

# IZAPA VISITORS CENTER

**Ancient Israel & Izapa New Year**

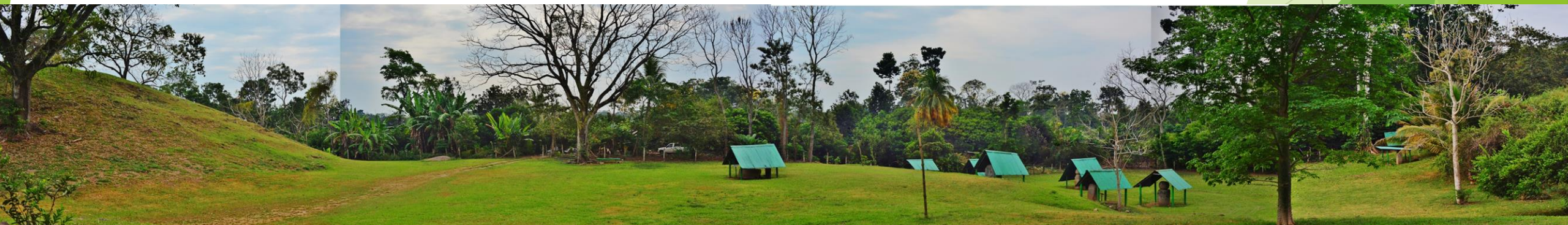
**September, 2017**

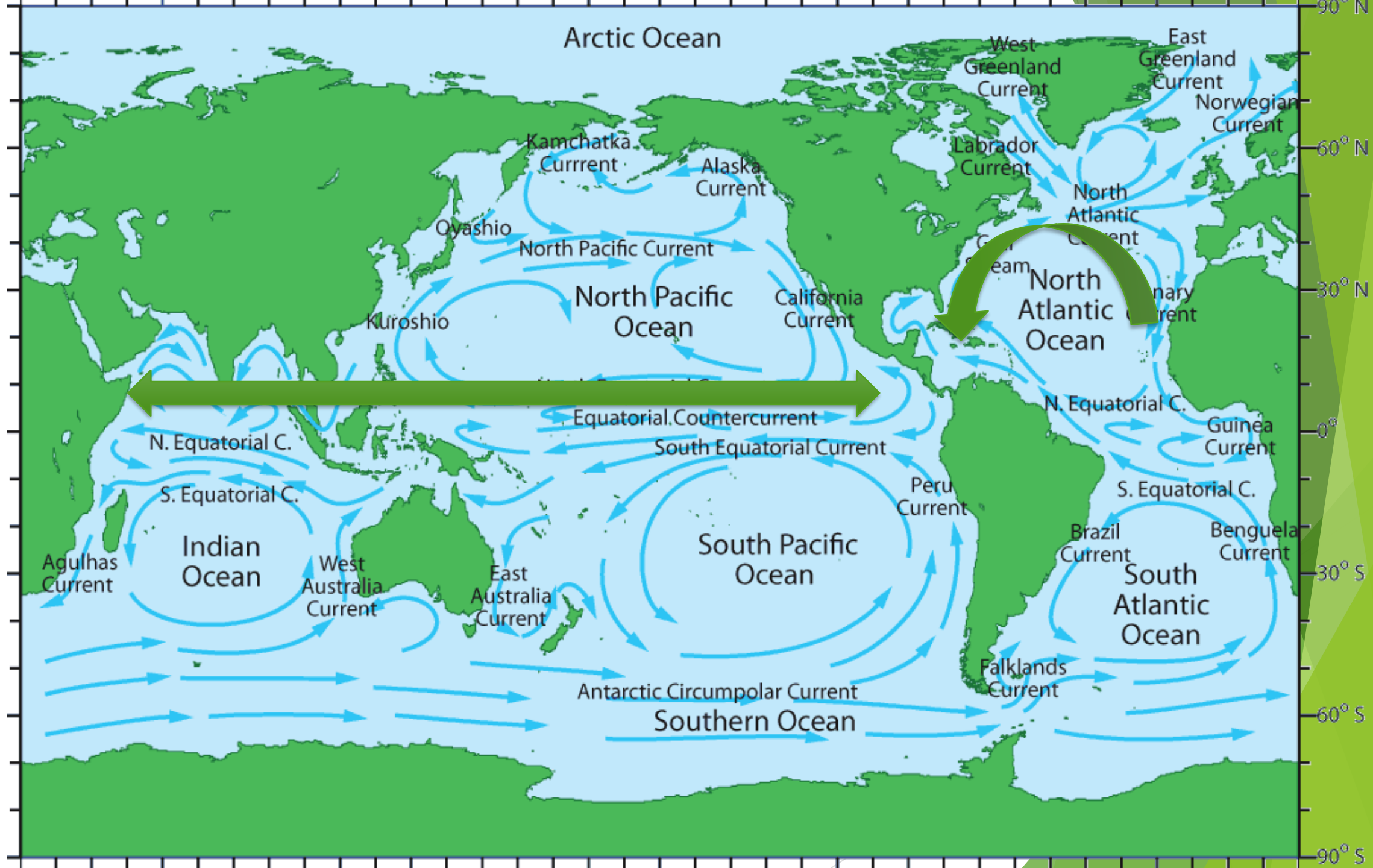
**Welcome to Izapa--Come  
to the Tree of Life**

**PROPRIETOR: Antonio D'amiano Atristain**

**ARCHAEOLOGIST: V. Garth Norman**

**© ARCON, 2017 V. Garth Norman**







Mesoamerica is the “middle” America between North & South America.



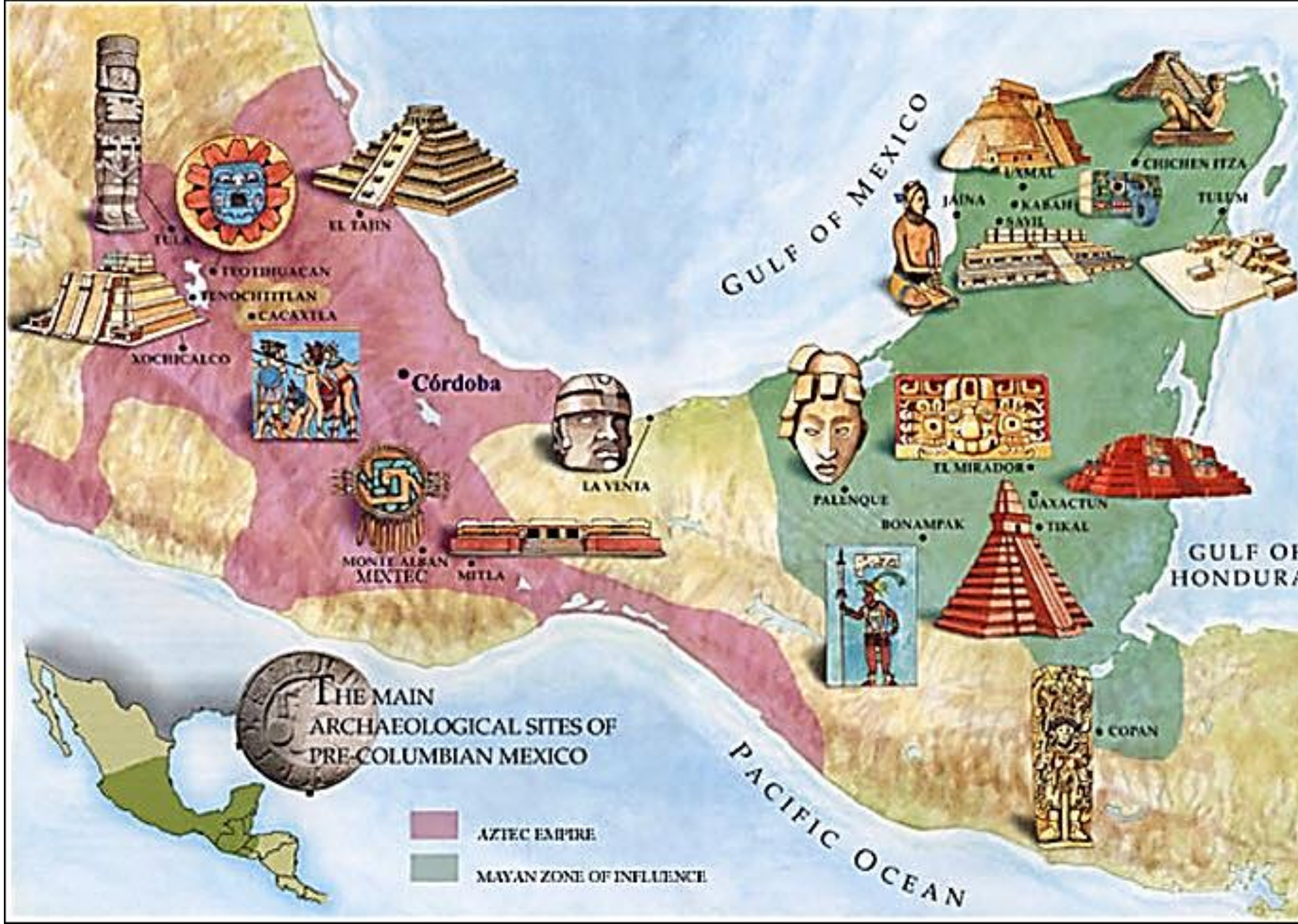


Civilizations: **Olmec (pink, yellow, brown) 2000-500 BC** Jaredite  
★ **Izapan-600 BC-200 AD** Nephite & Popol Vuh, **Mayan 200-900 AD** Lamanite





Ancient cultures of Meso-america match the timeline of Book of Mormon Cultures & Geography.





