilderness and pursue them in Nephite territory.

5. Narrow Strip of Wilderness

Alma 22:27...the king sent a proclamation throughout all the land (land of Nephi)...which was divided from the land of Zarahemla by a narrow strip of wilderness, which ran from the sea east even to the sea west...

- The proposed location of the narrow neck of land has a remarkable fit with the strip of mountains that are associated with the Polochic fault line. It not only runs east and was as required by the Book of Mormon text but has seas on both ends of, which is also required.
- And the most remarkable feature is how it lies in a perfect location to split the lands of the Nephites from the lands of the Lamanites



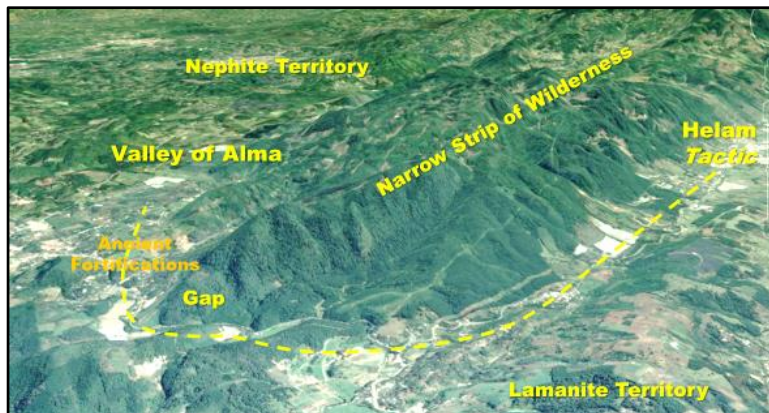
6. Forest of Mormon

Mosiah 18:30 And now it came to pass that all this (baptisms) was done...by the forest of Mormon...

Alma 21:1...Aaron took his journey towards...Jerusalem...it was away joining the borders of Mormon.

Mosiah 20:4 And (the priests of king Noah) having tarried in the wilderness, and having discovered the daughters of the Lamanites, they laid and watched them.

- The forest of Mormon is likely to border the land of Nephi.



- The wilderness that the priest of Noah was in is likely the forest of Mormon.
- Jerusalem is on the boarder of the forest of Mormon
- The waters of Mormon are in the forest of Mormon

7. Waters of Mormon

Mosiah 18:30 And now it came to pass that all this was done...by the waters of Mormon, in the forest that was near the waters of Mormon; yea, the place of Mormon, the waters of Mormon, the forest of Mormon, how beautiful are they to the eyes of them who there came....

- There are number of locations that are similar to this one that could be Alma's baptismal location.
- These location are north east of the city of Nephi and would be in the forest of Mormon



8. City of Jerusalem

Alma 21:1 Now when Ammon and his brethren separated themselves in the borders of the land of the Lamanites, behold Aaron took his journey towards the land which was called by the Lamanites, Jerusalem...and it was away joining the borders of Mormon.

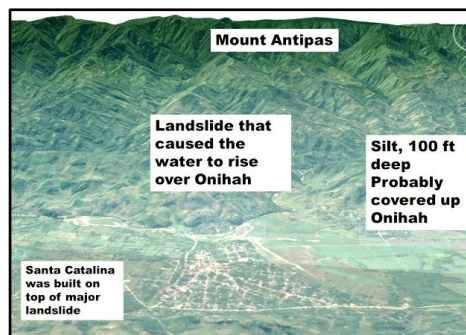
3 Nephi 9:7...the city of Jerusalem and the inhabitants thereof; and waters have I caused to come up in the stead thereof, to hide their wickedness and abominations...

- One of the most likely ways for the water to come up on a city that is away from bodies of water is a landslide that dams up the river.
- Jerusalem must border the forest of Mormon so it is probably close to the waters of Mormon
- Jerusalem must be fairly close to the city of Nephi. This is because Amulon is associated with Jerusalem and the city close to the city of Nephi.
- A likely place that not only meets the above requirement but is also along a river that is prone to landslides. The river that is perfectly situated for this requirement is the Polochic River that follows the Polochic fault line.
- In addition to the fault line there are extremely high mountains on both sides of the river.
- An ancient landside is located near Tukuru that is in a location that matches the requirements as outlined above.



