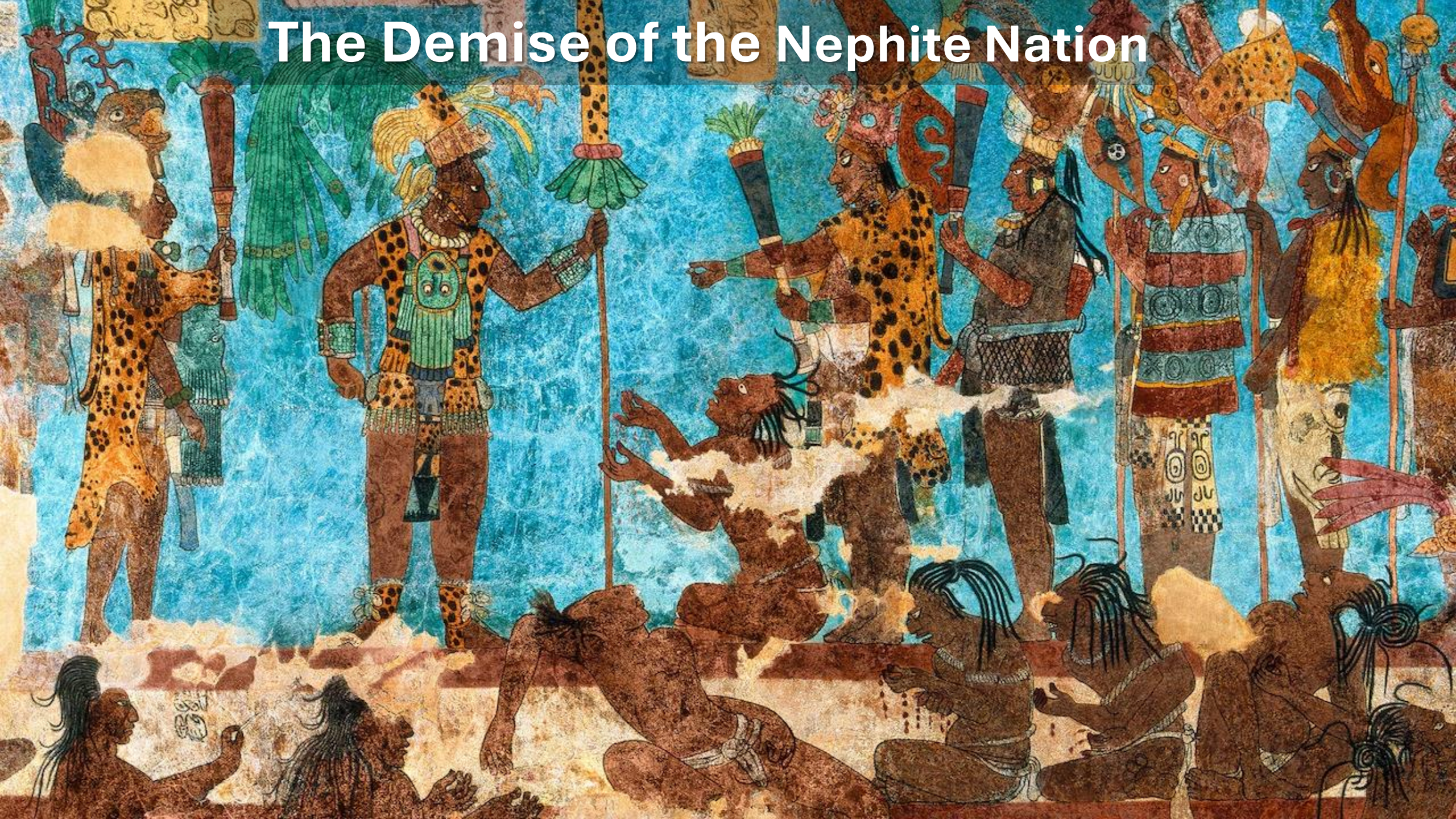


The Demise of the Nephite Nation



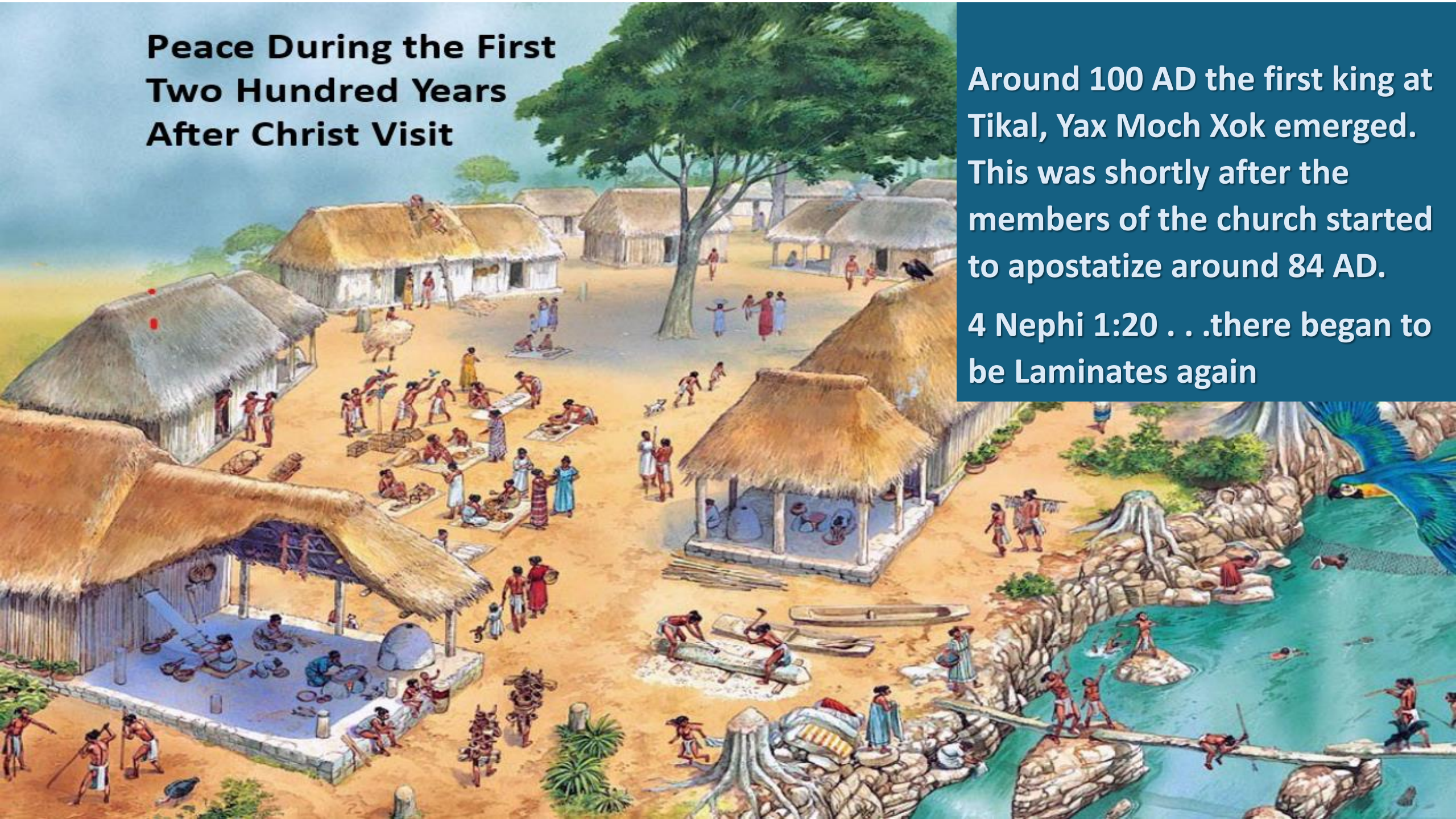
The next series of slides will show the transition between the first century of peace after Christ and the total annihilation of the Nephites in 385 AD.

It will highlight the role of the Tikal kings in the demise of the Nephites. There are five principal Tikal kings and a military general from Teotihuacan that were directly involved.

Peace During the First Two Hundred Years After Christ Visit

Around 100 AD the first king at Tikal, Yax Moch Xok emerged. This was shortly after the members of the church started to apostatize around 84 AD.

