

those early times and displayed their architectural works all over this land. They built great cities, they became numerous and powerful. They kept records of their lives in those days and of their experience of God's providence over them; how they were led, and how they built and lived after they arrived here. By and by they became very proud and haughty, and became involved in wars, contentions and strifes, similar to those we have had between the Northern and Southern States, until they weakened and finally destroyed each other. The enmity among them was so deadly that it continued until men finished up by fighting two and two, sword in hand. This record gives us an account of that.

Then there was in the days of Israel, a family of a man by the name of Lehi, who had several sons. Six hundred years before the Christian era, when Jeremiah came proclaiming judgments against Jerusalem, because of their wickedness, the Lord revealed unto this man Lehi and his family, they being righteous people, that He had compassion upon them, and that He did not require them to be led away captive into Babylon. So He told them that if they would gather out into the wilderness He would lead them to a place of safety, where they could live upon a choice land above all other lands. This man Lehi and his family hearkened to His counsel, as did another man by the name of Ishmael, who had several daughters, and these united together in marriage, and they spread abroad here on this American continent and became a numerous and powerful people. They were people of Israel, the descendants of Joseph. They were descendants of both of Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh; and they have in this land fulfilled the prophecy which said that they should grow together and become a multitude of nations in the midst of the earth.

It was of this land that Moses spake when he blessed Joseph, saying:

"Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, and for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, and for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, and for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush; let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. \* \* \*

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns; with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth; and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh. Deut. 33: 13-17.

These people that came over from Jerusalem, brought with them plates, on which were contained the law of Moses and the prophecies of the early prophets, and they lived here keeping the law of Moses until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When our Savior had performed His mission in the land of Judea, He came over to this land of America. He told the people in Jerusalem that He had other sheep that were not of that fold, and that He must visit them also, that they might hear His voice, and He would bring them and they should become one people. So He came over here and held several notable conferences with the people. He taught them the same Gos-

pel that He had taught in the land of Jerusalem. He appointed twelve disciples here, and gave them instructions; endowed them with the Priesthood, etc.

In the course of time, when the people became wicked again, after having had a long period of the greatest happiness of any people on earth, a celebrated prophet, by the name of Mormon, a righteous man, distinguished among his people for his virtues, his intelligence and his power of Priesthood, received instructions from the Lord to write the history of his people in an abridged form, before destruction should come upon them. He did so, and wrote it upon plates of pure gold, and in the language called the reformed Egyptian—a language which no people knew very well; and he being a prophet and having the Urim and Thummim, hid it up with these plates, so that in due time the plates should come forth and the means to interpret the record on them.

In a few words I have given you items of this history, covering a period of two or three thousand years. This Book of Mormon is an abridgement of the records of the Jaredites and also of the records of a people that came over, who were of the descendants of Joseph. I should mention also, that eleven years after Lehi left, when the sons of Zedekiah were captured and their eyes put out in the most barbarous manner, one of their number, named Mulek, made his escape and was led by the Lord, and he came and landed on this North American continent, so that he and his children joined with the descendants of Joseph. We have on this land in the natives, the descendants of Ephraim, of Manasseh and of Judah combined. This is what scientists, with much searching, speculation, and study, are endeavoring to find out.

This Book of Mormon is the Bible of the American world, made by these people. It gives an account of their rise and progress, their wealth and their poverty, their prosperity and their adversity, and finally their downfall and destruction; how they came to be cursed, and how the Savior came and preached to them the same Gospel that He taught in Judea. This book contains a testimony of the same principles as the Bible, and is a practical fulfillment of that which is spoken of by Ezekiel, the prophet, in the 37th chapter of his prophecy concerning the writing on sticks:

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks wherewith thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

The word of the Lord to Ezekiel, as here given, makes not only the existence of the two sticks or records appear very clearly, by "being in thine hand and before their eyes," but the expression in the 19th verse is particularly significant here. Here the Lord says:

"I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall become one in Mine Hand."

The word them, being plural, must signify two or more; and, putting them with him, even with the stick of Judah, signifies that not less than three are spoken of, which third, as appears from the text, must refer to "all the house of Israel his companions."

This is in beautiful harmony with the prophecy of Nephi, in chapter xxix, verses 12-14. Second Nephi delivered 450 years before the coming of Christ:

For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; \* \* \* And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews. And it shall come to pass that my people, which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one. And I will show unto them that fight against my word and against my people, who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and that I covenanted with Abraham, that I would remember his seed for ever.

Here we are told by Ezekiel and Nephi, two notable prophets who lived many hundreds of years before the coming of our Savior, that there will be three records, sticks or Bibles published, containing His wonderful works, among three divisions of the house of Israel.

The stick of Judah—the Bible—has been in circulation for centuries among all civilized nations. The stick of Joseph, in the hands of Ephraim—which is the Book of Mormon—was translated into English from the Reformed Egyptian, by means of the Urim and Thummim, in the hands of Joseph Smith, and has been translated from the English language into the French, German, Italian, Danish, Swedish, Welsh, Spanish, Dutch, Kanaka, Maori, Hindostanee, and one of the modern Jewish languages, and has been published and circulated in all except the two last mentioned nationalities, so that its existence is already widely known in Christendom.

Having received so complete a fulfillment of the promise concerning these two Bibles, we may exercise implicit faith that the third, giving an account of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, will be forthcoming in the due time of the Lord.

The Book of Mormon has special and peculiar claim upon the faith of all true Christian people, because it was translated by the power of God through the Urim and Thummim, word by word and sentence by sentence.

On the 22nd of September, 1827, the gold plates upon which the Book of Mormon was engraved, were taken out of the ground and delivered to Joseph Smith, with the most solemn injunction concerning their safety, by the Prophet Moroni who had charge of the sacred record.

While Joseph Smith was translating with Oliver Cowdery writing for him, they came to where it referred to baptism for the remission of sins, and the authority