

“Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft”  
Living Faith Church

Through

the

Maze

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# Flat as a Dish, Long as a Tree

## The Incredible *Babuskas* of the Book of Mormon

People familiar with the Book of Mormon know the story of the Nephites and Lamanites. They (supposedly) were the descendants of a Jew (Lehi) and his family who fled Jerusalem about the time it fell to Babylon, circa 600 BC. Of course, the Book of Mormon is fiction, there were no Nephites nor Lamanites.

Nevertheless, the Book of Mormon opens with a tale told by Nephi, the “righteous” son of Lehi, about how God directed the family to flee to the shores of the Red Sea where God told them to build a ship (not, however, the one depicted on this page, we’ll get to *that* ship later). God supposedly directed them to sail to a faraway land (which turns out to be the New World). The author of the Book of Mormon (whoever that may be is still up for grabs) says God told the Nephites they would flourish and become a mighty nation. And, sure enough, in the



Mark Twain called the Book of Mormon “chloroform in print,” but I doubt that he even knew there is a book within the Book of Mormon entitled “Ether.” This “Jaredite barge” is sort of like what is described in the Book of Mormon. God said to make it flat as a dish and as long as a tree.

book, they prosper and become a population of millions of people:

- “And it came to pass that they did multiply and spread . . . to cover the face of the whole earth.” (Helaman 3:8)
- According to Mormon 1:7, the land “had become covered with buildings.”

The population eventually divides into two peoples: The righteous Nephites and wicked Lamanites (whose wickedness causes God to curse them with a dark skin). The two nations war for a thousand years. Eventually the Lamanites—in a huge battle fought in what is today New York state—kill the last quarter of a million Nephites on the very hill where Joseph Smith will find the gold plates from which he claimed to translate the Book of Mormon. How did Smith find the plates? Well, the last Nephite warrior to die, a guy named Moroni, appeared to Joseph Smith as an “angel” (fourteen hundred years after he died). Moroni leads Smith to the spot where he (Moroni) personally buried the gold plates, which supposedly were an historical and religious record abridged by his father, Mormon (hence the name of the book). Meanwhile, the Lamanites survive to become the American Indians.

It’s quite a story! An incredible story we are asked to believe!

**But what is even more incredible, is that we are asked to believe that the story reinvents itself three different times. A nearly identical story happens in the Book of Mormon to three entirely different groups**



Matryoshka dolls, also known as Russian nested dolls or a babushka dolls, are sets of dolls of decreasing size placed one inside the other.

of peoples—all who migrate to the New World from the Middle East!

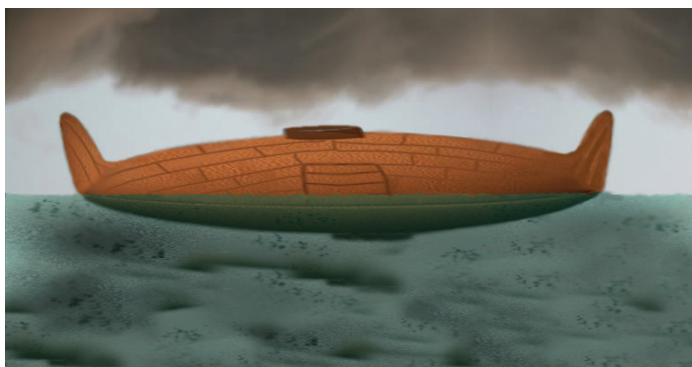
*I Say Babuska!*



**The Nephites—according to the Book of Mormon—Were Not The First Group of Jews God Sent to the New World Centuries Before Columbus:**

**The Jaredites of Ether**

The *first* pilgrims to come to America, according to the Book of Mormon, were the Jaredites, who—at God’s command—navigated the briny main 2,000 years before the Nephites. Their story is nearly identical to the Nephite story: They divide into two groups, one righteous and the other unrighteous; they prosper and multiply for two millennia and grow to at least two million in number; they meet in a final battle at the same hill the Nephites will battle to the death upon; they kill each other down to the last man. Ironically, the last two Jaredites to die are the two opposing generals. One of them, Coriantumr, kills the other, Shiz, then wanders off, **to be found (I’m not kidding) by the third group of immigrants, the Mulekites** who had fled Jerusalem just nine years after the Nephites. Although they were neighbors in the New World, the three groups knew nothing of each other for four hundred years. Imagine their surprise when the Nephites discovered the Mulekites who told the Nephites all about the Jaredites... *are you confused yet?*



