

Isaiah 14

Led by the Abandoned and Rejected

Recently, evangelist and Bible teacher Perry Stone concluded a conference in Hixson, TN, in which he preached Words from the Lord that,

1. Despite our nation's increasing sins, God is not finished with the United States and,
2. The coming Great Awakening is going to have strong ties to the First Nation peoples (often referred to as the American Indians), in particular the Cherokee.

Why the Cherokee? There is a theory that some Israelites may have migrated to the New World, moved north from South or Central America and settled in the Mid-West region of North America until forcibly removed by Europeans in the 1800s. Offered as evidence is a 1775 book by James Adair (who lived among the Cherokee for decades) that offers parallels between Cherokee rituals and Jewish worship practices as laid out in the *Torah*; for details, I recommend you listen to Rev. Stone's teaching on the subject, available through Voice of Evangelism Ministries. There is also evidence of DNA markers that suggest a common ancestry between Jews and Cherokees, although there is some contention regarding the findings. While ordinarily dismissed because the Jewish-First Nation connection theory also is a key point of Mormon beliefs, the theory actually came first.

While investigating the theory appears to be a fascinating and worthwhile endeavor for people into archeology and genealogy, let me say from the outset that I believe the theory to be true - not because Perry Stone says so (although in fairness I should note that my wife and I have learned much from his teachings and are partners with Voice of Evangelism Ministries), but God confirmed this word to me in prayer. I do not know the particulars of how Jewish people could have reached the Americas so long ago, but in the 1970s Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl made two voyages from Africa to the Americas (followed by a third through Asia and the Middle East) in large papyrus reed boats. These voyages tested a theory that ancient peoples could have migrated from Egypt to the Americas, pointing to similarities between the cultures of the Egyptians and the Aztecs. If papyrus boats could be made seaworthy enough for the Egyptians, then could not Israelites escaping Babylonian captivity or the Roman diaspora use them as well? Perhaps in their 400 years of enslavement by the Egyptians, the children of Israel learned of the migration voyages of some of the Egyptians and some decided that this was a good time to put such knowledge to use.

There is another reason why I believe the theory to be correct, which brings me to what the Lord told me: As there are parallels between the spiritual and

physical worlds, so shall there be between Israel and the coming Great Awakening with its ties to the Cherokee. Both have been downtrodden, and there are blood ties between them.

Because the United States is turning away from its foundational covenant with God, He will raise up the nation that the U.S. conquered in order to possess the land. America will not fall, nor will it lose territory for God still has a purpose for the United States. He will, however, make a public display of America and humble her for the sins that the nation will not repent of. The end result of this process is that America will be restored to the Lord to carry out His purposes, and the abandoned and rejected peoples will lead the way. This will happen in such a way as to leave no doubt that it is the Lord's hand that is restoring and raising up America so that He gets all credit and glory for this and not men.

At the same time, because there are ties of blood between the two peoples, Israel also will be raised up by God in the presence of her enemies. He will use signs and wonders, bringing them out both through and presenting them to that nation as evidence of God's love for his covenant people. Not only will the Lord defend Israel from her enemies, but He will also cause great discoveries to come through her that will benefit all mankind and cause them to marvel at what is happening there, despite having enemies all around her. Spiritual signs and wonders also will be performed in her midst so that Israel may see her Messiah and turn to Him.

The third reason I believe the Israel-First Nations ties theory to be correct is that in reading the Word, I find that it is entirely in keeping with God's nature to use the abandoned and rejected for His purposes. There are numerous Scriptures that reinforce this point:

- **Genesis ----:** God makes His covenant through Abraham and Sarah to make them into a great nation, even though Sarah is childless and both of them are very old.
- **Genesis 37-41 (minus 38):** Joseph (Abraham's great-grandson), rejected by his brothers and sold into slavery, is raised by God to become Prime Minister of Egypt in order to save his family and God's covenant people.
- **Judges 6-7:** Gideon, least in his family and his clan the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh (found hiding in a winepress in order to thresh grain so the Midianites don't get it), raised up by God to deliver Israel from the Midianites.
- **Judges 11:** Jephthah the Gileadite, driven from his family for being the son of another woman, asked to lead the Israelites in battle against the Ammonites.
- **Ruth:** A Moabitess, normally excluded from the nation of Israel, and a widow besides, is not only grafted into the Kingdom of God but placed in the Earthly lineage of the Lord Jesus via King David.

- **1 Samuel 1:** Hannah, barren and persecuted by Elkanah's other wife, becomes pregnant with Israel's judge Samuel.
- **1 Samuel 9, 10:** Saul, son of Kish, a Benjamite, is made Israel's first king, although he was "small" in his own eyes (1 Samuel 15:17) and was hiding among the baggage when he was proclaimed king.
- **1 Samuel 16:** David, youngest of the sons of Jesse (and, by some teachings, rejected by his family because he was the son of another woman), is anointed by Samuel to replace Saul when God rejected him as king.
- **Psalm 118: 22, 23 (quoted in Acts 4:11):** *The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.* This is the ultimate example of this concept, referring to the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah of Israel. This idea is further expanded in **Isaiah 53**, the passage of the suffering servant of God.

If I did an exhaustive search of the Scriptures, I could probably find more, but I think the point is made. (You could likely think of a few passages yourself.) In post-Biblical history, you can also find numerous examples of individuals similarly cast off by others who God has transformed and raised up for His purposes.

Finally, I can speak from personal experience in this matter. I received my calling to the ministry in 2003, in the midst of Carolyn's and my first vacation to Montana. We had been praying for others and laying hands on the sick for years – standing orders, you might say, for anyone who is a believer (Mark 16: 17, 18) – but we were on the return run home from the Glacier National Park area when we were driving south of Billings near Little Bighorn Battlefield National Park and the Crow Nation. We had noticed that some tents had been put up for a revival meeting run by Buddy Rogers, a Crow pastor, and (as is our custom) we had prayed for the success of the meeting as we drove past. The Lord spoke to Carolyn and told her to turn around, go back to the site of the revival and pray for the pastor's wife. When we did, the Presence of the Lord came upon all of us so strongly that it was a confirmation of my job in His Kingdom. So Pastor Rogers laid his hands on me right there and then – on land belonging to the Crow Nation, under the hands of a Native American man of God. (The account can be found in Carolyn's book, *Healing Music*.)

In all of history, there are no people more maligned and rejected than the Jews. The First Nations in North America have had similar experiences because of a large number of Europeans not taking the time to get to know the First Nation peoples. Preaching under the "one size fits all" approach to evangelism, the Native peoples were looked down on as "unwashed heathens," when many of the Native peoples practiced more of the Kingdom of God than some Europeans did. But just as Israel will be protected by God and raised up to be the headquarters for the Millennial Reign of Yeshua/Jesus, so the Cherokee and other First Nations people will

be raised up in this country. There will be healing between the descendants of the First Nations and the Europeans, and the Native Peoples will play a greater role in the later history of America than in the former. The spiritual ties between Israel and the United States will lead to a greater revelation of the genetic ties between the First Peoples and the Israelites. And God's evangelistic principle *first for the Jew, then for the Gentile* (referenced by the Apostle Paul in Romans 2: 9, 10) must also be practiced in North America, because in both parts of the world it will be the abandoned and rejected that will be the vanguard for last Great Awakening of the Kingdom of God.

For the Glory of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ
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