

Establishing a Chronology for the Covenant Record (Jarom, Omni, Words of Mormon, Mosiah)

We have come to a section of the Book of Mormon where most all readers become confused both chronologically and geographically with the flow of the story. This section spans from the book of Omni to the end of the book of Mosiah. It tells the story of a Nephite group that flees the land of Nephi to the land of Zarahemla. It also chronicles the experiences of a group that returns to the land of Nephi from the land of Zarahemla. They encounter turbulent times that eventually force the group back to the land of Zarahemla. The following reasons contribute to the problems in understanding:

1. The Nephite history of this time period is on two different sets of records, the small plates of Nephi and Mormon's abridgment of the large plates of Nephi.
2. There is a transition commentary (Words of Mormon) which bridges Nephite history from the small plates of Nephi to the history contained on the large plates of Nephi.
3. There are multiple events being recorded which are occurring at similar times but at different places in the text. Thus the chronology in the text is mixed up.
4. The events have not only been recorded by different record keepers (Amaleki, Mosiah₂, Zeniff, Noah, Limhi, Alma₁), but have been abridged and connected by Mormon.
5. Parts of Mormon's abridgment are written in 3rd person retrospective; however, Mormon apparently includes intact parts from the original record. These parts, along with the references from the small plates are told in 1st person narrative.
6. There are very few definite calendar dates included in the record relating to this part of Nephite history.
7. In the last 3 pages of the small plates (the book of Omni), possibly 200-230 years of Nephite history are covered with almost no details.

Therefore, I have compiled the following chart as a reference guide to your reading.

[Chronology]

A PROPOSED CHRONOLOGY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

2 Nephi --- Mosiah

Note* Those dates mentioned in the text are in **bold**. All other dating is estimated. Many listed events are not mentioned in the text.

(Years from when Lehi left Jerusalem)

YEAR **EVENTS** that happened in the Promised Land (the Americas)

	(The land of First Inheritance)
021	<u>Nephi flees with followers</u> “for the space of many days” (2 Nephi 5:5-7)
	(The land of Nephi)
021	<u>Nephi arrives in "Nephi" with followers</u> (2 Nephi 5:7)
025	Nephi made king (2 Nephi 5:18) (at age 37) (est)
031	30 years had passed away (2 Nephi 5:28)
036	Nephi begins small plates (2 Nephi 5:30)
041	40 years had passed away (2 Nephi 5:34)
056	55 years had passed away (Jacob 1:1)
056	Nephi (age 72, estimated) gives the small plates to Jacob (age 52, est.) (Jacob 1:1)
056	Nephi anoints another king (Nephi II) (Jacob 1:9-11)
059	Nephi dies (Jacob 1:12) (age 80, est.)
081	Enos is born when Jacob is age 77 (est.)
094	Nephi II anoints Nephi III
101	Jacob (age 97, est.) gives the small plates to Enos (age 20, est.) (Jacob 7:26-27)
132	Nephi III anoints Nephi IV
160	Jarom is born when Enos is age 79 (est.)
170	Nephi IV anoints Nephi IV
180	179 years had passed away
180	Enos (age 99, est.) gives small plates to Jarom (age 20, est.) (Jarom 1:1)
201	200 years had passed away (Jarom 1:5)
208	Nephi V anoints Nephi VI
215	Omni is born when Jarom is age 55 (est.)
239	238 years had passed away (Jarom 1:13)
239	Jarom (age 79, est.) gives small plates to Omni (age 24, est.) (Jarom 1:13,15)
246	Nephi VI (age 68, est.) anoints Nephi VII (age 30, est.)
259	Amaron is born when Omni is age 44 (est.)
277	276 years had passed away (Omni 1:3)
279	Chemish (Amaron's brother) is born when Omni is age 64 (est.)
283	in fine, 282 years had passed away (Omni 1:3)
283	Omni (age 68, est.) gives small plates to Amaron (age 24, est.) (Omni 1:3)
284	Nephi VII anoints Nephi VIII
321	320 years had passed away (Omni 1:5)
321	Amaron (age 62, est.) gives small plates to his brother Chemish (age 47, est.)
322	Nephi VIII anoints Nephi IX
344	Abinadom is born when Chemish is age 70
360	Nephi IX anoints Nephi X
364	Chemish (age 90, est.) gives the small plates to Abinadom (age 20, est.)
368	Mosiah ₁ is born
398	Nephi X anoints Nephi XI (Mosiah ₁ corresponds to Nephi XI)

