

**Who were the Olmecs and
how did they fit into the
historicity of the Book of
Mormon ?**

The Assimilation of the Olmecs Into the Maya Culture

Two stalwarts, John Sorenson and ---made strong statements regarding assimilation of the Olmec's into the Maya (Jaredite) culture:

Olmec influences were assimilated into the emerging Maya civilization. It is important to make clear, however, that this was no simple transference of a complete Olmec or a complete Highland-Pacific cultural system to the Lowland Maya. They (the Olmecs) became fully Mayanized, and in the Lowland Maya by far exceeded any other peoples. (Willey, Gordon R. 2010)

Gordon Willey, from Harvard, is a very respected archaeologist.

John L Sorenson

The striking arrangement of these jade figures was found in precisely this position in a carefully prepared cache excavated at La Vinta in 1955. The cache is dated around around 700 BC. (Gordon 1974) In 1996, H. Mike Xu, a teacher of Chinese at an Oklahoma university supposed that refugees from China reached southern Mexico around 1122 B.C. As a result of a historically documented crisis that occurred then in their homeland and that these objects and the inscriptions on them come from the migrants. (Wuthenau 1975)

(Sorenson 1998) This paragraph was taken from the “Images of Ancient
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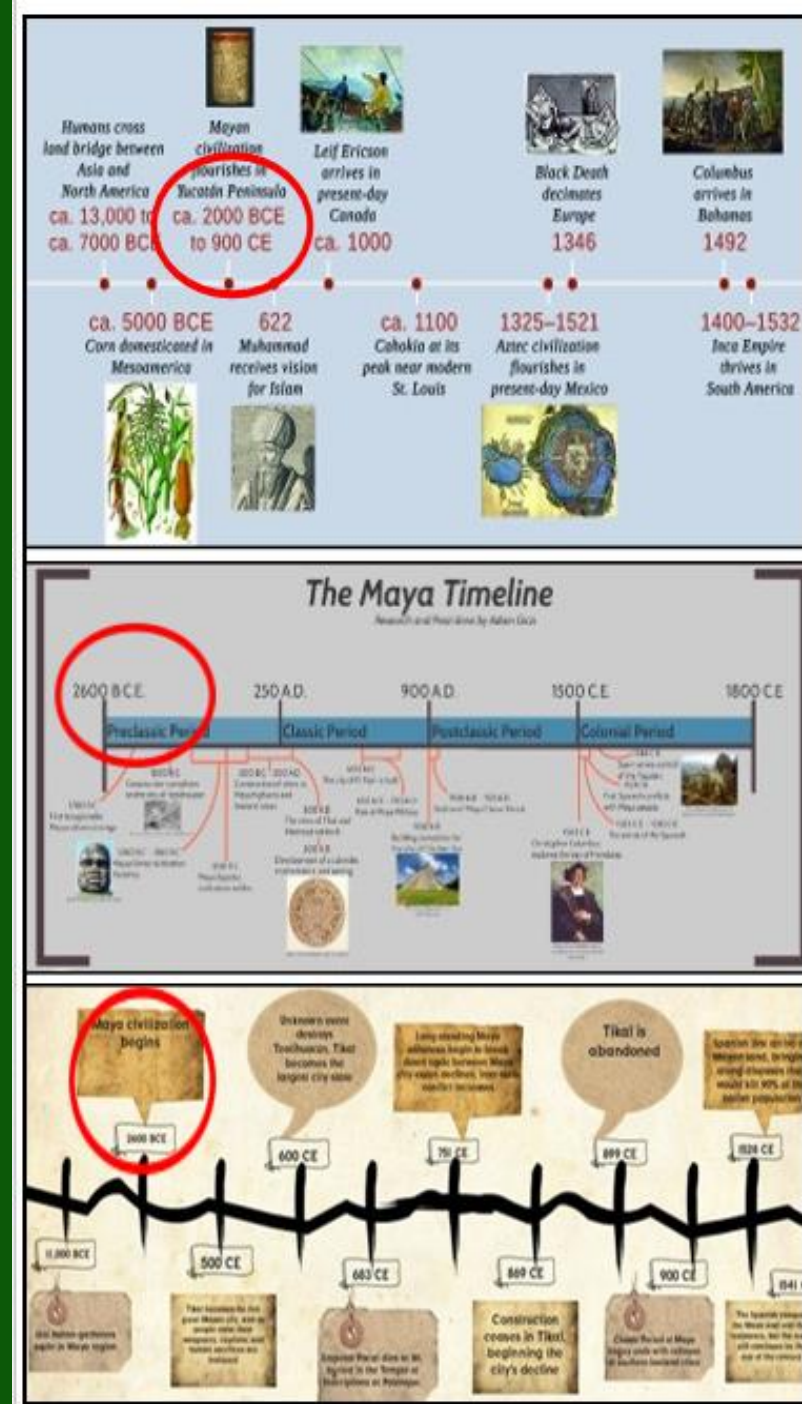


