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Chastened, but Not Forgotten

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Abstract: This article argues that the Mexican people are a chosen race of people. According to Isaiah 29:4 they have been brought down in the dust. However, they are descendants of Joseph, through Lehi (1 Nephi 5:14) and they will be redeemed (2 Nephi 30:5-6)

Chastened, but Not Forgotten

By Elder Philip Foremaster of the Mexican Mission

"And thou shalt be brought down and shall speak out of the ground and thy speech shall be low out of the dust and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust."—Isaiah 29:4.

In searching the world today for a fulfilment of this prophecy of Isaiah written twenty-four hundred years before, the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have fastened their gaze upon a people, low in civilization and low in all those fundamental necessities that announce advancement towards perfection, the Mexican people and the American Indians vindicate this prophecy literally. Have these people not spoken out of the dust through the pages of the Book of Mormon? Have they not been trodden under and exploited by man for generations? Have they not been thought of by the world at large as people void of the finer instincts of human beings? The prevailing feeling in the world today is that they cannot govern; they cannot execute laws; nor they cannot be trusted individually or nationally.

This would be a terrible situation to contemplate, were it not for the teachings of the Bible and Book of Mormon. Could we recognize the justice of God in this if we were unable to encounter the cause? We should think God was lacking in justice towards them, but not so, God has a purpose in view and that purpose is being matured day by day. These people are reaping the results of the sins of their fathers and will continue to do so until God sees fit to relieve them. How consoling it would be for the Mexican people, each and every one of them to read and comprehend the contents of the Bible and Book of Mormon. They would find written within the covers of these two books the many blessings God has in store for them. And it is certain that the world would be more careful in showering its abuses upon them, if it knew the contents of these two books.

The Mexican people are human. They have every faculty of mind and portion of body that the most efficient have. These requisites for a human are there, but they are lying dormant, waiting for a light to penetrate the darkness and execute a change from dormancy to activity. We say these people are human and have these gifts. The members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints say more than this; they maintain these people are chosen of God. On what do they sub-

stantiate their belief? Why are they so anxious and determined to stimulate them to activity and show them the light? A few verses from the Bible and Book of Mormon will change the erroneous idea that they are merely instruments for exploitation:

Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him and hated him:

But his bow abode in strength and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel.)

Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty; who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:

The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.—Genesis 49:22-26.

Why are these verses cited in trying to prove the Mexican people as chosen of God? No words in them apply especially to or mention the Mexican people, but we read a verse in the Book of Mormon that casts light upon this question.

And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass, a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine.—1 Nephi 5:14.

This verse inevitably proves that the Mexican people are descendants of Joseph and that God is preparing to do a work and a wonder of this work.

And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them: wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes: and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and delightsome people.—2 Nephi 30:5-6.

These verses give an explanation to the world why the Mexican mission has been established and why sons of Zion are spending some of their time and money to give these people an understanding of themselves and their God.

The Mexican people as a whole are religiously inclined. The pictures and ornaments that decorate their walls and hang over your head as you pass through their doors speak of worship. They are sincere in their belief and some are as strong as the "Rock of Gibraltar," after they have once been converted to a faith. Their faith is child-like and simple, abounding in that sincerity that has the ring of validity. God today recognizes the worship they pay him although they are indebted to ex-

plotters and adventurers for some of the mediums through which they worship. Their worship is overshadowed with the mysterious workmanship of man. Some have been martyrs to their faith and have worshiped their God as the agent of death came upon them.

The Mexican people have no faith in a man until he has proven to their child-like minds that he is a man and not an exploiter. Their dealings with men in the past dark ages have engendered in their beings a feeling of fear, "Lest they are overcome." They are slow to accept new teachings, quick to determine insincerity and slow to act; but when one has gained their confidence and faith, their devotion to him manifests their love. The experience of past generations has instilled in them a determination to retaliate for a wrong committed against them. From experience and contact with those of higher stages of civilization, as they love to term themselves, they have learned to retaliate in such a way as to incur the least danger. Therefore, they have the name of being treacherous and anxious to strike at the back. In charitable acts and brotherly love they are not surpassed in the world. Their doors are always open to a friend in need, and the crust that the old lady of seventy has saved for her midday meal is given the stranger, if he knocks at her door. The trait of treacherousness has been instilled in their beings, but as yet not the traits of exploitation and inhospitality.

The Mexican people are a chosen race of God and as such cannot refrain from advancing when his light is shed upon them. They are human and have the powers of reasoning and judging although these gifts are now practically in a dormant state. They have most of the uplifting traits of character that Jesus Christ taught when he was in the world. They will advance and come into the fold as rapidly as the feeling of brotherly love and equality is given them by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and of the people of the world.

Smile Wrinkles

Smile It will bring wrinkles around your eyes; but smile wrinkles are beauty wrinkles. Meet your friends with a smile. A smiling man or woman is always welcome. Greet the cloudy day with a smile, some spot needs the shade. Speak kindly, weather-stained clothing, nine times out of ten, covers a beautiful body in which beats a heart that longs to respond to a friendly greeting. Give pleasure. Miss no chance of giving happiness to a fellow human. You pass through this world but once, therefore, any time you can show a fellow creature a bit of pleasure, do it. Tomorrow you may not walk along the path of opportunity. Smile! Let every wrinkle around your eyes be a smile wrinkle.—D. S. Retsloff.
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