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A Day of Redemption for the Lamanites

Editor(s): Susa Young Gates

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Guide Lessons.

LESSON I.

Theology and Testimony.

FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER

A DAY OF REDEMPTION FOR THE LAMANITES.

In our last lesson we told you that this is a day of fulfilment. We know that the hour of the Jew is at hand, and that his glory will soon descend upon him, and that the hour is not far distant when the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion and his word from Jerusalem.

In the same chapter of the Book of Mormon that speaks of the gathering of the Jews, in the latter days, there are also mighty prophecies concerning the remnant of the people that once covered this land.

That this people are rapidly nearing the place, where they may rightly be regarded as a remnant, is evidenced in the fact that they are portrayed by artists as a vanishing race. Elder A. W. Ivins' statement of the fact that while thirty million Indians occupied Mexico, at the time of the Spanish invasion, there are no more than half that number today, is to the point. All travelers agree that the Hawaiian people are decreasing rather than increasing.

The Indians on this continent have been the victims of their conquerors. In this regard, once again, we call to mind Elder Ivins' graphic account of cruelty imposed by the Spaniards on the natives of Mexico—cruelty that beggars description, and resulted in the death of tens of thousands.

Nor are we without blame in this matter, in this land of the free and this home of the brave. The famous witticism of a noted American, who said, "the Pilgrim fathers first fell on their knees and then on the aborigines," tells the tale.

Nevertheless the hour of their bondage is passing, for it is decreed by our Father in Heaven that this people shall soon know who they are, and in due season be taught of the destiny that awaits them.

To turn to the Book of Mormon as proof of what we have written we find:

"And now the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the

And surely the day is near at hand, when the prophecy concerning the restoration of the gospel to the Lamanites shall be fully realized. Certain it is of more than passing interest that the culminating promise, both to the Jew and the Lamanite, is practically the same. It reverts to that which the Latter-day Saints know so well, that to know God and his son Jesus, whom he has sent is eternal life, and eternal life is the greatest gift of God.

When he shall reveal himself to the Jews, he shall stand upon the Mount of Olives, and show them the wounds in his hands and feet, which they shall recognize, and recognizing shall proclaim him to be their Redeemer.

In the case of the Lamanites, the Book of Mormon tells us that the gospel shall be restored, that the people of Lehi shall obtain knowledge concerning their forefathers, and that they shall have a knowledge of Jesus Christ, even as their forefathers had that knowledge. One very sharp contrast exists between these people; for whereas the Lamanites are to be instructed concerning their forefathers, and be told expressly from whom they have descended, the Jews who were scattered to the four corners of the earth are not in need of such instruction.

Concerning both peoples, we are led to believe that in the Lord's own due time, the gospel message will fall upon their ears as a voice that hath a familiar sound. They will accept of the gospel with a readiness that will indicate that they are to the manor born, which they are; for those who are of the blood of Israel do respond to the gospel message. Now are they confronted with the thousand perplexities of doubt and unbelief that are the plague of those who have much Gentile blood.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS.

1. Why will it not be necessary to teach the Jews of their origin?
2. What book will give the Lamanites the same knowledge concerning themselves that the Jews have been in possession of through all their wanderings?
3. Compare the condition of the American Indian today with his condition when America was discovered.
4. Which condition do you think the Indian prefers?
5. Relate any stories that you may know concerning Indians that would lead to the belief that they are capable of high spiritual, intellectual and artistic achievements.
6. Give the names of as many pieces of sculpture from Mr. Cyrus E. Dallin depicting Indian character as you can possibly recall.
7. Suppose the United States government believed the In-

dian to be a descendant of Joseph, do you think it would in any way affect its dealings with these people?

8. Tell some Indian story that will redound to the Indian credit.

9. Is there anything in the way that the people of the Hawaiian and Samoan Islands have accepted the gospel to lead us to believe, that in due season the American Indian of the entire continent will accept the gospel?

10. Make a summary of the prophecies and promises in relation to the Lamanites, found in the passages in your lesson quoted from the Book of Mormon.

LESSON II.

Work and Business.

SECOND WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

LESSON III.

Genealogy.

THIRD WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

SCANDINAVIAN SURNAMES.

Many of our faithful and superior Saints are descendants of Scandinavian ancestors. Indeed, when we study into this question we discover that all of the Anglo Saxon races, and perhaps the Celtic races, at least one side of the Celtic race, have all descended from Scandinavian or what is called now the Nordick races. The Latter-day Saints feel sure that all of these races either descended from the ten tribes themselves or that the seed of the original tribes who scattered into the north country was left in the Scandinavian or Nordick races as the tribes passed on their way into the north country. So that it is both interesting and instructive to study a little about the origin of the Scandinavian people and to inquire as to their methods of surnaming.

The surname customs followed largely those of other Anglo Saxon races. The people nick-named their children. They gave them sire names, trade names, place names and official or descriptive names. They used suffixes and affixes while also they gave at times heraldic surnames.