

# The Diving God

By Neil Steede, Trudy Johnson-West & Nephi Steede © 2019

Neil Steede first traveled to Mexico as a student in 1969. In that year he heard about and began researching Gordon Ekholm's research on the Diving God of Mesoamerica. In volume 10 of the Handbook on Middle American Indians, Gordon points out that the stela from Tulum displayed in the Oaxaca room at the National Museum in Mexico is upside down. It is actually thought by Gordon to be Southeast Asian origin.

The Diving God first appears in Southeast Asia at around 100 CE (AD). As turns out, Gordon was correct. Excavations had just begun at Tulum and relatively little was known about the site.

The remains of a large stela was found at Tulum where the stone slab had been broken off at its base anciently. Ekholm recognized the depiction on the stela as that of a Diving God.

The National Museum in Mexico did not support Ekholm's view. Therefore, they turned the stone upside down. Years later the National

Museum had major problems with the placement of the stela display so they turned the stela sideways, the position in which it is found today.

Several buildings at Tulum, Coba and Ek Balam display images that are identified as Diving Gods built into the lintels and walls of the temples. Being constructed in this manner, they could not be turned upside-down. Regardless, the museum did not change the position of the stela in question to match the walls—they left it sideways. Now there is real concern at this point concerning the meaning of this image. Not only does it appear in architecture but also in bi-reliefs, ceramics, murals and codices.



*Continued on Page 2*

# An Update on Coxca

By Neil Steede (edited by David B. Brown) © 2019

In November of 2019 I made a trip to Mexico to begin my Coxca Project that is scheduled for the Spring of 2020. "Coxca" is the Mayan name for Cerro Rabon in Oaxaca, which is the place I believe to be the Book of Mormon Hill Cumorah.

I had planned for a two-year excavation at the site in Jalapa de Diaz, Oaxaca with project dates running from April 6, 2019 to April 6, 2021. There were several reasons for these dates.

In April of 1980, the

RLDS Church changed the tithing law from 10% increase to a flat 10% of all income. At that time, I stated that the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Revelations (Inspired Version) was coming to pass. This passage infers that "the Bride will flee into the wilderness for 40 years. During this time, she will be heavy with child." I stated that in my opinion, the "bride" was Christ's Church. She was the Bride of Christ—her child was "Zion." In fact, I have a large sign in my front yard that

states all of this in Mayan iconography.

Next year will fulfill the end of the 40 years. Since April 6<sup>th</sup> is the day in question, I believe that it will be the birthdate of "Baby Zion." However, there are more reasons than just what I have said so far.

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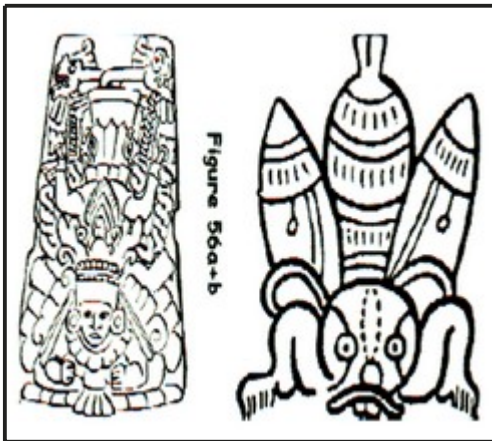
### Inside This Issue

The Diving God <i>Cont.</i>	2 - 3
An Update on Coxca <i>Cont.</i>	4 & 8
Adventures in Archaeology	5 & 6
Book of Mormon Power Point	7
Changes for HCETI	7

## The Diving God *continued*

In Asia, Ekholm has little doubt that the Diving God image is depicting an “eagerness” of that God to immerse himself in humankind. However, in the Americas there is much more disagreement. This is partially due to the variety of the representations of this God. There are several cases, especially in the Yucatan, where the Diving God is depicted as a bee.

Actually, the Bee God image should not be thought of as a Bee



God in a diving position. Rather it should be thought of as a Diving God depicted as a bee. This difference is very profound and equally meaningful. It portrays the “eagerness” of the Diving God to create a change (metamorphoses) in the human recipient’s life.

Because of the position of this God on some of the buildings at the sites mentioned, this God is associated with sunsets and has been associated with the setting of Venus. In one case, one scholar thought that



*The Diving God image centered on a lintel at Tulum. This particular building appears to be dedicated to the Diving God.*

the Diving God was referencing rainfall. Of course, as is usual in these cases, no one can agree. In fact, it appears as though the aspect of disagreeing gives each of them more opportunities to be published. Meanwhile, in my own case, I will probably not touch upon this subject after this particular article.