IZAPA TEMPLE CENTER DIGITAL RE-CREATION  
SHOWING MOUNT TACANA ON THE NORTH





# Izapa Temple Center

Plaza A  
stone  
carvings  
(stelae)





**CASA DEL VISITANTE  
IZAPA  
V. GARTH NORMAN ARQUEÓLOGO**

**Archaeologist  
V. Garth Norman  
(2<sup>nd</sup> from Right)  
under Izapa Visitor  
Center sign.  
Friends (L-R) Sergio  
Navas, Rodolfo Juan  
Flores, Alberto  
Lopez Morales,  
Garth Norman, Dr.  
Jason Jones  
(June 30, 2018).**





Izapa Visitor Center  
is on top of Mound 23





Antonio D'amiano Atristain: owner of Izapa Visitor Center; Outdoors with wife Mirna Janet & artist Israel Ramos. Stelae 5 & 11=harvest season.





South Entrance. Stela 89 depicts resurrection of a man being released from his 'bands of death' as he gazes at winter solstice rise.





# Stela 5 "Rosetta Stone" / Mid-east Cubits / Observatory



Stela Group B1  
Izapa  
Group B  
Lines point  
to the Zenith  
sunrise  
August 13  
and  
April 30

Grupos representan  
cardinales y las  
temporas del año.  
Grupos A y B representan  
las direcciones y los  
meses del año.

© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman

El árbol y el panel cielo de estela 5 se miden con incrementos del codo de Babilonia.  
The Stela 5 tree and sky panel are measured with increments of the Babylonian cubit.

Los codos babilónica y egipcios fueron descubiertos por primera vez en 1983 por el arqueólogo V. Garth Norman de ser las mediciones de las antigüedades en Izapa. Posteriormente él descubrió que se utilizaron para construir las antigüedades por toda Mesoamérica.

The Babylonian and Egyptian cubits were first discovered in 1983 by archaeologist V. Garth Norman to be the measurements of the antiquities at Izapa. He subsequently found they were used to build antiquities throughout Mesoamerica.

© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman

El tronco de árbol de Estela 5 se compone de la imagen de la Vía Láctea, para expresar el viaje cósmico de la vida.  
The Stela 5 tree trunk is composed in the image of the Milky Way to express the cosmic journey of life.

La salida del sol del solsticio de invierno (21 de diciembre) se alinea con Estela 5 y otros monumentos.  
The winter solstice (December 21) sunrise aligns with Stela 5 and other monuments.

© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman

IZAPA  
UN OBSERVATORIO MESOAMERICANO  
El dios del sol en la Estela 9 asciende al cielo con el espíritu de un hombre. Estela 5 se alinea a 21 de junio solsticio de verano.  
A MESOAMERICAN OBSERVATORY  
The sun god on Stela 9 ascends to heaven with a man's spirit. Stela 5 aligns to the June Summer Solstice.

© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman. Illustration by Rachel...



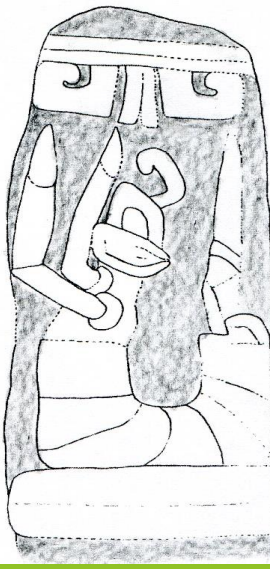
Tajumulco volcano on east wall is oriented to summer solstice sunrise, as shown on Stela 9. Venus northern standstill rises on Tajumulco peak.



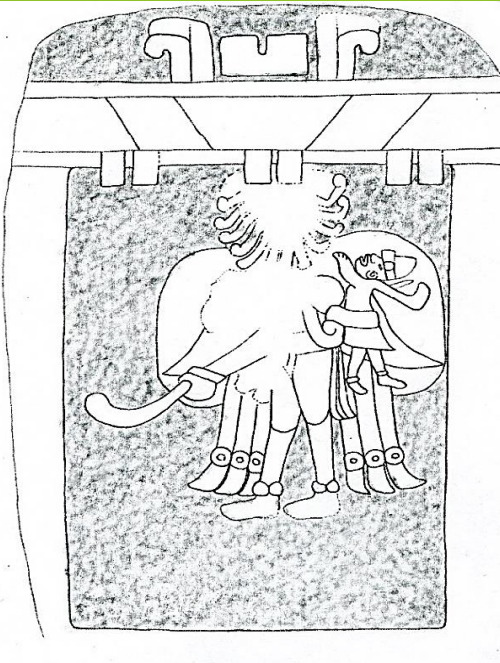




Tacana Volcano on North wall is the path to heaven. Man like a butterfly reborn (Stela 28) flies into heaven at summer solstice.



Stela 9 Sun God with butterfly wings carries a resurrected man into heaven as shown in the mural.





# IZAPA TEMPLE CENTER

Reconstruction  
Plan showing

Pyramids & Mounds  
oriented to  
the north  
Tacana Volcano  
river & ponds

© 2017- ARCON,  
V. Garth Norman





Murals on the east wall record Izapa's eastern horizon calendar observatory. Mounds and monuments are oriented to their sun, moon and Venus cal. azimuths. Venus+ N. standstill rises on Tajumulco peak.





The Izapa Temple Center was built by craftsmen using the Babylonian (49.5 cm) & Egyptian (52.5 cm) cubits that they brought with them when they crossed the sea from the Middle East to Middle America. These two cubits were used to measure Izapa's architectural dimensions, stone monument figures, world tree chronology & all structures. These two Middle Eastern cubits were used throughout the antiquities of Mesoamerica.



El árbol y el panel cielo de estela 5 se miden con incrementos del codo de Babilonia.

The Stela 5 tree and sky panel are measured with increments of the Babylonian cubit.

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Posteriormente él descubrió que se utilizaron para construir las antigüedades por toda Mesoamérica.



The Babylonian and Egyptian cubits were first discovered in 1983 by archaeologist V. Garth Norman to be the measurements of the antiquities at Izapa. He subsequently found they were used to build antiquities throughout Mesoamerica.

© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman





1942  
Smithsonian

Tree  
of  
Life

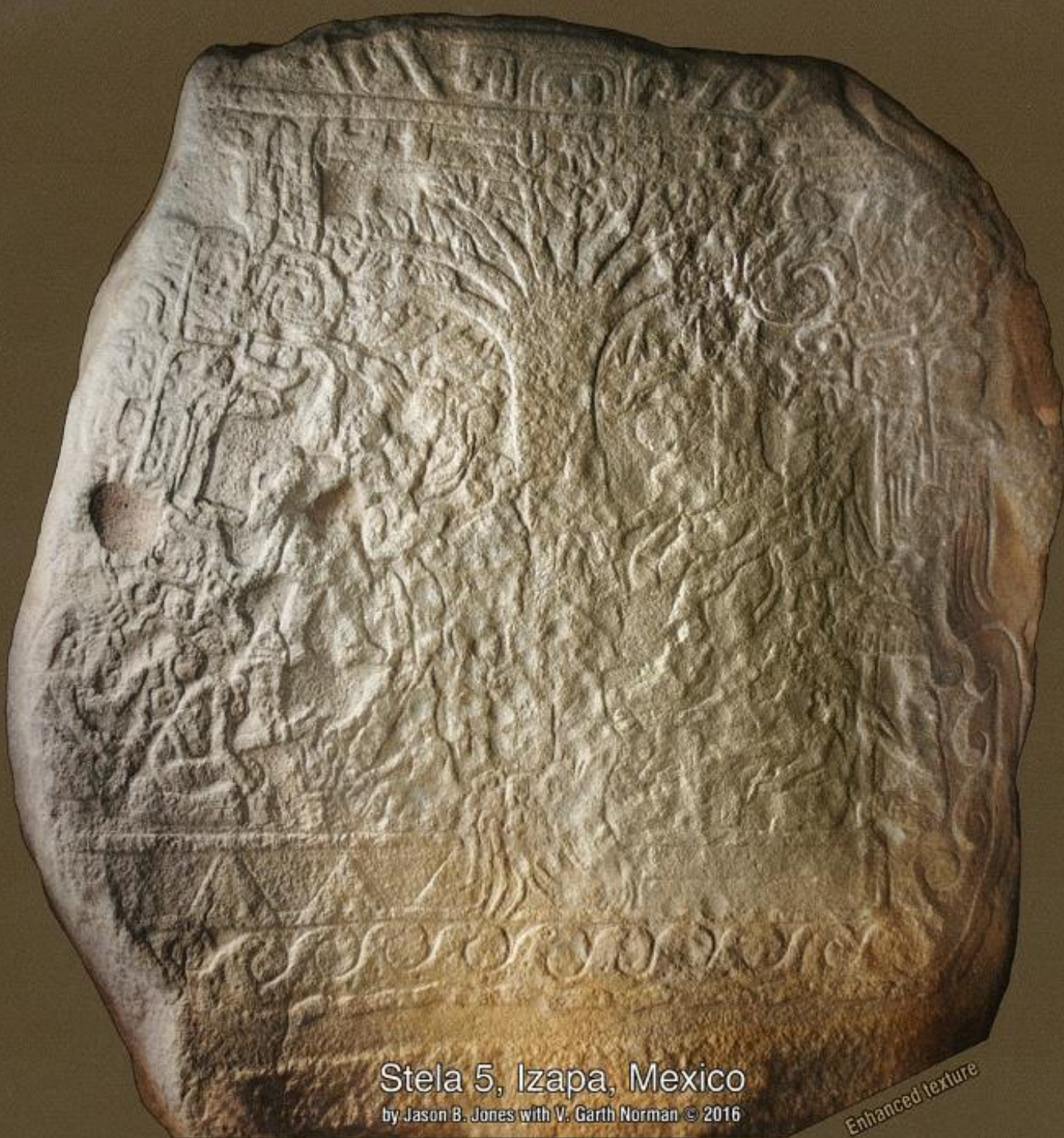


1965  
Garth  
Norman





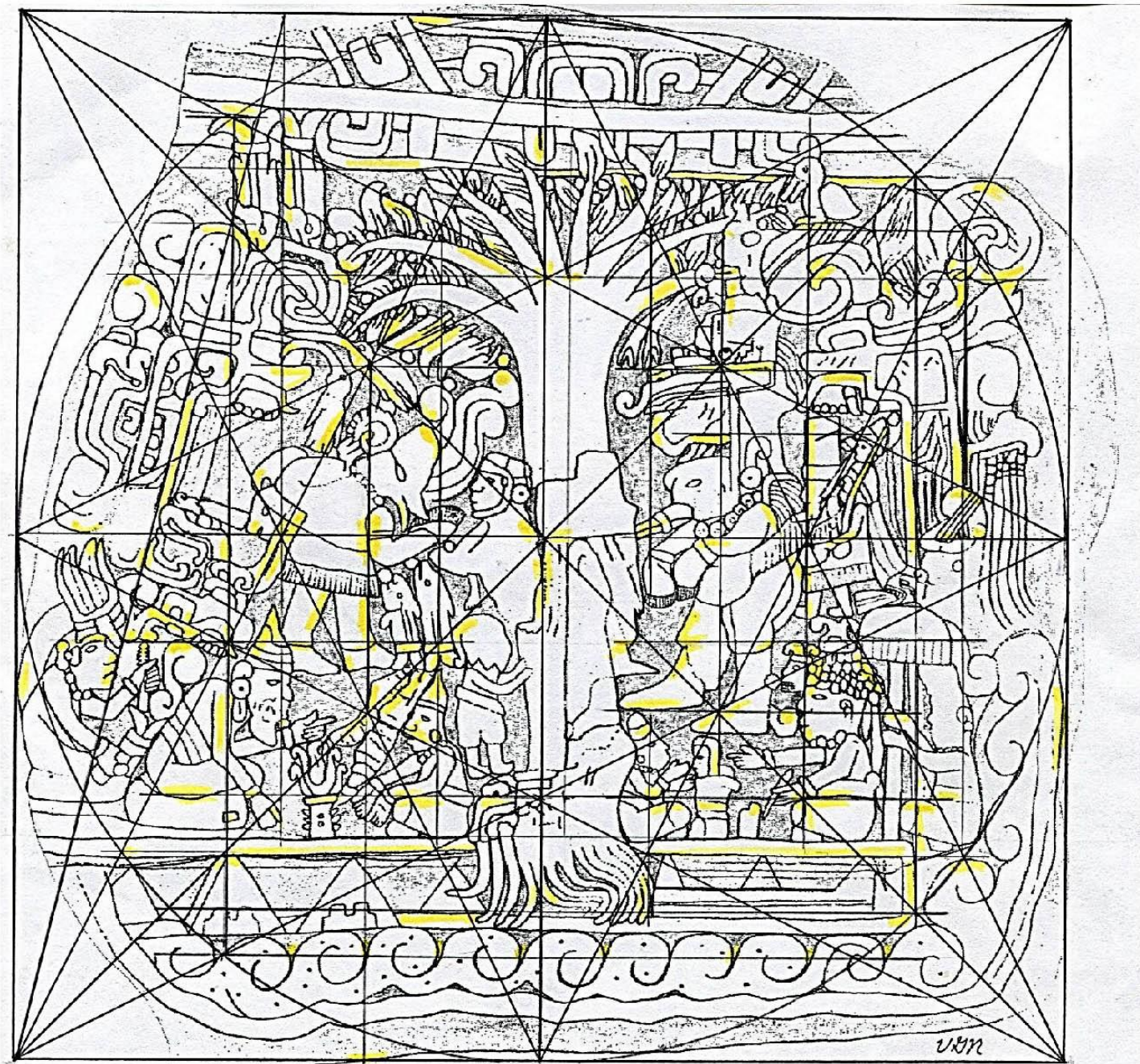
**2012 RTI  
photo  
of Izapa  
Stela 5  
by  
Dr. Jason  
Jones  
(Warwick  
University-  
England)**



