

NAMES OF CHRIST

and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philip. 2:9-11.)

NAMES OF CHRIST.

See CHRIST.

NAMING OF CHILDREN.

See BLESSING OF CHILDREN.

NATIONS.

See RACES OF MEN.

NATURAL DEATH.

See DEATH.

NATURAL PATRIARCHS.

See PATRIARCHS.

NATURAL RIGHTS.

See INALIENABLE RIGHTS.

NATURE.

See GOD OF NATURE.

NAZARENE.

See CHRIST, JESUS OF NAZARETH. Christ is the *Nazarene*. Matthew had access to a Messianic prophecy which has not been preserved for our day, which enabled him to write of our Lord: "He came

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and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, *He shall be called a Nazarene*." (Matt. 2:23.)

NECKING.

See SEX IMMORALITY.

NECROMANCY.

See DIVINATION, FORTUNE TELLING, MAGIC, OCCULTISM, SOOTH-SAYERS, SORCERY, SPIRITUALISM, WITCHCRAFT. *Necromancy* is that form of divination which attempts to foretell the future by consultation with the dead. Sometimes the term is enlarged to include magic in general. It is and has been a common practice among apostate peoples, but the Lord calls it an abomination and expressly commands Israel to avoid it. (Deut. 18:9-14.)

NEGROES.

See CAIN, HAM, PRIESTHOOD, RACES OF MEN. As with all men, *Negroes* are the mortal descendants of Adam and the spirit children of the Eternal Father. They come to earth to gain mortal bodies and be subject to the probationary experiences of this present life.

In the providences of the Lord, the gospel and all its attendant blessings are offered to one nation and people after another. During Jesus' mortal ministry he and his

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disciples took the gospel to the house of Israel only; after his resurrection the word went forth to the Gentiles also. Those who live when the gospel is not on earth may receive its blessings in the spirit world after death.

In all past ages and until recent times in this dispensation, the Lord did not offer the priesthood to the Negroes. However, on June 1, 1978, in the Salt Lake Temple, in the presence of the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve, President Spencer W. Kimball received a revelation from the Lord directing that the gospel and the priesthood should now go to all men without reference to race or color.

This means that worthy males of all races can now receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, perform ordinances, and hold positions of presidency and responsibility. It means that members of all races may now be married in the temple, although interracial marriages are discouraged by the Brethren, and that the full blessings of the gospel may be made available to their ancestors through vicarious temple ordinances. It also means that Negro members of the Church may now perform missionary service and should bear the burdens of the kingdom equally with all other members of the Church.

This new revelation is one of the signs of the times. It opens the door to the spread of the gospel among all people before the Second Coming in fulfillment of many scriptural prom-

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ises. It has been received with joy and rejoicing throughout the Church and is one of the evidences of the divinity of the Lord's great latter-day work.

The official document announcing the new revelation, signed by the First Presidency (Spencer W. Kimball, N. Eldon Tanner, and Marion G. Romney) and dated June 8, 1978, is as follows:

"As we have witnessed the expansion of the work of the Lord over the earth, we have been grateful that people of many nations have responded to the message of the restored gospel, and have joined the Church in ever-increasing numbers. This, in turn, has inspired us with a desire to extend to every worthy member of the Church all of the privileges and blessings which the gospel affords.

"Aware of the promises made by the prophets and presidents of the Church who have preceded us that at some time, in God's eternal plan, all of our brethren who are worthy may receive the priesthood, and witnessing the faithfulness of those from whom the priesthood has been withheld, we have pleaded long and earnestly in behalf of these, our faithful brethren, spending many hours in the Upper Room of the Temple supplicating the Lord for divine guidance.

"He has heard our prayers, and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the Church may receive the holy priest-

hood, with power to exercise its divine authority, and enjoy with his loved ones every blessing that flows therefrom, including the blessings of the temple. Accordingly, all worthy male members of the Church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color. Priesthood leaders are instructed to follow the policy of carefully interviewing all candidates for ordination to either the Aaronic or the Melchizedek Priesthood to insure that they meet the established standards for worthiness.

"We declare with soberness that the Lord has now made known His will for the blessing of all His children throughout the earth who will hearken to the voice of His authorized servants, and prepare themselves to receive every blessing of the gospel."