9. City of Onihah

3 Nephi 9:7 Yea, and the city of Onihah and the inhabitants thereof, and the city of Mocum and



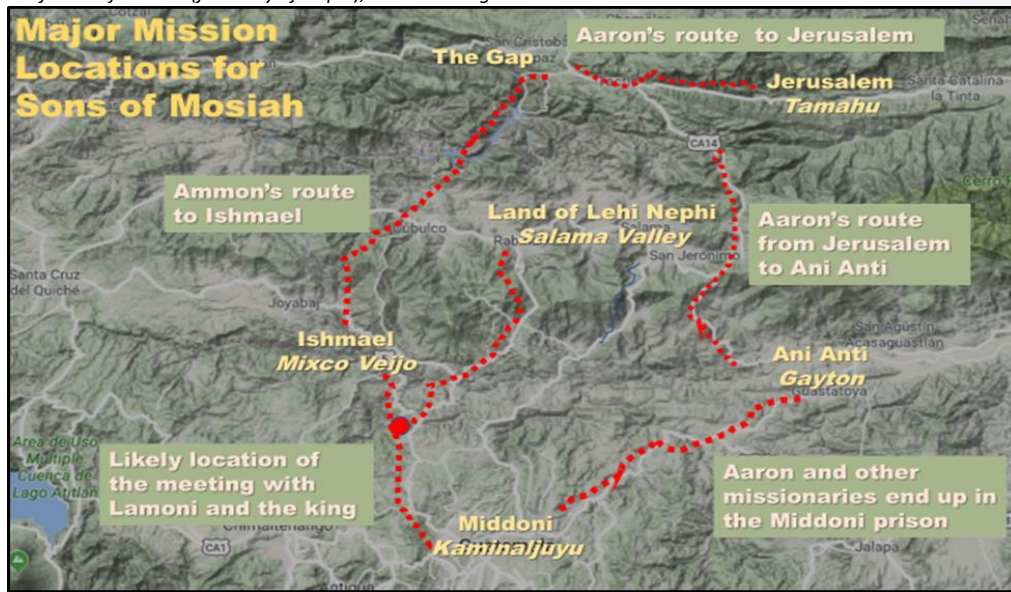
the inhabitants thereof, and the city of Jerusalem and the inhabitants thereof; and waters have I caused to come up in the stead thereof.

- There several ancient landslides along the Polochic River and they could have covered up Mocum and Onihah
- The landslide to the right backed up the water over 30 meters and over the years it has silted in a possibly covered up one of these cities.
- The city of Santa Cantilena has been built on top of this landslide.

10. Sons of Mosiah Route

Alma 21:1...Ammon and his brethren separated themselves in the borders of the land of the Lamanites...

Alma 20:8 And it came to pass that as Ammon and Lamoni were journeying (to Middoni) thither, they met the father of Lamoni (from city of Nephi), who was king over all the land.



- We know that Aaron went east to Jerusalem. Which would be the proposed location of Tukurú.
- We know that Ammon did not go to land of Nephi so he must have gone to west.
- The only site to the west that appeared to match the Book of Mormon timeline is Mixco Viejo and this site coordinates well with roads that insect between the city of Nephi-Salama, Middoni-Kaminaljuyu and Ishmael-Mixco Viejo.
- Kaminaljuyu was the largest Lamanite city in southern Guatemala and was well populated when Nephi left Laman and Lemuel. So, it would be unlikely that they would settle amongst this large settlement of Lamanites. Middoni appears to be a major Lamanite city in the Book of Mormon so it stands to reason that these two are one and the same. This site also triangulates well with Ani-Anti.

11. City of Ani Anti

Alma 21:111 Therefore, when he saw that they would not hear his words, he departed out of their synagogue, and came over to a village which was called Ani-Anti...

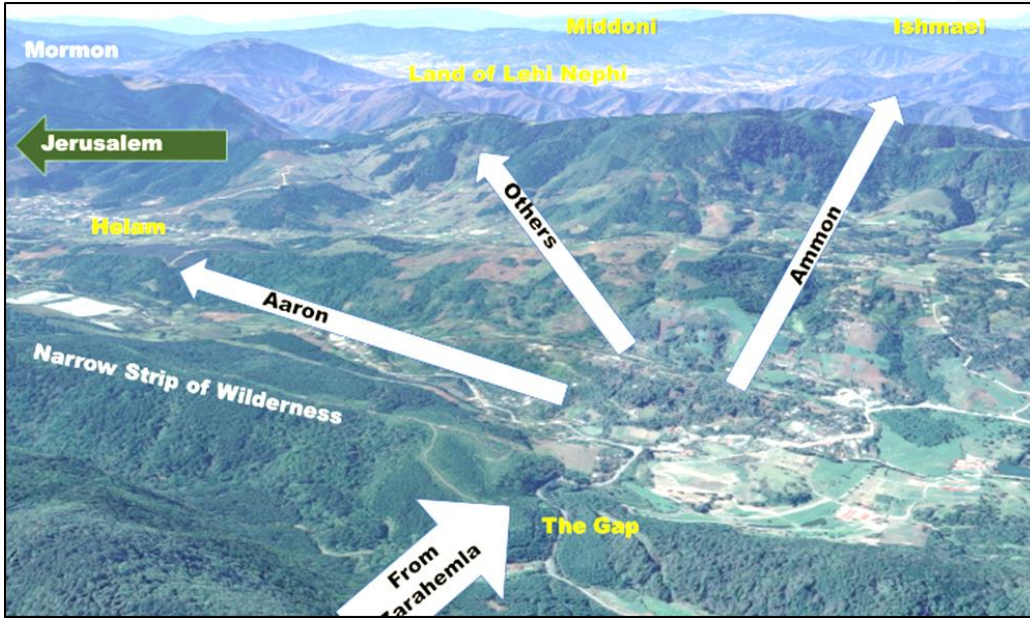
- Guaytan is the proposed city of Ani Anti. This is because (1) it meets the Book of Mormon timeframe. (2) it is over from Jerusalem (3) it coordinates well with Middoni-Kaminaljuyu and Jerusalem-Tukuru