Anyway, back to the Jaredite barges, which is why I wanted to write this article. The Book of Mormon records that the Jaredites came to North America at the time of the destruction of the Tower of Babel. Remember, the Book of Mormon was secreted into the earth in the Hill Cumorah about 1400 years before Joseph Smith

**Incredible Migration of the Book of Mormon Groups to the New World**

2500 BC	600 BC	300-100 BC	400 AD
	<p><b>Group #1</b> <b>The Jaredites</b> About 100 years after the Genesis Flood, a group sailed from the region of "The Tower of Babel" to the North American Continent in eight strangely constructed barges.</p>		
	<p>By 600 BC the <b>Jaredites</b> had divided into two warring camps—one righteous, the other unrighteous. Their armies (2 million men each) fight to the last man on the <b>Hill Ramah</b> (which is also the <b>Hill Cumorah</b> and which is now located in Western New York State). A man named <b>Ether</b> "hides up" the records of his people (gold plates).</p>		
	<p><b>Group #2</b> <b>The Nephites</b> About the time the Jaredites are fighting their war of annihilation, another band leaves the Middle East and boats to the New World—to South/Central America. These are the Nephites, the main people of the Book of Mormon. They multiply and divide into the righteous (and white-skinned) Nephites and the unrighteous (and dark-skinned) Lamanites.</p>	<p>About 100 BC, a group of Nephites (called the Limhites) who had broken away from the main body of <b>Nephites</b> migrate to the area near the <b>Hill Cumorah</b>. They find the gold plates of the Jaredites. Later they are reunited with the main body of Nephites and add the Jaredite plates to the main body of plates.</p>	<p>A thousand years after the Jaredite battle on the <b>Hill Ramah</b>, the <b>Nephites</b> and Lamanites battle their way Northward until they arrive at the same hill (now called <b>Cumorah</b>). They also fight to the last Nephite warrior. The Lamanites who survive will become the American Indians. After the Final Battle, a man named Moroni buries the gold plate records of his people in the hill. Fourteen hundred years later he returns as the Angel Moroni and leads Joseph Smith to the plates (1823).</p>
	<p><b>Group #3</b> <b>The Mulekites</b> About nine years after the main body of Nephites came to the New World, another group also boats over. These don't land in Meso-America, however, they land in North America—coincidentally not far from the what is now New York State. They are led by one of King Zedekiah's (the Bible) sons. They inhabit the land near the <b>Hill Cumorah</b>. Since this is about the same time the <b>Jaredite</b> General, Coriantumr, has slain Shiz, the Mulekites meet up with Coriantumr, who stays with them "nine moons." Coriantumr tells them about the Jaredite "bloodshed" and they engrave the account on a stone tablet.</p>	<p>Sometime between 600 and 300 BC, the Mulekites are discovered by a party of Nephites, and so their records are added to those of the other groups.</p>	
2500 BC	600 BC	300-100 BC	400 AD

moved in next door to it. The warrior who buried it was Moroni. And it is Moroni who includes in the Book of Mormon the story of the Jaredites. He got that story from 24 gold plates his father had passed into his care along with the other records to be squirreled away in the hillside.

The record of the Jaredites is called the *Book of Ether*, after the man who recorded it on gold plates and buried it. Now, the word Ether seems an odd one to us. Especially in light of the fact that Mark Twain called the Book of Mormon “Chloroform in print!” If you think Ether is a strange name, his grandfather’s name was *Moron*. No, that is not a misspelling.

So, how did the Jaredites get to America? Well, according to Ether, when the wicked Old Testament people set out to build the Tower of Babel to ascend into heaven, Jared tells his brother (who is never referred to in the Book of Mormon any other way than as “the brother of Jared”) to appeal to the Lord not to scramble their language. The brother of Jared does so. (Oh, I almost forgot, Joseph Smith wanted to know what this guy’s name was so he asked God and God told him it was “Mahonri Moriancumer.”)

