

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-



IS IT TIME?

The first known contact by Europeans with Native Americans came around AD 1492 by Christopher Columbus. The Spanish and then the French and English colonized much of North and Central America. The Spanish and Portuguese colonized South America. History confirms that almost all Native Americans welcomed the European explorers and settlers. But that welcome quickly waned due to the newcomers' attitudes and insatiable appetite for land and wealth. Eventually it seemed a repeat of the Israelites in ancient Egypt. In the Book of Genesis it says that Joseph son of Jacob was sold by his brothers and carried to Egypt where terrible things happened to him. The day came when God magnified Joseph's God-given talent of interpreting dreams before the Egyptian king or Pharaoh. Joseph's wisdom proved remarkable and he was promoted from inmate to prime minister. He then saved his father and brothers and their families

from a terrible famine and possible starvation. Years later a Pharaoh came to the throne who did not know Joseph. He felt that the Israelites, who had grown numerous, were a threat and he decided to enslave Israel, placing taskmasters over them. Apostle Paul in his letter to the Saints in Galatia (Galatians 3:17) noted that Israel was in Egypt 430 years (see Exodus 12:40, 41). We all know the wonderful story of Moses and Israel's deliverance from Egypt and their return to their God-given land.

Is it time for Native Americans to be delivered? But you may ask, "Delivered from what and by whom?" Fortunately Jesus Christ answered that question when He visited ancient Native Americans not long after his crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus promised he would visit all of his sheep (people) that were descendants of Israel (John 10:16). That promise included Native Americans who are descendants of that same Joseph who saved Egypt and his brothers (see

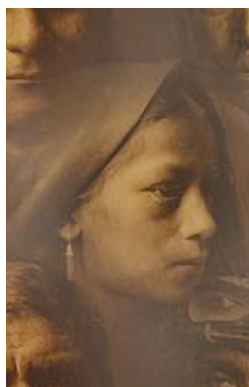
our back issues at www.first-voices.org). During Jesus' visit he told the Native Americans who gathered to hear him that they would know the time of their deliverance from both the bondage of sin and the imprisonment of the Europeans by the publication of a record or book. That book is the *Book of Mormon*! We will investigate this revelation, but remember what God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah, "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure [that is, God will accomplish all he promised].'" (Isaiah 46:10)

We learn that there are incidents within the scriptures that reflect current conditions and situations. The Apostle Paul told his fellow laborer Timothy that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

*...whether
archeologists
found evidence
or not. To date
they have found
very little, but
we continue to
believe all that
is in the Word
of God.*



“For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, ‘Even for this same purpose have I raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.’ ”



He told the Corinthians that, “All these things happened unto them [Israel] for examples [and as a type of things to come]: and they are written for our admonition.” (1 Corinthians 10:11)

First, let’s look at the bondage issue. Apostle Paul told the Saints in Rome that, “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, ‘Even for this same purpose have I raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.’” (Romans 9:17) Surely, the nations of the Americas, particularly the United States, typify this scripture in that we continue to oppress Israel (Native Americans) yet declared the name of God throughout the world (Christian missionaries).

Here are some other examples. As you meditate on these scriptures, see if they apply to Native Americans past and present.

There was a time in ancient Israel, after they moved into the land of Canaan that conditions were not so good. “And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations [harassments; hassles] were upon all the inhabitants of the

countries [lands given to the tribes].” (2 Chronicles 15:5)

After Israel’s return from the Babylonian captivity, Nehemiah noted, “But after they had rest, they did evil again before you [God]: therefore you left them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto you, you heard them from heaven; and many times you delivered them according to your mercies.” (Nehemiah 9:28)

Some people may say that these things happened hundreds and hundreds of years ago so how do we know to apply these scriptures to our day and time? The same argument was given to Ezekiel and God spoke to Ezekiel saying, “Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, ‘The vision that he sees is for many days to come, and he prophesies of the times that are far off.’” (Ezekiel 12:27) In the Letter to the Hebrews, Paul stated, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.” (Hebrews 1:1) Can he not speak now? Can he not fulfill his promises spoken through his prophets? Has God changed? Jesus warned the people that, “And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky

is red and lowring. O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the times?” (Matthew 16:3)

What are those signs? One was given by Jesus, who said, “And they [Jews] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24) Surely this has occurred even up to the modern era.

