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## The Sorenson Model

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# Chapter 2

## The Sorenson Model

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One of the principal purposes of creating this geologic analysis is to utilize it to determine if various existing Book of Mormon geographical models are consistent with the geologic inquiry. This inquiry looks exclusively at potential Book of Mormon lands based in Mesoamerica within the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It is also limited to the geography that existed at the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi catastrophe.

There are dozens of individuals who have proposed various models for geographical configurations of the Book of Mormon. There are few models that are developed with what would be considered to have professional academic verification. Dr. John L. Sorenson has made a life's work of creating a plausible geographical model for Book of Mormon locations and his seems an excellent model to use for a comparison with the geologic analysis. The geographical comparisons come from Dr. Sorenson's most recent book, *Mormon's Codex* (2013) and his prior books, namely *Mormon's Map* (2000) and an *Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon* (1985).

A summary of each location related to the catastrophe and a brief summary of Sorenson's model related to the location are shown below. Maps of the locations are shown in figures 1 thru 4. Maps that have been included are those that show the proposed locations for geographical areas and cities that are also mentioned as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi description of the destruction. Figure 5 shows existing cities and known archeological sites.



Figure 1 - The Sorenson Model





Figure 2 - Sorenson Model Geographical Correspondences

“Mormon’s Map” shows the most plausible arrangement of Nephite and Lamanite geographical features based on all the information in the record of Mormon and his son Moroni.<sub>2</sub> (Capitalization of names follows the practice of the published text of the Book of Mormon.)

#### LEGEND

1. waters of Ripliancum
2. limit of Nephite final retreat
3. Shiz’s death; plates left
4. hill Shim
5. narrow pass or passage
6. Hagoth’s shipbuilding site
7. Moroni’s camp
8. Nephites’ refuge between the land Bountiful and the land of Zarahemla (see 3 Nephi 3:23, 25)
9. hill Onidah
10. hill Amnihu
11. hill Riplah
12. valley of Alma
13. dispersal point of the sons of Mosiah<sub>2</sub>
14. waters of Mormon
15. hill north of Shilom
16. mount Antipas
17. place Onidah
18. wilderness on the west of the land Zarahemla
19. wilderness on the west in the land of Nephi
20. Lamanite king’s land
21. land of first inheritance
22. wilderness (see Alma 43:22)
23. mountain pass
24. Hagoth’s possible destination
25. wilderness of Hermounts
26. “line” between Desolation and Bountiful
27. defense “line”

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi Location

### Sorenson Location Summary

Land northward	south boundary at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, east boundary at the Gulf of Mexico, west boundary at the Pacific Ocean, north boundary undefined, could range from Veracruz to Mexico City
Land southward	north boundary at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, east boundary at the Gulf of Mexico, west boundary at the Pacific Ocean, south boundary at south end of the Valley of Guatemala
Zarahemla	Santa Rosa, Mexico
Moroni	north shore of Laguna Mecoacán, Mexico
Moronihah	somewhere in borders by east sea near Jershon
Gilgal	land southward
Onihah	land southward
Mocum	land southward
Jerusalem	south shore Lake Atitlán, Guatemala
Gadiandi	uncertain
Gadiomnah	uncertain
Jacob	uncertain
Gimgimno	uncertain
Jacob-Ugath	possibly Cuicuilco, Mexico
Laman	uncertain
Josh	uncertain
Gad	uncertain
Kishcumen	uncertain



Figure 3 - Possible Location of Destroyed Cities in the Sorenson Model



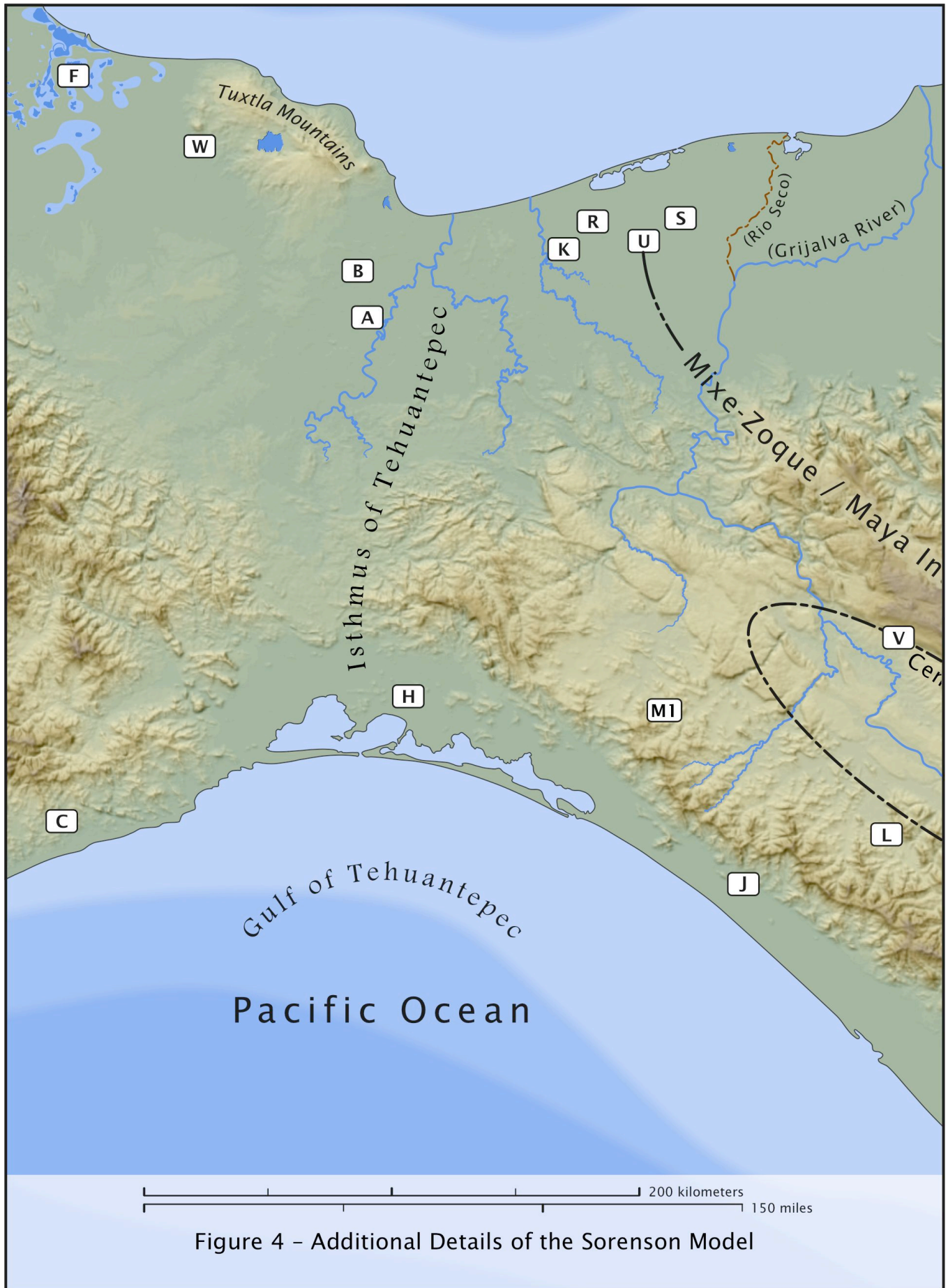


Figure 4 - Additional Details of the Sorenson Model