Anyway, God hears the brother’s cry and Ether writes

*And it came to pass that the Lord did hear the brother of Jared, and had compassion upon him, and said unto him:*

*Go to and gather together thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; and also of the seed of the earth of every kind; and thy families; and also Jared thy brother and his family; and also thy friends and their families, and the friends of Jared and their families.*

*And when thou hast done this thou shalt go at the head of them down into the valley which is northward. And there will I meet thee, and I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the lands of the earth.* (Ether 1:40)

So Jared and his brother gathered everything they were commanded to gather (including swarms of honeybees) and headed to the valley. Meanwhile God leads them down to the sea and tells them to build eight barges in which to take themselves and all they have gathered across the sea.

### Strange Barges Indeed

Either the God of the Book of Mormon has a wicked sense of humor or He is no shipbuilder. Remember when God instructed Noah to build his ark He said to make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet deep (not far off the dimensions of the ship I served on while in the Navy). He also gave instructions as to the internal structure of the decks.

But the shipbuilder God of the Book of Mormon said to make the barges “As long as a tree” and “flat as a dish.” *As long as a tree?* How long is that? An olive tree? A cedar of Lebanon?

Flat as a dish?

*And they were built after a manner that they were exceedingly tight, even that they would hold water like unto a dish; and the bottom thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the sides thereof were tight like unto a dish; and the ends thereof were peaked; and the top thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the length thereof was the length of a tree; and the door thereof, when it was shut, was tight like unto a dish.* (Ether 2:17)

*Tight as a dish?* I really can’t even think of a good question to ask about such an instruction.

However, it gets worse:

*And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: Behold, thou shalt make a hole in the top, and also in the bottom; and when thou shalt suffer for air thou shalt unstop the hole and receive air. And if it be so that the water come in upon thee, behold, ye shall stop the hole, that ye may not perish in the flood.* (Ether 2:20)

OK, so these barges have stoppers top and bottom. They are light:

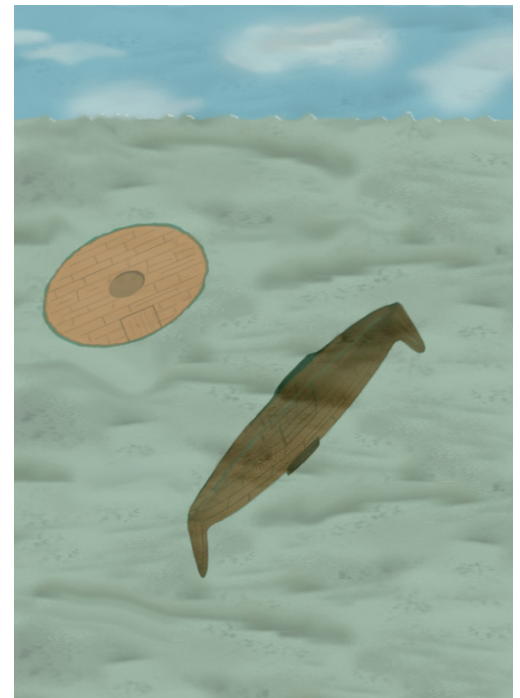
*And they were small, and they were light upon the water, even like unto the lightness of a fowl upon the water.* (Ether 2:16)

I was a sailor who spent four years seasick. I agree with God who said one of the four things too wonderful for Him was “...the way of a ship in the midst of the sea...” (Prov. 30:19) Let me tell you this that when a ship has “no way about her” (a naval term which means she is “dead in the water),” she will pitch like a bucking

bronco even in a calm sea. These barges would have been flat, shallow hulls full of cattle, people and honeybees; dark except for a glowing stone for light. Not only that, they had no fire with which to cook, and God told them they would often be submerged deep into the sea. And to cross the Atlantic, they would be confined in such a hellhole for moths and months.

Most ridiculous of all, when they needed air, they were told to pull one of the stoppers and if the sea flooded in, they were to stop up the hole and pull the other stopper. Apparently they would not have known which way was up. After a few days on such a vessel, *no one* would have known which way was up!

*For behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea; for the mountain waves shall dash upon you.* (Ether 2:24)



I’m perplexed as to why God would have had to tell them to put the cork back in the hole if they pulled it out and were inundated with water. Surely, surely they would not have needed that instruction. Unless they really did not know enough to come in out of the rain!

