



# Gondwanaland Revisited: Updating the Relevance for Latter-day Saints

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Abstract

Division of Earth at the time of Peleg “for in his days was the earth divided” (Gen. 10:25; 1 Chron. 1:19) is curious to Latter-day Saints. The Prophet Joseph Smith foretold, “the islands shall become one land ... and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided” (D&C 133:21–24); contemporary geophysicists have proposed reoccurrence of a Peleg-like Supercontinent. 50-years ago, Jay M. Todd wrote an interesting New Era article “Gondwanaland: What It Means to Latter-day Saints”: <https://www.lds.org/new-era/1971/03/gondwanaland-what-it-means-to-latter-day-saints?lang=eng>. Brother Todd mentions Austrian geologist Eduard Suess, who in 1885 was first to scientifically theorize a supercontinent, which he named Gondwanaland - a formation joining S. America, Africa, India, Australia, and Antarctica. Todd stated; “We as Latter-day Saints should know that the so-called Gondwanaland will exist again”. This presentation updates his 1971 article hinting at what may happen during the Millennium.

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Suess’s Gondwanaland pertains to only half of Earth’s total landmass; combined with the Laurasia grouping, it forms a global Supercontinent called Pangea. Because secular geophysics isn’t precise, considering the seven continents: N. America, S. America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Antarctica and Australia as pieces of a puzzle; geoscientists propose four possible combinations for forming a Global Supercontinent: Pangea Proxima (Ultima), Novo Pangea, Amasia and Aurica. Since profound changes will occur on Earth during the Millennium, it is interesting to consider both scientific and doctrinal concepts leading to reoccurrence of a Peleg-like Supercontinent or *one undivided land*.



Global Supercontinent Pangea as geophysicists suppose occurred about 250 million years ago.

Geophysical evidence suggests supercontinent Gondwanaland existed from 550 to 320 million years ago. During the Carboniferous era, it merged with Laurasia forming the larger Global Supercontinent Pangaea. Pangaea gradually broke up again during the Mesozoic Era. Remnants of Gondwana make up about two-thirds of today's continental area. There are three main bodies of geoscientific evidence supporting this cyclical reformation and breakup of global supercontinents. 1) Plate tectonics: Currently continental drift occurs at 2.5 to .2 cm per year, creating a necessity for GPS

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satellites to be constantly updated. 2) Climatic belts: The various geophysical puzzle-piece supercontinent configurations are argued by attempting to connect bands of mineral deposits, rock formations, desert or coral reef deposits across the puzzle pieces. 3) Similarly, definite strata patterns of fossil plants and animals are connected across continents in a variety of bands. Two interesting animations show merging of today's seven continents into a Peleg-like supercontinent: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqjHmtZ9240&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqjHmtZ9240&feature=emb_logo); another a breakup of Pangea: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supercontinent#/media/File:Pangea\\_animation\\_03.gif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supercontinent#/media/File:Pangea_animation_03.gif).

Something is missing from secular science that LDS doctrine provides. "... let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...; and he will teach us of his ways...: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3). "And he [Savior Second Coming] shall utter his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem, and his voice shall be heard among all people ... and the islands shall become one land; And the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided." (D&C 133:21–24). "We believe...; that Zion (New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth" (A of F, 10). This suggests that by the end of the millennium Israel's Jerusalem and America's Zion will unite into one Supercontinent location.

Inspiration as a Gospel Scientist led to discovery of a doctrinal based Supercontinent, named Pangeon Obscura. "Every discovery in science ... [is] given by direct revelation from God, though but few acknowledge it" (DBY, 18), or Teachings of the Presidents of the Church Brigham Young; [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/content/english/pdf/language-materials/35554\\_eng.pdf?lang=eng](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/content/english/pdf/language-materials/35554_eng.pdf?lang=eng). A passage in the letter Prophet Joseph Smith wrote to the church while imprisoned in the Liberty Jail (became part of D&C 121) always gave me pause; then I learned why. "What power shall stay the heavens? As well might man stretch forth his puny arm to stop the Missouri river in its decreed course, or to turn it up stream" (D&C 121:33).

I awoke with a start at 3 AM Easter Sunday 2017 while living in the Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia branch. The word *antipode* came firmly to mind; I had been sending messages to friends in California saying, 'greetings from the opposite side of the world'. Was Kuala Lumpur the antipode of Los Angeles? While turning on the computer to check, I wondered instead if Jerusalem was the antipode of Adam-ondi-Ahman. I was surprised to discover that Google had in antipode APP and that the database included Adam-ondi-Ahman. When fully awake, I realized Jerusalem and Adam-ondi-Ahman couldn't be antipode's because they are in the same longitude. Then I wondered if Jerusalem and Adam-ondi-Ahman had the same antipode during the millennium. Finally, I realized they would become one.

Through the prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord hinted at a Pangeon Obscura-like Peleg configuration. Using the puzzle-piece model the author confabulated one possible design incorporating essential gospel components – Jerusalem (Word) and Adam-ondi-Ahman (Law) becoming united in one.



- a) Geophysical based Pangea neglecting need for Jerusalem and Zion to be united. b) Simplistic Pangeon Obscura illustrating unity of Jerusalem and Zion. c) Current continent positions.

Diligent research and contemplation revealed that Jackson County and Adam-ondi-Ahman, Missouri

anciently were ocean bay shoreline near the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. To understand this region, figuratively contrast the 1,250 km long Baja California peninsula separating the Pacific Ocean from the Gulf of California in Mexico with a proposed similar geographical occurrence anciently in the Mississippi River Basin flood plain between the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico that separated Jackson County and Adam-ondi-Ahman from an Eastern land mass. At the northern end of the peninsula, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest known asteroid hit near what is now called Sudbury, Ontario, Canada 1.8 billion years ago. In the south, 66 million years ago, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-largest impactor, a 10 to 15 km wide asteroid struck the Yucatán Peninsula at Chicxulub, Mexico so forcefully that it formed a 150 km diameter crater. Although a distinctly different time frame from the Chicxulub impactor, the Sudbury Basin asteroid dramatically thinned the Earth's crust in the region. Thus, over millennia, numerous earthquakes, volcanic activity and associated tsunamis filled in the peninsula bay becoming the modern flood plain. This is the logic for proposing a Pangeon Obscura millennial reformation of a Peleg-like Global Supercontinent based on LDS doctrine.

Additional revelation revealed that the millennial process of reforming the Peleg-like Supercontinent would cause the Mediterranean to open giving birth to Jerusalem, causing its tectonic plates to march straight across the Atlantic Ocean to *greet Missouri with a holy kiss* (2 Cor. 13:12). And in the same manner, the Eastern part of the obscured Zion peninsula shielding Adam-ondi-Ahman, would fold up towards Canada, with open arms, creating space for Jerusalem and Adam-ondi-Ahman to become one by the end of the millennium.