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Lesson II. The Glory of Ancient Mexico

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Abstract: The subject matter for this lesson is found in "The Glory of Ancient Mexico, page 545, in this magazine. The teacher is expected to give it in story form, simplifying it according to the understanding of her class.

American Aborigines.

LESSON II.

The Glory of Ancient Mexico.

(For Tuesday, November 20, or Sunday, November 25.)

OUTLINE FOR STUDY.

(The subject matter for this lesson is found in "The Glory of Ancient Mexico, page 545, in this magazine. The teacher is expected to give it in story form, simplifying it according to the understanding of her class.)

1. In studying about any people, we should try to understand their simple daily lives. All peoples are pretty much the same in ideals, thoughts, motives, and feelings. We only differ in degree. In the study of Ancient Mexico, it would be well to find similar industrial, political, and religious customs in the Book of Mormon. I shall give some examples in this outline. Try to be original, and discover facts for yourself. There is satisfaction in obtaining truth by your own research.

1. What country did Columbus represent when he undertook his first great journey? (Spain.) Why did Spain take an interest in the maritime discoveries of the fifteenth century? (Look this up in some elementary American History.)

2. What people did Columbus find in America? Why were they interesting to him?

3. What people did Cortez find when he conquered Mexico for Spain in 1520? How long did Spain hold Mexico as a colony? (Until 1822, when Mexico obtained her independence.) Who first described the native peoples of Mexico? (The Spanish writers.) How are we studying the ancient civilization of

Mexico at the present time? (By archæological research.)

4. Explain what archæological research means.

5. How do you know that the Mexicans and Mayas were a religious people? Give examples of their beliefs. Why do peoples build temples? Give examples of peoples both in ancient days as well as present times who have built great temples.

6. Describe the temple at Mexico as given by Biart. Give Stephens' description of the temple of Labna.

7. What does Teocatl mean? (See text.)

8. Read from the Book of Mormon the following passages and see if you find parallels in what I have written about the Mexicans and Mayas: I Nephi 8:1; Ether 1:41; Mosiah 6:7; Ether 10:25-26; Ether 9:18-19. These references are to the industrial life of the people. Find references in the Book of Mormon which gives something about cities and religious beliefs.

9. What is meant by Polytheism? Monotheism? Did the Lamanites become polytheists? Why do people become polytheists?

10. Give Prescott's description of Mexico at time of conquest.

11. Give all the reasons you can why the study of the Mexican and Maya culture are of great interest to you.

12. What is the most interesting point to you in the article, "The Glory of Ancient Mexico?" Why?