

Could this massive fortification be the key for locating the Narrow Neck

In order to justify the existence of any Book of Mormon lands model there must be a massive fortification that is located somewhere in the America's. This structure would have to be at least ten miles long, or the largest ancient structure in all the land of the ancients and have an east-west orientation. If this massive structure is not located, the whole effort of finding Book of Mormon lands will have been in vain. On the other hand, if this huge structure is found it will provide the lynch pin of proof that the associated model is legitimate.

*Helaman 4:7 they did **fortify** ...from the west sea even unto the east: it being a day's journey for a Nephite...* (This scripture describes a fortification that is at least ten miles long, (see illustration below)



Alma 52 9

*And he also sent orders unto him that he should **fortify** the land **Bountiful**, and secure the **narrow** pass which led into the land **northward**, lest the Lamanites should obtain that point and should have power to harass them on every side.*

Alma 52:9 is another scripture that emphasizes the location of a fortification that is associated with the Narrow Neck of Land. This association is due to the positioning of the land Bountiful, which is just south of the Narrow Neck, the narrow pass which is a part of the Narrow Neck, and the land northward is immediately north of the Narrow Neck.

The first step is to identify a land mass that would possibly contain the basic elements of the lands of the book of Mormon

According to twenty seven hypothetical Book of Mormon scientists, they have determined that the basic design of the lands of the Book of Mormon should be similar to an upright hour glass.

Therefore, the next step is to locate a land mass that would accommodate an upright hourglass configuration.

Joel Hardy's map is similar to the Pasion hypothetical map because of the inclusion of north and south seas. However it is still not compatible because of the location of the West Sea and East Sea.

Helaman 3:8 *And it came to pass that they did multiply and spread, and did go forth from the land southward to the land northward, and did spread insomuch that they began to cover the face of the whole earth, from the sea south to the sea north, from the sea west to the sea east.*

This scripture identifies the solution to the incompatibility problem. Assuming the possibility of their being inland seas, adding the sea north and seas south allows the adjusted hypothetical model to fit nicely with the configuration that is featured to the right.



The next step is to identify actual geographic that features the basic geographic features

The following characteristics make this an excellent candidate for the lands of the Book of Mormon:

- It has sea's on all four sides
- It is positioned according to the cardinal directions
- It has a natural division that divides the land southward from the land northward
- It has a moderate river that runs to the north
- The land of Nephi is positioned to be a reasonable distance from the Lehi's landing
- The land of Zarahemla is surrounded by mountains on east, west and south
- The distances match up well with those established by John L Sorenson.
- It has a Narrow Strip of wilderness that divides the land Zarahemla from the land of Nephi (NSW)
- The elevations are favorable



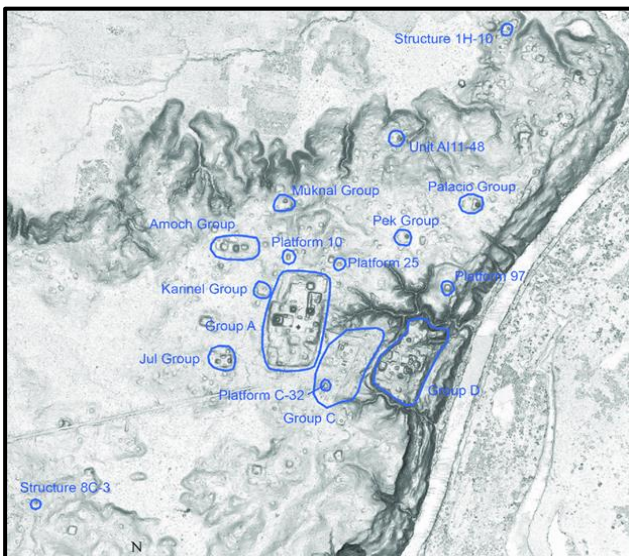
. The next step is to identify these two lands, the land of Zarahemla and the land of Cumorah so the possible location of the fortification can be found between them.

