

DNA—continued

Modern Jews have undergone multiple bottlenecks since 600 BCE [Before Christ Era]. The conquest by Babylon in 586 BCE, siege and subsequent exodus of Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the holocaust during World War II all would have drastically impacted modern genetic testing results. To accurately test, we would need a random sample of the genetic data from Jerusalem dating to 600 BCE, which does not exist.

Even if genetic data was available for Jerusalem dating to 600 BCE, it would not help much. Think of it this way: do you accurately represent all of America today? Is everyone the same height, shoe size, hair color? Actually, diversity of individuals within a population is greater than diversity from population to population. Those in the Book of Mormon called Nephites are a classic example. Nephi was only one color of Skittles in a population of diverse and different colors of Skittles, M&Ms and Starbursts. In other words, Nephi was not a random sample of Jerusalem. He did not accurately represent all 20,000 plus people living in Jerusalem at 600 BCE from whence he came.

DNA offers a very important tool for studying the past, but the Book of Mormon does not present a workable hypothesis to test its validity through genetic markers at this time. The source population is unknown and possibly had foreign influence. The Nephites were an isolated group that founded a population (commonly called founder effect) which did not decidedly represent a random sample of Jerusalem in 600 BCE. Also, modern studies of Native Americans do not account for the recent bottleneck and integration of outside populations. The divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon lies exactly where the Almighty God intended, in the faith of the reader. As the prophet said, "...ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true..." and "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

About Us

First Voices Journal is published by The Church of Jesus Christ, whose headquarters is in Monongahela, PA, USA. We invite comments and inquires, which may be sent to: Talking.Stick@first-voices.org or by visiting www.first-voices.org where past issues of the Journals are available.

The faith of The Church of Jesus Christ is based exclusively on the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon (Translated Ancient American Indian Record)*. We believe that God has not cast off Israel (especially Jews and Native Americans), but will gather them back to their homelands, as described in Jeremiah 31:10 and 16:14-16; Deuteronomy 30:3; Ezekiel 20:34, 41 and Romans 11:11-28. We have proclaimed this message since 1862.

First Voices Journal

...the voice of one crying
from the dust...

Lineage of Native Americans



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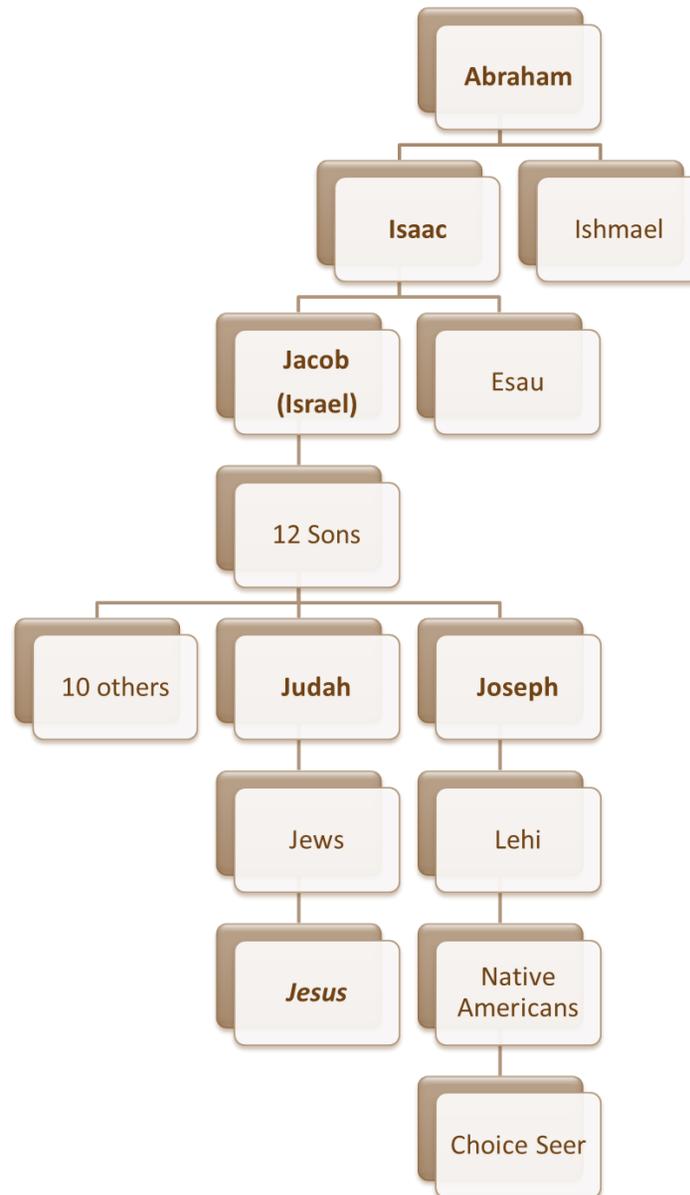
Lineage of Native Americans

DNA Evidence

Can genetic testing prove or disprove the Translated Ancient American Indian Record (commonly called the Book of Mormon)? In recent years many opponents of the record have turned to DNA analysis in a fervent effort to discredit the truth of the record. A careful analysis of their claims, however, reveals a complete lack of understanding of *population genetics studies*. As many scholars agree the Book of Mormon cannot be proved or disproved by DNA - the truth of the text lies in the faith of the reader. Please read on!

DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid and is a blueprint for all life. It acts like a fingerprint, which is why crime scene investigators can determine so much from a swab of saliva. It is easy to use DNA to test if XYZ is my father, but impossible to test the exact relationship between me and somebody who lived 1,000 years ago. Population genetics studies are not capable of examining genetic markers over vast periods of time. Therefore, individual genealogies found in the Holy Scriptures cannot be tested through current DNA research.

An estimated 90% of North American Native populations died after contact with European settlers. This creates a bottleneck, which means the genetic data of Native Americans today does not accurately represent those prior to 1492 CE [Christ Era]. Take a bag with 10 Skittles of many colors and pick only one. Does that single Skittle color represent the whole bag of Skittles, certainly not. *Continued on back page*



God's Covenant People

Abraham—the father of nations; the friend of God and the first one God made a covenant with, promising a Messiah, numerous descendants, and a homeland (Genesis 12:1-3)

Isaac—the rightful and true heir of the covenant (Genesis 17:19)

Jacob/Israel—received birth right and blessing; God continues the covenant (Genesis 27:28, 29)

Joseph—received greatest blessing of 12 sons except for Judah (Messiah promised to his descendants); Joseph received the Americas and promise of another Moses (Genesis 49:22-26 & 2 Nephi 3:5-19)

Lehi—descendant of Joseph; brought to ancient America; forefather of many Native Americans (2 Nephi 1:3-9)

Choice Seer (yet to come) - does the work of God; unites Native Americans; brings forth Word of God; assists in the gathering of Israel; and used of God to usher in a time of peace (Romans 11:26; Genesis 49:24; Isaiah 65:18-25; 11:6-12)