Stela 5, Izapa, Mexico  
by Jason B. Jones with V. Garth Norman © 2016

Enhanced texture



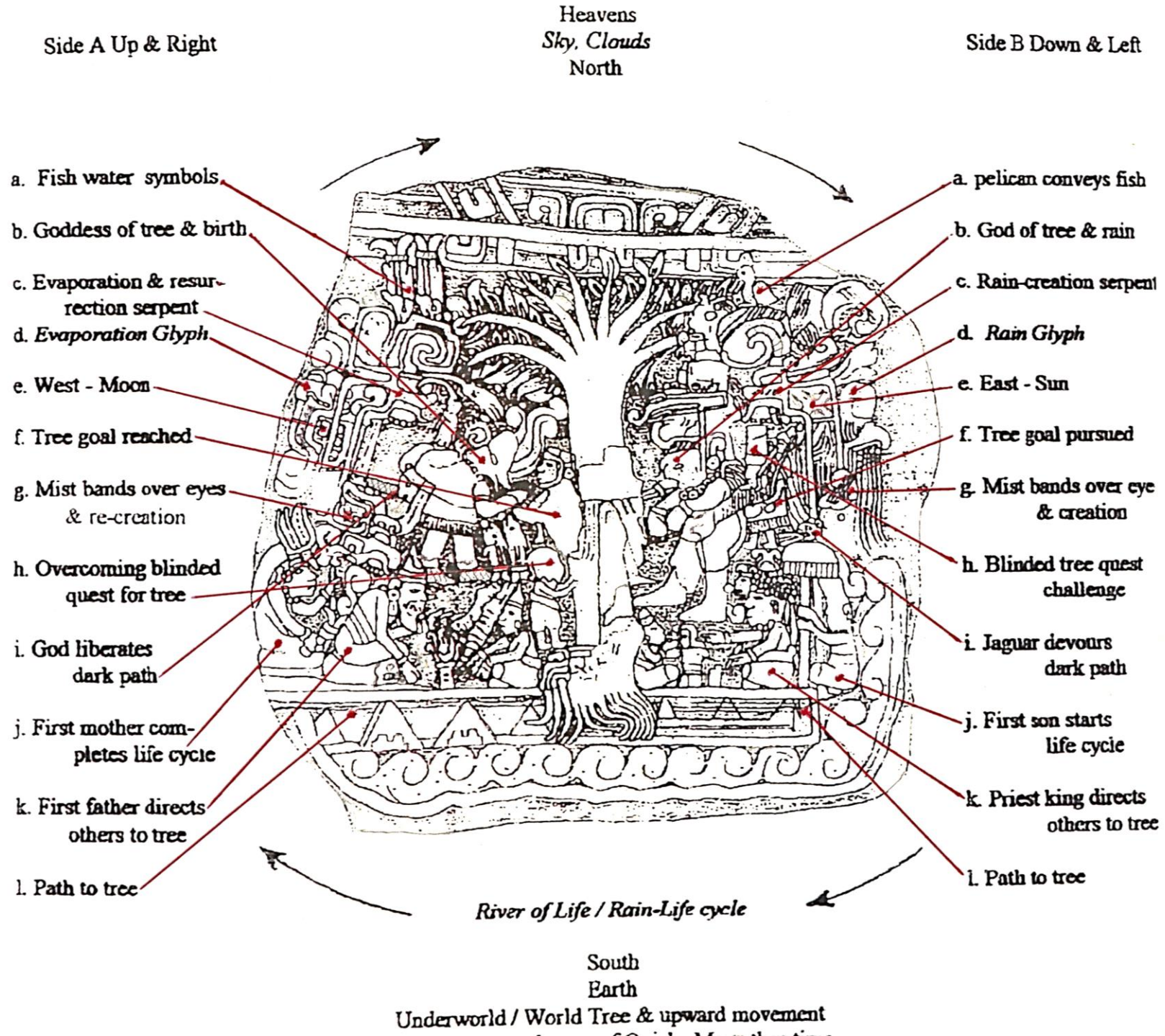


Middle Eastern  
“Golden Mandala”  
Geometry (circle, square,  
triangle) was also  
used by Izapa  
builders as the design plan  
for the entire Temple  
Center and for the design  
structure for carving  
hieroglyphics onto stone  
monuments.



# Izapa Tree of Life

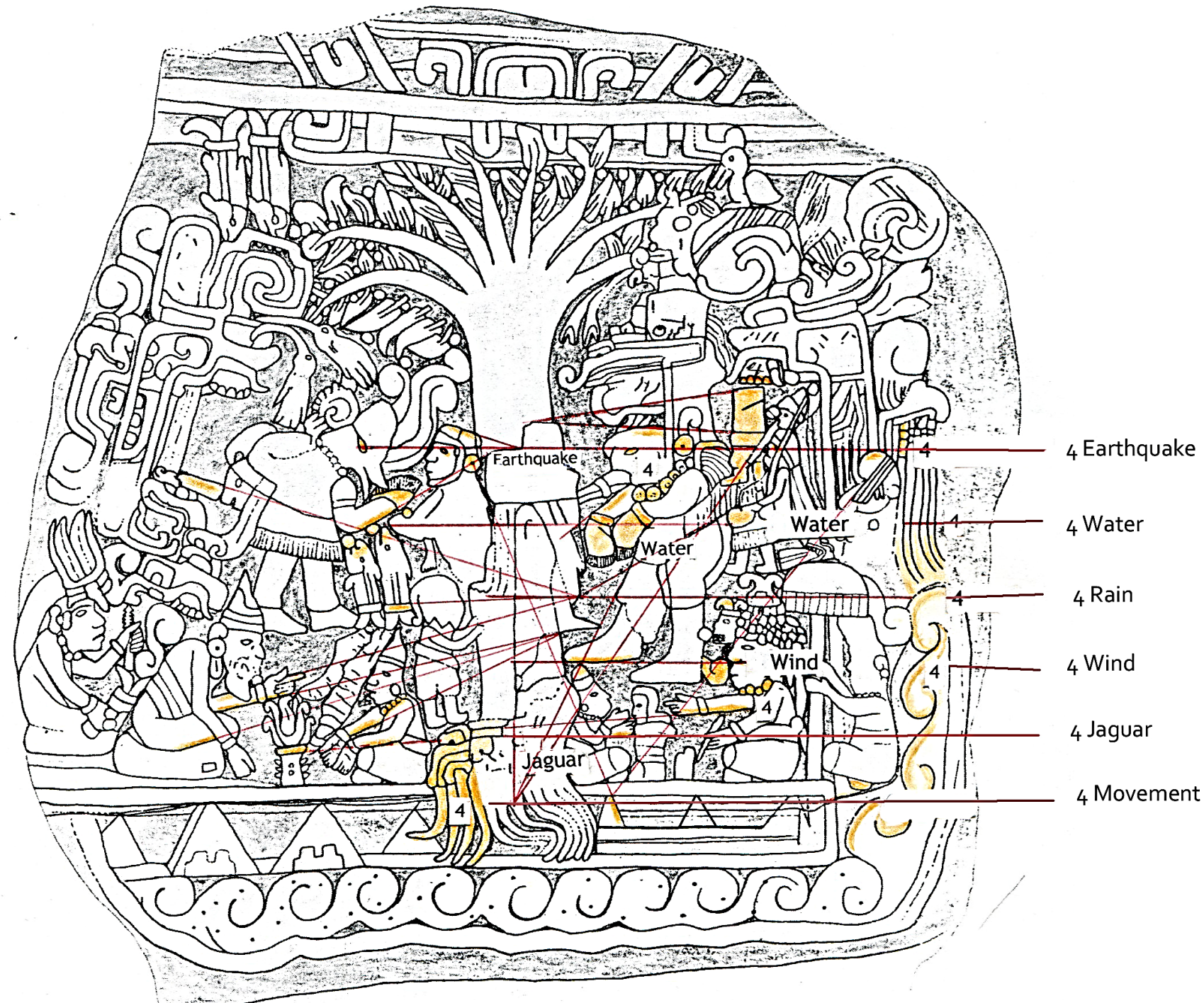
1. 12 Roots=12 Tribes of Israel.
2. **Quetzalcoatl God of Mesoamerica** (right of tree) **Goddess** at left of tree)
3. Life cycle (arrows) symbolized within rain cycle.
4. Family of six seated on base panel=Lehi's family.





# Stela 5 Maya World Ages

correlate  
with “jogs”  
on the  
Stela 5  
Tree Trunk.





## Mesoamerican Base date:

August 13, 3120 B.C. (Generation=great Flood.)

## Izapa & Popol Vuh- Sacred Book of the Maya

“Creation by the gods”

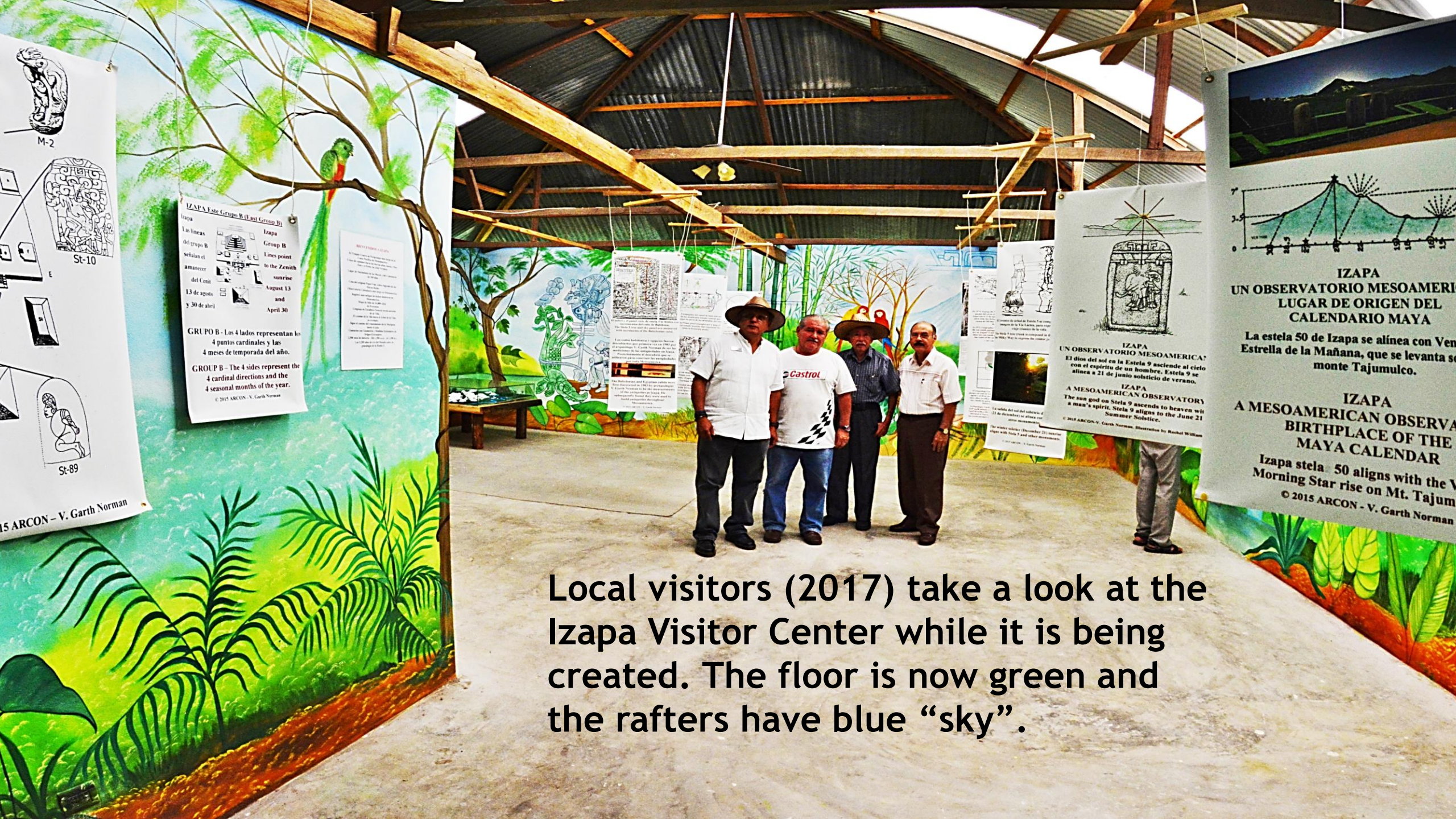
“Flood destroyed wicked people”