NEPHITE DISPENSATIONS.

See DISPENSATIONS.

NEPHITES AND LAMANITES.

See AMERICAN INDIANS, BOOK OF MORMON, ISHMAELITES, JACOBITES, JAREDITES, JEWS, JOSEPHITES, LAMANITE CURSE, LEMUELITES, MULEKITES, ZORAMITES. Almost from the very day in 600 B.C. in which Lehi, his family and friends, began their journey toward their American promised land, there was a sharp division within the group. Those who were faithful members of the Church, who believed the revelations and sought to keep the commandments of God,

chose to call themselves *Nephites* after Nephi their mightiest prophet. Those who were rebellious, whose minds were darkened by unbelief, who were apostates from the Church, chose to call themselves *Lamanites* after Laman, the most forceful and powerful member of their group.

The Nephite group included Lehi and Sariah, Nephi's sisters, and the families of Nephi, Sam, Jacob, and Zoram. (2 Ne. 5.) That portion of the Nephites who were descendants of Jacob, Joseph, and Zoram were sometimes called *Jacobites*, *Josephites*, and *Zoramites*. The Lamanite group included the families of Laman and Lemuel, and the families of the sons of Ishmael. *Lemuelites* and *Ishmaelites*, accordingly, were portions of the larger colony of Lamanites. (Jac. 1:13-14; 4 Ne. 37-39.) When the *Mulekite* civilization later joined with the Nephites, the whole group were thereafter known by the more prominent name, Nephites. (Mosiah 25.)

Thus the designation Nephites and Lamanites was originally a means of identifying true believers on the one hand and apostates from the faith on the other. After the separation into groups had occurred, however, to avoid intermarriage between them, the Lord placed a curse upon the Lamanites which included a dark skin. (2 Ne. 5:21-25.) Then as large cities and nations developed, the terms Nephite and Lamanite became mat-

ters of ancestry and nationality rather than identifications of particular beliefs. Accordingly there were periods when groups of Lamanites were more faithful to the truth than their Nephite kindred. And there were also periods when the believing Lamanites joined with the Nephites, became a white and a delightful people again, and were again called Nephites. (3 Ne. 2:14-16.)

During the period following the ministry of our Lord among the ancient Americans, the Nephites and Lamanites ceased to exist as separate groups; rather, all men "were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God." (4 Ne. 17.) Then when the great apostasy set in "there arose a people who were called the Nephites, and they were true believers in Christ; and among them were those who were called by the Lamanites—Jacobites, and Josephites, and Zoramites; Therefore the true believers in Christ, and the true worshipers of Christ, (among whom were the three disciples of Jesus who should tarry) were called Nephites, and Jacobites, and Josephites, and Zoramites. And it came to pass that they who rejected the gospel were called Lamanites, and Lemuelites, and Ishmaelites." (4 Ne. 36-38.)

In their latter end the Nephites (speaking now of the white skinned group and calling them Nephites from the standpoint of ancestry and nationality) became more cor-

rupt and wicked than the Lamanites and were destroyed, as a people and nation, in the great continent-wide wars that came upon them. (Morm. 6.) There were many Nephite groups, however, who were not destroyed in the final conflict, and these (with possible exceptions) have since mingled themselves with the Lamanites, the resulting peoples being known to the world as the *American Indians*. (1 Ne. 13:30; 2 Ne. 3:1-3; 9:53; Alma 45:13-14; D. & C. 3:16-19.)

NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT.

See ABRAHAMIC COVENANT, CELESTIAL MARRIAGE, CHILDREN OF THE COVENANT, CHRISTIANITY, CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, COVENANTS, DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES, DISPENSATIONS, EVERLASTING, GOSPEL, JOSEPH SMITH THE PROPHET, MORMONISM, NEW COVENANT, RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL, SALVATION. God's covenant of salvation is the fulness of the gospel. (D. & C. 39:11; 45:9; 66:2; 133:57.) When men accept the gospel, they thereby agree or covenant to keep the commandments of God, and he promises or covenants to give them salvation in his kingdom.

The gospel is the *everlasting* covenant because it is ordained by Him who is Everlasting and also because it is everlastingly the same. In all past ages salvation was gained by adherence to its terms and conditions, and that same

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