4 Nephi 1:20 . . .there began to be Laminates again



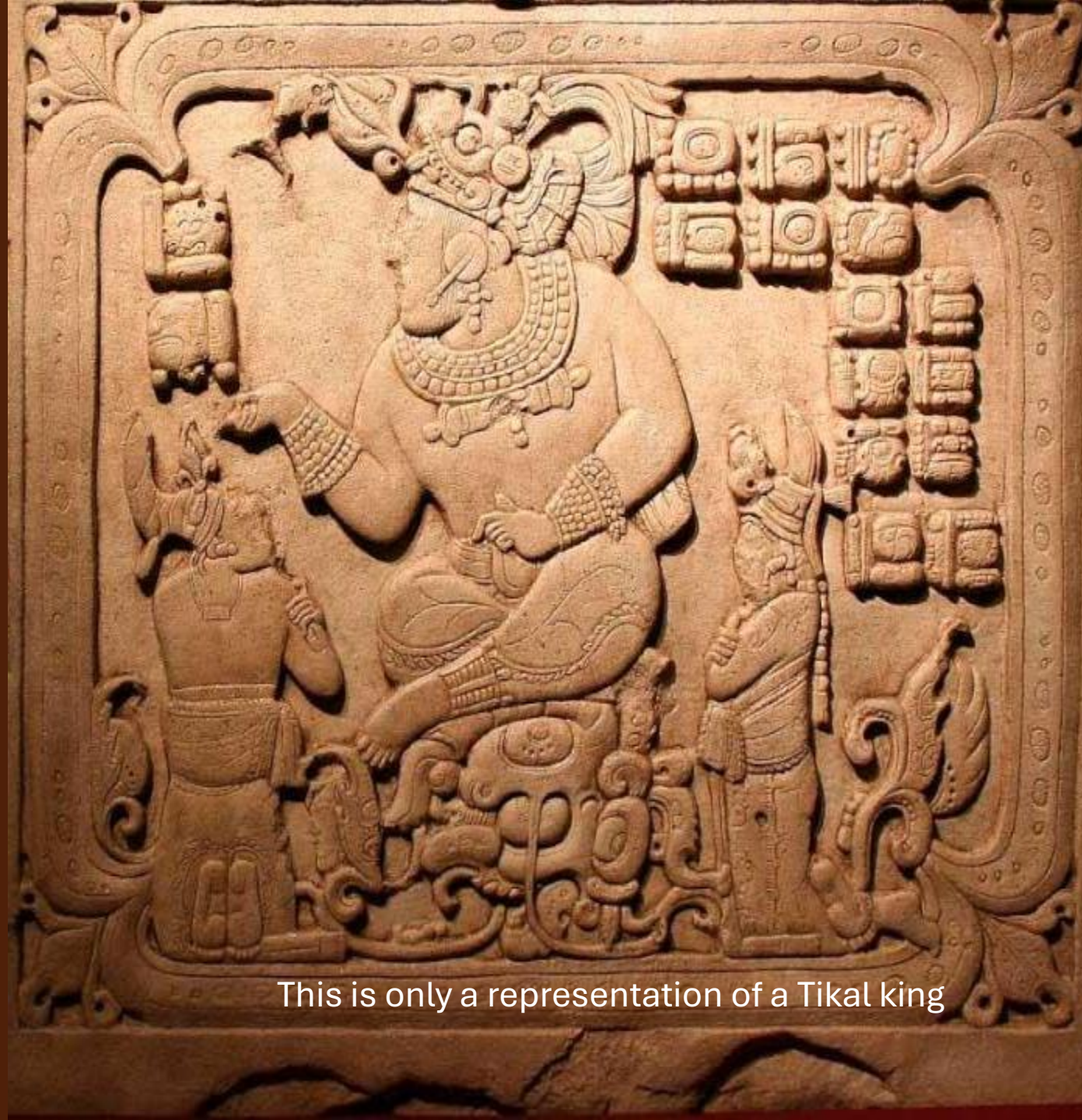
During the first two hundred years after Christ's vista the Nephites generally lived in peace and minimized the construction of massive pyramids that usually represented **the existence of wicked kings**

“Maya society underwent a series of profound transformations between c. 100 AD and 250 AD, which resulted in the cessation of monumental building at many Preclassic cities and the inferred collapse of their political and economic systems, often characterized as the Preclassic Collapse.(Schele 1088)”

(1) Yax Ehb Xook was the first king of Tikal. He started his rule in 90 AD.

It is interesting to note that his kingship started about six years after the Nephites started to apostatize.

4 Nephi 1:20 And he kept it eighty and four years, and there was still peace in the land, save it were a small part of the people who had revolted from the church and taken upon them the name of Lamanites; therefore there began to be Lamanites again in the land.



This is only a representation of a Tikal king

Between the years 200 AD and 300 AD the Nephites continued to fall away from to Church

These five kings were in power at Tikal
during the time when The Nephites
became extremely wicked

Siyaj Chan K'awil Chak Ich'aak
Yax Ch'aktel Xok
Balam Ajaw
K'inich Ehb'
Siyaj Chan K'awiil I

*4 Nephi 1:41 And they did still continue
to build up churches unto themselves.
And thus did two hundred and fifty
years pass away, and also two hundred
and sixty years.*

*4 Nephi 1:42 And it came to pass that
the wicked part of the people began
again to build up the secret oaths
and combinations of Gadianton.*




Mormon 2:3 . . . in the three hundred and twenty and seventh year the Lamanites did come upon us with exceedingly great power . . .

Ceibal (Zarahemla) was abandoned around 325 AD

An aerial photograph showing two ancient stone structures, likely Mayan temples or pyramids, rising from a dense, lush green tropical forest. The structures are made of light-colored stone and show signs of weathering. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Unen Bahlam was king of Tikal when the final war started in land of Zarahemla around 325. This timeline matches up with the dates in the Book of Mormon.

Ceibal (Zarahemla) is only 80 miles from Tikal, a place that is only two miles from the Narrow Neck and has a significant impact on the movement between the land northward and land southward



Shortly after Une Bahlam's reign, king Kinich Muwaan forced the Nephites to vacate the entire land southward and caused them to flee north of the Narrow Neck of Land. In order to entice them into this agreement he agreed to the 350 Treaty.

North Countries

Mormon 2:3 . . . insomuch that they did frighten my armies; therefore they would not fight, and they began to retreat towards the north countries

**Tikal, home
of king Unen
Bahlam**

Zarahemla

A

Mormon 2:28-19 . . . In the three hundred and fiftieth year we made a treaty with the Lamanites . . . The Lamanites did give unto us the land northward. And we did give unto the Lamanites all the land southward.

The background is a colorful, stylized illustration depicting a scene from the Nephite wars. It shows several warriors in traditional attire, including tunics, loincloths, and headdresses, some holding spears and shields. In the foreground, there are figures who appear to be captives or the dead, lying on the ground. The scene is set against a backdrop of stylized trees and a light blue sky. The overall style is reminiscent of ancient Mesoamerican art.