In my personal opinion, the Diving God (or the descending God) can be correctly interpreted as all of the above. You see, if this representation is Jesus, then it is correct to assume that He is “eager to dive among us.” And, being associated with the setting of Venus is indeed a reference to God as Quetzalcoatl. We are well aware that Venus represents the resurrection of the dead. And being associated with the setting of the Sun, this is also referencing that death and resurrection of the Quetzalcoatl twin in the Popol Vuh.

The association of the Diving God with rainfall is also very appropriate. Just as the “coming down of the rain” brings new life to the earth, the “coming down of the Diving God” brings life to mankind.

The aspect of the bee has several other implications, and the major one is “metamorphosis.” The changing from a larva to a bee, a caterpillar to a butterfly or a tadpole to a frog is what happens to a man when he is baptized. That is to say, fundamental changes will take place when one is baptized—changes that are noticeable to all. More importantly, it should be noted that the bee carries a packet of honey. He can only carry something so precious when he has become a bee. You see, the bee has to feed the honey to larva so that they may also be reborn an adult bee.

The reason for this article is multi-fold, the first aspect to examine is the appearance of the Diving God in Guatemala. In this case, the Diving God has what could be interpreted as a sun-symbol between its hands. Also, its hair to the left side of the head appear to be corn leaves. This



*Diving God stela from Guatemala.*

leaves little doubt as to all the corn symbolism that relates to the “bread of life” as well as the unification of people (like kernels on the cob). The mat above the Diving God’s head is depicting that this God is royalty. Moreover, the trebol behind the mat represents the Trinity. The corn leaves to the right of the body seem to take on the shape of flames, indicating the presence of the Holy Spirit. The two legs create a large U which is a symbol for an offering to God.

The square-shape of the arms indicate the physical world, while the circle of the sun represents the spiritual world. You see, the Diving God has to physically deliver the spiritual. And as can be seen, the man below has to offer the fruit of his spiritual works to be able to receive the spiritual being brought into the physical realm. Obviously, there is much more symbolism here.

*Continued on Page 3*

CUMORAH MESSENGER



# The Diving God *continued*



*In each of the ceramics above and below, the Diving God is bringing nourishment to the Earth from Heaven. His feet are grounded in the Heavens above as He visits our realm.*



However, the following codex drawing involves so many aspects that one could write a book on it alone.



The split between light and dark at the feet, as well as, the shape of the body, and the metaphoric face (Venus cycle) tells one that this God brings everything that one will ever need. Of course, your variety of opinions over all of this can never be settled to make all happy.

However, the recent discovery of the Diving God in Peru is certainly one of the most beautiful depictions of this God. To understand its mean-



ing, one must relate this God to Christianity and Christ himself. And, yes, there are many who say there is no possible reason to relate any of this to Christianity. However, in Peru this Diving God is depicted with a frog head—he is bringing metamorphosis. Moreover, there is no doubt the frog is a diving into water because we see the human reflection looking back up at the God diving toward it.

Behind the legs of the Diving God is a metaphoric hand between four discs. The hand is a symbol for ac-

tion and the Israeli metaphoric four is symbolic of the Messiah. And that all of this is on the outside of a fount that appears to have steps inside, could be inferring baptism. As



*Diving God image on a fount in Peru.*

far as we know, no Diving God has been found so closely associated with an apparent baptismal fount. Moreover, the metamorphosis of the baptism is absolutely demonstrated with no reservation. Its symbolism seems obvious to us. Where all of this leads can only be guessed. But, we must remember that all of this art was done during their Golden Age.

One final observation: we find that the three ruins of Tulum, Coba and Ek Balam each have images of Diving Gods or refer to messengers from the Heavens, and these three sites form a straight line that point to the heart of the Chaco Canyon site in New Mexico. Then extending lines from the Guatemala site to each of the three sites point to some very relevant sites in Asia. We will allow the readers to contemplate these implications.



## An Update on Coxca *Continued*

Mark Taylor is of interest at this point. Mark is a firefighter that was injured and received early retirement as a result. While recovering from a bout with his infirmities, he received inspired messages and began to give prophesies. Now, I am not one to eagerly look for prophesies on-line, but Mark Taylor does not claim allegiance to any specific religious group, nor does he ask for any type of donation. This, in and of itself, encourages me to listen to him. But his prophesy of 2011 is the one that caught my attention. It concerned then candidate Trump.

The prophesy stated that Trump would win, and that Trump's team would only realize it on election night, which turned out to be true. Moreover, Taylor said that a sign of this prophesy would be a triple-crown winner. Most people know that a triple-crown winner happens in horse racing, and that it is quite rare. Nevertheless, there was a triple-crown winner the year that Trump announced his candidacy for President (2015). And, also, as predicted, the Trump campaign headquarters were the first to realize that they had won the election. This is all interesting, but it is only foreshadowing Mark's next important prophesy.