Gordon R Willey - Renowned archaeologist from Harvard University
The Olmecs assimilated into the Maya culture in a substantial way.

Jaredites

With the advent of lidar, new timelines have emerged as seen in the tables to the right. Prior to lidar, these charts had the Olmec's as the original society.

1. The Olmecs are over 1000 years later than the Tower of Babel.
2. Populations levels need to exceed 15,000,000. La Venta's population, the only major city, has less less than 20,000.
3. Their biggest structure
4. Is not compatible with the "land northward" requirement
5. The "First Landing" is located at the wrong ocean.

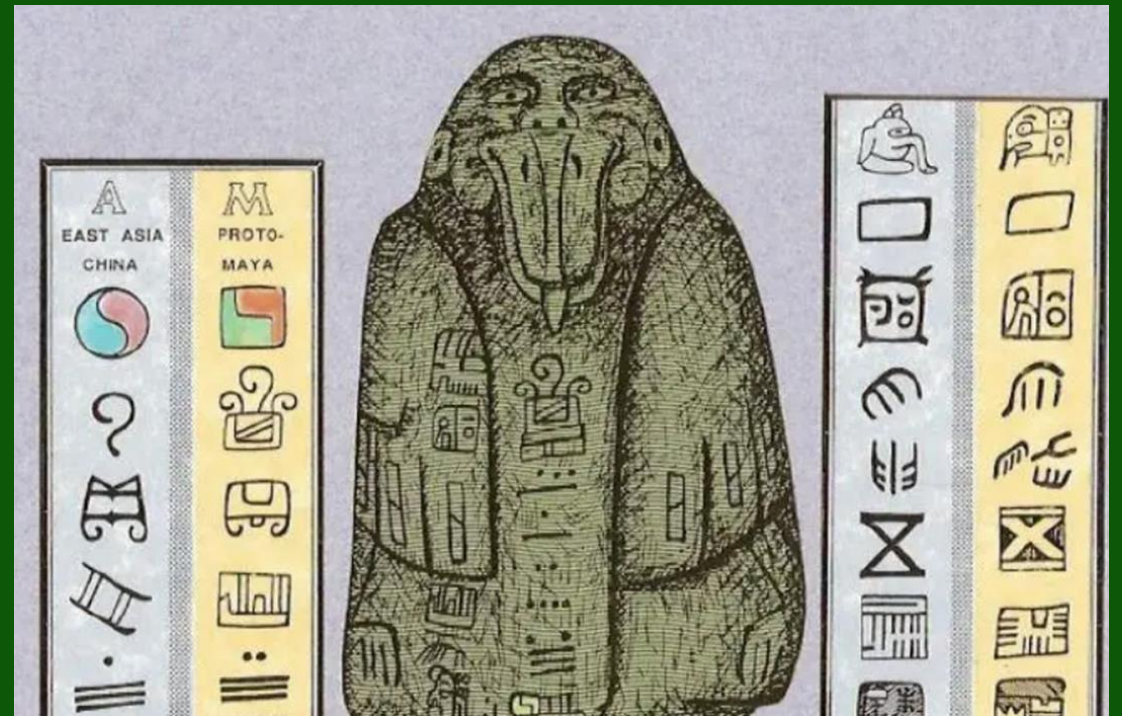


Alma 22:30...the land which they called Desolation, it being so far northward that it came into **the land which had been peopled and been destroyed**, of whose bones we have spoken, which was discovered by the people of Zarahemla, **it being the place of their first landing**.