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<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
398	<u>Mosiah₁ leads people from Nephi to Zarahemla</u> (Omni 1:12)-takes Liahona, large plates, brass plates, sword of Laban (2 Ne 5:12,14) (Omni 1:11,25) Abinadom flees with Mosiah ₁ and takes the small plates (The land of Zarahemla)
398	<u>Mosiah₁ arrives with his people at Zarahemla</u> (Omni 1:13)
398	Mosiah ₁ discovers people descended from the Jews (Mulekites) (Omni 1:15) Peoples unite and Mosiah is appointed their king also (Omni 1:19)
398	Mosiah ₁ begins his reign in Zarahemla (Omni 1:19) Mosiah ₁ interprets stone (Omni 1:20)
406	Amaleki is born when Abinadom is age 62 (est.)
406	Zeniff is part of a spy mission from Zarahemla to Nephi (Mosiah 9:1)
407	<u>Zeniff leads a group from Zarahemla to Nephi</u> (Mosiah 9:3) Amaleki's brother goes with them (Omni 1:27)
407	Zeniff covenants with Lamanite king to let him possess Lehi-Nephi and Shilom (Mosiah 9:6)
428	Alma ₁ is born (Meanwhile back in Zarahemla)
408	Benjamin is born when Mosiah ₁ is 40 years old (est.)
426	Abinadom (age 82, est.) gives the plates to Amaleki (age 20, est.) (The land of Lehi-Nephi and Shilom)
419	Zeniff is in the thirteenth year of my reign in the land of Nephi (Mos 9:14)
419	Zeniff's group has 13th year war (Mos 9:14)
429	we did inherit the land of our fathers for many years, yea, for the space of twenty and two years (Mos 10:3) (Meanwhile back in Zarahemla)
438	Mosiah ₁ dies (age 70, est.) (Omni 1:23)
438	Benjamin begins his reign at age 30 (est.) (Omni 1:23)
448	Mosiah ₂ is born when Benjamin is 40 years old (est.) (Meanwhile back in Nephi)
441	we did have continual peace in the land for the space of twenty and two years (Mos 10:5)
442	Zeniff confers kingdom on Noah (Mos 11:1) Noah reigns in wickedness (9-10 years) Alma is appointed a Priest of Noah
458	Abinadi comes among people of Noah & is rejected (Mos 12-17)
460	Abinadi returns and is tried
460	Alma escapes, hides many days , writes words of Abinadi (Mos 17:3-4) (age 34)
460	Abinadi is slain by fire (Mos 17:13) Alma spends many days at Waters of Mormon (Mos 18)
462	King Noah sends his army to find Alma (Mos 18:33) Alma flees 8 days with 450 to Helam (Mos 18:34, 23:3,19) King Noah's army returns and Gideon leads a revolt