In January of 2018, Mark gave another interesting prophesy, and it reads as follows:

"The Spirit of God says, 'There is a dig, an archaeological find that is coming in an underground vault, which will be so cataclysmic that it will ROCK the Christian world.'"

First, the usage of the term "vault" seems strange and when I think of a "vault" two things come to mind. The first is a large walk-in vault with a 2-foot thick door, as seen in most every bank. The second image is of a wall-safe vault. This second image stuck with me and presently I will explain why this is important. Taylor's prophesy also states that the contents of the vault would "ROCK the Christian world." I

asked myself, "What could possibly be so important as to ROCK Christianity?"

I was aware that there is a cube of piled stone on Hill Coxca (Cumorah). Further, I knew that the cube was only 30' by 30' by 30'. In my view, this is too small to contain a room large enough to hold the Christian "vault" that is being prophesied here, but I was also aware of two more things. A cube made of stacked stone with no mortar matched the interpretation of an "altar" as given in Exodus 20:25.

*"And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone; for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it."*

Moreover, the cube was in a ravine, and was tight up next to a cliff. Could it be possible that the cube was serving as the vault door, and that the vault was in the cliff?

I was also aware of a new metal detector that was being used on the Copper Scroll Dig team in Israel. Unlike other metal detectors that can only read 12-18 inches deep, this one could read up to 25 feet deep. So, I bought one and had David Brown use it on the cube.

The metal detector could not read through solid stone. Therefore, it would not be able to detect anything inside the cave from directly overhead. My idea was to angle the detector from the top of the cube towards the cliff. I believed that if angled correctly toward the cliff, the cave entrance could be penetrated and the metal of the plates inside be detected. My theory was confirmed. The detector read lots of metal.

Now for the third confirming event. I had four locals carry me up the mountain to the cube. It was April 5, 2019. David Brown and Gary Woods were with me. We had gone on this day in order to be there for the entire 24 hours of

April 6<sup>th</sup>. We knew of the local legend of the Three Ancients who were said to come in the first week of April every year to "check on" the "National Treasury" which they were safe-guarding. Of course, we believed that the particular day in which the Three Ancient Ones would actually be there would be the 6<sup>th</sup>.

At about 2 AM on the 6<sup>th</sup>, David and Gary heard someone walking through the jungle close to the camp. They clearly heard the steps, but saw no one. The next day we had five locals clear off the jungle about 60 feet from around the cube. That night, we crashed hard because we were totally exhausted from the heat of the day.

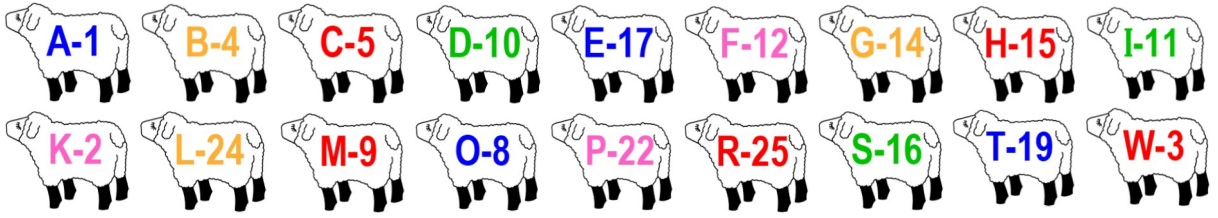
Let me set the stage to establish the proper context. The volcano next to Mexico City had been erupting, blowing smoke and fine ash into the atmosphere. That smoke and ash drifted southward as a high-level haze and brought black clouds that covered the sky in the area of Coxca. There was no moon nor stars to be seen. The night sky is pitch black. As the three of us lie down for the evening, I can see the outline of the darker jungle against the black sky. One more thing, most people know that I am very blind. My right eye is totally blind, while my left eye sees with about a 20/2000 vision. We are camped on the hillside, and I am facing the open sky. At around 10:00 PM, I see the black outline of a human figure moving from left to right across the camp. As he reaches the halfway point, he turns to face me. Then he communicates with me using hand signs known as Mudra.

Mudra is an ancient sign language that was used in India. Using this language, he said, "go ahead, come and take it." Then he turns and continues to the right and disappears into the jungle. My feeling is that it was Jonas.

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15 17 16 15 1 24 24 12 17 17 10

15 11 16 12 24 8 5 2 24 11 2 17

1 16 15 17 22 15 17 25 10 15 17

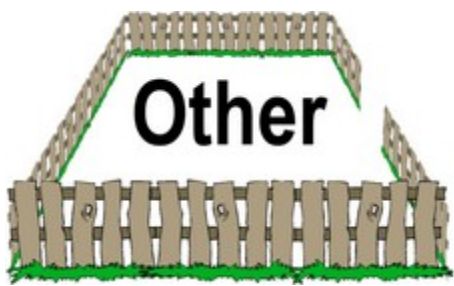
16 15 1 24 24 14 1 19 15 17 25

15 11 16 24 1 9 4 16 3 11 19 15

15 11 16 1 25 9 16

Isaiah 40:11

From the words at right, choose words that appear in the story and draw lines to the STORY corral. Draw lines from the rest of the words to the OTHER corral.



