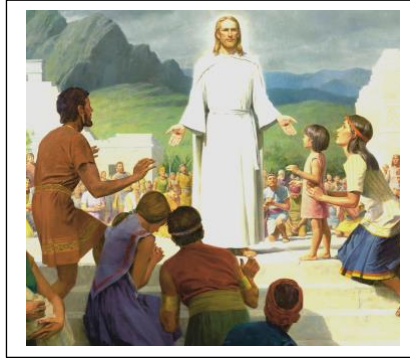


## The Visit of Jesus Christ to the Americas



Hernandez Cortez and the Spanish Conquistadors



"... they **saw a Man descending out of heaven**... saying: Behold, I am Jesus Christ... Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands... that ye may **feel the prints of the nails in my hands**..."  
 (3 Nephi 11:8-15, 3 Nephi 17:9) 34 AD



The "**Descending God**" with **holes in the palms of his hands**.

Statue from Tulum, Mexico.  
 Dated 900 AD to 1200 AD

When Hernandez Cortez, Catholic Priests, and other early explorers first arrived in the Americas, they looked for crosses on buildings and temples. The cross in their minds would have represented a Christian belief in Jesus Christ. Very few crosses were ever found in or outside of these ancient Mesoamerica buildings. In contrast in the United States and elsewhere in the world, we have thousands of crosses on the outside, tops of churches, and in various religious buildings. Hernandez Cortez in 1519 AD did not see any crosses on or in any Aztec buildings, nor did any other early explorers discover crosses on any buildings, thus they believed that the Aztecs, Maya, and Inca people were only pagan and that they had no knowledge of Jesus Christ or Christian beliefs.

**Question:** If the Book of Mormon people knew about Jesus Christ as recorded in [2 Nephi 25:26](#), "... we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ...", why then is there so little evidence in the ancient Americas of Christian crosses on or inside these pre-Columbus buildings?

**Answer:** The death of the Savior on the cross was an Eastern Hemisphere event. It was the resurrected living Christ who came to the ancient people in the Western Hemisphere. "... come forth that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet..." ([3 Nephi 11:14](#))

Is it any wonder that the visit of a living resurrected Jesus Christ in person to these ancient Book of Mormon people would supersede his death on the cross, an event that took place in the Eastern Hemisphere? It was the living Christ who came to the Americas, with holes in the palms of his hands, not the dead one. Thus, **it should be of no surprise to find hundreds of ancient pre-Columbus hieroglyphs of hands carved in stone in Mesoamerica, representing holes in the palms of the hands.**

As we today wait for the return, even the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the Aztec people were also waiting for the return of a God who would rule and reign on earth, that they in 1519 AD called Quetzalcoatl. They were expecting the return of a God, who had previously come and visited their ancestors having holes in the palms of his hands promising to return again someday.



<< Cortez meets Montezuma, 1550 AD, Aztec drawing

Montezuma statement when greeting Hernando Cortez: "**For a long time I have been expecting [you]... looking...within the clouds [for you to come]. My Lord...you have come to sit upon your throne...which I have possessed for some days in your name... come...and assume your throne...**" (We People Here: Nahuatl, [Aztec], *Accounts of the Conquest of Mexico*, Book 12, Florentine Code, p. 117).

“[There was a] Mexican [Aztec] custom of mourning on the terraces of their houses... the interpreter of the Codex Telleriano-Remensis and the interpreter of the Codex Vaticanus affirm that the Mexicans [Aztecs] were accustomed to utter from the terraces of their houses on the festival of Huneymicaylhuitl... repeated... during three successive nights, **‘Come quickly, since we expect you.’**” (Lord Edward Kingsborough, *Antiquities of Mexico*, notes on page 15 in Vol. 8).



Xcalumkin Yucatan Peninsula



Palenque Mexico



Quetzalcoatl, Mayapan Yucatan P.



Palenque Mexico



Yaxchilan,

**Note:** The following information is from archeologists, authors, researchers, Aztec, Maya & Peruvian historical archives. None of the information has originated from any members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This information became available to the world only after the first addition of the Book of Mormon had already published in the year 1830.

**“Quetzalcoatl stood for everything good and wise in the world... When he descended to ground level through an opening in the sky, as if coming down the steps of a holy pyramid he...”** (Neil Baldwin, *Legends of the Plumed Serpent*, p.34, Mid-Columbia Library, Othello, WA)

**“The Mayans handed down beliefs of this God called ‘Itzam Na’ [or Quetzalcoatl] was that he ‘possessed of the power of healing’ by the laying on of hands... For his wisdom he was spoken of as the royal or noble master of knowledge.’”** (Daniel Brinton, *American Hero-Myths*)

**“Itzam Na, [or Quetzalcoatl] was also... able to cue [sic] the sick and even bring the dead to life.”** (Eric S. Thompson, *The Rise and Fall of Maya Civilization*, p. 229)

**“And long ago, according to the neighboring Totonac peoples... ‘Quetzalcoatl, disappeared into heaven, but promised one day to return, bearing with him an era of delight and abundance.’”** (Neil Baldwin, *Legends of the Plumed Serpent*, p. 31, Mid-Columbia Library, Othello, WA).



