



Type: Magazine Article

How Are the American Indians Related to the Jews?

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Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 23, No. 5 (March 1920), pp. 453–455

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Abstract: The Book of Mormon points out that through marriage the Nephites united with the Mulekites who were of Jewish descent.

tobacco. He further states that in the early part of this year, all the merchants in South Davis stake, except one, signed a promise to quit the sale of tobacco.

It would result in great benefit if this example were universally adopted throughout the Church.

Ray S. Hansen, is the Manager of B. Y. Benson & Sons Co., general merchants, Trenton, Utah. Some time ago this company decided to discontinue the sale of tobacco in their mercantile establishments. The *Era* heard of it, congratulated the gentlemen, and asked for a statement as to why they took such action and whether or not it had injured their business. The following reply was received which is an inspiration, pointing in the right direction for all:

We have before us, yours of Jan. 22. In reply, will say, we thank you for the congratulations extended, and sincerely trust that you may have the opportunity, in the near future, of extending "congratulations" to all of our competitors who are now selling tobacco.

We have discontinued the sale of tobacco from our two places of business, "General Merchandise Store," and "Confectionery," *feeling that the satisfaction of not selling an article which is detrimental to our morals would offset all profits made on tobacco.* We cannot see that our business is less prosperous than when we sold tobacco.

The results we have obtained so far are gratifying. In almost every instance, when we have a call for tobacco and we make an explanation for discontinuing carrying it, to our satisfaction we hear an expression of gladness from the men who called for it.

Even the habitual user expresses himself as being pleased, and wishes every one would fall in line, thereby making it impossible to obtain it.—*B. Y. Benson & Sons, Co., Ray S. Hansen, Manager.*

Who will be next?—*A.*

How are the American Indians Related to the Jews?

This question has arisen from lesson 8, of the Senior Manual, in which the gathering into, and the expulsion from Missouri is discussed. In Sec. 57:4, we are told in a revelation

from the Lord, to the Prophet Joseph Smith, relating to the purchase of lands in Jackson county, that the Saints should purchase the lands, and furthermore, should purchase also, "every tract lying westward, even unto the line running directly between Jew and Gentile." The manual then goes on to explain that "Jew and Gentile, in this connection, refers respectively to the Indians and the Missouri settlers, the Indians being of the Tribe of Judah, according to the Book of Mormon."

Several class leaders have written for an explanation of the statement, justly protesting that there is no direct authority in the Book of Mormon for the statement that the Indians are of the tribe of Judah.

In section 57:4, Doctrine and Covenants, the Indians are called Jews as we have seen, they being of Jewish or Israelitish descent. There is also, probably, in their veins, the blood of the tribe of Judah, though the Book of Mormon does not declare that in so many words. In section 19:27, we are told that soon the word of the Lord, "may go to the Jew, of whom the Lamanites are a remnant." It should be remembered however, that Jew, as spoken of here, may be used in a broad sense as including all who dwelt in Jerusalem. All who dwelt in that city, whether of Judah, Ephraim, or Manasseh were often spoken of as Jews. The relation of the Lamanites to the tribe of Judah, can only be proved from the Book of Mormon in this way, if at all:

Lehi, the Hebrew prophet, ancestor of the Nephites and Lamanites, was of the Tribe of Manasseh, and was led out of Jerusalem to America in B. C. 600.

Ishmael, a righteous Israelite of the Tribe of Ephraim, (See, *Book of Mormon Concordance*, Reynolds, page 62) with his many sons and daughters, came out of Jerusalem with Lehi.

The mixture of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, thus brought about, really made the Nephites and Lamanites descendants of Joseph, as stated in I Nephi, 6:2.

But, eleven years after Lehi and Ishmael left Jerusalem, the Lord led another colony from that city to America, and among these was Mulek, a young son of Zedekiah, king of Judah. Mulek was saved when the rest of his family was slain. (See II Kings 25:4; Helaman 6:10; 8:21; Mosiah 25:2). After considerable time, Mosiah, the Nephite prophet, fleeing from the land of Nephi into the wilderness, came into the Land of Zarahemla and found a numerous and, to him, unknown people who were descendants of Mulek and his colony. So the people who came with Mosiah united with the people of Mulek who were of the tribe of Judah, and Mosiah was made their king. Thus was brought about a union which was perpetual

and which resulted in the mixture, on this continent, of Judah and Joseph. (See Omni 1:12-19.)

And so, after all, we may conclude that while the manual goes a step too far in saying that "the Indians are of the tribe of Judah, according to the Book of Mormon," there is at least this much evidence that the tribe of Judah is represented in the original inhabitants of America—the Lamanites or Indians.—A.

Messages from the Missions

Native Elders in Scotland

"We elders in the Scottish conference look forward with much eagerness to seeing the *Era* each month. The conference is now in charge of one of our home missionaries, President James E. Rennie, and everything is prospering fine. Oh, how happy it feels to be a missionary, spreading this



mighty gospel; the more one does for the cause, the more he wants to do, and this is how we elders feel in bonnie Scotland. The conference has gone through some trials during the great war. At one time there was but one traveling elder in the whole of the Scottish conference; then, last April, we were two, and now we are three strong. It is our greatest desire to make the Scottish conference the best in the British mission. The Scotch people are fine to get along with, and they readily accept our literature. Elders: William Easton, Evanston, Wyo.; Leonard A. Higgins, Bradford, England; Prest. James E. Rennie, Glasgow, Scotland."—*Leonard A. Higgins*, conference secretary.

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Elders Karl H. Cutler, and William O. Peterson, sisters Gladys Nielson and Viva Taylor report from New Bedford, Massachusetts, that they