“Corn people were created after the flood”

“Bearded foreigners came from across the sea”

(Popol Vuh & Proskuriakoff)





**IZAPA Este Grupo B (East Group B)**  
Izapa  
Las líneas del grupo B señalan el amanecer del Cent 13 de agosto y 30 de abril  
Izapa Group B  
Lines point to the Zenith sunrise August 13 and April 30  
GRUPO B - Los 4 lados representan los 4 puntos cardinales y las 4 meses de temporada del año.  
GROUP B - The 4 sides represent the 4 cardinal directions and the 4 seasonal months of the year.  
© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman

**IZAPA UN OBSERVATORIO MESOAMERICANO LUGAR DE ORIGEN DEL CALENDARIO MAYA**  
La estela 50 de Izapa se alinea con Ven Estrella de la Mañana, que se levanta sobre el monte Tajumulco.  
**IZAPA A MESOAMERICAN OBSERVATORY BIRTHPLACE OF THE MAYA CALENDAR**  
Izapa stela 50 aligns with the Morning Star rise on Mt. Tajumulco.  
© 2015 ARCON - V. Garth Norman

Local visitors (2017) take a look at the Izapa Visitor Center while it is being created. The floor is now green and the rafters have blue “sky”.





Estela 5 de Izapa, el Árbol de la Vida—  
la “Piedra de Rosetta” de Mesoamérica.

Izapa Stela 5 Tree of Life—  
the “Rosetta Stone” of Mesoamerica.