<< Ixtlilxochitl a native Aztec historian

The following information is from an early Mexican, [Native Aztec], historian named Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl, who was born in 1578AD, and wrote in 1625, *Sumaria Relacion de la Historia General*. Ixtlilxochit was born of royalty, being a descendant of both the last king of Texcoco and the next-to-the-last emperor of Mexico. He was educated in Spanish and was considered by some to have been the most knowledgeable in the language, history, and antiquities of his people. His writings were essentially ignored until 1892 when they became published and widely available in Spanish.

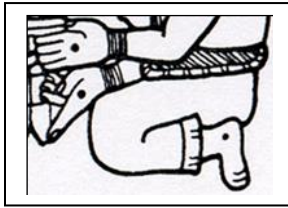
**Ixtlilxochitl recorded the following:** *"Of a truth I have the ancient histories in my hand [records unavailable to us today], and I know the language of the natives, because I was raised with them, and I know all the old men and principals of the land." "I have... stated ... according to what appears in their histories and paintings..."*

***"There arrived in this land a man they called Quetzalcoatl... His countenance was white and he wore a beard. His manner of dress consisted of a long flowing robe... He was considered just, saintly, and good, teaching them by deeds and words the road to virtue. He instructed them to refrain from vices and not to sin, and He gave them laws and sane doctrine... He said that... He would return [the Second Coming] and then His doctrine would be accepted, and His children would be lords and heirs of the earth."***

(Ixtlilxochit, *Sumaria Relacion de la Historia General*, 1625)



Yaxchilan, Yucatan



Veracruz Mexico, Dated 250-550 AD



Central Veracruz Mexico, Dated 700-900 AD

“The 75<sup>th</sup> page of the Borgian MS, [Aztec codex], is very remarkable, from the representation which it contains of **Quecalcoatl in the attitude of a crucified person, with the impressions of nails visible in his hands and feet...**” (Kingsborough, *Borgianus Codex, Antiquities of Mexico*, Vol.8 p. 45)



“The Descending God” Dated 900 -1200 AD Carved on the Temple at the ancient city of Tulum Mexico, with a cup in his hand.  
Note: “...I have drunk out of that bitter cup...” (3 [Nephi 11:11](#))”

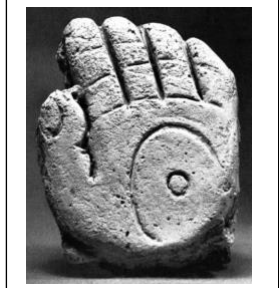


Pectoral, on a Huastec conch shell. With marks of holes in the palms of each hand Veracruz Mexico. Dated 900-1200 AD (*Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico & the Maya*, p. 169)

A carving showing a wound in the palm of the hand and round drops representing drops of blood from that wound.

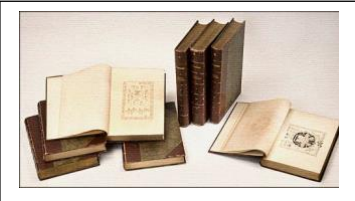


Tulum, Yucatán Peninsula The “*Earliest inscription at Tulum, [dates back to] 564 AD.*” (Wikipedia, 2017)



Palenque, Mexico, Dated 300-650 AD

Antiquities of Mexico, by Lord Edward Kingsborough



“The Aztecs have a tradition of a God suffering and crucified named *Quetzalcoatl*, and of one [John the Baptist], preceding Him to prepare the way and call them to repentance. *Tezcatlipoca* offered Him a cup, calling Him “*Mu son*,” of His...weeping bitterly after having drunk its contents; forsaking temporal kingdoms for spiritual, being called away by the Father. At His departure there were four earthquakes. He promised to return again and redeem His

people.” (*The Americas Before Columbus*, p. 36 a quote from [Kingsborough](#))  
Note: Even in the...1840’s...Kingsborough’s works had not reached America.

Researched & Compiled by Phil Michel  
For Additional Archaeological & Historical Evidence of the Book of Mormon and Jesus Christ’s visit to the Western Hemisphere visit: [www.supportingevidences.net](http://www.supportingevidences.net) Update (10/18/20)