A PROPOSED BOOK OF MORMON CHRONOLOGY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
462	The Lamanites invade, Noah flees (Mos 19:6) Limhi stays with women & children & makes peace (Mos 19:16) Limhi and Gideon send men to search for Noah's group (Mos 19:17-18) They find the remnants of Noah's group (Mos 19:18) They are told that Noah has been killed (Mos 19:20) They are told that Noah's Priests have fled (Mos 19:21) They return to Limhi's group (Mos 19:24)
462	Limhi begins to reign, puts his people under tribute to the Lamanites (Mos 19:26) Limhi did have continual peace for two years (Mos 19:29)
464	The priests of Noah carry off the daughters of the Lamanites (Mos 20:5) The Lamanites go to war because their daughters were taken (Mos 20:6) Limhi's people defend themselves, capture Lamanite king, exonerate themselves (Mos 20:8-26)
	<u>(Meanwhile back in Zarahemla)</u> There was a serious war in the days of Benjamin, Lamanites driven out of land (Omni 1:24) Lamanites came down against the Nephites in Zarahemla, were driven out of the land (W of M 1:13-14) False prophets had come among the Nephites (W of M 1:15-16) Many dissensions away unto the Lamanites (W of M 1:16) Holy prophets had helped king Benjamin establish peace (W of M 1:17-18) Amaleki plans to give his records to Benjamin (Omni 1:25) Amaleki refers to Zeniff's group leaving to find Nephi (Omni 1:27) Amaleki delivers his record to King Benjamin (W of M 1:10) King Benjamin puts this record with the large plates (W of M 1:10) Amaleki dies
	<u>(At Nephi)</u> After many days the Lamanites begin to oppress Limhi's people (Mos 21:2-3) Limhi's people attempt to free themselves three times by battle and fail (Mos 21:7-12) Limhi's people "prosper by degrees" (Mos 21:16) Limhi's people guard against Priests of Noah, which had been stealing from them at night (Mos 21:20-21)
	<u>(At Zarahemla)</u> 477 King Benjamin's Tower Speech (Mos 6:4) 477 The first year of Mosiah ₂ 's reign (age 30) (Mos 6:4) 477 about 476 years from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem (Mos 6:4) 480 Benjamin dies (Mos 6:5) 480 Mosiah ₂ sends Ammon ₁ with 15 men to find Land of Nephi, their journey takes 40 days (Mos 7:1-5)
	<u>(Back at Nephi)</u> 480 Ammon ₁ discovered by the gates of Lehi-Nephi (Mos 21:23) Ammon ₁ meets Limhi (Mos 7:7) Ammon ₁ learns of failed 43 man expedition to find Zarahemla (Mos 21:25-26) (Mos 8:7) He learns that they were lost for many days and discovered a land of bones and water (Mos 8:8) Supposing it to be the Land of Zarahemla they returned not many days before Ammon came (Mos 21:26) He learns that they found 24 gold plates (Mos 8:9) Ammon ₁ and Limhi plan to deliver people from bondage (Mos 22:1)

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YEAR EVENT

480 Limhi's people escape and after **many days** arrive in Zarahemla (Mos 22:11)
Lamanites pursue Limhi and get lost (Mos 22:15)

(At Helam)

Lamanites find Alma₁ and put his people in bondage (Mosiah 23:25)
Alma₁ learns that Lamanites were originally looking for Limhi, became lost for **many days** (Mos 23:30)
He learns that Lamanites had previously found Priests of Noah (Mos 23:31)
He learns that the Priests had joined the Lamanites (Mos 23:35)
Alma₁ shows Lamanites the way back to Nephi (Mos 23: 36-37)
Lamanites leave guards, go back to Nephi & return with families (Mos 23:37-38)
Amulon & his brethren appointed teachers over land of Shemlon, land of Shilom, and land of Amulon (Mos 24:2)
Lamanites had taken possession of all these lands (Mosiah 24:2)
Lamanites taught language, writing (trade) by Amulon (Mos 24:3-7)
Amulon uses power to persecute Alma₁ (Mos 24: 8)

481 Alma's people escape (**1 day**) to the Valley of Alma (Mos 24:20)
Alma's people continue flight (**12 days**) to Zarahemla (Mos 24:25)

(At Zarahemla)

481 Ammon, Limhi, and Alma₁ are now at Zarahemla)

Mosiah₂ reads Zeniff's record to the people (Mos 25:5)
Mosiah₂ reads Alma's record to the people (Mos 25:6)
All people numbered with Nephites (Mos 25:13)
7 Churches established by Alma₁ (Mos 25:19,23)
Rising Generation dissent
How to Judge Unbelievers (Forgiveness) (Mos 26:5-32)
Church persecuted by unbelievers (Mos 27:1)
Mosiah₂ commands "Equality Among Men"-->(Peace) (Mos 27:2-7)
Persecution returns, Conversion of Alma₂, Sons of Mosiah₂ (Mos 27:8-31)

504 Alma₂, Ammon₂, Aaron, Omner, Himni publish peace (Mos 27:34-37)

506 Alma₂, Sons of Mosiah₂, petition to go to Land of Nephi (Mos 28:1)

507 Mosiah₂ translates the 24 plates of gold (Mos 28:11-17)

508 Mosiah₂ confers all records & sacred things on Alma₂ (Mos 28:20)

509 Mosiah₂ recommends system of democracy--Judges (Mos 29:1-36)

510 Alma₁ dies **at age 82** (Mos 29:45-46)

510 Mosiah₂ (63) dies **in the 33rd year of his reign, 509 years from when Lehi left Jerusalem** (Mos 29:46)

End