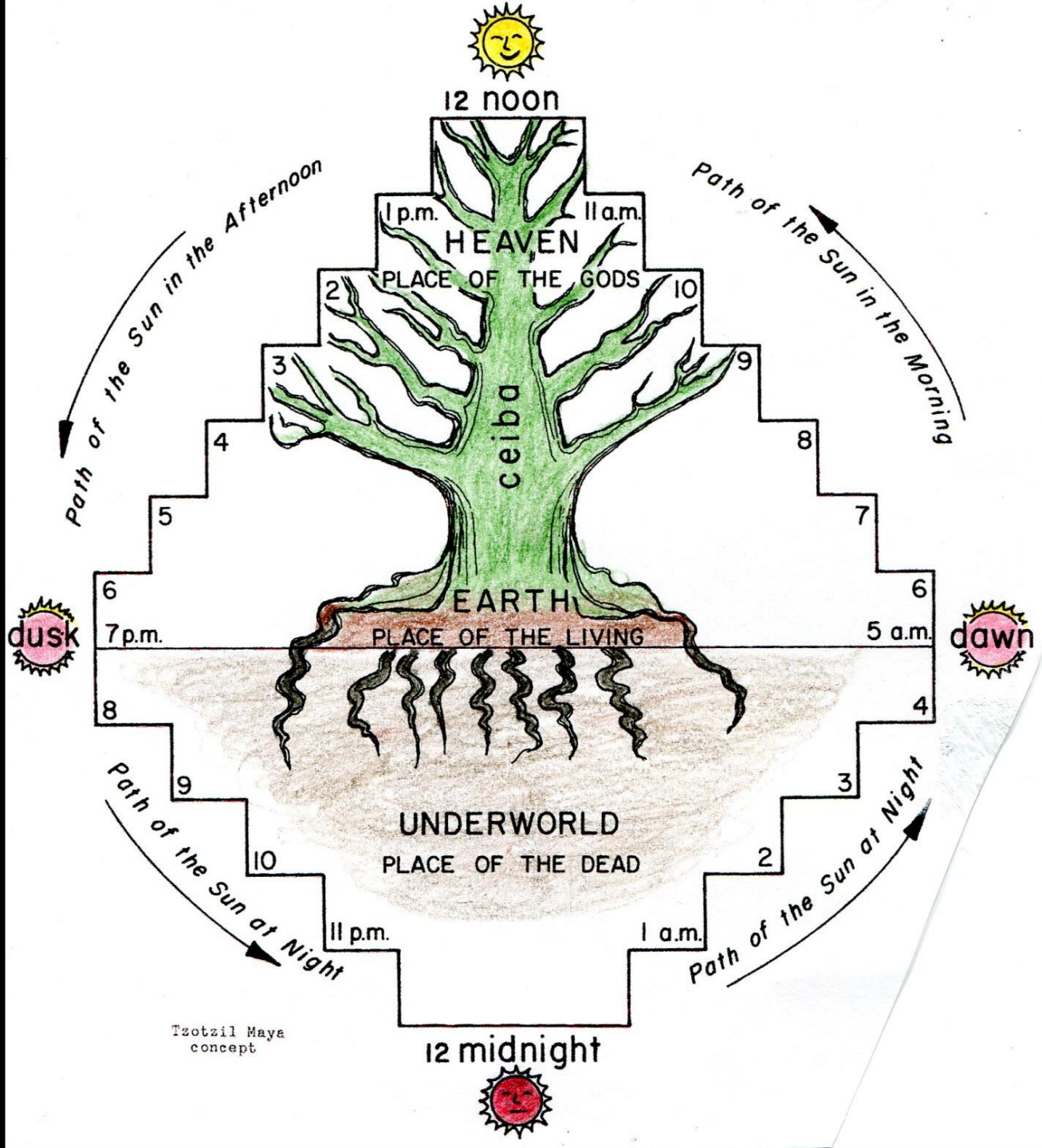
© 2015 ARCON – V. Garth Norman

Tree  
of  
Life

Izapa  
Left

\*

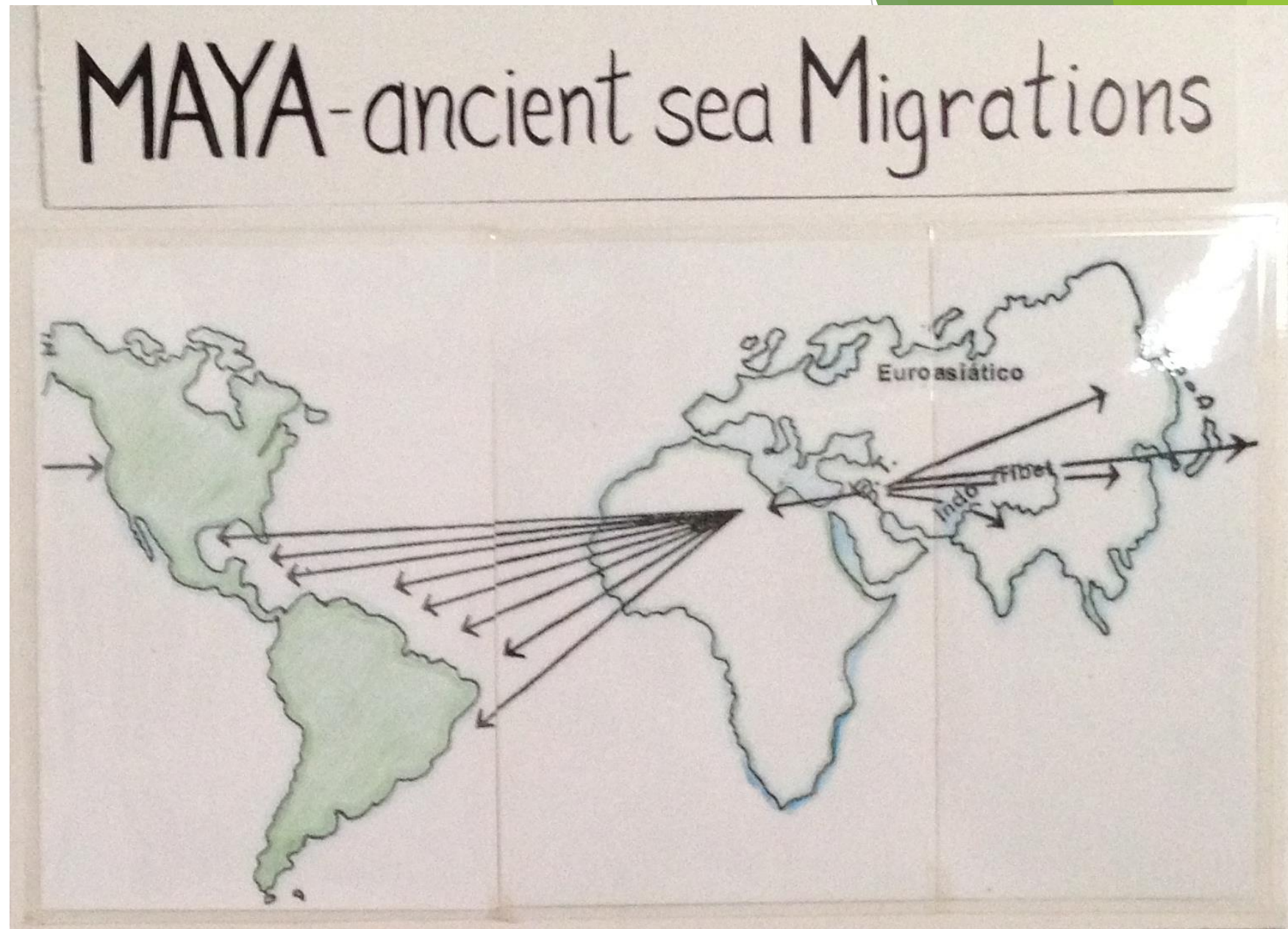
Tzot-  
zil  
Maya  
Tree  
Right





# Maya History Map & 2 Nephi 1:9

“I, Lehi, have obtained a promise, that inasmuch as those whom the Lord God shall bring out of the land of Jerusalem shall keep his commandments, they shall prosper upon the face of this land: and they shall be kept from all other nations.”

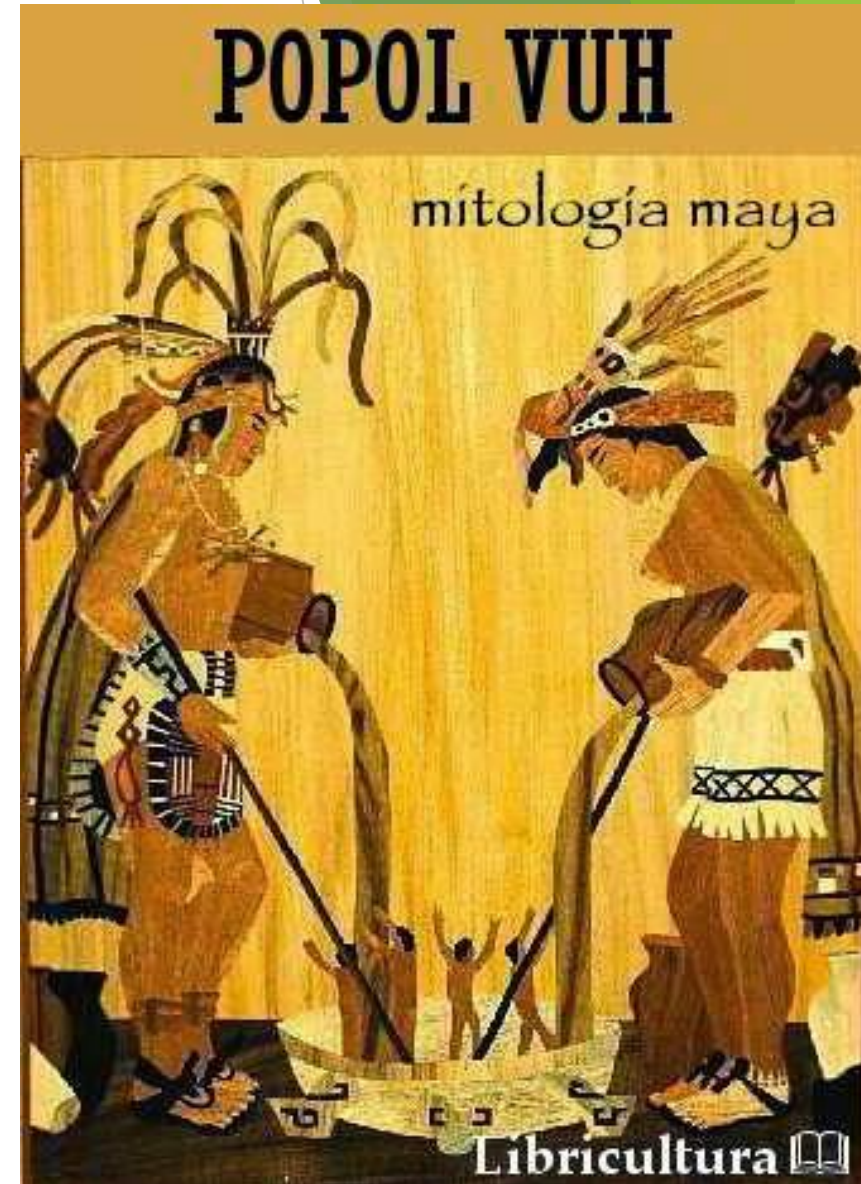






Izapa Stela 25  
1,000+ years  
before the  
Popol Vuh  
sacred book of  
the Ki'che Maya  
– relates to a  
creation battle  
myth to defeat  
the powers of  
darkness by the  
first men.

Also parallels  
Moses' serpent  
staff.





Izapa has become widely known among Maya scholars from my Izapa Sculpture studies (1973-2015) as the possible ancient home of the Popol Vuh. Stela 25 is the prime evidence with partial parallels to the Popol Vuh myth, especially the severed arm (from the man) in battle being carried on the back of the big bird god above him. The more compelling Popol Vuh tie at Izapa is the Stela 5 history tree with the first family seated under the tree. The parents and four brothers are Izapa's first family that matches the Popol Vuh first family parents with four brothers in the migration history account from across the sea. The Izapa account also parallels the Boturiini codex migration account. These details also parallel the Book of Mormon first family migration account which provides the most compelling evidence for me to consider Stela 5 as authentic Mesoamerican history related to the Book of Mormon. (V. Garth Norman)

**The Popol Vuh account also includes: Creation, The Great Flood, Migrations: "Bearded Foreigners came from across the Sea", Genealogies, & Wars.**



Garth & Cheryl  
Norman with  
Mayan “Elders”  
following a 3  
hour “Temple”  
Ceremony  
at Izapa that  
these “Elders”  
dedicated  
to their  
ancestors-2010  
vgarthnorman.com  
Maya video





# Stela 5 by V. Garth Norman in Deseret Book publication (2003)

## BOOK OF MORMON REFERENCE COMPANION

DENNIS L. LARGEY  
GENERAL EDITOR



Fig. 2. *Aztec Stela 5*. 1999 update of New World Archaeological Foundation photograph line drawing by V. Garth Norman (1973). © V. Garth Norman. See accompanying table for numbered possible parallels to Lehi's vision of the tree of life. Thirteen new carved details confirmed by studies since 1976 by G. Norman (3), P. Culbert (2), R. Williams (1), and Clark Moreno (3) have been added.

### STELA 5

parallels between the vision of the tree of life and Stela 5 are interesting, as yet published data have been inconclusive and will continue to be until researchers gain a more complete picture of Teapan culture. Since Jakeman, other studies have been made, some supportive of the tree of life/Lehi's dream thesis (e.g., Wirth, 65-75), and others divergent (e.g., Clark, 22-33).

See also Archaeology; Quetzalcoatl; Transoceanic crossings; pre-Columbian.

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### STELA 5

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- . "Teapan Sculpture, Part 1: Altars." *Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation*, no. 30. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1973.
- . "Teapan Sculpture, Part 2: Jaws." *Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation*, no. 30. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1976.
- . "Astronomical Orientations of Teapan Sculptures." Master's thesis, Department of Anthropology, Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1980.