The Final Nephite War

325 AD to 385 AD

The Start of Seven Year War

Chak Tok Ichaak (Great Jaguar Paw) immediately canceled the 350 AD treaty and started warring with the Nephites. Between the years 350 AD and 375 AD there were many wars between them. The Great Jaguar Paw was the only king in the Maya world so this would add additional credence that this situation is another piece of evidence that there is a strong Book of Mormon connection.

Chak Tok Ich'aak I - also known as Great Jaguar Paw

Great Jaguar Paw was made the king of the Maya city of Tikal and took the throne on 7 August 360 AD. He immediately cancelled the 350 AD treaty and was unrelenting in his war against his enemies (Nephites), but it wasn't until fifteen years later that he had some real success.

In 375 AD the Great Jaguar Paw was successful at defeating Desolation City (Uaxatun) and drove the Nephites to their stronghold in the land of Cumorah. However, he could not penetrate their defenses



An aerial, high-angle shot of a city in ruins. In the foreground, a massive crowd of people, many wearing feathered headdresses, is gathered on a street littered with debris and wooden planks. The background shows a dense urban landscape with many buildings that appear damaged or destroyed. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid in the center of the image.

**In 375 AD, the Great Jaguar Paw
assembled his forces together and swept
the Nephites of like dew before the sun**

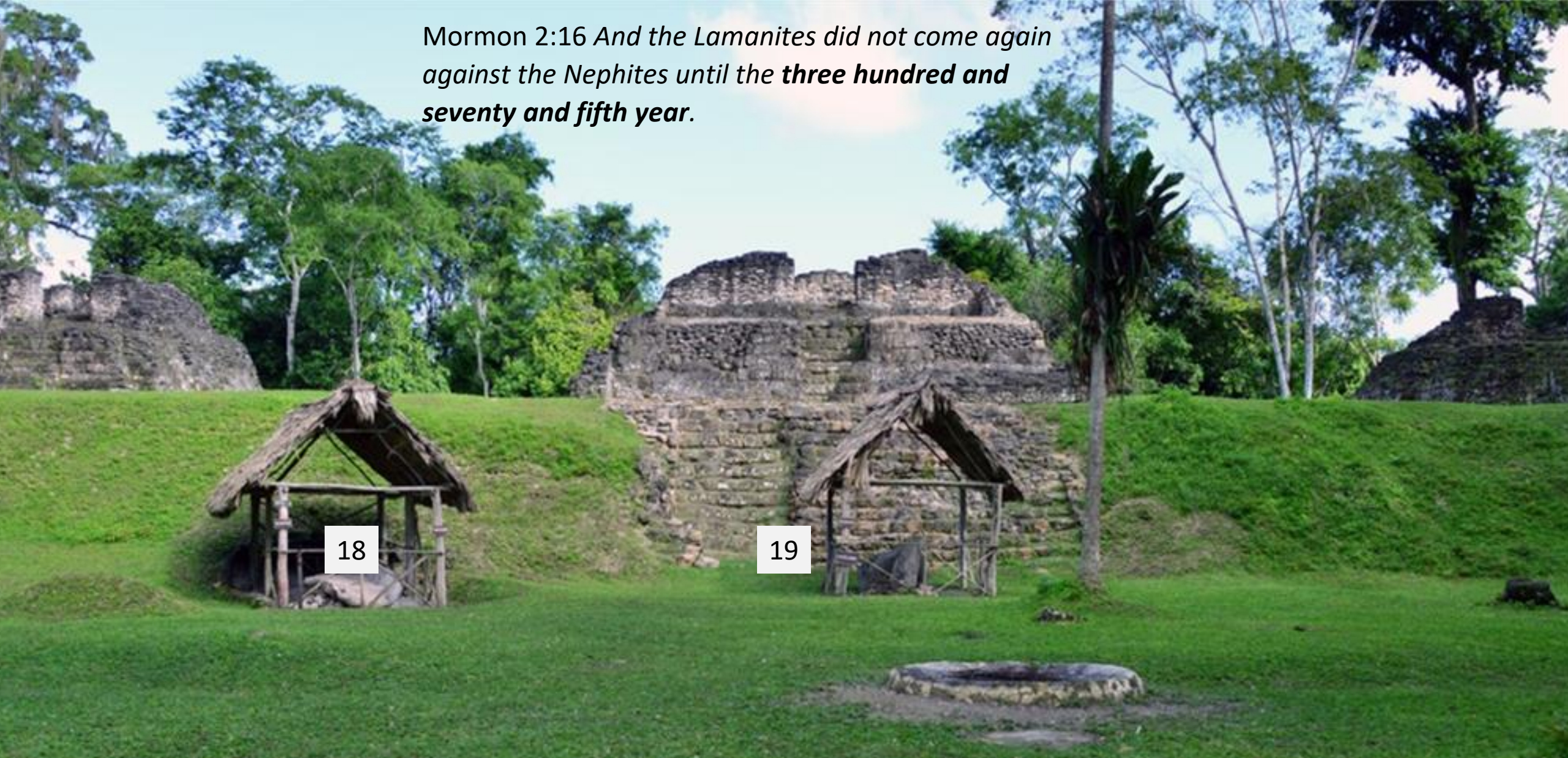
Mormon 4:12 And there never had been so great wickedness among all the children of Lehi. And the Lamanites did not come again against the Nephites until the three hundred and seventy and fifth year.