Additionally, Stephen, the first martyr, said, “Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:21) Would not that include all that was promised the Native American by God? Jesus told the Ancient Native Americans, “And when these things come to pass that thy seed [Native Americans] shall begin to know these things [promises of God to them] – it shall be a sign unto them that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the People who are of the House of Israel [Native Americans].” (*Book of Mormon*; 3 Nephi 21:7)

One prophecy given by Jesus concerning the sign of the restoration of Israel, beginning with the Native American (Joseph saving his brothers as a type and shadow), was the translating (by the gift and power of God) and publishing of the *Book of Mormon*, often called the *Ancient American Indian Record*. This occurred in 1829. It may seem like a long time ago; but it is a sign from God. Next comes the **Choice Seer or American Indian Moses** (see our website for more about this Native American man of God), whose works will mirror the first Moses.

When is it time? “Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 12:28) “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Great things await thee, O House of Israel! Have faith and trust God. The time of deliverance is near!

JAMES ADAIR – RETROSPECTIVE

In the last two issues of the Journal we examined the first two arguments of James Adair regarding the

origin of Native Americans, as taken from his book “History of the American Indians”. Published in London, England in 1775, Adair’s work still stands as one of the great pieces of literature today regarding the historical background of the Native American. As we have explained before and many of you may have read for yourself he offered twenty-three reasons why he believed the Native Americans are descendants of Israel.

In this issue we are going to take a step back and look at some of his comments in the introduction to his book. We paraphrase what Adair wrote.

It is very difficult to remove prejudices and favorite opinions; and I expect to be censured by some people for opposing commonly held beliefs since the first discovery of America. But, Truth is my object: and I hope to offer some things, which, if they do not fully solve the problem, may lead the way... As I before suggested, where we have not the light of history, or records, to guide us through the dark maze of antiquity, we must endeavor to find it out by inquiry and discussion; and in such subjects where no material objections are presented we follow the flow of evidence.

From the most exact observations I could make in

the long time I traded among the Indian Americans, I was forced to believe them lineally descended from the Israelites, either while they were a maritime power, or soon after the general captivity; the latter however is the most probable. I shall endeavor to prove this lineage from their religious rites, civil and martial customs, their marriages, funeral ceremonies, manners, language, traditions, and a variety of particulars, which will at the same time make the reader thoroughly acquainted with the nations.

Adair states that “Truth” is his object. He spent over thirty years living and trading among the Native Americans in the Carolinas. What he eventually wrote about was based largely on what he saw and experienced. The empirical knowledge he gained in the field he applied to what he had learned while in school in England.

His hope was that there would be others who would have the time to take what he had started and build upon it. He knew there were men of great knowledge of different studies of the physical sciences that could use the data he collected to formulate the same conclusions to which he had arrived.

But from a very different source came the substantiation that Adair sought. The following is written in the *Book of Mormon*:

“And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass [record inscribed on metal sheets] a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine. And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt, by that same God who had preserved them.” (1 Nephi 5:14-15)

The *Book of Mormon* also states that Lehi and his family, along with others, were led to America by the same God and it now stands as a witness to the identity of the origin of a certain number of indigenous people who inhabited the Americas when the Europeans began settling what they called the “New World”. (It certainly was not new to those who had been living here for thousands of years.)

The quotation from the *Book of Mormon* shows that the “plates of brass” referred

to were records that Lehi possessed and that linked Israel’s ancestry to his own. On these plates were recorded their genealogy from before Abraham to Lehi (about 600 BC). It’s worth repeating that Lehi was a descendant of “Joseph who was the son of Jacob [Israel], who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord”.

What an interesting piece of information that Lehi possessed and one that he fortunately (by God’s design) passed on to future generations! Thus the *Book of Mormon*, an ancient account of some of Israel, which was translated from a record buried in the earth for hundreds of years, substantiates Adair’s observations. The buried record was translated by the power of God through Joseph Smith in 1829 and provides evidence that directly links portions of the indigenous population of the Americas to Israel.

Just as James Adair observed over two hundred years ago that Native Americans were somehow connected with Israel, today we know of a certainty from the *Book of Mormon* the exact same thing is true.

“Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, ‘The vision that he sees is for many days to come, and he prophesies of the times that are far off.’ ”





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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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