Title

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Reviewed by David A. Palmer

Professor Paul Dean Proctor of Brigham Young University has produced a colored map of Book of Mormon geography. He is a man of great faith and distinguished service. He also shows insight, as the following statement indicates:

The depository of the plates which Moroni buried after his many years of wandering is not the Cumorah of the ancient Nephites or the doomsday hill of the Jaredites. A multitude of sacred records still lies buried in a cavity in the rock of that ancient site under heavenly protection, yet to come forth in the due time of the Lord.

This statement would certainly seem to be true.

However, the map that he has produced does not really contribute to Book of Mormon geographical studies. He frankly states, "Present day geography was not considered in the make up, only internal descriptions within the book." Actually, taking that approach, a very insightful and much more accurate reconstruction based entirely on the text has been published by Clark. Clark’s reconstruction is in basic agreement with the geographies published by Palmer and Sorenson. Those volumes not only place the setting in Mesoamerica, where the important ruins dating to Book of Mormon times are found, but specifically suggest identifications of the places and some of the ruins with Book of Mormon names. There are extensive references to field reports giving detailed correlations between the ruins and the history as related in the Book of Mormon.

Although Professor Proctor is acquainted with major organizations doing research in this area, he has elected to construct an internally consistent geography not dependent on

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actual sites. The maps are attractive, but I would have found them more useful had they been configured with respect to the real world.

Reviewed by David F. Barney

Professor Paul J. Dee, Professor of Brigham Young University, has produced a colorful map of Book of Mormon

geography. He is a man of great intellect and linguistic

acumen, and he has written a number of significant works on

the Book of Mormon. His recent book, "The Geography of the

Book of Mormon," is a significant contribution to the field of

Book of Mormon geography. It is a comprehensive and

scholarly work that provides a detailed look at the

geographical aspects of the Book of Mormon narrative.

However, the book is not without its weaknesses. The maps

included in the book are somewhat simplistic and

underwhelming. While they provide a general sense of the

locations mentioned in the Book of Mormon, they

fail to capture the complexity and intricacy of the

geographical settings described in the text.

None of the maps in the book accurately reflect the

physical geography of the lands mentioned in the

Book of Mormon. Some of the maps are

oversimplified and do not provide enough detail to

accurately represent the terrain described in the

scripture. For example, the map of the land of

.zion is not accurate in its depiction of the

physical features of the area.

Another weakness of the book is its lack of

contextualization. While the maps are

helpful, they are not accompanied by

explanatory text that situates the geographical

information within the broader context of the

scripture. This makes it difficult for

readers to understand the significance of the

geographical information presented.

In conclusion, while Professor Dee's book is a

valuable contribution to the field of Book of

Mormon geography, it is not without

weaknesses. The maps are attractive, but

they are not as useful as they could be if they

were more accurately configured with respect to the

real world. Overall, the book provides a

thoughtful and scholarly examination of the

geography of the Book of Mormon, but

readers should be aware of its limitations.

References:

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