

Help Elder B.H. Roberts inform the Q12 that themes from the Book of Mormon seem suspiciously similar to themes in the pre-existing book "View of the Hebrews," which was written by Oliver Cowdery's pastor and published several years before the Book of Mormon. Mark all of the themes from View of the Hebrews below that occur in the Book of Mormon.



Themes from "View of the Hebrews," as described by Elder B.H. Roberts in the 1920's



1. __Pleads for an Israelitish origin of the American Indian on every page.
2. __Deals with the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of Israel.
3. __Deals with the future gathering of Israel and the restoration of the ten tribes.
4. __Emphasizes and uses much of the material from the prophecies of Isaiah, including whole chapters.
5. __Makes a special appeal to the Gentiles of the New World--esp. the people of the United States to become nursing fathers and mothers unto Israel in the New World, holding out great promises to the great Gentile nation that shall occupy America, if it acquiesces in the divine program.
6. __The peopling of the New World was by migrations from the Old World.
7. __Its migrating people are taken into a country where "never man dwelt".
8. __The motive of their journey was religious. Ether is prominently connected with recording the matter. The colony enters into a valley of a great river. Peoples journeyed northward and encountered "seas of many waters" in the course of their long journey. The motive of their journey was religious. Ethan is prominently connected with recording the matter.
9. __The lost tribes divide into two classes, the one fostering the arts that make for civilization, the other followed a wild hunting and indolent lifestyle that ultimately led to barbarism.
10. __Long and dismal wars break out between the civilized and barbarous divisions of people.
11. __The savage division utterly exterminates the civilized one.
12. __Civilized people develop a culture of mechanic arts; of written language; of the knowledge and use of iron and other metals; and of navigation.
13. __Unity of race--the Hebrew race, and no other is assumed for the inhabitants of ancient America.
14. __With the possible exception of the Eskimos of the extreme north, this race of Hebrew peoples occupied the whole extent of the American continents.
15. __The Indian tongue had one source--the Hebrew.
16. __View of the Hebrews describes an instrument among the mound finds comprising a breast plate with two white buckhorn buttons attached, "in imitation of the precious stones of the Urim."
17. __Admits the existence of idolatry and human sacrifice.
18. __Generosity to the poor is extolled and pride is denounced as a trait of the American Indian. Polygamy is denounced.
19. __Indian traditions of a "Lost Book of God" and the promise of its restoration to the Indians, with a return of their lost favor with the Great Spirit are quoted.
20. __Ethan Smith's sacred book was buried with some "high priest," "keeper of the sacred tradition."
21. __Reports of extensive military fortifications linking cities together over wide areas of Ohio and Mississippi valleys, with military "watch towers" overlooking them.
22. __Describes sacred towers or "high places," in some instances devoted to true worship, in other cases to idolatrous practices.
23. __Part of Ethan Smith's ancient inhabitants effect a change from monarchical governments to republican forms of government.
24. __Civil and ecclesiastical powers are united in the same person in Ethan Smith's republics.
25. __Some of Ethan Smith's peoples believed in the constant struggle between the good and the bad principle by which the world is governed.
26. __Ethan Smith's book speaks of the gospel having been preached in the ancient America.
27. __Ethan Smith's book gives, in considerable detail, the story of the Mexican culture-hero Quetzalcoatl--who in so many things is reminiscent of the Christ.

"Can such numerous and startling points of resemblance and suggestive contact be merely coincidence?"

(B. H. Roberts, Studies of the Book of Mormon, (University of Illinois Press, 1985), p. 242)

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