### POSSIBLE PARALLELS BETWEEN STELA 5 AND LEHI'S VISION OF THE TREE OF LIFE (Numbers correspond to those in fig. 2)

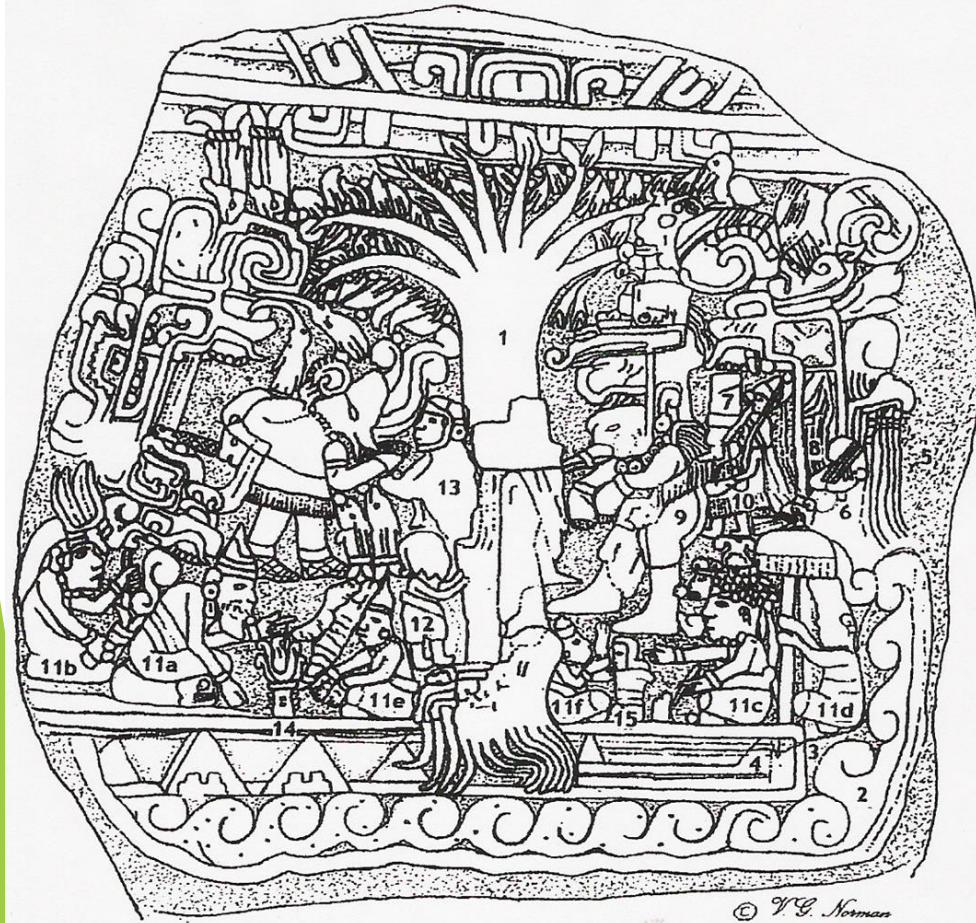
FEATURE IN TREE OF LIFE VISION	STELA 5 PARALLELS
1. Tree of Life	1. Tree of Life/Ward Tree with guardian spirits
2. River of water	2. River flows down from rain into water panel
3. Straight and narrow path	3. Path lines from river head go to tree
4. Root of iron	4. Broad line next to path goes to tree
5. Spacious field/dark wasteland	5. Open field at head of river by dark mud glyph (M)
6. Multitudes of people	6. Generic figure comes from field
7. People fill spacious building high up	7. "Dovecote" symbol is the tower revealed
8. Mists of darkness	8. Ed glyph with "dark mud" bands (bird eyes) (M)
9. Heavenly messenger or guide	9. Bird-serpent god (Quetzalcoatl) leads to tree
10. Person being led from dark field	10. Traveler led by god (M) as extension from arm of (M)
11. Lehi's family in desert (a) Lehi, (b) Sarah (c) Nephi, (d) Sam (e) Laman, (f) Lemuel	11. Six figures; ancestral family of Quiche Maya: first parents of migration; two younger brothers, king-scribe and attendant; two older brothers subdued by younger brothers
12. Some who reach tree are blinded	12. Person at tree blinded by hood
13. Some reach tree and receive fruit	13. Figure born of tree receives fruit from goddess
14. Lehi observed law of Moses	14. High priest attends incense burner
15. Child "god" image (1 Nephi 11)	15. Priest-king (J1C) directs worship to child image



POSSIBLE PARALLELS BETWEEN STELA 5 AND LEHI'S VISION OF THE TREE OF LIFE

(Numbers correspond to those in fig. )

Lehi Dream Parallels on Stela 5



FEATURE IN TREE OF LIFE VISION	STELA 5 PARALLELS
1. Tree of Life	1. Tree of Life/World Tree with guardian spirits
2. River of water	2. River flows down from rain into water panel
3. Straight and narrow path	3. Path lines from river head go to tree
4. Rod of iron	4. Broad line next to path goes to tree
5. Spacious field/dark wasteland	5. Open field at head of river by dark mist glyph (#8)
6. Multitudes of people	6. Generic figure comes from field
7. People fill spacious building high up	7. "Boxed man" symbol is the most elevated
8. Mists of darkness	8. Eb glyph with "dark mist" bands blind eyes (#6)
9. Heavenly messenger or guide	9. Bird-serpent god (QUETZALCOATL) leads to tree
10. Person being led from dark field	10. Traveler led by god (#9) as extension from arm of (#6)
11. Lehi's family in dream (a) Lehi, (b) Sariah (c) Nephi, (d) Sam (e) Laman, (f) Lemuel	11. Six figures; ancestral family of Quiche Maya first parents of migration two younger brothers; king-scribe and attendant two older brothers subdued by younger brothers
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**Izapa is positioned to align with the TACANA VOLCANO on the North, and MOUNT TAJUMULCO on the East**





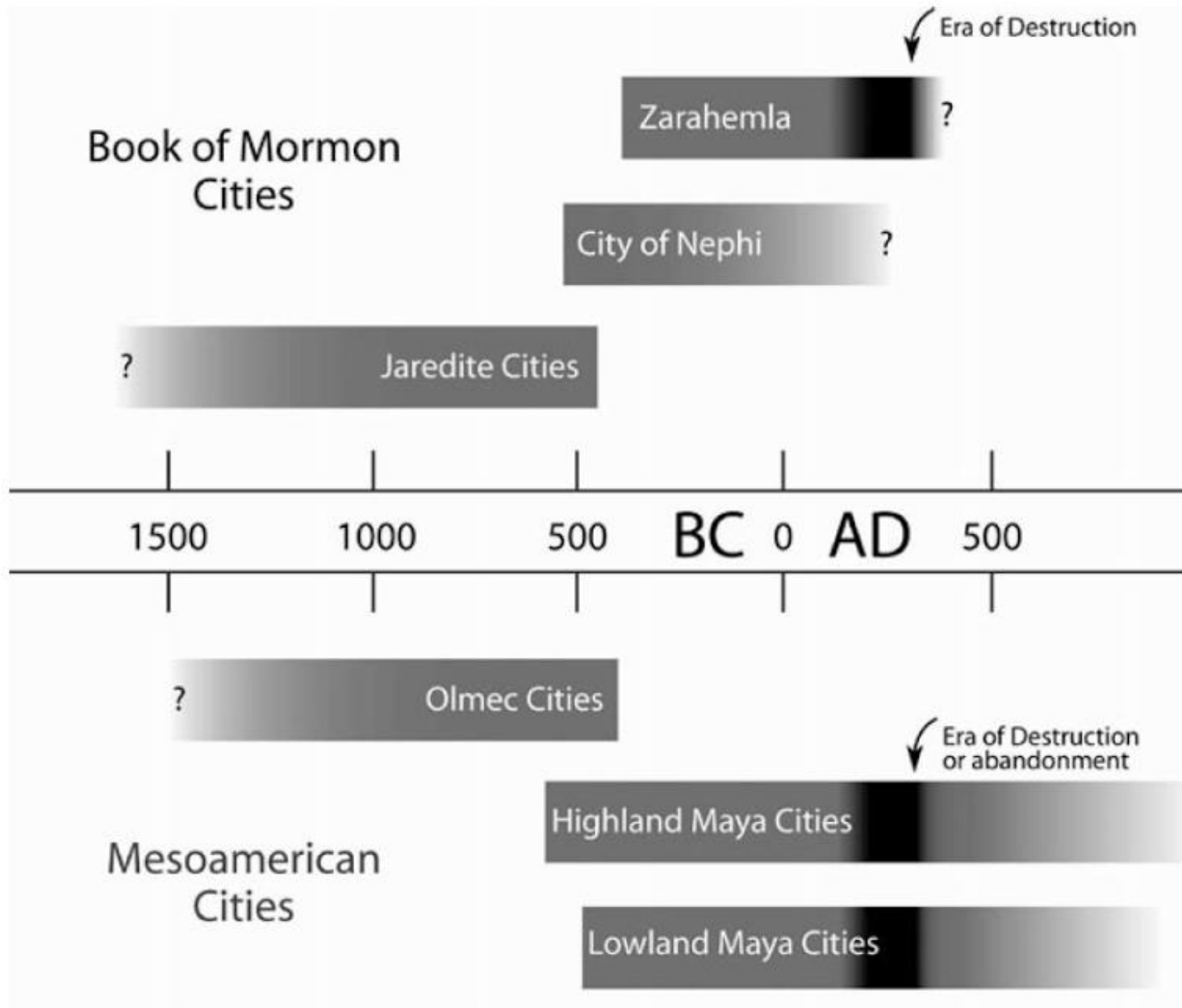


Figure 3. Comparative histories of Book of Mormon and Mesoamerican cities and civilizations.

