

FIRST VOICES

“ . . . in the land of their first inheritance . . . ”

“I speak unto you as the voice of one crying from the dust . . . ”

-prophetic words from the past-



CRY OF THE ANCIENTS – NOT JUST THE TITLE TO A BOOK

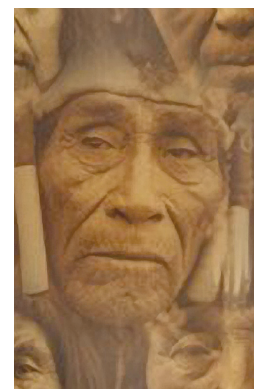
In 1974, a small book titled *Cry of the Ancients* was published by two Native Americans. The authors, Grey Owl and Little Pigeon, were attempting to reach out to all Native Americans regarding the need to maintain their heritage and culture. Yet, it is not just to hear the past, but also to hear what the past had to say about the future. Not just what the ancient's said about their day and time, but what they thought of our day and time. In other words, were the ancients also prophets? The answer is, yes, some were. Let us look at one of the oldest prophets in Ancient Israel and then two prophets from Ancient America.

God's covenant or contract with Israel began with the Patriarch Abram of the land of the Chaldeans. He lived among pagans who worshipped many various gods. But Abram believed in the one true God. God recognized Abram's faith or trust and rewarded him by changing his name to Abraham and made a covenant with him that his descendants would equal the number of stars of the sky and the sands of the sea. Abraham had a son named Isaac who was granted the covenant. God then selected one of Isaac's sons, Jacob to also receive the covenant. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and of his 12 sons, Joseph was selected by God to be a patriarch and a prophet. Joseph received prophetic dreams from God and interpreted dreams of others. The most

spectacular of these was his interpretation of the dreams of Egypt's Pharaoh, which led to his appointment as second in command. This occurred in the 18th century B.C.

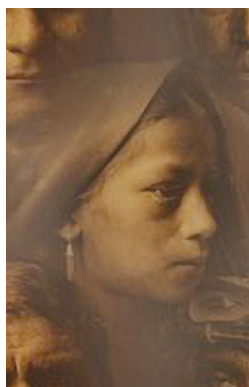
Joseph prophesied (foretold) of the future coming of Moses who would be a deliverer to the people of Israel some 400 hundred years before he was born, and a second Moses-like deliverer who would come in the distant future (which is yet to happen). The importance of the two Moses is that the first one was of the Israelite tribe of Levi, but the second one would be of Joseph's descendants in America – a Native American. So Joseph's prophecy is a cry of an ancient one.

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Let's look at some Ancient Americans. One was named Nephi. He was a descendant of Joseph of Egypt who was brought to ancient America by God. He saw the future as well. He saw his people prospering – a righteous people – serving and worshipping God. Then he also saw them fall, or apostatize, long before the arrival of the Europeans in the Americas. His voice was an ancient one, crying out and warning his relatives of what was to come after his own people were gone.

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Nephi's father, Lehi, was also a prophet. He was a visionary and a dreamer like his ancestor Joseph. Lehi not only prophesied of the coming of the second Moses-like deliverer, an American Indian Moses; he also prophesied that the promises God made to Joseph would be fulfilled at a later time through his descendants, the Native Americans.

The cries of ancient ones are important to all of us, but especially to Native Americans who are descendants of Abraham and Israel. Those cries are a call from God and a voice of hope and encouragement of what God will do for His people, Israel, which also includes the Native American.

ADAIR'S HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS – A BRIEF SURVEY Part One

This journal is constantly examining different aspects of the people who were living here in the America's prior to the arrival of the Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries. Although commonly called "Turtle Island" by many of the Native People, the Europeans thought America was just a stepping-stone to the Far East. Thousands of explorers, traders and adventurers initially came. One such trader

and explorer was James Adair. He had the rare opportunity of spending about thirty years living with several different tribes in the southeast area of North America mostly with the Cherokee and Chickasaw Tribes, although he did spend some time with the Creeks, Choctaws and Catawbas. This was between the years 1735 and 1765. These same Native people he lived among were later removed to the Indian Territory that would become Oklahoma.

What fascinated Adair was not the trade that he exchanged with these people, but their life style, religion and customs, which seemed familiar to him. He began to realize from his education that he had read about these same life styles, these same customs and very similar religious beliefs before; it was in the Old Testament of the Bible. He realized that these peoples could be the "lost tribes of the House of Israel." This



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idea is what we want to consider.

Adair published a book in London in 1775 that contained twenty-three arguments why he believed the Native American, or aboriginal people of the New World, were part of Abraham's lost seed. Although partially correct, as we will see, the moniker "lost tribes" is not quite accurate.

Let us see if these arguments have stood the test of time and, more importantly, what additional evidence exists to support what Adair was thinking. In this issue we will examine Adair's first argument.

Argument #1- Divided into Tribes:

The Native Americans were formerly referred to as Indians and their respective groups were called tribes and although some are now rightfully recognized as Nations, many still use tribe in their name.

The dictionary defines a tribe as, "any aggregate of people united by ties of descent from a common ancestor, community of customs and traditions, adherence to the same leaders, etc." The word tribe comes from the old English language and was no doubt used by the earliest of European explorers who came to America. It would indicate a division or group who are separate from the whole.

It is no coincidence that "tribe" shows up 243 times in the Old Testament of the Bible. It is used in reference to a specific group of people of the same descent who have a leader that has been given charge to guide the people. In particular it is used to reference those descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or those commonly known as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. This is not so dissimilar to what Adair saw when he was among the Native Americans. He saw how

they were divided and had a leader very similar to the ancient Israelite people.

If we go back and look at the Israelites for an example, we would say the Tribe of Judah was one part of the whole Nation of Israel.

So with that example we would say that the Sac and Fox Tribe is one part of the whole Native American Indian Nation. Since we believe that the Book of Mormon (an ancient American Indian record) reveals that the Native Peoples of the Americas are part of the Tribe of Joseph, we would then say the Sac and Fox is one part of the Tribe of Joseph, which is part of the Nation of Israel.

And the people were divided one against another; and they did separate one from another into tribes, every man according to his family and his kindred and friends...And every tribe did appoint a chief or a leader over them; and thus they became tribes and leaders

of tribes. Now behold, there was no man among them save he had much family and many kindreds and friends; therefore their tribes became exceedingly great. 3 Nephi 7: 2-4 of the Book of Mormon, circa 30 AD.

But now I [Jesus Christ] go unto the Father, and also to show myself unto the lost tribes of Israel, for they are not lost unto the Father, for he knoweth whither he hath taken them. 3 Nephi 17:4 of the Book of Mormon, circa 34 AD.

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*...in preparing the
way for the fulfilling
of his covenants,
which he hath made
to his people who are
of the house of Israel.*

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