



A Prophet Among Us

We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knows how long. Psalm 74:9

And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying that, “a great prophet is risen up among us” and, “God hath visited his people.” And this rumor of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about. Luke 7:16-17

Throughout the years among the Native Americans there have been those who were called prophets, holy men, medicine men or deliverers of sweet medicine; with each nation and tribe having their own titles and descriptions. Some of these “prophets” included Deganawidah, Handsome Lake, Skaquaw, Sam Isaacs (Kithla),¹ Kennekuk, Cornplanter, Wovoka, Neolin, and Tenskwatawa, just to name a few.² There were many more, some among the Navajo, Hopi, Chumash, and Okanagan³

Many of the prophets denounced alcoholism, witchcraft, polygamy, and sexual promiscuity and said that the Great Spirit also called for Indian unity.

Ira Kennedy in his article about Native American prophets noted that, “There is a remarkable difference between Western prophecies and those of native peoples. When

Western prophets see into the future they envision Armageddon. The end of the world. When native prophets look down that same path they see the completion of a great cycle. A change of worlds.”⁴ That difference of interpretation was vividly seen with the end of the Mayan calendar, which many of the Western people saw as the end of time, not understanding the end of a cycle and the start of a new one.

He continued, “The reason for these vastly different views is found in the way time is experienced. In the West time is history. There is a past, a present, and a future; a beginning, a middle, and an end. Like a stick. Native peoples experience time as a cycle. There are four stages, such as the seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Like a hoop. Each stage is a preparation for the next. At the center of the hoop is a still timelessness, like that of meditation; the eternal present around which the cycles revolve. The visions of native prophets occur at that center point from where the cycles of change can be seen. There is no end.”⁵

Interestingly, an Ancient Native American Record (written between 600 BC and 420 AD), includes the following phrases: (1) the course of the Lord is one eternal round.⁶ (2) [Great Spirit] cannot walk in crooked paths; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; neither hath he a shadow of turning from the right to the left, or from that which is right to that which is wrong; therefore, his course is one eternal

¹ In Creek culture, a kithla is a person who “knows” things. In English this kind of person might be called a “seer” or a “diviner.”

² <http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1360>

³; *ibid.* and <http://www.siouxcityuu.org/tomcook.html>

⁴ <http://www.texfiles.com/features/prophecies.htm>

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ 1 Nephi 10:19

round.⁷ (3) [God] does counsel in wisdom over all his works, and his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.⁸ One of the ancient writers noted, “All is as one day with God, and time only is measured unto men.”⁹

So the recent prophets see things as did their ancient ancestors. But not only regarding the cycle of time but the need for a spiritual unifier, a spiritual deliverer – a Moses – an American Indian Moses. The Apostle Paul, when writing to the church in Rome, said, “For out of Zion shall come the deliverer, who shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”¹⁰ Some people have misunderstood the verse and say it refers to Jesus Christ. But a check of the Greek word for deliver reveals that it was the same word applied to Moses and not to Jesus, who is our Savior and Redeemer, which are much higher callings.¹¹

The Ancient Native American Record mentioned earlier also prophecies of a Native American prophet and seer that will soon come. The words were spoken by a prophet named Lehi, quoting his ancestor, Joseph, son of Jacob (also known as Israel).¹²

“Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day. And he obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of his loins the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel; not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off, nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord that the Messiah should be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the spirit of power, unto the bringing of them out of darkness unto light – yea, out of hidden darkness and out of captivity unto freedom. For Joseph truly testified, saying: A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins. Yea, Joseph truly

said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: “A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers. And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work which I shall command him. And I will make him great in mine eyes; for he shall do my work. And he shall be great like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel.”¹³

Which Nation or Tribe will this new Moses come from? We do not know. When exactly will he come? We do not know. So what do you know? We know he will be a Native American, a seer, a deliverer, a holy man, dedicated to doing only the will and commandments of God in recovering God’s Ancient Covenant People, beginning with the Native American and then the whole House of Israel. As the Apostle Paul said, “And so all Israel shall be saved.”¹⁴

The timing, well, we leave that to God and we echo the words of the Apostle Peter, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”¹⁵

Please feel free to contact us at: talking.stick@first-voices.org or visit us at: www.first-voices.org

Printed by The Church of Jesus Christ,
Monongahela, PA, USA

World Operations Center at 110 Walton Tea Room
Road, Greensburg, PA 15601
www.TheChurchofJesusChrist.org

⁷ Alma 7:20

⁸ Alma 37:12

⁹ Alma 40:8

¹⁰ Romans 11:26; Genesis 49:24

¹¹ See Luke 1:74, Acts 7:25

¹² Jacob was the son of Isaac and he was the son of Abraham; see Genesis 12:1-3; 21:1-3; 25:26; 35:10

¹³ 2 Nephi 3:5-9

¹⁴ Romans 11:26

¹⁵ 2 Peter 3:9