

The Geography of



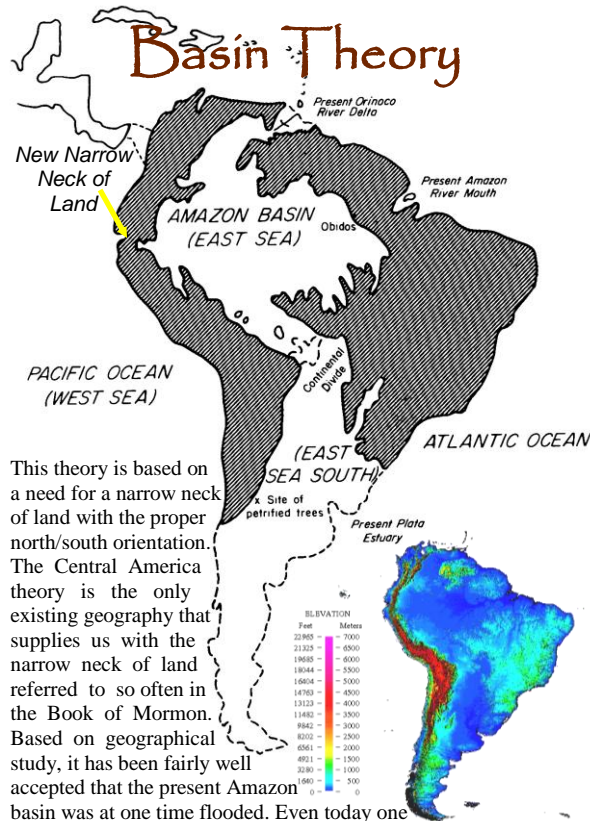
The Book of Mormon

“As far as can be learned, the Prophet Joseph Smith, translator of the book, did not say where, on the American continent, Book of Mormon activities occurred. Perhaps he did not know. However, certain facts and traditions of varying reliability are used as foundation guides by students of the Book of Mormon geography (John A. Widtsoe, 1950).”



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The Flooded Amazon Basin Theory

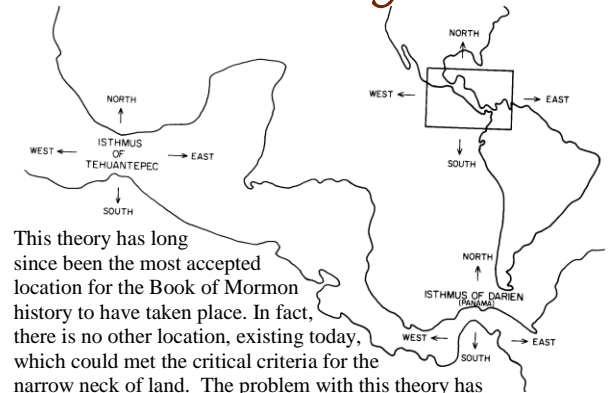


This theory is based on a need for a narrow neck of land with the proper north/south orientation. The Central America theory is the only existing geography that supplies us with the narrow neck of land referred to so often in the Book of Mormon. Based on geographical study, it has been fairly well accepted that the present Amazon basin was at one time flooded. Even today one can find fossils and other evidences that the basin was once a sea. Perhaps this is why it is recorded "...the Lord has made the sea our path, and we are upon the isle of the sea (2nd Nephi 10:20)." Given this, a new narrow neck of land appears in northern Peru. Peru's Incan civilization also dates to Book of Mormon timeline.

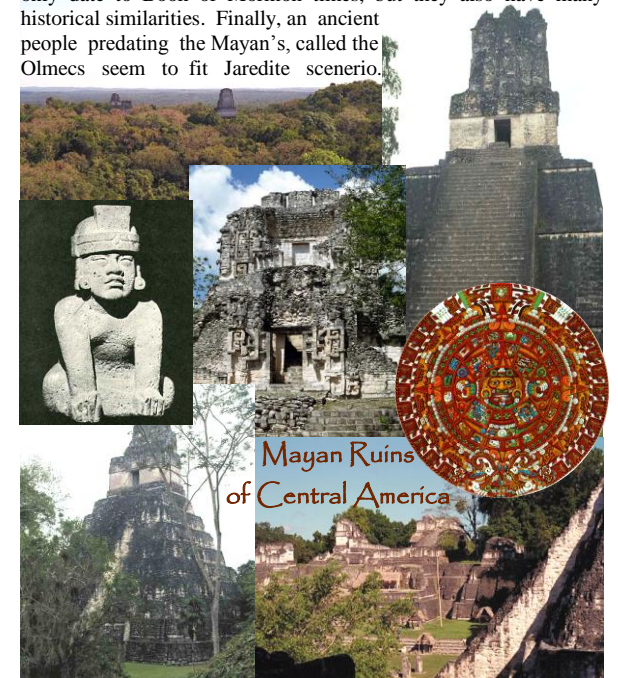


Incan Ruins of Peru

The Central America Theory



This theory has long since been the most accepted location for the Book of Mormon history to have taken place. In fact, there is no other location, existing today, which could meet the critical criteria for the narrow neck of land. The problem with this theory has always been the orientation of the two probable necks in Central America. Some would argue that Book of Mormon writers used the term 'northward' loosely and it was not meant as a 'true north' direction. Additionally, the Isthmus of Darien has some difficulty fitting the Book of Mormon geography since the land before and after it continues to be narrow. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is arguably too wide for the crucial piece of land. Even with these problems, many still advocate that Central America is the land of the Nephites. Much of this is due to the fact that the Mayan's not only date to Book of Mormon times, but they also have many historical similarities. Finally, an ancient people predating the Mayan's, called the Olmecs seem to fit Jaredite scenerio.









Mayan Ruins of Central America

Mormon's Map



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Based on the Book, "Mormon's Map" by John L. Sorenson and "The Book and the Map" by Venise Priddis

