

# Teacher's Supplement - America, the Promised Land

## PROCEDURE

### Motivation/Introduction (10 minutes)

**Prior to class:** "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" lyrics printed below.

#### Attributes of My Country :

- land of liberty
- land of freedom
- land where people sing honor to freedom and to God
- land where God protects the inhabitants
- land where God is King

### Lesson Development (20-30minute sessions)

#### Section 1

##### God's Thoughts for America

##### **Examples: Decrees Of God For America:**

- People should serve the true and living God
- If not, destruction will come with God's full wrath
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 2

##### Decrees of God and the People of Jared

**Prior to class:** Timeline located on page below.

**In class:** Map of American continents located on page below.

##### **Synopsis: People of Jared**

Genesis 11:1-9; Helaman 6:28, Ether 1:33, Ether 2:16-17, Ether 6:11-12, Ether 15:2, Omni 1:21

- The people of Jared lived during the time of the tower of Babel possibly around 1,757 years from Adam's fall. (Country of modern day Iraq. Locate Iraq on world map.)
- People built a city and tower that reached high unto heaven, with the thought of making a name for themselves. The Lord was displeased.
- The Lord punished the people by giving everyone a different language. In addition, He scattered them upon the face of the earth. They abandoned the project.

- **Read Ether 1:38**, "...Go and inquire of the Lord whether he will drive us out of the land, and if he will drive us out of the land...whither we shall go. And who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth? And if it so be, let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance."

**Q:** How does Jared's plea possibly indicate knowledge of a choice land? How does his desire compliment the will of God for the Americas?

- Jared and his people built barges and traveled toward the Promised Land (modern day Americas).
- This small group of settlers increased to a population of over two million people by the end of their civilization which spanned about 1900 years.
- In the promised land, the Jaredites were inconsistent in serving God, fluctuating between periods of righteousness and great blessings to wickedness and cursing.
- They eventually became very wicked and allowed secret combinations (gangs), murderers and sin to exist. They became divided their purpose and argued about everything. They decided to have a huge war to determine who would take control. This war was fought until every Jaredite was killed except one lone survivor, named Coriantumr, who lived to discover other people who arrived in the Promised Land.

#### Section 3

##### Decrees of God and the People of Lehi

Maps of American continents located on page below.

##### **Summary: Decrees of God and the People of Lehi**

2 Nephi 4:4-9, Jacob 2:25, Enos 1:11-18, 3 Nephi, 4 Nephi

**Read 2 Nephi 1:5** ... we [Lehi] have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me would be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord.

- Lehi's sons divided into Nephites and Lamanites not many years after arriving in the promised land. They were rivals for most of their existence.

- The Nephites were the keepers of God's laws and the Lamanites were not. The Nephites diligently labored to convert the Lamanites to believe in Christ.
- When the Nephites were righteous they were very blessed by the Lord with heavenly gifts, prosperity, and safety. When they were wicked, wars broke out and many lost their lives.
- A destruction occurred on the land when Jesus was crucified killing thousands and sparing the more righteous. Christ appeared to the Nephites in the promised land after His resurrection. He called disciples and established His church. A time of righteousness and peace existed for almost 200 years.
- Pride entered into the hearts of people which led to persecutions and a complete apostasy from the gospel. The people became so wicked, they decided to destroy one another. All of the Nephites were killed except one. The Nephites lived about 1000 years in the promised land, spanning from roughly 590 B.C. to a little over 400 A.D.
- Over the next thousand-plus years the remaining Lamanites resided in unbelief upon the promised land with no true understanding of the gospel of Christ. History reveals that the Lamanites eventually were oppressed by a powerful Gentile government.

#### **Section 4**

##### **God's Will for the Gentiles**

**Prior to class:** Post the world map, the timeline, and the decrees of God.

**In Class:** Maps of American continents located on page below.

Summary of Gentile Explorers located below.

##### **God's Will for the Gentiles**

1Nephi 13:12,13, 17- 19, 2 Nephi 21, Ether 2:11,12, Matthew 28:18-20, Isaiah 11

- Prior to 1492, by his own account in his diary and his "Book of Prophecies" written in 1501 and 1502, the Spirit of God wrought upon Christopher Columbus to inspire him to travel to the Indies. His motives included a desire to bring Christianity to the people occupying these lands. His travels instead brought him to the Bahamas and eastern coasts of Central and South America, where he indeed did bring the knowledge of Christ to the people there.

**Q:** Whose descendants did Columbus meet in the promised land?

1. Place one of the "Gentiles" headings on the world map near Central America.
  2. Tell students to mark individual maps accordingly.
- His discovery of a New World opened the door for others to travel to the promised land. These people, including Columbus, are referred to as GENTILES in the Book of Mormon. In school, they are called EXPLORERS.
3. Point to 1620 A.D. on the timeline
- A little over 100 years after Columbus made his voyage to America, people called Puritans came to America in 1620 A.D. They sought freedom to serve God according to what they believed in the Bible. The Puritans were also called pilgrims and they brought their Bibles to the Promised Land. The pilgrims introduced their beliefs about Jesus to Native Peoples. The pilgrims did not know the Native People were descendants of the family of Israel.
4. Attach another "Gentiles" label to the world map on the Atlantic coast of North America.
  5. Tell students to mark their maps accordingly.
  6. Point to 1776 A.D. on the timeline
- Many more Gentiles sought to leave their homelands and travel to the promised land. From 1775 – 1783 A.D., a Revolutionary War was fought between Gentiles in the promised land and the country of England. The war established independence from England and a new country was born, founded upon principles of freedom and liberty.