- Aaron
- Ammon
- Flocks
- Goats
- Herds
- King
- Lamoni
- Lehi
- Plunder
- Queen
- Rob
- Sheep
- Shepherds
- Soldiers

## Book of Mormon Power Points *By Neil Steede © 2019*

I am beginning a series of short articles called “power points” that highlight archeological evidences for the Book of Mormon. This particular article is specific to events mentioned in the Book of Mormon that happened in Bountiful. Fortunately for us, evidence of these events can still be found today. Here we will be sharing one of several. In future articles we will be sharing more.

### **The Writing On The Wall**

The story of the writing on the wall occurs in the book of Alma. Alma is preaching in the city of Ammonihah (Tonina), and he is accompanied by a local named Amulek. It is Amulek who then states that it is his ancestor who read the “the writing on the wall”, but he does not tell in which city the writing occurs. The passage is from Alma 8:1-3, “*Now these are the words which Amulek preached unto the people who were in the land of Ammonihah, saying: I am Amulek; I am the son of Giddonah, who was the son of Ishmael, who*

*was a descendant of Aminadi; [2] And it was that same Aminadi who interpreted the writing which was upon the wall of the temple, which was written by the finger of God. [3] And Aminadi was a descendant of Nephi, who was the son of Lehi, who came out of the land of Jerusalem, who was a descendant of Manasseh, who was the son of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt by the hands of his brethren.”*

In earlier writings, I concluded that the city mentioned in this passage must be Palenque (Bountiful). Through the years I have been looking for some form of temple wall inscription and sure enough, on one of the Palace’s interior walls there is something totally out of place. This inscription drew public attention about 39 years ago while I was living in Cardenas, Tabasco. A local guide showed it to several Israeli scholar/tourists who recognized the script as Aramaic. Aramaic is the language spoken by Jesus.

Below we depict a drawing of the inscription. We feel there is very little doubt as to the veracity of this story. In the present-day context this inscription is



impossible to view. The hallway where the inscription is located is fenced-off from public access. I believe that this location will become very well known. Why should this script be located in a classical Maya site cannot yet be explained. We believe that the very existence of this script is the first of several of the Book of Mormon Power Points to be observed.

## Changes for HCETI *By David B. Brown © 2019*

With the recent surrender of our leased space at 16501 East Truman Rd in Independence, the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team found itself without a location to meet. In conversations held in recent weeks, it appears that we have acquired a meeting place thanks to a generous offer from members of the Second Church Congregation of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located at the corner of South Avenue and Delaware Street in Independence, MO.

Our meetings are held at 7 PM every first and third Thursdays of the month. The subject matter of our meetings are varied with updates on projects in Mexico, discussion of recent archaeological publications and planning for research trips to archaeological sites in the Book of Mormon regions of Central America.

There are no formal memberships for the organization. If you are interested in participating in the research and discovery of Book of Mormon evidences,

please visit us at our meetings, or you can call Mike Brown at 816-522-1478 to discuss ways to participate.

We remain convinced that God is moving rapidly to reveal his mysteries to those who are seeking Him. We are committed in this effort as one aspect that works to bring about the cause of Zion—the redemption of His Spiritual government on the Earth in the latter-days. May the knowledge of God sweep the Earth as with a flood.



**We're on the web at  
www.hceti.org**

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## An Update on Coxca *Continued*

Essentially, in my opinion, one of the three has given his permission for me to excavate the "vault." I am elated. And this fact combined with the previous two was why I was having the Coxca Meeting in Mexico City in November of 2019.

### The Coxca Meeting

There were three of us who met to settle on several things. Our archaeologist Alejandro is considered to be the best archaeologist in all of Mesoamerica. He worked for 30 years as the manager and director at the archaeological site of Teotihuacan. Though, he was a Mormon, he never mixed his religion with his archaeology. Meanwhile, Sergio is a native Nicaraguan who now

lives in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca. He teaches English as a second language and has strong alliances with



the Department of Education in Mexico. Both individuals are essential to our project. Both were needed to obtain the permit to excavate Coxca.

I had contracted both of these individuals in August of this year. This meeting was to arrange their wage payment through December. This was the first order of business and was settled. Alejandro had already proceeded with the permit. He stated that he was hoping to excavate the site in 30 days. This cut my estimated cost of two years to less than half. We also decided as to how we will deal with the artifacts and the publicity. We had several very moving experiences during our meetings.

We parted united, with plans to re-convene in February. And, yes, we will be birthing "Baby Zion" this spring.