The Pasion River Model's version:

Land of Zarahemla evidences:

- Both the Book of Mormon and the Harvard study had the Zarahemla and Ceibal's beginning shortly after 600 B.C., Mosiah's migration around 200 B.C, Christ's visit at 0 and the abandonment of both was around 325 A.D.

- Ceibal was on the west side of a moderate river that was running north.



- The numerous triatic ceremonial structures are positioned in such a way as to serve neighborhood spiritual centers

- The Book of Mormon talks about the formation of many churches in and around Zarahemla.

- Ceibal correlates and triangulates well with the land of Nephi, Manti, Melek, Jershon, Bountiful, Antionum, Gideon.

The overwhelming evidence that exist in the proposed Land of Nephi greatly strengthens the credibility of the city of Zarahemla because of its distance and direction

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'Salama/ Rabinal valleys (land of Nephi) are approximately 200 miles south of Ceibal, distance that matches Book of Mormon requirements. Richard Hauck and several other renowned Mesoamerican archeologists spent over three years in Salama. They made the following statement regarding their discovery's there.

"Almost every one of the forty criteria in the table was confirmed. Therefore, we think that a 95% probability exists that the Salama Valley is the area where the city/land of Nephi was located."

During 2005 and 2006, Robert Roylance spent parts of two summers assisting in the excavations in Salama Valley. He was there in order to ascertain if the Salama Valley was a creditable location for the land of Nephi. He came away convinced that this discovery further solidified the claim that Ceibal was an outstanding candidate for the city of

Zarahemla. Both the distant and direction between Zarahemla and land of Nephi matched up perfectly.

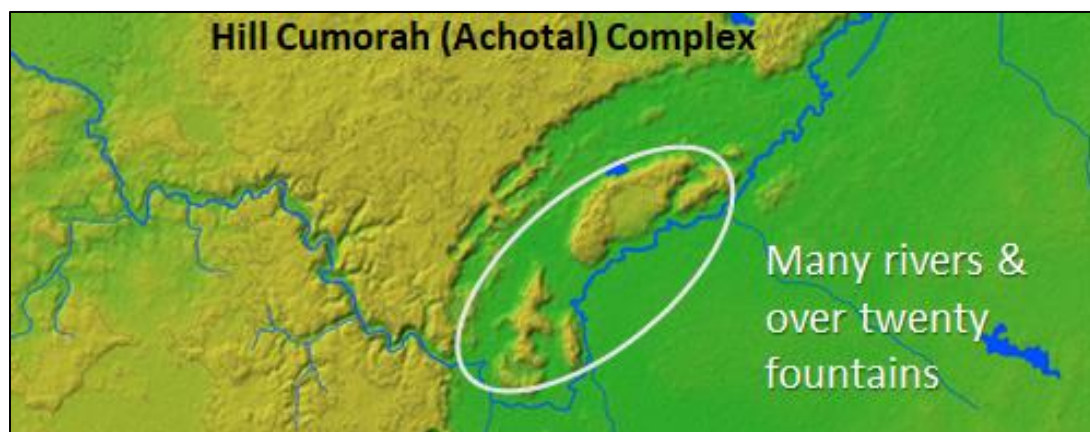
Before Richard Terry and Robert Roylance even knew of each other they both had independently come to realization that the ancient Maya city of Ceibal was the city of Zarahemla and that the Pasion River was the Sidon River. The reasons stated below brought them to that conclusion:

- Salama valley is possibly the most prosperous valley in all of Guatemala, a place that God would want Nephi and his people to inherit.
- There is strong evidence that a temple exists within the bounds of the proposed city of Nephi.
- The distance between the valley and Lehi's landing site is reasonable
- Ideal elevations between the city of Nephi and the land of Zarahemla
- Excellent correlations between the land of Nephi and the land of Ishmael and Middoni
- There are ancient fortifications just north of the Narrow Strip of Wilderness gap that are designed to keep the Lamanites in the land of Nephi.
- Excellent correlations and triangulations between the city of Nephi and the Forest of Mormon, Shilom, Shemlon, Ammon's hill, Helem and Jerusalem.