**Q:** What was the new country called? What do you know about God's purposes for the Gentiles in America? How do God's purposes relate to The Church of Jesus Christ?

7. Point to 1830 A.D. on timeline
- God restored the full gospel of Christ and His church in America in 1830 A.D. through Joseph Smith, Jr. In 1860 A.D., William Bickerton became the leader of the Church and carried the work of the Lord forward. Both men were ordained of God and commissioned to preach and teach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Today, The Church of Jesus Christ continues to carry on the Lord's work to teach and preach the true Gospel of Christ not only to people in America, but to all nations.

## **Review/Assessment**

### **Game - America, The Promised Land**

Game pieces located on pages below.

## **Follow-Up/Take-Home Activities**

### **Grades 7-9:**

“Story of My Family Coming to America” form located on pages below.

### **Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/ Exploration/ Extension of Topic**

Church Education Lessons:

- Obedience is Better than Sacrifice
- Righteousness
- Lehi Receives a Blessing of a Land of Promise
- The Divine Commission
- The Jaredites Receive the Promise of a Choice Land

Lessons on: Joseph of Egypt and the Choice Seer

Share opportunities for students to engage in supporting the work of the Lord and sharing the Gospel.

## **“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” - Lyrics**

My country, ‘tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;

Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims’ pride,  
From every mountain side Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom’s song;  
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

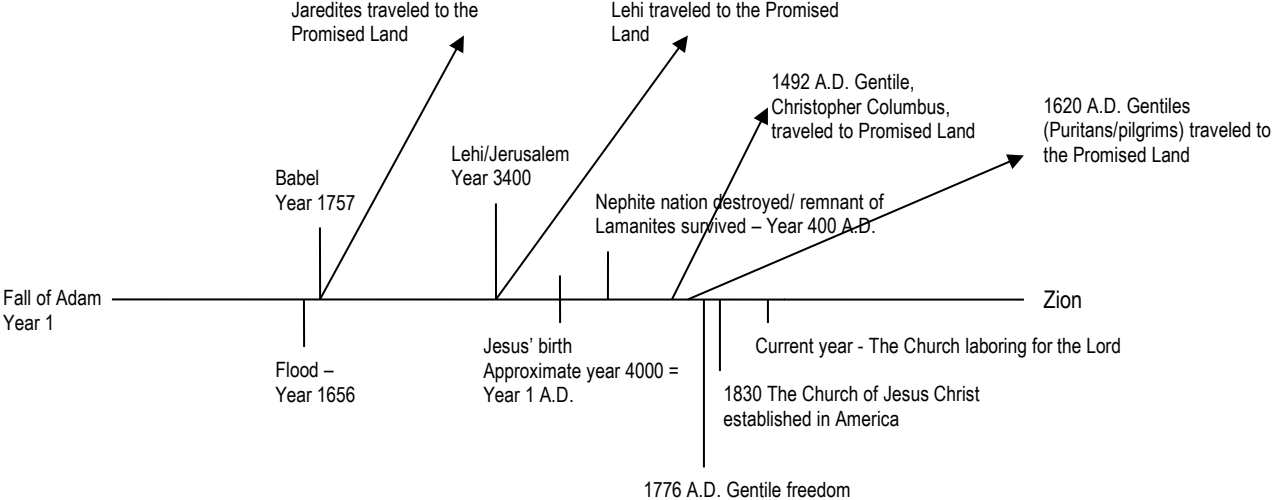
Our fathers’ God! To Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing;

Long may our land be bright With freedom’s holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.



# A M E R I C A S

# Timeline - America, The Promised Land



**People of Jared**

**People of Lehi**

**Gentiles/Explorers**

**Gentiles/Explorers**

<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>PEOPLE OF JARED</b>
Choice above all lands	From land of Babel
All people living here should serve God or be swept off	Told his brother to pray to be sent to a choice land
Land of liberty and freedom for those who serve God	Told his brother to pray to preserve their language
Sin will lead to bondage and destruction	Traveled to America in barges
A land of promise for Lehi	First people to come to America



<b>PEOPLE OF LEHI</b>	<b>GENTILES/EXPLORERS</b>
From Jerusalem	Came from Old World more than 1000 years after Jesus's birth
Came to America to preserve life and serve the Lord	Sought freedom from kings and religious freedom
Sailed on a ship made by his sons	Spirit of God inspired to bring Christianity to other nations
Lived in America several hundred years before Jesus was born	Traveled to America on large sailing vessels
Split into Nephites and Lamanites	Commissioned to restore fullness to gospel and teach and preach truth

## Story of My Family Coming to America

My ancestors came from the land of \_\_\_\_\_.

My ancestors traveled to America by \_\_\_\_\_.

It took \_\_\_\_\_ to get there.

The names of the people in my family who first came to America were

\_\_\_\_\_.

My family came to America because \_\_\_\_\_.

When my family arrived in America, they \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[Enter a few brief statements of who they met, what they did, where they lived, what they thought, or other interesting facts]

My family met The Church of Jesus Christ in America ...