This is important because the other Mesoamerican models require that the last phrase “it being a place of their first landing” be subject to Zarahemla and not “the land which had been peopled and been destroyed”. This issue destroys their model.

Summary of Xu's findings

- Similar facial characteristics
- The emergence of the Olmec culture coincided with the downfall of the Shang dynasty in China.
- The Shang writings in China are found in the Olmec world as well. See example to the right.
- The Olmec religion shared many beliefs with the Shang dynasty in the area of ancestral worship, human sacrifice, animal totems as well as the worship of the Sun God and the rain.
- Cranial deformation was practiced in Northeast China.



In summary, when you couple the overwhelming evidence with the attitude of the scientific community, one must be very disappointed in the ethics behind scientific research.

The treatment of Mike Xu is despicable and puts a damper on any kind of research.

Topic 3

Was the final Jaredite war between the Maya
and the Olmec?

If the Olmecs assimilated into the Jaredites civilization in a big way and become a major part of their culture, they would have had to be an important element in the final Jaredite war

Normally, the military leaders throughout the Book of Ether were the elite progenitures of the ruling class. Normally their genealogy could be traced back to Jared.

However, it appears that Shiz and others had no connection to this ancestral line and appear to be outsiders, possibly Olmec.

Ether 15:13 Ether beheld that the people who were for Coriantumr were gathered together to the army of Coriantumr; and the people who were for Shiz were gathered together to the army of Shiz.

It appears that there are two distinct groups of people.

Ether 15;14 Wherefore, they were for the space of four years gathering the people, that they might get all who were upon the face of the land, and that they might receive all the strength which it was possible that they could receive.

The Olmec's disappeared from off the face of the earth at the same time as the final Jaredite war, this seems very unusual. Taking four years to gather all their people is a possible answer to the disappearance of all their people.

It's possible that the Olmec's were a very cohesive culture and would do what ever it took to support that culture. It appears they would fight to death to support their kind.

Ether 15:2 He saw that there had been slain by the sword already nearly two millions of his people, and he began to sorrow in his heart; yea, there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children.

Does the use of the words “his people” infer the people supporting Shiz are not “his people”.

These observations provide
another key piece of the
complete puzzle of the
Pasion River Model

Jaredite/Olmec war considerations summary:

1. The depopulation of La Venta coincides with the final war
2. Scientists do not have an answer for the total depopulation of the Olmec
3. Four years of searching for their supporters, could be the answer for the total depopulation
4. It's possible that the Olmecs were a very inclusive society and would defend their culture at all costs.
5. The known Jaredite numbers on Coriantumr's side of the war were so large that it would require a large part entire Jaredite community. Therefore, there had to be an outside army.
6. The large numbers of Olmecs in the Maya-Jaredite societies could result in culture clashes.
7. Shiz and others appear to be outsiders. This is due to the unusual absences of any connection to the ruling class.
8. Coriantumr's reference to "his people" implies the opposing army was not of his Jaredite people.

The following paragraphs were taken from the “Images of Ancient America” author John L Sorenson 1998

The striking arrangement of jade figures below was found in precisely this position in a carefully prepared cache excavated at La Vinta in 1955. (Gordon 1974) The cache is dated around 700 BC, although at least some of the objects were clearly older than that. Some profound cultic and social ritual is obviously being represented.

Mesoamerican archaeologists find it difficult to accept the claim that an outside migration would be responsible for the impressive Olmec culture. Michale Coe appeared to have accommodated their feeling by suggesting that the Olmecs were the result of local so

In 1996, H. Mike Xu, a teacher of Chinese at an Oklahoma university, published a study claiming to identify and translate Chinese writing inscribed on the stone celts in the background of this area.

Xu supposed that refugees from China reached southern Mexico around 1122 B.C. As a result of a historically documented crisis that occurred then in their homeland and that these objects and the inscriptions on them come from the migrants. (Wuthenau 1975) Prominent Mesoamerican archaeologists immediately disputed his claim, although he backed it up with opinions from eminent mainland Chinese scholars to whom he had shown copies of the inscriptions. (Sorenson 1998)