

# 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-*



## TREATIES AND PROMISES: MADE, BROKEN, RESTORED

It is a well-documented fact that when the first European settlers came to America they entered into treaties with Native Americans. Most of these treaties were for the relinquishing of land, which the Europeans desired, as they had come from a place where few owned land (except for the wealthy). It seemed to the Europeans that there was a vast supply of land in America notwithstanding the fact that it was occupied by Native Americans. It is also a well-documented fact that the vast majority of these treaties were broken, generally unilaterally by the same European settlers.

A simple Internet search will provide a long list of treaties between the United States of America and

Native American Indian tribes and nations. These treaties date from the founding of the United States until recent years. One of the most obvious broken treaties is the state of Oklahoma. Originally called the Indian Territory, this land was set aside for Native American tribes mostly east of the Mississippi River. As time went by the desirability of the land was too much for European settlers to ignore.

As sad as this history is we do not want to focus on it. We understand that it has been a very difficult situation. It has been very hard for Native Americans and we take nothing away from that hardship. However, we want to focus on the treaty that was made by somebody who is faithful to keep it. A philosopher once said we do not need more trust but we need to be more trustworthy. The treaty we

are going to speak about is one made by someone who is trustworthy, and that is God.

In the 12th chapter of the book of Genesis in the Old Testament of the Bible, God made a treaty or promise with a man named Abram. He promised Abram that his descendants would number as the sands of the sea. He also promised him a vast land that his descendants would occupy (today more than about fifty times the current State of Israel). The promise was so important that God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which meant "father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5). This treaty was affirmed with Abraham's son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob. The promise to Jacob was so strong that God changed his name to Israel (Genesis 32:28). When Jacob was blessing his 12 sons he specifically blessed Joseph

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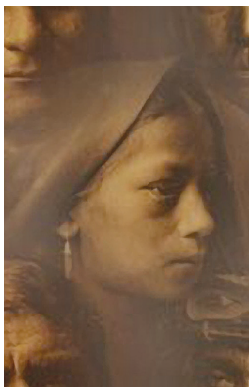
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(the same one that was sold by his brothers into slavery) with another great land. This land was designated in the treaty by its description, “the blessing of your father has prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.” (Genesis 49:22-26)

In other words, Jacob (Israel) was stating that he received a blessing even greater than Abraham and Isaac; he additionally received a land whose mountains or hills reached from one end to the other. If we were to look at a map of the earth, there’s only one place that fits that description, and that is North and South America. We see that God made a promise or treaty almost 4000 years ago with Israel. How did he initially fulfill this promise? He fulfilled his promise by bringing some of Israel to America about 2600 years ago, as recorded in the *Ancient American Indian Record*.

But what happened? The land that was once wholly possessed by Native Americans (descendants of Joseph) is now occupied by foreigners from other continents. But this too

was prophesied in the same ancient record and some Native American histories. We have gone from a treaty between Israel and God to treaties between man, governments, and nations. As faithful and trustworthy as God is – man is not. But this situation is going to change soon. God is going to renew and reinforce his treaty with the descendants of Joseph, the Native Americans. He will do this through a chosen servant, a seer, a very special seer in other words, a choice seer. This choice seer will be like Moses of old, used of God to unite the people of Israel. That is why in this journal we call him *American Indian Moses*.

The *Ancient American Indian Record* (also called the *Book of Mormon*) states that this choice seer will be highly esteemed among his people and that God will give him a commandment to do a work for his people. This work will be a great work unto them, even to bringing them to the knowledge of the covenants (treaties) which God has made with their fathers. This choice seer will do only the work that God commands him to do.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that God is faithful. (I Corinthians 1:9 and 10:13) That is why we can trust him to keep his word and to fulfill his promises. Moses wrote: “Know therefore that the Lord your God, he is God, the faithful God, who keeps his covenant and mercy with them that love him and keeps his commandments to a thousand generations.” (Deuteronomy 7:9)

In the future, we will no longer think about the broken human treaties of the past, but we will focus on God’s treaties (promises) of the future. The words of the prophet Jeremiah will be fulfilled, “Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord lives that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. But, [it shall be said] The Lord lives that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.” (Jeremiah 16:14, 15) And so it shall be for the Native Americans who are the descendants of Joseph.

