

## REMARKS

*Delivered by President George Q. Cannon, at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, January 12, 1890.*

If there were any evidences needed concerning the common origin of the people of New Zealand and those of the Sandwich Islands, the similarity in the language would be sufficient to prove that they were identical in their origin. One who understands the language of the Hawaiians can understand most of that of the New Zealanders, a great many words being the same in both languages; and no doubt the tradition that they have concerning their emigration from the Sandwich Islands is a correct one. And the same thing would apply to all the Polynesian group. On the Marquesas Islands, on the Society Islands, on the Navigator Islands, the people all speak kindred dialects. And one who is acquainted with the language of one group can easily make himself understood to the inhabitants of another group, and he can understand them also, there being so many words in common.

I have never heard the Maori language spoken until this afternoon [Elder George Romney, Jr., who preceded President Cannon in addressing the congregation, and who recently returned from a three years' mission to New Zealand, at the close of his remarks, was requested to speak a short time in the Maori tongue, which he did] and I have no doubt that all the missionaries who have been on the Sandwich Islands, who are present, will be struck, as I was, with the great similarity between the Maori language, as spoken by Elder Romney, and that of the Hawaiians.

One of the most remarkable features connected with the preaching of the Gospel at the present time, and one which impresses me very much, as I have no doubt it does you, is the disinclination of the races and nationalities from which we are descended to listen to the Gospel to the Son of God. It seems as though the words of the Lord were being fulfilled concerning the withdrawal of His Holy Spirit from the Gentile nations, and the near approach for the command to be given to His servants to turn to the Jews.

In the early revelations given to this church through the Prophet Joseph, it was clearly intimated by the Lord that the time would come when the elders of this Church would be required to go to the descendants of the house of Israel. We were commanded to go first to the Gentiles. In ancient days the command to the servants of God was to go to the Jews; and after the house of Israel rejected the Gospel they were commanded to go to the Gentiles. You remember how Paul and Barnabas testified concerning this. And when they were rejected by their own countrymen, they declared that God now required them to go to the Gentiles; that they had finished their mission to the Jews. In the last days this was not to be case. The Lord had said the first

should be last, and the last should be first. That is, the house of Israel was first to hear the Gospel in the days of the Savior, and the Gentile nations the last; but in the last days they were to be the first to hear the gospel, and after it had been proclaimed to them and rejected by them, it was to be preached to the house of Israel.

For nearly sixty years the Elders of this Church have been laboring among the Gentile nations, of which we who are here today are a part. We are designated Gentiles in the record which God has given unto us, the Book of Mormon. And it is predicted in that book that the Gentiles would receive the Gospel, that is, some of them, and that they would be the means in the hands of God of carrying this record, the Book of Mormon, to the descendants of the house of Israel, who should be in darkness at the time this record should come forth.

I will read a prediction concerning this found in the book of Nephi, 30th chapter, 2nd book:

For behold I say unto you, that as many of the Gentiles as will repent, are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent, shall be cast off; for the Lord covenanteth with none, save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel.

And now, I would prophecy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written: and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out of Jerusalem; and that they are descendants of the Jews.

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.

And it shall come to pass that the Jews, which are scattered, also shall begin to believe in Christ and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; and as many as shall believe in Christ, and shall become a delightsome people.

And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence His work among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, the bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth.

And with righteousness shall the Lord judge the poor, and reprove with equity, for the meek of the earth. And He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked.

For the time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will He destroy; and He will spare His people, yea, if it so be that He must destroy the wicked by fire."

This prediction plainly foreshadows that which is now taking place,

and which has been taking place for some years. "As many of the Gentiles as will repent," the prophet says, "are the covenant people of the Lord." By virtue of this promise which God has made, we are His covenant people. Though of Gentile descent, and numbered among the Gentile nations, by and through our obedience to the Gospel of the Son of God we become incorporated, so to speak, among His covenant people and are numbered with them. We say frequently that we are descendants of the house of Israel. This is undoubtedly true. It is clear to any close observer that this people are Hebraic in their character and in their characteristics. We have the peculiarities of the Hebraic character. Our ancestors were of the house of Israel but they mingled with the Gentiles and became lost, that is, they became lost so far as being recognized as of the house of Israel, and the blood of our forefathers was mingled with the blood of the Gentile nations. We have been gathered out from those nations by the preaching of the gospel of the Son of God. The Lord has made precious promises unto us, that every blessing, and every gift, and every power necessary for salvation and for exaltation to His Kingdom shall be given unto us in common with those who are more particularly known as the covenant people of the Lord.

Now this prediction that I have read was published in the winter of 1829-30, before the Church was organized. I take great delight in dwelling upon these things and in bringing forth proofs of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, for the evidences of the divinity of his mission are so abundant that we have only to reflect upon them; and that which he has done and said have only to be examined by those who are dispassionate and willing to accept evidence, in order to remove all doubt as to the divinity of his mission. In this record, the translation of which God gave to his servant Joseph, it is clearly stated that the Gentiles, or a portion of them, would receive the Gospel of the Son of God. There were a few at that time who had been baptized. Joseph and Oliver were baptized in May, 1829, and a few others were baptized shortly afterwards. But with these exceptions not a Gentile had received the message of life and salvation. Yet in this record it is plainly stated that the Gentiles would receive it, and that after they had received it the record says, "there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written, and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed;" that is, to the remnants of the house of Israel that occupy this land. How completely, yet how wonderfully, this prediction has been fulfilled. I myself, upwards of thirty years ago, translated this book into the language of the Sandwich Islanders. Since that time it has been translated into the language of the Maoris of New Zealand. It is now circulated among them as it has been circulated among the Sandwich Islanders. As Elder Romney has said,