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Prophecy and History IV

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Abstract: This series of study guides contains several lessons that address the Book of Mormon and prophecy. It also deals with the Book of Mormon as fulfillment of ancient prophecy, prophecies in the Book of Mormon that have been fulfilled, are now being fulfilled, and others that have not yet been fulfilled. Furthermore, it looks at prophecies dealing with the American Indian, the United States, and the Latter-day Saints. The fourth part covers "prophecies and promises to the American Indian," "to the United States as a nation," and "to the Latter-day Saints."

PROPHECY AND HISTORY

A Study for the Advanced Senior Class M. I. A., 1924-25

Prophecy—The Book of Mormon

Lesson XXII—Prophecies and Promises to the American Indian

Special References for Class Study

II Nephi 10:18, 19; II Nephi 30:3, 4, 5, 6; Mormon 5:19; III Nephi 20:14; Ether 13:8, 10.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

1. Discuss prophecy, (a) as a means the Lord uses to let man know that he lives and knows more than man does and that he is interested in man; (b) as a warning against sin and an encouragement towards righteousness; (c) as a means of escaping calamity.
2. Why is the prophecy recorded in II Nephi 30 of great importance to the Indians?
3. Who made the promise in III Nephi 2:14, and under whose instructions did he make it?
4. Wherein is the promise made in II Nephi 30:2 covered by the one recorded in Mormon 5:19?
5. Who are to be the builders of the city spoken of in Ether 13:8, 10?

Lesson XXIII—Prophecies and Promises to the United States as a Nation

Special References for Class Study

I Nephi 13:30; I Nephi 14:6; II Nephi 10:10, 11, 12; III Nephi 20:15-20; Ether 13:7-12.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

1. Discuss prophecy, (a) What it is, (b) The two kinds of prophecy—the conditional and the unconditional.
2. Give illustrations of an unconditional prophecy made concerning the United States Republic.
3. Read or quote what you consider to be the greatest conditional prediction made concerning the United States of America.
4. Prove from Book of Mormon prophecy that the Lord has had a hand in the building of the United States Republic.
5. According to Book of Mormon prophecies and promises, what are the conditions upon which the perpetuity of the United States as a nation may survive?

Lesson XXIV—Prophecies and Promises to the Latter-day Saints

Special References for Class Study

II Nephi 3:11; II Nephi 10:13, 16; II Nephi 28:21, 22; III Nephi 21:4, 5, 6, 8; Ether 13:8, 10.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

1. Discuss prophecy and promise, (a) As one of the guiding lights to the Church, (b) As a source of comfort to the members.

2. In the light of II Nephi 3:11, discuss this problem: Every missionary to the Indian becomes a factor in the destiny of the "Remnant" and a fellow missionary of the Propheet Joseph.
3. Give illustrations of the fulfilment of II Nephi 10:13, 16.
4. What does the prophecy recorded in II Nephi 28:21 mean to you? Illustrate.
5. Discuss the proposition: Both the Latter-day Saints and the Indians are of the seed of Joseph and will fulfil jointly, Ether 13:8, 10.
6. Name in historical order ten Book of Mormon prophets.

American Indian Traditions

These indicate that their progenitors were Israelites: An article by Dr. George Rogers, in *The Mentor* magazine of March, 1924, tells of his visit to a Navajo Indian village, in New Mexico, where he found an aged medicine man named Klah, who was induced to relate some traditions of his forefathers. Klah's statements were interpreted for Mr. Rogers by a trader who accompanied him to Klah's tepee, and some of them appear in Mr. R.'s articles, as follows:

Klah is one of the chief medicine men of the tribe. The old men of the Navajos respect Klah's judgment. He is a personage. Klah calls his god "Ya". Phonetically, this suggests the name of the God of the Hebrews, which would be written Ya-weh in a phonetic transcription. The story Klah tells of the origin of the Navajos is nearly identical with the story of the creation as it appears in Genesis. The Jew has looked upon himself for centuries as the chosen among God's people, and, curiously enough, the Navajos' name for themselves in *dine*, which means "the people."

Whether or not the story Klah tells is a myth, it is a very good story and worthy to be heard. One does not expect to find a story that parallels Genesis, coming out of the New Mexico desert. But when the story is laid over against the actual geological facts it becomes something to think about. There is little doubt that this part of the continent is one of the oldest sections of the world. * * *

When Klah, the medicine man, stood beside his primitive loom and told the story of the coming of the Navajo, paraphrasing the Book of Genesis, both in word and action, it was not hard to feel, under the spell of his oratory, that it might have been here that the world began. * * *

Before ever man was, said Klah, there was the great god, Ya. All the earth, even the hills, were void and covered with water. There was nothing but water and space. Then Ya put forth his hand, and the land came up out of the water. Again Ya put forth his hand, and the sun and moon and stars were made to appear in the sky. Out of the earth came all life, following four great roads. Then in his own likeness Ya created man, and for man he created woman. These, said Klah, were the first people, the Navajos. Ya caused the squash, corn, beans and tobacco to grow. The Navajos lived then in a place like a garden beside a river and a great sea. There was only happiness among them until the evil spirit came.

Here Klah waxed too eloquent for the trader to follow, and much of the story was lost. But in the end one gathered that Ya triumphed over the evil spirit and caused him to be cast into the depths beneath the earth.