



The Izapa Temple Virtual Reality Project



by Cheryl Norman (*The legacy of V. Garth Norman lives on.*)

In 1962, the BYU New World Archaeological Foundation (NWAf) began excavating and researching at the Izapa, Mexico ancient Temple site. Archaeologist V. Garth Norman joined NWAf's Izapa project in 1965. He eventually published 6 lengthy books from his 55 years of work at Izapa, with one translated into Spanish (300+ pages) by Carlos Cruz Fernandez in Mexico, City. All publications have had numerous academic peer reviews with compliments from all.

His publication on the Parowan Gap in Utah shows how at about 700 AD migrants from Mesoamerica created an outdoor Temple with the 260-Day Calendar, and Babylonian & Egyptian cubits that were used to build the Izapa Temple Observatory. Due to droughts and earthquakes, Mesoamerican natives migrated to North and South America to survive.

In 1985, the Ensign magazine asked Garth Norman for an update on the Stela 5 "Tree of Life" monument

as a potential Book of Mormon artifact. A positive report was given to the Ensign, recommending additional research be done. Decades later the research has been completed. The following articles with videos show the results.

- Birth, Life, and Afterlife
- Book of Mormon influence in Mesoamerica

The placing of Izapa is where the Venus "Morning Star" can be seen every 584 days on the top of

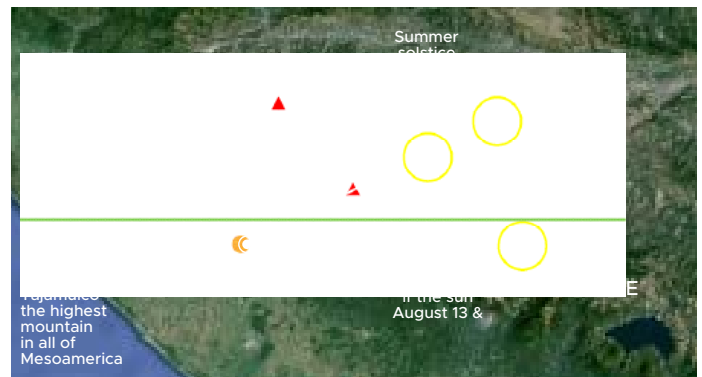


Fig. 1 - The Izapa Temple Observatory was created at 14.8° North Latitude to align with the two Sun Zenith Passages on August 13 and April 30 that define the sacred Maya 260-Day Gestation Calendar. It also has a unique view of the Heliacal rising of the Venus "Morning Star" on the Peak of Mount Tajumulco in the East.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/1mE9M4xXic8>

the eastern Mount Tajumulco. The Maya believe that the Venus “Morning Star” represents their God-Quetzalcoatl—just as Jesus likened himself to the planet Venus “bright and morning star” in Revelations 22:16b, 20. Jesus' final recorded words in the Bible, He likens Himself to the planet Venus: "I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star... Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:16b, 20).

In 2002, Dennis L. Largey visited with Garth and Cheryl Norman in their American Fork, Utah home. He interviewed Garth about his work at the Izapa, Mexico Temple Observatory. Garth gave him copies of his NWA/BYU publications from 1973, 1976, and 1980 with specific pages to read regarding Stela 5, the “Tree of Life” monument. A few weeks later,

Brother Largey returned and invited Garth to write an article for the 2003 Book of Mormon Reference Companion of which Largey was the Editor. The Article titled “Stela 5” on pp.740-744 has illustrations and corresponding meanings between Tree of Life Visions in the Book of Mormon and representations on Stela 5.

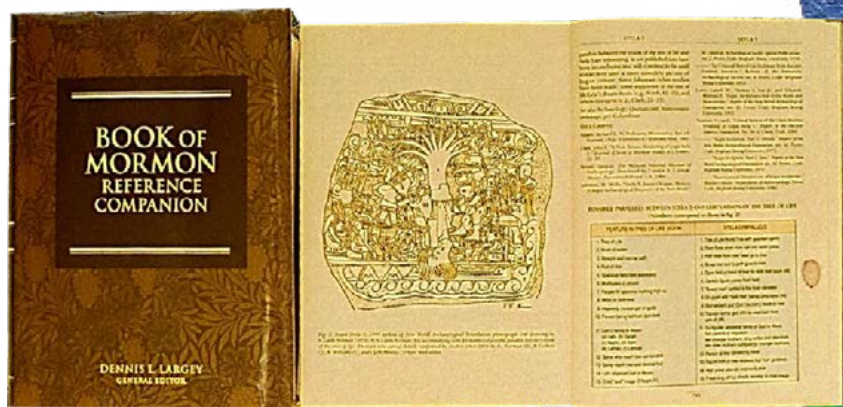


Fig. 2 - Stela 5 article by Garth Norman in Book of Mormon Reference Companion (Deseret Book 2003)

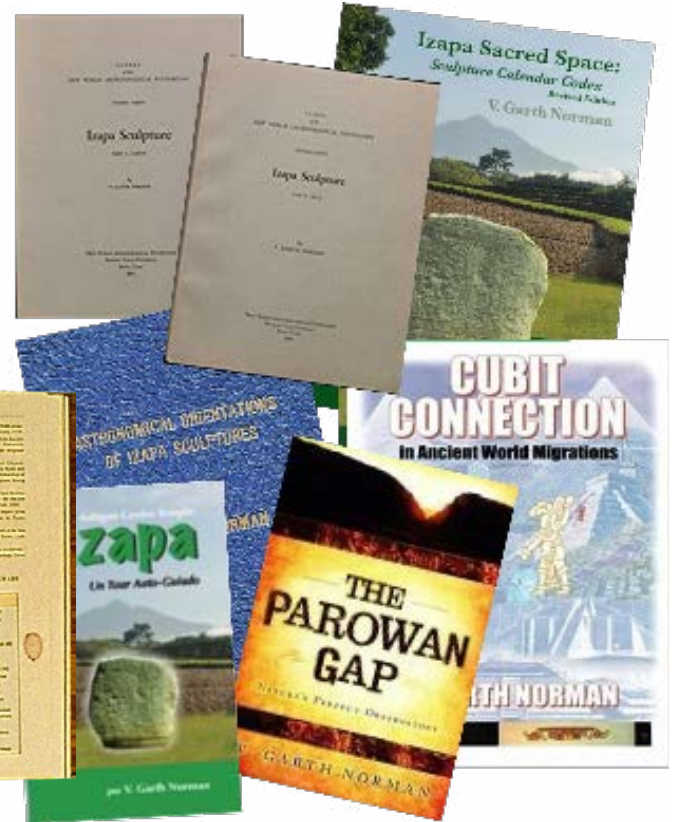


Fig. 3 - Garth Norman Publications 1973-2018



Fig. 4 - Garth & Cheryl Norman in 2010 stand among the Maya Priests at Izapa following a Maya Temple Ceremony.