## BORN OF ADVERSITY

In our lives we and other people have many struggles, some more serious than others. If we go into the Bible, we can see many struggles. We read of the struggle between Adam and Eve and the serpent, between Cain and Abel, between Noah and a wicked generation. There are struggles between Abraham’s camp and his nephew Lot’s camp. One of the most noted struggles in the Old Testament was between Jacob and an angel of God. In that struggle, Jacob prevailed and was blessed, and his name was changed to Israel. (Genesis 32:28) We read of struggles between King David and those around him, including one of his sons.

When we go into the New Testament, we see the struggle between Jesus and Satan. Later there are struggles between Jesus and the Pharisees and other rulers of Judea. After his crucifixion and resurrection we can picture the struggle of the early church trying to adapt to the conversion of Gentiles into the Way of Salvation. Imagine the

Apostle Paul's struggle from being persecutor to missionary and the difficult times he had with the rulers in various cities where he took the Gospel.

History depicts the struggles between the Roman Empire and the new Christian movement which ended in heavy persecution and the martyrdom of thousands of innocent people. The Apostle Paul recognized these great struggles when he said, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

The Jews faced a new struggle when they were taken and scattered throughout the Mediterranean world by the Romans who were tired of struggling with the Jews in Judea. But that did not bring an end to the Jewish people; instead they flourished in the various cities where they were taken. But the day came when they realized it was time to go back to their homeland. In the 1870s the

Zionist movement began among the Jews to reclaim their ancient, God-given land. This new struggle was between the Jewish people and the residents of the Middle East and with the governments of Europe. The modern state of Israel was born of adversity, predictably fulfilling prophecies from the Old Testament where God said that he would recover his people and bring them back to their homelands.

(See Isaiah 11:11, 12; Psalm 147:2; Isaiah 43:5; 54:7; 56:8; Jeremiah 23:3; 29:14; 31:8 )

Native Americans are well acquainted with struggles, too. From the days of the earliest European settlers until today, Native Americans have faced adversity – the attempted eradication of their lifestyle, language, and culture. Some of these struggles were perpetrated by national governments in North, Central, and South America. Some of the struggles were within – such as alcohol, drugs, and other social diseases.

But struggle is necessary. In his Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln noted,

"...we cannot dedicate – we cannot consecrate – we cannot hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." Frederick Douglass said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

In the pages of this Journal we have often emphasized the lineage of Native Americans and their relationship to the house of Israel as descendants of Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob. Both the Jewish people and Native Americans have had almost insurmountable struggles. Jews and American Indians have more in common than just a lineage – they have the commonality of adversity. The Prophet asked can a nation be born in a day? (Isaiah 66:8) It seems unlikely, but that is what can happen when God is in the matter. The Scriptures say that the zeal of the Lord shall perform it. (Isaiah 37:32) The State of Israel was born May 14, 1948. But we can see that

the struggle took place for many years prior to that date. From all over the world Jews came to the new State of Israel. They came from Russia, the Americas, Europe, and Africa.

There will be a uniting of Native Americans such that they will become a nation in one day under the leadership of a Godly inspired and directed seer, who will bring unity to his people. At that time the struggles will be over and Native Americans who have been obedient to the commands of God will receive all that was promised to them by God. The poet Diane Westlake said, "Whatever the struggle continue the climb – it may be only one step to the summit." Jesus explained that a woman when she is giving birth has sorrow, because her hour is come, but as soon as she delivers the child, she remembers no more the anguish, for joy that a man [or nation] is born into the world. (John 16:21) We recite the words of an old hymn penned by W.W. Phelps, "Tho wicked men and devils, exert their power tis vain, since he who is Eternal has said you shall obtain."

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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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