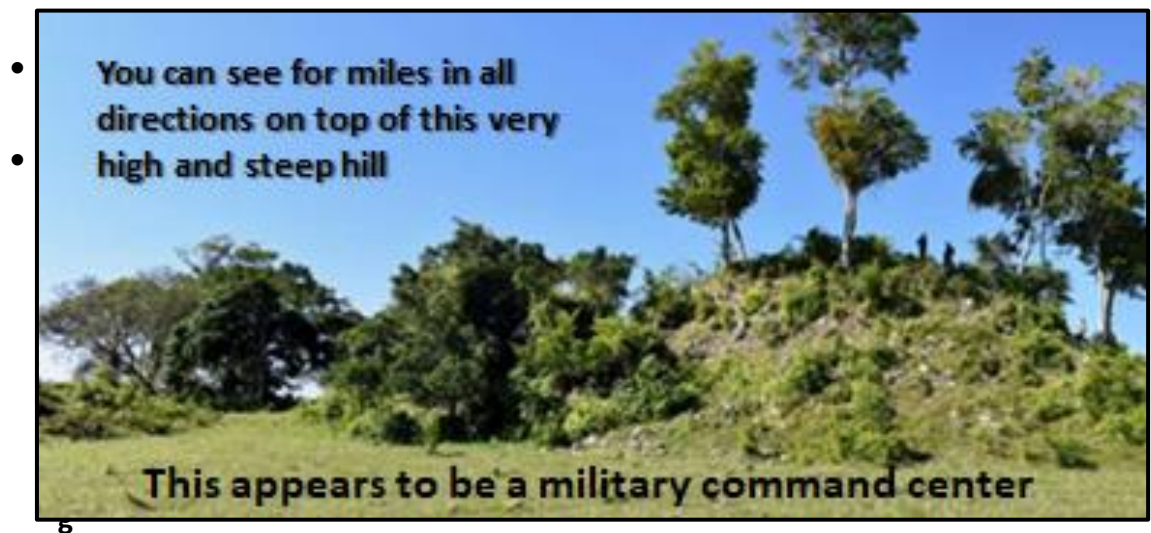
Now, in order to establish a target area for the "massive fortification, The land of Cumorah must be evaluated.

The land of Cumorah evidences:

- Hill Achotal complex meets all the scriptural requirements that are associated with hill Cumorah-Ramah.