### Not from God

The passages from Ether remind us again that the Book of Mormon is a fraud. No one has said that better than did Rev. M. T. Lamb more than 100 years ago in his marvelous book *The Golden Bible*, (which was

first delivered as a series of multi-week lectures in Salt Lake City to an auditorium packed with Latter-day Saints:

*No Trace of God's Hand...*

*The first objection to the book to be considered is this: It has no trace of God's hand upon it. No divine stamp. Everything about it is human, very, very human.*

*...after a very careful study of the book, a conscientious and painstaking examination of all the evidences he has been able to gather both for and against it, the author of these pages ...is compelled to believe that no such people as are described in the Book of Mormon ever lived upon this continent; that no such records were ever engraved upon golden plates, or any other plates, in the early ages; that no such men as Mormon or Moroni or any other of the prophets or kings or wise men mentioned in the book, ever existed in this country; that Jesus Christ never appeared upon this continent in person, or had a people here before its discovery by Columbus. In short, that no such civilization, Christian or otherwise, as is described in the Book of Mormon ever had an existence upon either North or South America.*

*On the contrary, the book is altogether, and in every part of it, except so much as is borrowed from the Bible, a modern fabrication, without any foundation in fact—but had its origin, simply and solely, in the brain or brains of men in our own day, without any help whatever from God or from an angel of God.*

It is important for us to keep in mind, as we talk about Mormon “scripture,” that the Book of Mormon is fiction. I include, in the signature of most of my email correspondence, the following line:

**There were no Nephites**

And there certainly were no Jaredites nor Lamanites. ■

You can read Rev. Lamb's entire book online at: <http://www.mazeministry.com/mormonism/gold-bible/goldbibledownload.htm>

or your and read *about* Rev. Lamb's work at: [http://www.mazeministry.com/mormonism/newsletters\\_articles/may99/may99.pdf](http://www.mazeministry.com/mormonism/newsletters_articles/may99/may99.pdf)

## Letters

Hey James Spencer this is Wilbur Miller.\*

About 7 minutes ago I got some delightful news: Claudia [one of our guests] sat down at the table to tell me something. As of 4 days ago she is now no longer a Mormon.

Now it took two readings of your book to get her, plus she saw the other films She has been a Mormon since she was about 10 years old. I think she is probably about 85 now. Anyway she is so joyous and so happy and she will be attending our bible study she will be attending a Baptist church next Sunday at least

And so I just wanted to have you rejoice with me over this. I don't know if they will quit sending Mormons over here or not. (ha ha)

I just thank the Lord for this so much. In both Bud's\*\* and her case we just were low key. We are living with these people. We can't come down hard on them at all but a little here and a little there plus the dissatisfaction they have with their own group and all. It is just wonderful!

So Claudia is now going to write her testimony and I will critique it. If it is not long enough I'll ask her to edit it so we can send it to you. If it is too long we'll cut it down. She said she'd like to write her testimony.

God bless you brother, and thank you for all you do for the Glory of God.

\*Wilbur is chaplain at a retirement center in Portland. I have known him for more than 20 years.

\*Read Bud's conversion story at: [http://www.mazeministry.com/mormonism/newsletters\\_articles/April09Update.pdf](http://www.mazeministry.com/mormonism/newsletters_articles/April09Update.pdf)

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I left the Mormon Church partly because I happened across Trinity Broadcasting Network one day while flipping channels and started listening to Charles Stanley, John Hagee, etc. but my wife was more dedicated to Mormonism and she didn't start to rethink until you, Jim Spencer, talked on Trinity one night in 1995 and when she heard you she got smoking mad and said “I am going to call up that Jim Spencer and give him a piece of my mind.” I told her no, I would call. I ordered some information from you. That information really helped my wife to turn around but it was a struggle. December 24, 1995 both of us accepted Jesus Christ and joined a church and were baptized.

Anyway we've been out of the Mormon cult for fifteen years now. Thank you and God bless you. Unfortunately some of our family members are still in it but we are praying for them. Anyway enclosed is a check for \$100.00 to help your ministry. Keep up the good work.

Joseph and Polly Roucek

**My thanks to Mike Knowles in Sedro-Woolley, WA for his help in editing this newsletter. Any mistakes still present are entirely my fault.**  
Jim S. :)