Mesoamerican antiquities (Olmec & Maya) have the same dates as the main areas of the Book of Mormon cities (Jaredite & Nephite).  
(John Clark: BYU)



# Izapa publications by V. Garth Norman

1973, 1976, 1980, 2012

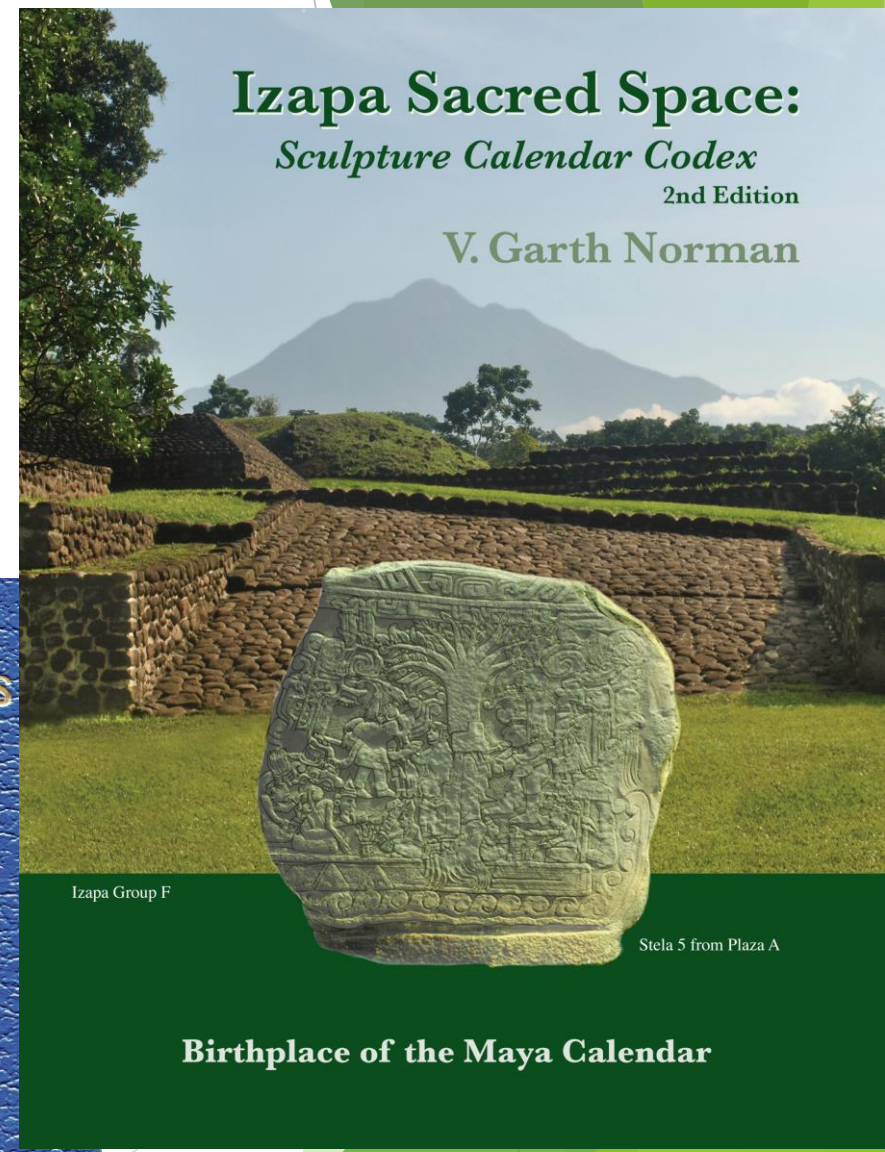
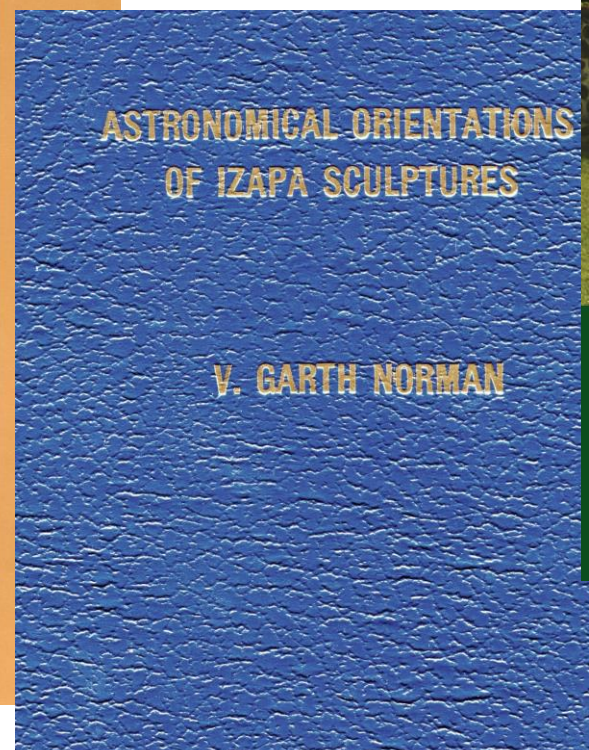
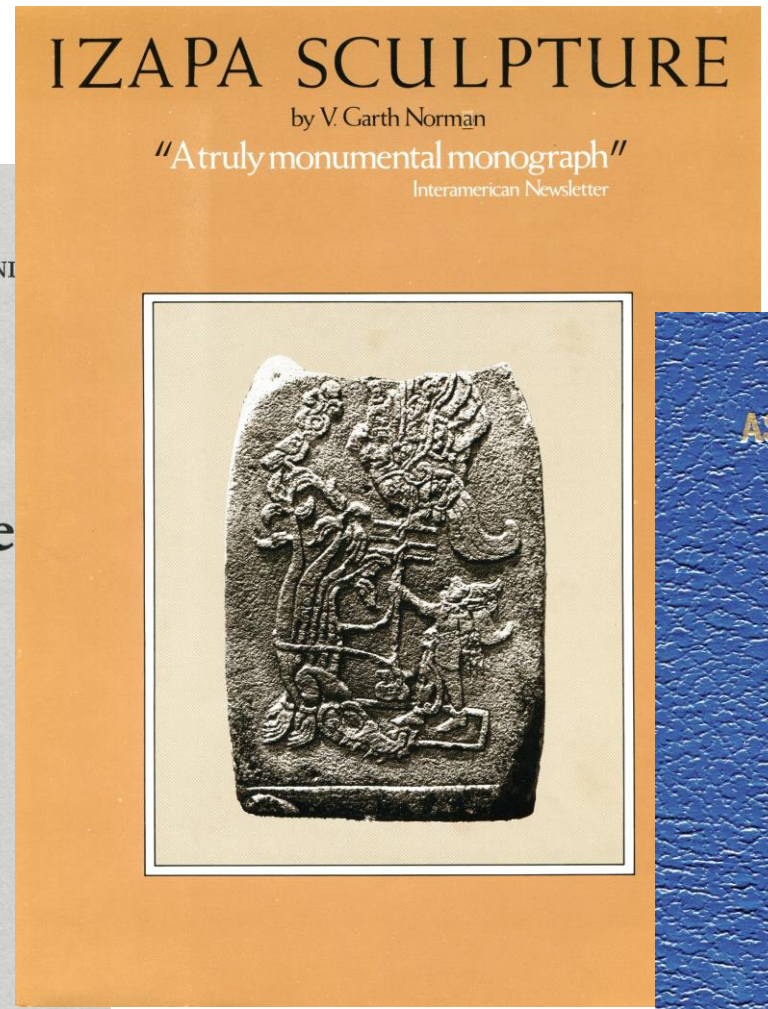
PAPERS  
of the  
NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

NUMBER THIRTY

## Izapa Sculpture

PART 1: ALBUM

by  
V. GARTH NORMAN





Replica of Izapa,  
Mexico Temple  
Center's Stela 5  
“Tree of Life  
Monument” created  
by V. Garth Norman  
with detail from his  
1965 NWAFF photos  
and  
Dr. Jason Jones  
2012 RTI photos of  
this monument.

