of the land, for instance (see Alma 57:6; 58:4, 7), and the land of Melek was a food exporter (see Alma 62:29).

While hunting may have been an idealized traditional activity among the Lamanites, at least according to their biased Nephite neighbors (as in Enos 1:20), the high population level that the Lamanites reached, reflected in the size of their armies, cannot be accounted for except on the basis of settled agrarian living. Most Lamanite commoners must have been farmers too.

With all of this daily labor, ancient life did not provide “jobs,” designated economic roles that let men predictably go to work to earn a living. We can be sure that 95 percent of the Nephites and Lamanites, like people in the rest of the ancient world, simply toiled daily at the hard work in front of them without the complex structure of specialized “jobs” or “careers” that organizes the lives of many of us today. —adapted from John L. Sorenson, Mormon’s Map (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 2000), 88–89

**FORThCoomING PUBLICATIONS**


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