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Central American Migration Legend

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Abstract: A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The twenty-third part covers the "Central American migration legend."

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Central American MIGRATION LEGEND

— By DR. CHARLES E. DIBBLE

MEXICAN codices and colonial historians repeatedly mention a place called "Chicomoztoc"—"Seven Caves." Students are unable to indicate the exact locality, but Aztec tradition constantly mentions a "Chicomoztoc" in the north where man was created. According to one account, the tribal gods came out of the "Seven Caves." Other writers agree that "Chicomoztoc" refers to one of the stopping places of wandering tribes. The Spanish historian Gomara states:

The second settlers, Nahuatlacas, (Aztec-speaking peoples) came from a remote northland. . . . There are in that land two provinces: One is called Aztlan—Place of Herons; and the other Teoculhuacan, which means "Land where they have divine

grandfathers." In these provinces they have their houses, their lands, their gods, rituals and ceremonies. The Nahuatlacas are divided into seven lineages or nations, for in that land it is a custom that each lineage have its own locality, or place of abode. The Nahuatlacas paint their place of origin in the form of a cave and relate that they came from "Seven Caves" to settle the land of Mexico, and their books record the event by painting seven caves with their descendants.

Another historian, Duran, adds:

(Concluded on page 355)

UPPER: SEVEN CAVES
LOWER: DEPARTURE FROM CHICOMOZTOC

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Tartar Sauce

½ cup sandwich spread
2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
Combine, and let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Fresh Strawberry Pie

2 boxes strawberries
⅓ to ½ cup sugar
Wash berries and hull. Sprinkle sugar over and let stand 1 hour. Pour off juice, and measure. Use 1 tablespoon cornstarch as thickening for ½ cup of juice. Fill baked crust with fresh berries. Cover with thickened juice and garnish with whipped cream or powdered sugar.

Bride's Pie Crust

1 cup enriched flour ⅓ cup shortening
¼ teaspoon salt 1 egg
Sift flour; measure; add salt. Cut in shortening, leaving it in lumps the size of a dime. Beat egg slightly and add to flour mixture. Roll out on floured board to fit a 9-inch pie pan; flute edges and prick generously with a fork. Bake in a hot oven (425°) about 10 minutes. When cool fill with fresh strawberries.

Bible Quiz Answers

(Questions will be found on page 329)

1. Pharaoh's birthday at the time when Joseph, the butler, and the baker were imprisoned (Genesis 40:20); Herod's birthday, which resulted in giving the head of John the Baptist to his daughter. (Matthew 14:6)
2. "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)
3. "The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write." (II Thessalonians 3:17)
4. When Peter wished to know what would happen to John. (John 21:21-23)
5. The gift of the Comforter and His own personal return. (John 12:16-28)
6. After cleansing the temple, "And Jesus said unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" (Matthew 21:16)
7. Of Simon (Peter) and Andrew. (Mark 1:17)
8. Mathias. (Acts 1:23)
9. By Christ to the Apostles "as they sat at meat" after His resurrection and just previous to His ascension. (Mark 16:14-16)
10. John the Revelator.

Migration Legend

(Concluded from page 330)

These Indian nations came from "Seven Caves," a place they had occupied for many years.

The memory of a place "Seven Caves" was also present in the mythology of Yucatan and Guatemala. The traditions of this area (the Popol Vuh and Chilam Balam) mention migrations from a place called "Seven Caves."

Although we have not located this legendary "place of parting," the memory of a migration and a homeland formed an integral part of Central American native tradition.

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