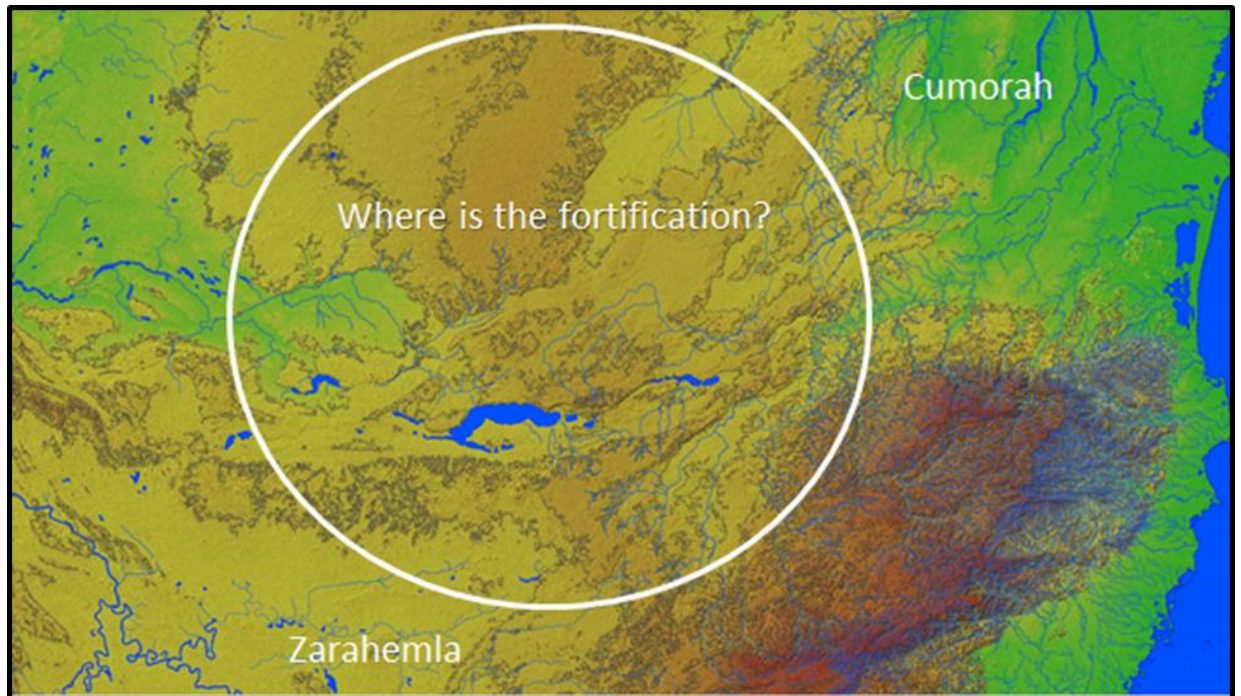


- Sling stones that were used in Maya wars were found at the base of hill Cumorah.
- Major cert beds are in the land of Cumorah, a place where they have materials for sharp weapons.
- A jade stone was found near the ancient Blue Creek archeological site that told of the “demise of a nation”. It would indicate that the final war could have taken place around 400 AD.
- A cave on the southern end of the land of Cumorah contains the skeletons of women and children that were sacrificed at the time of the Nephite war.



The Target Area

With the mountains of evidences that is associated with the city of Zarahemla and the land of Cumorah, it would seem like the Narrow Neck of Land and the ten-mile fortification would be easy to find, if it existed at al.



The Pasion Rivers Mode research team first thought that the Narrow Neck of Land was between Lake Petén Itza and lake Yaxha, but there was no fortification. And at one point we thought it did not exist or maybe they misinterpreted Helaman 3:6. At one point they were very discouraged and then Richard Terry a number of years ago remembered a trench that was just north of Tikal. He and his research team were evaluating ancient crops and found themselves in the bottom of a depression.

