

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.

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.

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.