12. Land of Ismael

Alma 17:19 And Ammon went to the land of Ishmael, the land being called after the sons of Ishmael, who also became Lamanites.



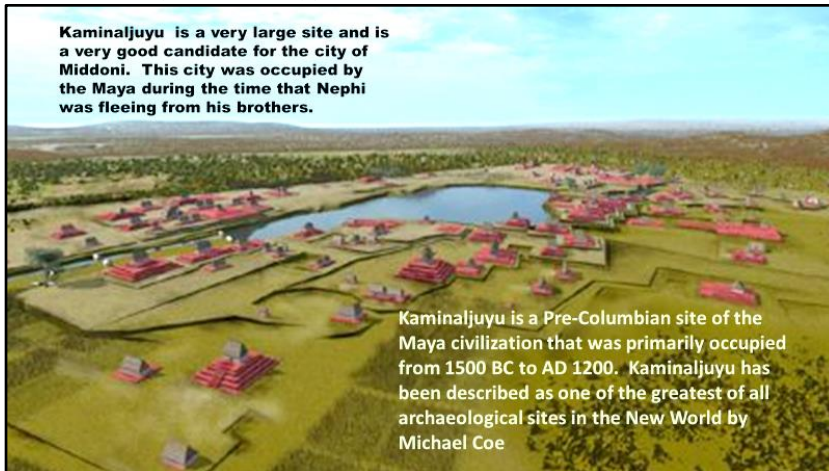


13. City of Middoni

Alma 23:10...the people of the Lamanites who were in the land of Middoni.

Alma 22:1...we will return to the account of Aaron and his brethren; for after he departed from the land of Middoni he was led by the Spirit to the land of Nephi

Alma 20:4...I will go with thee to the land of Middoni; for the king of the land of Middoni, whose name is Antiomno, is a friend unto me; therefore I go to the land of Middoni, that I may flatter the king of the land, and he will cast thy brethren out of prison...



14. The People of Ammon

Alma 23:17 And it came to pass that they called their names Anti-Nephi-Lehies; and they were called by this name and were no more called Lamanites.

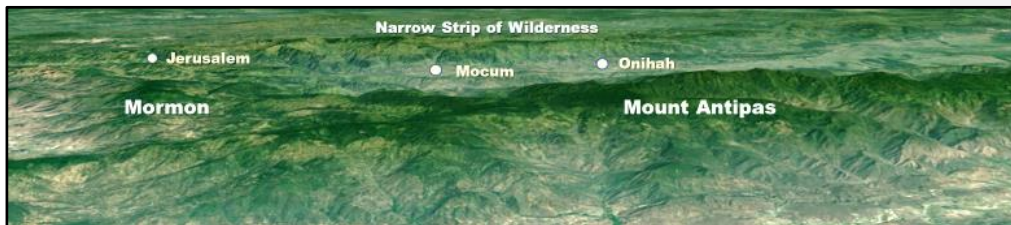


- *The people of Ammon gathered in the west part of the Greater Land of Nephi before the made their trek to the land of Jerashon.*
- *The Amalekites and Amulonites originated in the forest of Mormon and established settlements and strongholds toward the east and eventually directed their hostilities along the east coast. Moroni established settlements at the east end of the narrow strip of wilderness to try and minimize their harassment.*

15. Mount Anitpus

Alma 47:7 And it came to pass that they had gathered themselves together upon the top of the mount which was called Antipas, in preparation to battle.

Alma 47:9 And behold, it came to pass that he caused his army to pitch their tents in the valley which was near the mount Antipas.