Mormon 4:17 And in this year they did come down against the Nephites with all their powers; and they were not numbered because of the greatness of their number.

Mormon 4:18 And from this time forth did the Nephites gain no power over the Lamanites, but began to be swept off by them even as a dew before the sun.

Mormon 4:19 . . . the Lamanites did come down against the city Desolation; and there was an exceedingly sore battle fought in the land Desolation, in the which they did beat the Nephites.

Mormon 2:16 *And the Lamanites did not come again against the Nephites until the **three hundred and seventy and fifth year.***



**The 375 War is recorded on Stela 18 & 19 in Uaxactun
(Desolation City)**

The hill Cumorah—Rama should contain the following:

1. Must have many rivers and fountains.

Mormon 6:4... it was in a land of many waters, rivers, and fountains.

2. Evidence of weapons that were used in the war.

3. There should be evidence of raw materials that could be used to make weapon.

4. It must be close to the First Landing.

Alma 22:30...Desolation, it being so far northward that it came into the land which had been peopled and been destroyed...it being the place of their first landing.

5. Must be large enough to hold tens of thousands of warriors.

Moroni 6

6. It should be close to a major travel route.

Ether 9 Omer's travels

7. Hill Shim must be relatively close and at a higher elevation.

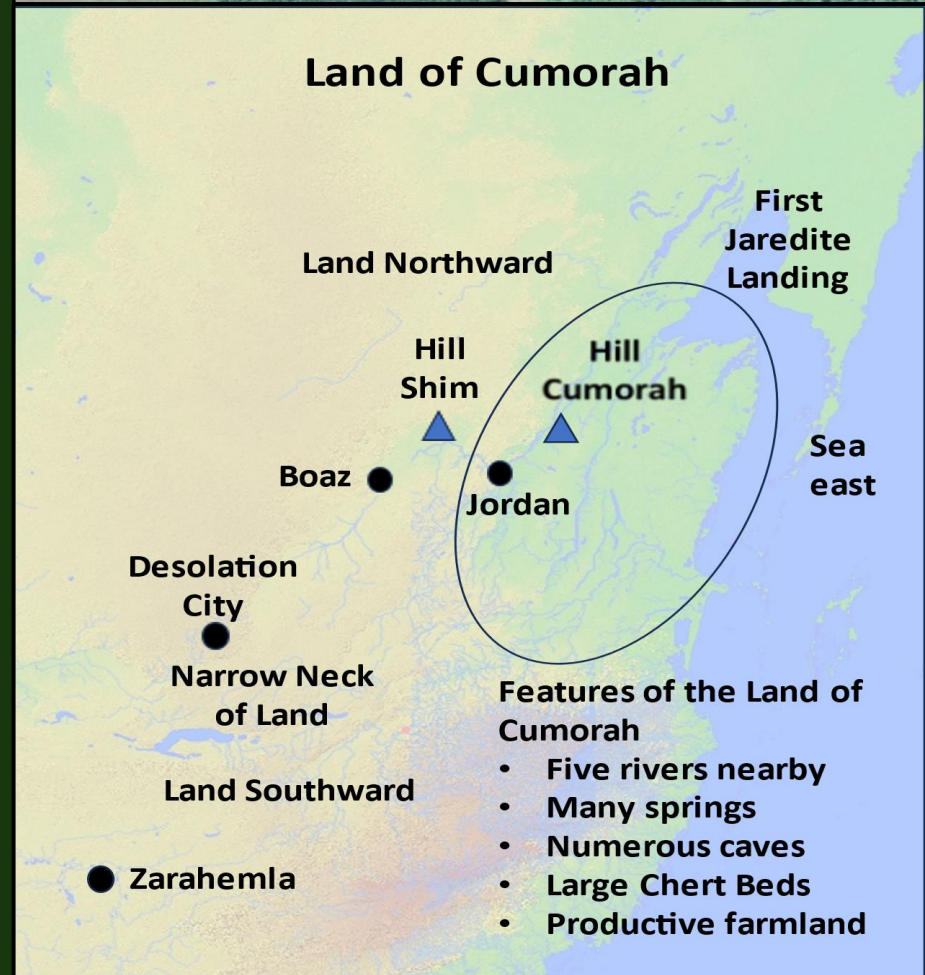
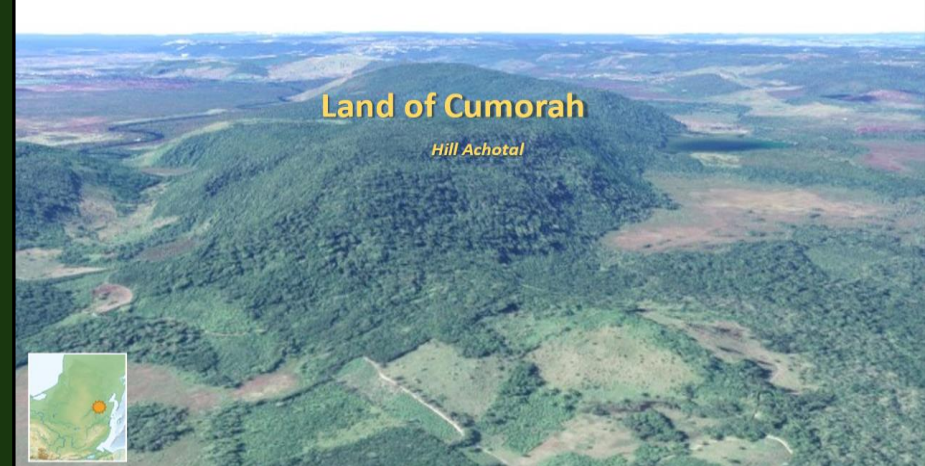
Ether 9:3 Omer came over and passed by the hill of Shim, and came over by the place where the Nephites were destroyed,