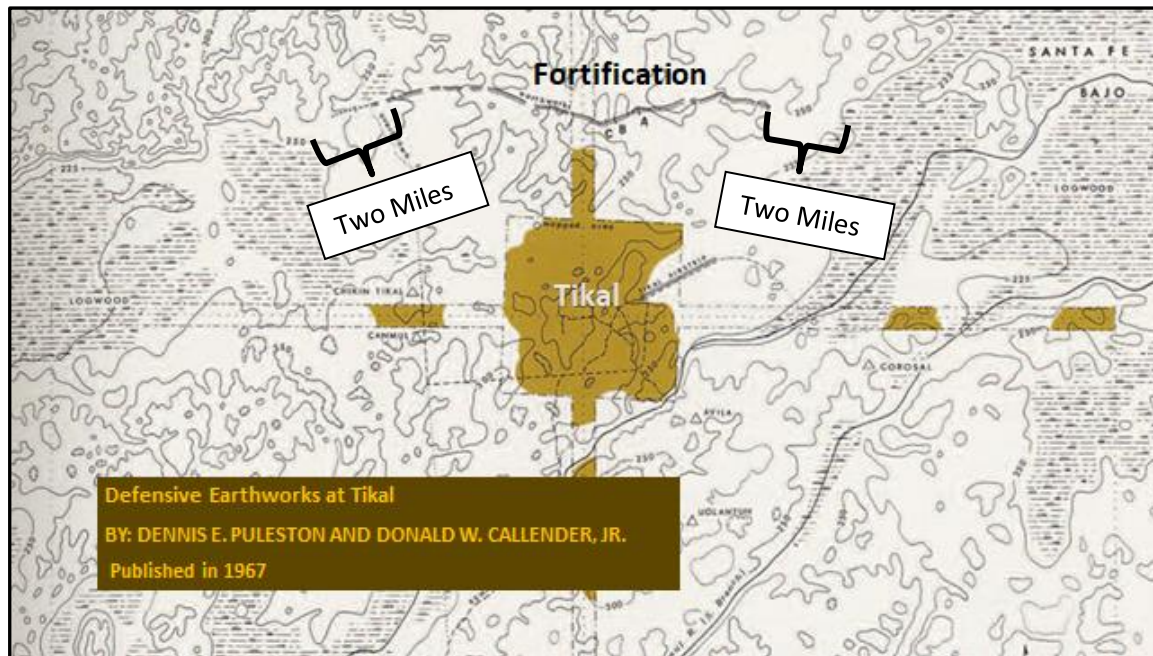


It was an **amazing moment** when we discovered the the Narrow Neck of Land – the last piece of the puzzle

After searching scientific papers or articles that would shed some light on this fortification, they found a scientific article by Dennis Puleston that was written 1967 and described this ten mile fortification in great detail. This fortification was discovered over fifty years ago and then became hidden the dense jungles of Guatemala.

Puleston, Dennis E. and Jr., Donald W. Callender, "Defensive Earthworks at Tikal." *Expedition Magazine* 9, no. 3 (May, 1967):

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**This Massive Fortification
was Documented 1969 in a
Long-Forgotten File**

**Lidar Specialists with
National Geographic said
this was the largest Maya
Structure in Maya Land**

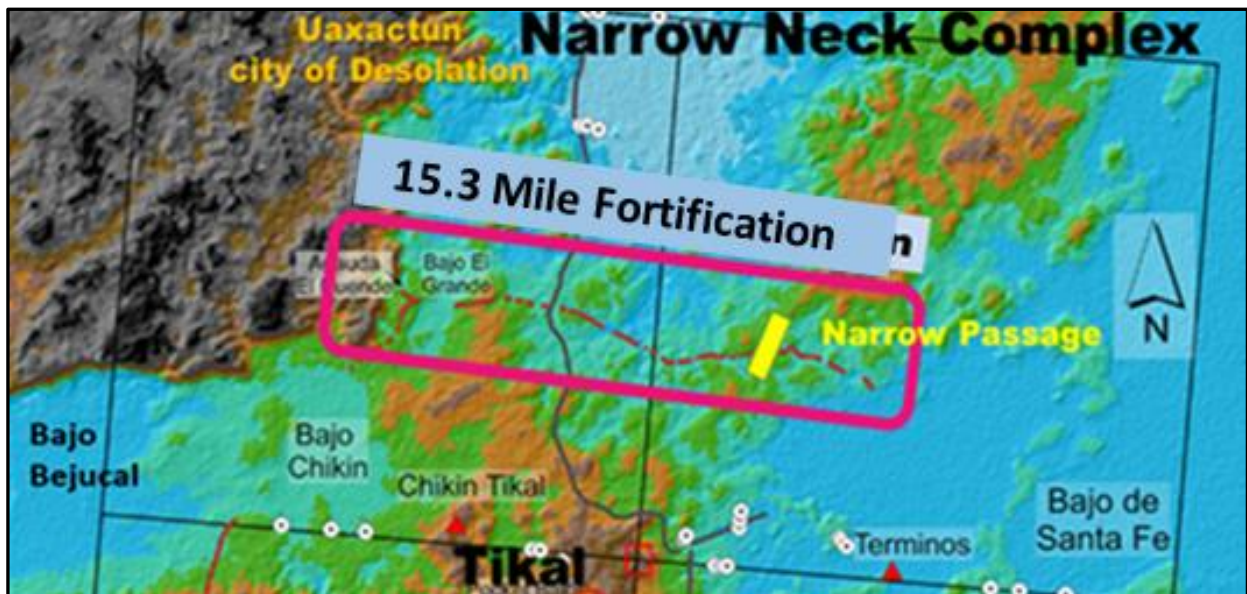


Several years after we had satisfied our belief that this fortification was the one mentioned in Helaman 3:6, National Geographic came out with a video about the amazing Lidar evidences regarding the extensive Maya civilization and when they stumbled onto this fortification north of Tikal, they characterized it as the largest structure in all of Maya land.