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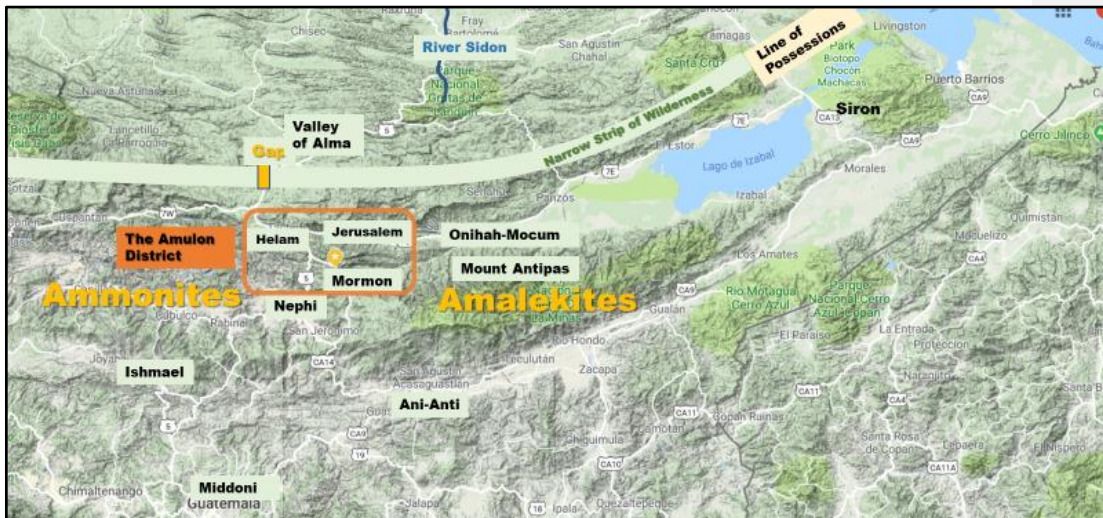
ars that the Mount Anitpus is just east of the forest of Mormon or possibly an extension of it.

- It is proposed the Sierra de las Minas mountains Mount Antipas are the same.

16. Lands of Possession

Alma 50:12 Thus Moroni, with his armies, which did increase daily because of the assurance of protection which his works did bring forth unto them, did seek to cut off the strength and the power of the Lamanites from off the lands of their possessions...

Alma 24:1 And it came to pass that the Amalekites and the Amulonites and the Lamanites who were in the land of Amulon, and also in the land of Helam, and who were in the land of Jerusalem, and in fine, in all the land round about, who had not been converted and had not taken upon them the name of Anti-Nephi-Lehi, were stirred up by the Amalekites and by the Amulonites to anger against their brethren.



17. Land of Siron

Alma 39:3 And this is not all, my son. Thou didst do that which was grievous unto me; for thou didst forsake the ministry, and did go over into the land of Siron among the borders of the Lamanites, after the harlot Isabel.

- The land of Siron has to be located in close proximity to Antionum and still in Lamanite territory. This would position it southeast of the east end of the narrow strip of wilderness or over the line of possession.
- Antionum lines up extremely well with the ancient site of Uxbenka which triangulates with the proposed location of Siron

18. Cities of Shilom & Shemlon

Alma 23:12 And also of the people of the Lamanites who were in the land of Shilom, and who were in the land of Shemlon...

- Shilom matches up with the ancient city of San Juan in Salama valley and Shemlon matches up with El Porton.

19. City of Amulon

Mosiah 24:1 And it came to pass that Amulon did gain favor in the eyes of the king of the Lamanites; therefore, the king of the Lamanites granted unto him and his brethren that they should be appointed teachers over his people, yea, even over the people who were in the land of Shemlon, and in the land of Shilom, and in the land of Amulon. 4 And he appointed teachers

of the brethren of Amulon in every land which was possessed by his people... 8 And now it came to pass that Amulon began to exercise authority over Alma and his brethren.

- The city Amulon is probably along the Polochic River halfway between Helam-Tactic and Jerusalem -Tukuru.

20. The Land of First Inheritance

There is a possibility that they built a temple while they were in their land of first inheritance.



21. The Gap

After leaving the village Tactic is was always enjoyable to pull the van over just before you entered the gap. The gap was a break in the narrow strip of wilderness that separated the land of Zarahemla and the land of Nephi. It would be at this very spot where a number of very significant occurrences to place that are in the Book of Mormon. This would include the place were the four sons of Mosiah separated or the place where Mosiah and Alma escaped from the Lamanites or the place where Ammon led the thousands of Anti Lehtes. See table to the right the outlines some of the treks through the gap.

Mosiah 1	Zenif	King Noah	King Limhi	Alma	Sons of Mosiah
Land of Lehi-Nephi				Helam	Land of Lehi-Nephi

Summary:

It was discovered early on that if things don't easily fall into place it probably means that it is not a viable choice and was amazing how these locations came together in a complementing way. There are two requirements that we always looked at when evaluating a new site, [1] does it correlate with other sites and physical locations and [2] do the dates match up with the Book of Mormon's time frame. It was critical that the land of Nephi correlate with the proposed city of Zarahemla-Ceibal and it did in a big way.

Comment [sr1]: