



Type: Magazine Article

The Deluge

Author(s): "Beth"

Source: *Juvenile Instructor*, Vol. 13, No. 5 (1 March 1878), p. 55

Published by: George Q. Cannon & Sons

Abstract: Relates the Book of Mormon and Indian legends to the flood at the time of Noah. Also speaks of stone and wood tablets found in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio, some of which possess Egyptian-like characters.

parents in the Lord; obey the servants of the Lord and seek continually to do His will, and you will have joy and happiness.

THE DELUGE.

BY BETH.

IN the eighth chapter of Genesis we may find an explanation of the incidents which the accompanying engravings represent. We read that when the patriarch Noah was shut up in the ark on account of the flood he resorted to a very simple expedient to determine whether the waters had dried up from off the earth. He sent forth one of the ravens he had in the ark, in the first instance, and then sent a dove "to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground." As was very natural for a dove to do, she returned to the ark when she "found no rest for the sole of her foot;" "for the waters were on the face of the whole earth." Then Noah put forth his hand and took the dove into the ark. The engraving represents only a part of the ark and the window, as it is chiefly intended to bring before us one of the circumstances which enables us to form a very clear conception of the condition of things at that time outside of the ark.



The second picture gives us an idea of an improved condition of things, in accordance with the narrative. We learn that Noah had waited seven days before he sent forth the dove again. And she returned again in the evening, with an olive leaf in her mouth--a very natural thing for a dove to do, as all are aware who are familiar with the habits of the dove! But this was an important fact for Noah to learn; he "knew that the waters were abated from off the earth."

By the account given by Moses, we learn that the deluge or flooding of the earth was revealed to Noah (Gen. VI., 13-22), and Moses has made known to us more concerning it than any other historian has done. He has not merely given an account of the event, but the causes which gave rise to it. As to the fact of the deluge being general, or universal; that is, that the whole earth was covered with water at the same time, the Assyrians give a statement which bears the greatest resemblance to the account given by Moses. There has been a tradition of the deluge prevailing for ages among the peoples of the eastern continent. The ancient Egyptian priests taught that "there had been many deluges." Some of the classical authors of antiquity tell us about great floods, some of which are reported as having been confined to certain localities. Whether this continent is alluded to or not in the writings of Moses, has not been revealed to us. So closely is the Bible

version like that recorded in the cuneiform writing, as translated by the learned of our own day, that many persons have supposed Moses had access to the ancient Assyrian records.

Although we have no account in the writings of Moses which directly alludes to this continent, there are traditions among the American Indians which probably had their origin in the same facts as those recorded by him. Some of the Indians tell of an ancient flood; and many of their usages and ceremonies seem to have a reference to practices of the Jewish people, as recorded in the Bible. It is reasonable to believe that these usages and ceremonies are derived from a people connected by a common origin with the Jews. This brings us to the history of the former inhabitants of this continent as revealed in the Book of Mormon. Testimony such as this the world will not receive; but it is confirmation to us of the



truth of the revelations given through Joseph Smith. And we may expect that now so much attention is being paid to the history of the aborigines of this continent, further discoveries will be made, until at last men will receive as true the statements found in the Book of Mormon. Already enquiries are being made by ethnologists and antiquarians as to the nature of the tablets found by the prophet Joseph, to see if they are in any way similar to some recently found in Iowa, Ohio and Illinois. Characters resembling the Egyptian are being found on tablets which may yet be translated. Sacrifices on mounds are represented; obelisks with hieroglyphics on them, and letters resembling the Greek and Hebrew. Of this we may be satisfied: just as the universal traditions of the Asiatics, pointing to the great deluge, had their origin in truth, so have the traditions of the inhabitants of ancient America.