8. Must have food raising capacity to feed hundreds of thousands.

Moroni 6

9. Must be a place to hide up the the sacred records.

Mormon 6:6...hid up in the hill Cumorah all the records...



Moroni 5:4 And it came to pass that they came against us again (for three years), and we did maintain the city. And he could not get into the country which lay before us, to destroy us.

The Great Jaguar Paw was never successful in his quest to destroy the Nephites.

After killing the king of Tikal, Great Jaguar Paw, Siyah K'ak' went on to finish what the Tikal king had started. However, he ran into a lot of resistance, and it took him seven years to finally defeat the Nephites.



In 378 AD, Tikal was overwhelmed by Sihyaj Kahk and where Chak Tok Ichaak was killed and Yax Tok Ichaak was made king.

Sihyaj Kahk went on to defeat many other cities in northern Guatemala and eventually had recruited a sufficient army to overthrow Mormon in the land of Cumorah.

This was a massive war between the two generals and the only one that took place in Maya land during that time frame.



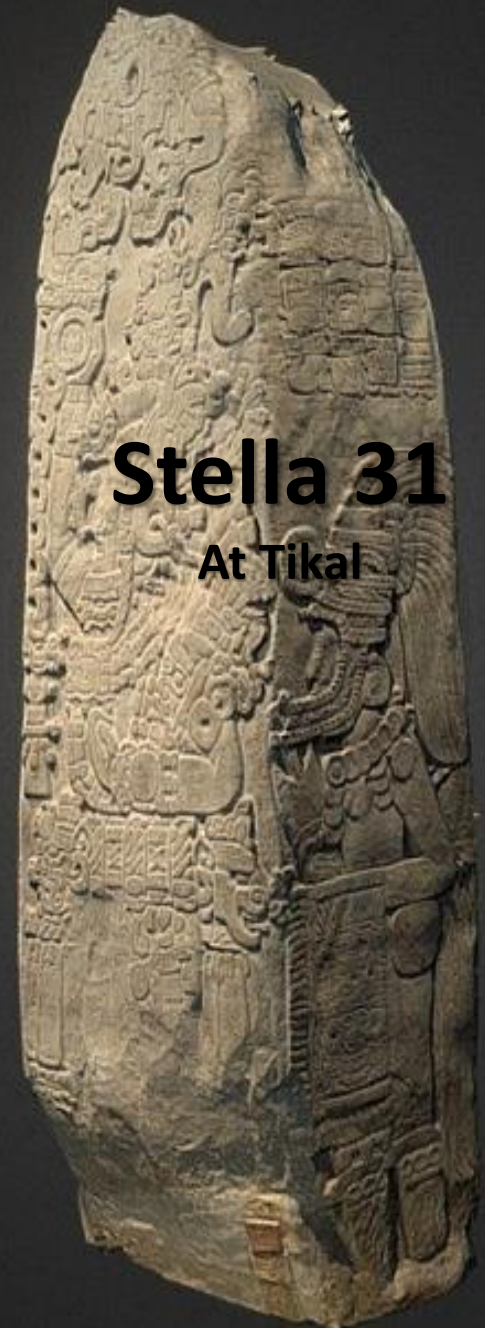
This scripture probably to place during the time when

Mormon 5:4 And it came to pass that they came against us again, and we did maintain the city. And there were also other cities which were maintained by the Nephites, which strongholds did cut them off that they could not get into the country which lay before us, to destroy the inhabitants of our land.

The Final Seven Years of the Nephites

Stella 31 at Tikal records the beginning of the end for the Nephite civilization. In 378 AD a military contingency from Teotihuacan arrived in Northern Guatemala and methodically initiated hostile warfare with most of the Maya cites in the region. Most notable was the infamous takeover of the mighty Tikal, where they killed the king.

This Stella introduces Siyah K'ak', the warmonger from Teotihuacan, who eventually became possibly the most famous person in Maya history.



Stella 31
At Tikal

The events that happened in Mormon 5:6 took place two years after the arrival of Siyah K'ak'.

The Nephites were able to defend themselves for five years, however that was not possible after 380 AD. It appears that they continued to fight against the Lamanites for two or three years but it was all in vain.

Mormon 5:6 And it came to pass that in the three hundred and eightieth year the Lamanites did come again against us to battle, and we did stand against them boldly; but it was all in vain, for so great were their numbers that they did tread the people of the Nephites under their feet.