Stephen Houston, a Brown University archaeologist and Maya scholar
Among the most startling discoveries was a large fortress complex now called La Cuernavilla. Built on a steep ridge between the Maya cities of El Zotz and Tikal, the heavily fortified site included high walls, moats, watchtowers, and caches of round stones that likely served as ammunition for warriors' slings. It is the largest defensive system ever discovered in the region, "and possibly in all of the ancient Americas,

Scientific proof that the West Sea and East Sea were ancient bodies of water.

This map provides some evidence that they could be ancient lakes: They are currently Bajo's that fill up with water when there are heavy rains. The Bajo de Santa Fe would be the Sea East and the Bajo Bejucal would be the West Sea.



Further evidence of ancient Bodies of water that would qualify to be the East Sea and West Sea:

- The ultimate demise of the Maya population in northern Guatemala was likely the lack of rain that caused the disappearance of the large bodies of water. The ancient lake at Kaminaljuyu in Guatemala City is an excellent example of that as well as most of the Bajos in the Meridior Basin.
- Dr. Richard Hans a prominent archaeologist in the El Meriador Basin has stated that the Banjos were filled with water for decades at a time during prehistoric periods, a time that matches the two times in the Book of Mormon when the West Sea and East Sea were mentioned.
- Dr. Ray Matheney, a prominent Maya archaeologist who spent many years in the Meriador Basin said that there were times during heavy rainfall periods when you could see the curvature of the earth on some of the larger Banjos.
- Stalactites rings have indicated that there were high levels of rainfall during the Prehistoric during periods mentioned in the Book of Mormon.
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- Both ends of the 15.3 mile fortification are currently one to two miles from the water's edge. This implies that the current water levels are at a lower level than the levels of the past.

The following map shows all of the components of the Narrow Neck Complex:



The following evidences of the Narrow Neck of Land components that are featured in the previous map provide compelling evidences of its existence.

Fortification

Alma 50:11...fortifying the line which was northward of the land Bountiful

Alma 52:9 ... fortify the land Bountiful and secure the narrow pass

Helaman 4:7 they did fortify ...from the west sea, even unto the east: it being a day's journey for a Nephite...

The narrow passage way

Alma 50:34 ...they did head them, by the narrow pass which led by the sea into the land northward, yea, by the sea, on the west and on the east.

City of Teancum and Desolation city

Mormon 4:3 And the remainder did flee and join the inhabitants of the city Teancum. Now the city Teancum lay in the borders by the seashore; and it was also near the city Desolation.

East Sea - West Sea

Alma 50:34... they did head them , by the narrow pass .. By the sea, on the west and on the east.

Land of Bountiful

Alma 2:33...the Nephites had inhabited the land Bountiful, even from the east unto the west sea...

Land of Desolation

Mormon 3:5 And it came to pass that I did cause my people that they should gather themselves together at the land Desolation, to a city which was in the borders, by the narrow pass which led into the land southward.

The land Southward - The land Northward

Alma 52:9 ...secure the narrow pass which led into the land northward...

Mormon 3:5 ...by the narrow pass which led into the land southward.

Lib's city

Ether 10:20 And they built a great city by the narrow neck of land, by the place where the sea divides the land.

The most compelling evidence is the fact the 15.3 mile fortification the structure was found in the target area of the Narrow Neck of land.

Summary:

The most challenging issue regarding this Narrow Neck of Land presentation is proving that the East Sea and West Sea existed during Book of Mormon times. This challenge is offset by the abundance of scientific evidence that provides the necessary proof that they exist. This problem is o* compensated by the remarkable discover of the 25.3 mile fortification that came out of obscurity and solidified these clams.

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