

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-



500 NATIONS BUT ONE HOUSE

During one of our visits with a tribal leader in Oklahoma, a question was asked about our belief that Native Americans will become united. His question was how did we expect 500 nations to become united, considering their different languages, customs, cultures, religions and occasional historical animosity. The answer will sound simple, almost too simple, so it needs an explanation.

The answer is: one house! Now let us explain. We believe, as we have expressed many times in these pages, that the majority of Native Americans are descendants of Joseph the son of Jacob (Israel). That means that all of them are of one house (House of Joseph), similar to Apostle Paul's comment in his letter to the Ephesians: “Now therefore

ye are no more strangers and foreigners [various city-states or nations], but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19) Those people did not give up their languages, style of dress, artistic expressions or their musical preferences. What they gave up was idolatry, adultery, fornication, idleness, drunkardness, etc.

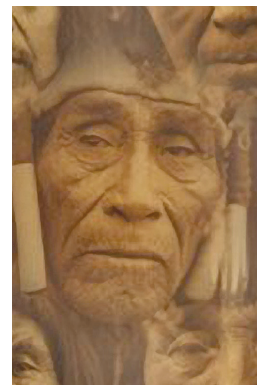
You may be curious as to what would motivate the 500 nations to come to believe in the House of Joseph, that is, besides the fact that they are descendants of Joseph. God's chosen servant, an American Indian Moses (Choice Seer), will motivate them. He was promised to Joseph almost 4,000 years ago.

Joseph was highly blessed of God even when his older brothers hated him and abused him. (See Genesis Chapters 37 to 50).

Years later he was able to save those same brothers and their families from starvation and possible annihilation. He saved the House of Israel. Similarly, the House of Joseph will be instrumental in bringing the salvation of Jesus Christ to Israel in the near future, not from hunger or starvation, but in a spiritual manner.

The work of convincing Native Americans to come into the House of Joseph will be done by God through his servant, a choice servant, who will be a prophet and a seer, and be like a Moses, an American Indian Moses. (We readily admit that we are only forerunners of this Choice Seer, bringing the message to all 500 nations – not quite – but we're trying. And we could use your help!) Ask God if this message is true and ask him what you can do for Him to help the House of Joseph.

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PARENTS

“Awake! and arise from the dust, and hear the words of a trembling parent, whose limbs ye must soon lay down in the cold and silent grave, from whence no traveler can return; a few more days and I go the way of all the earth.”

(2 Nephi 1:14)

Not many parents have the opportunity to speak words of love, concern, or chastisement to their children before they pass from this life. And even fewer, when given the opportunity use it to the benefit of their children. But an ancient Indian prophet did just that; he got his sons’ attention by imploring them to listen by startling them with the sober and somber words quoted above.

Why? Because he loved them and wanted them to be blessed of God.

He continued with the following words: “Behold, the Lord hath redeemed my soul from hell; I have beheld his glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love.

And I desire that ye should remember to observe the

statutes and the judgments of the Lord; behold, this hath been the anxiety of my soul from the beginning.”

(2 Nephi 1:15)

Did not this parent show great love and deep concern for his children? Not a concern for earthly affairs, but for spiritual affairs.

These words are taken from an ancient Native American record that was translated and then published in 1830. The same record begins with the following opening statement: “I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father...” (1 Nephi 1:1) That learning was not just his language (see issue 4), religion and customs, but his walk with God and his soul’s welfare.

Another ancient Native American prophet by the name of Alma the Senior took the time to speak to his three sons. To one he explained his spiritual conversion and future events. To another he commended him for his diligence and commitment. But to the youngest one he had both a stern rebuke for his wayward conduct

and explanations about the state of the soul after death to clear his son’s mind.

One of the warriors and disciples of Christ who lived around 400 AD wrote some letters to his son. These letters rehearse the awful conditions he was facing, but also about love and charity, and the importance of holding on to these no matter what.

A Native American king stated, “And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers, he being an enemy to all righteousness.” (Mosiah 4:14)

And when we speak of parents we don’t mean fathers only. Look at the testimony of many of the women, mothers indeed, such as Ruth or Hannah or Mary. All displaying not only unshaken faith, but, as Apostle Peter wrote, “in that which is not corruptible, even the

ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves.” (1 Peter 3:4, 5) Or as noted in the letter to the Hebrews, “Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment.” (Hebrews 11:35, 36)

In the New Testament of the Bible, Apostle Paul wrote letters to two young men who were like sons to him. He said to one of them, “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice and I am persuaded that it is in thee also.” (2 Timothy 1:5) How beautiful!

The proverb says, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.” (Proverbs 22:1) Today we may smile or laugh at such a notion.

Did not this parent show great love and deep concern for his children? Not a concern for earthly affairs, but for spiritual affairs.



But we have learned that many names given by parents are for a serious and often spiritual reason. Think of John (who we call the Baptist) or Jesus, both receiving special names to align with their special missions. We have heard of instances where Native Americans have given names to their children that reflect a far deeper meaning, some hidden mystery or purpose. Maybe your name is one of those.

Parents provide more than our DNA; they give us guidance, instruction, customs, and examples – sometimes they pray unceasingly for us. And sometimes they leave us final admonitions to help us with our spiritual journey in life, which spirituality may come to fruition many years later. The parent quoted at the beginning of this article also said, “I have spoken these few words unto you all, my sons, in the last days of my [spiritual] probation; and I have chosen the good part, according to the words of the prophet. And I have none other object save it be the everlasting welfare of your souls. Amen.” (2 Nephi 2:30)

CHILD OF MY FATHER

In this issue we speak about heritage and parents. So why not take a look at some children who played an important role both culturally and spiritually in the history of the Native People of the Americas.

One child that comes to mind immediately is Deganawidah, whose name was given to his grandmother before he was born. She asked the Great Spirit, “What is the child’s office to be?”

She was told that after he grew to manhood he would bring peace to many nations, and thus he became known as the great peacemaker. As we follow the events of Deganawidah’s life we find that bringing peace became his lifelong mission. He even left us with a wonderful vision of what the future will hold.

Looking at daughters, we have a great example in Pocahontas. She was the daughter of Chief Powhatan of the Algonquian in Virginia. At a young age, Pocahontas displayed great compassion

towards the newly arrived foreign settlers. She became almost a living legend in early American history, interacting with several cultures, even traveling to England.

How about brothers who worked together? One famous set of brothers was Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa, the Prophet with a vision of the Native People becoming one. They lost their father, Puckeshinwa, at an early age during the battle of Point Pleasant, but their early loss motivated them to work harder for their people and their ideals.

And when we look at the Translated Ancient Native American Record we see other brothers, such as Nephi and Lehi, who worked together to bring a spiritual message to their people. To quote their father Helaman, “Behold my sons, I desire that ye should remember to keep the commandments of God.” (Helaman 5:6) The record says he taught them about their duty towards God, the coming Messiah, and the care of the souls of men and women. King Solomon said, “A wise son heareth

his father’s instruction.” (Proverbs 13:1)

Nephi and Lehi exhibited true wisdom by traveling throughout this land hundreds of years before any European landed here, spreading word that the Great Creator, Father of Heaven and Earth loves each and every one of us. They convinced many of the truth of their message. They spoke with God given power and authority. They listened well to their father’s instruction.

So let us look to teaching our sons and daughters today the same great message of love and peace, so it can be passed on from generation to generation. The Great Spirit, the author of our faith, and His son Jesus Christ, want us to remember that we all have an opportunity to become his children.

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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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