Siyah K'ak' initial attempt to defeat the Nephites appears to have not gone so well and he spent time requiting from some of the other Maya cities in northern Guatemala and around 380, appears he had succeeded in securing the support of these cities.

The next slide will show some of the places where he was successful. There are actual records etched in stone that tells of his activity there.



These three pictures tell of the war at Uaxactun in 378 AD.

Stella 5, on the left, is located in Uaxactun (City of Desolation). It tells of the resulting death of its kingship, the first defeated city after Tikal (a Lamanite city). The war moved from the City of Desolation (Uaxactun) on to the Land of Cumorah (Northern Belize).

Stella 31, on the right, tells of the Entrada, the invasion of Tikal by the military from Teotihuacan. This invasion resulted in the death of the Tikal king, the Great Jaguar Paw, and the takeover by Siyaj K'ak'.

The mural above, in Palace B XIII, tells of the 378 AD War. So, this war is well documented as it was mentioned numerous times in both Tikal and Uaxactun. Some researchers believe that this Stella is a depiction of the Siyaj K'ak' meeting with the king of Uaxactun.

These five records show that Siyah K'ak' (the greatest war general in Maya history) was on the western side of the proposed land of Cumorah at the same time as the final Nephite war.

**Stela 31
Tikal**



**Stela 5
Uaxactu**



**Wall Painting
Rio Azul**



**Stela 6
Holmul**



Naachtun



Cities that appear to be military outpost for the Lamanites

Naachtun

Hill Cumorah

Rio Azul

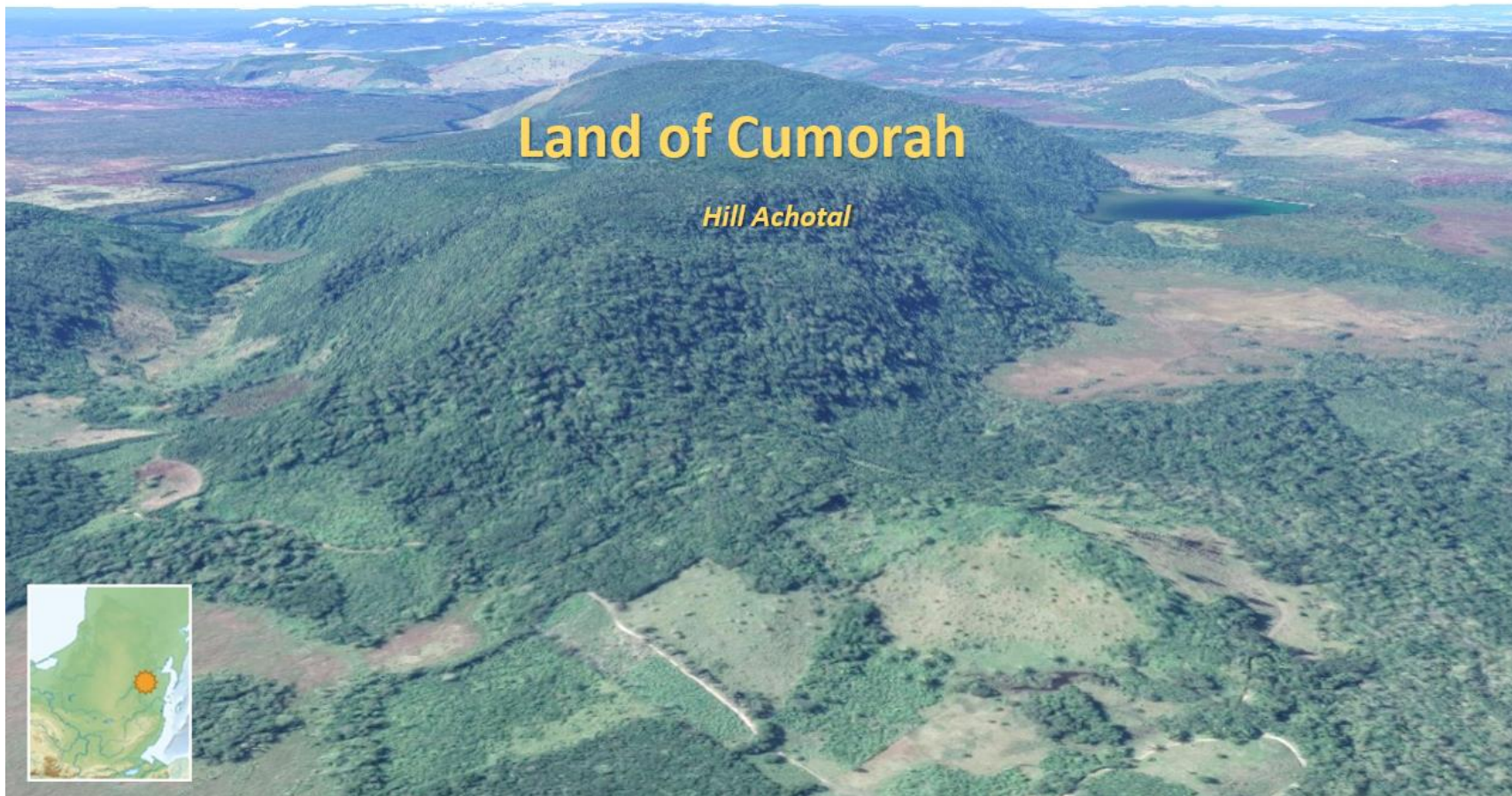
Holmul

Land of Cumorah

Uaxactun

Tikal

The name of Siyah K'ak' has been found in the stela and writing in these areas and have dates that match the wars timeframe



Around 382 AD, Mormon sent an epistle to the Lamanite king and requested they be allowed to go to hill Cumorah (proposed Hill Achotal Complex), and the king granted that request.

Mormon 6:2 And I, Mormon, wrote an epistle unto the king of the Lamanites, and desired of him that he would grant unto us that we might gather together our people unto the land of Cumorah. . . .

**Mormon 6:4...we did pitch
our tents around about
the hill Cumorah; and it
was in a land of many
waters, rivers, and
fountains...**

**Over twenty flowing
cenotes (fountains)**

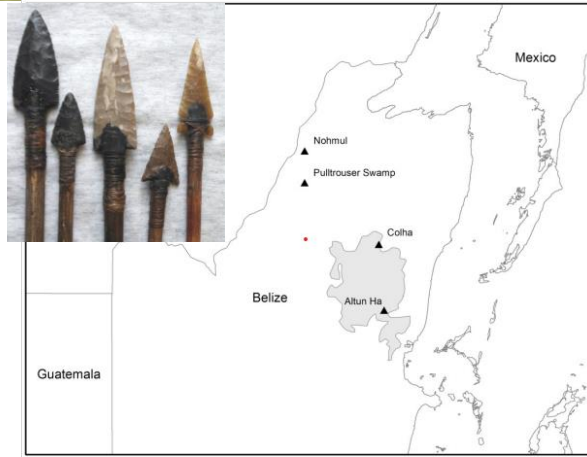
Cumorah-Achotal





A Possible Military Outpost on top of Hill Cumorah

Nearby Chert beds in northern Belize were undoubtedly used by the armies that are associated with the Book of Mormon. It's another reason why the armies would have selected northern Belize as a place to fight.



Sling stones (used as weapons of war) were found at the base of the proposed hill Cumorah



Hill Cumorah-Ramah Requirements

1. Many rivers
2. Many Springs
3. Evidence of weapons
4. High enough to see forever
5. Military outpost
6. Hold thousands of warriors
7. Evidence of a weapon factory
8. Many acres of fertile soil
9. Close to the "First Landing"
10. Land of Archaic evidences
11. South of waters of Ripliancum
12. Land choice above all others
13. Weapon making materials
14. In the northeast quadrant
15. Close to hill Shim
16. Next to a major travel route
17. Escape route to south
18. Evidence of final war
19. Evidence of Nephite cities
20. Evidence of Lamanite outposts

The Land of Cumorah

La Milpa
Jordon

Hill Achotal Complex
Hill Ramah



Thousands of
acres of farmland

Chetumal Bay

Many rivers

This map is basically the Land of Cumorah, a land that was near the site of the “First Landing”, a “Promise Land” a land that would be “Choice above all others”. This promise turned out to be true and so it would be likely that many Nephites would gather here after the time of Christ. So, during the early phasis of the war the Nephites were successful in defending their homeland. Their high populations probably allowed them to build up a strong army that would be capable of defending this location.

The Final Act

1 And now I finish my record concerning the destruction of my people, the Nephites.

2 And I, Mormon, wrote an epistle unto the king of the Lamanites, and desired of him that he would grant unto us that we might gather together our people unto the hill which was called Cumorah, and there we could give them battle.



Midnight Terror Cave

Where they sacrificed women and children
A short distant south of the land of Cumorah

Mormon 4:15 . . . the Nephites being angry because the Lamanites had sacrificed their women and their children, that they did go against the Lamanites with exceedingly great anger, . . .


The Blue Creek Site, right in the middle of the land of Cumorah, has a record that tells about the demise of a nation at the time the Nephites were wiped off the face of the earth.



This Jade stone was found near the possible war zone in Belize and is probably similar to the one found in the shaft at Blue Creek (near the Hill Cumorah). It likely tells about the final Nephite war.

“In an event securely dated to 500 A.D., the shaft was filled with human adornments, smashed and burning incensarios and other objects, including more than 900 jade artifacts. We see the ritual deposit, the "jade shaft," at Str. 4 as representing a pivotal moment in Blue Creek’s history. Speculation regarding its meaning ranges from preparations for a disastrous war to the death of a king and the end of the ruling lineage. In any case, Blue Creek’s autonomy seems to have ended.”

These items had been accumulated over the years and one of them appears to be about the demise of a nation, which would have happened sometime earlier, which was likely the demise of the Nephite nation approximately 100 years earlier, which has a remarkable fit with the final Nephite war.



Mormon 6:6 . . . I made this record out of the plates of Nephi, and hid up in the hill Cumorah all the records which had been entrusted to me , save it were these few plates which I gave unto my son Moroni.

This scripture strongly implies that Moroni should take some plates with him. Forty years later he deposited them in NY Hill Cumorah.