

# LESSON 3: The Angel Moroni Visits Joseph Smith



# PURPOSE

To help the children understand the importance of Moroni's message that the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ was to be restored.

# An Angel Came to Joseph Smith

1. An angel came to Joseph Smith,  
And from the ground he took  
A sacred record hidden there,  
A precious, holy book.
2. It tells of people long ago,  
Led by the Lord's own hand,  
Who left their homes and crossed the sea  
To reach a favored land.
3. The Nephites and the Lamanites,  
And all who came to dwell,  
Had peace when they obeyed the Lord,  
The sacred records tell.
4. And now I'll read the sacred book,  
And then I'll understand  
That Heav'nly Father loves us all  
In each and ev'ry land.

*Words:* Anna Johnson, 1892–1979. © 1969 IRI

*Music:* A. Laurence Lyon, b. 1934. © 1969 IRI

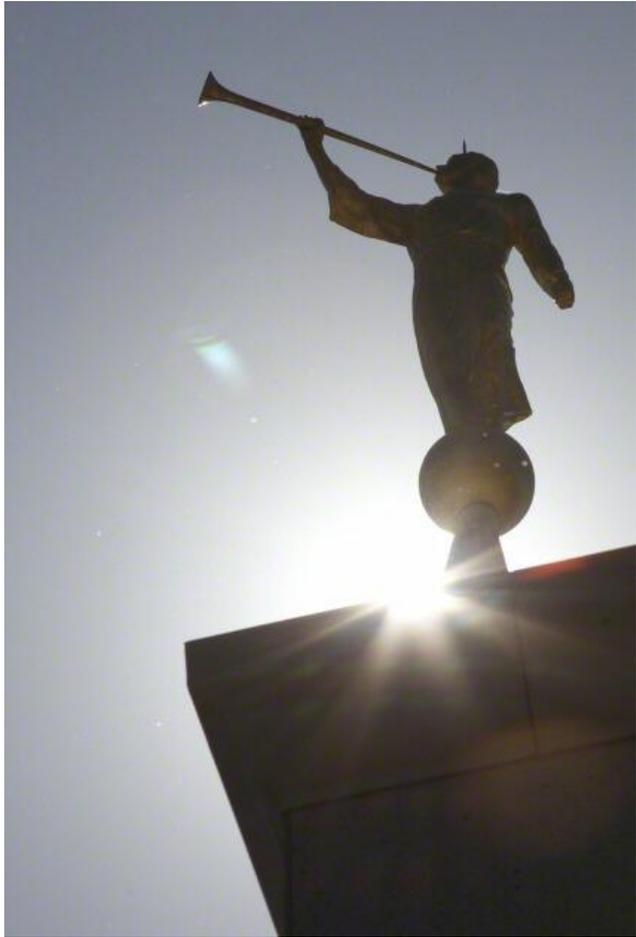
# OUR OPENING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN BY



(Enter Name Here)

- If someone handed you a microphone and asked you to give an important message to the whole world, what message would you give?
- Here is a “microphone”, use it to give a message to the whole world.
- Does someone else want to try?

- In today's lesson we are going to learn about an important message someone gave that was meant to help the entire world.
- This message did not come through a microphone; it did not come by radio, television, or satellite.



- Who is this?
- Why do you think the angel Moroni is shown blowing a trumpet?
- Listen to John's description of Moroni's message and how he gave it

- Let's read Revelation 14:6–7.
- 6 And I saw another <sup>a</sup>angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the <sup>b</sup>everlasting <sup>c</sup>gospel to <sup>d</sup>preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every <sup>e</sup>nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
- 7 Saying with a loud voice, <sup>a</sup>Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his <sup>b</sup>judgment is come: and <sup>c</sup>worship <sup>d</sup>him that made <sup>e</sup>heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

# LESSON 3: The Angel Moroni Visits Joseph Smith



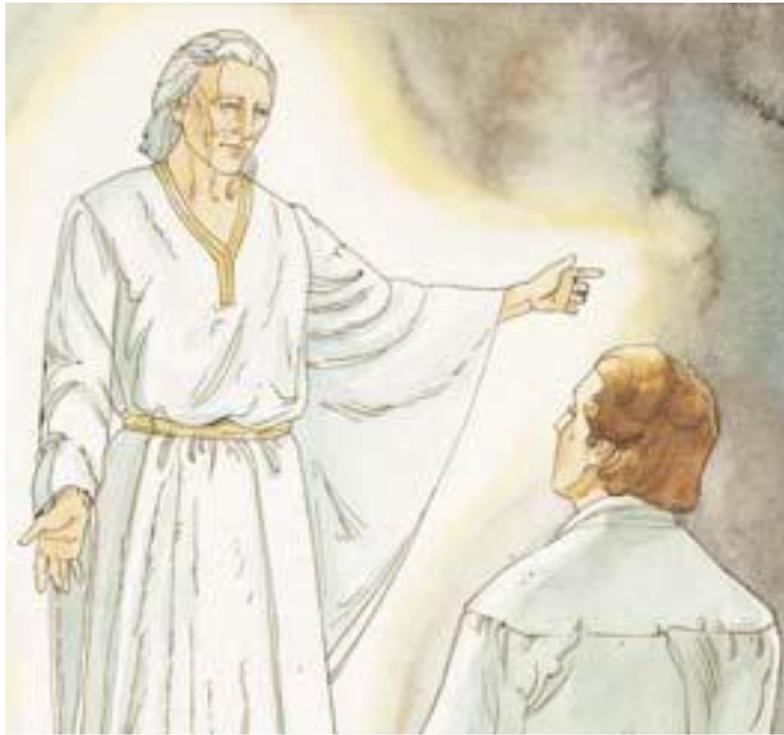
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GO TO THE SLIDES

DISCUSSION TIME

- Three years went by after Joseph's first vision.
- When he was 17 years old, Joseph wondered what God wanted him to do.
- One night Joseph prayed about this.
- He had faith that God would tell him what to do.

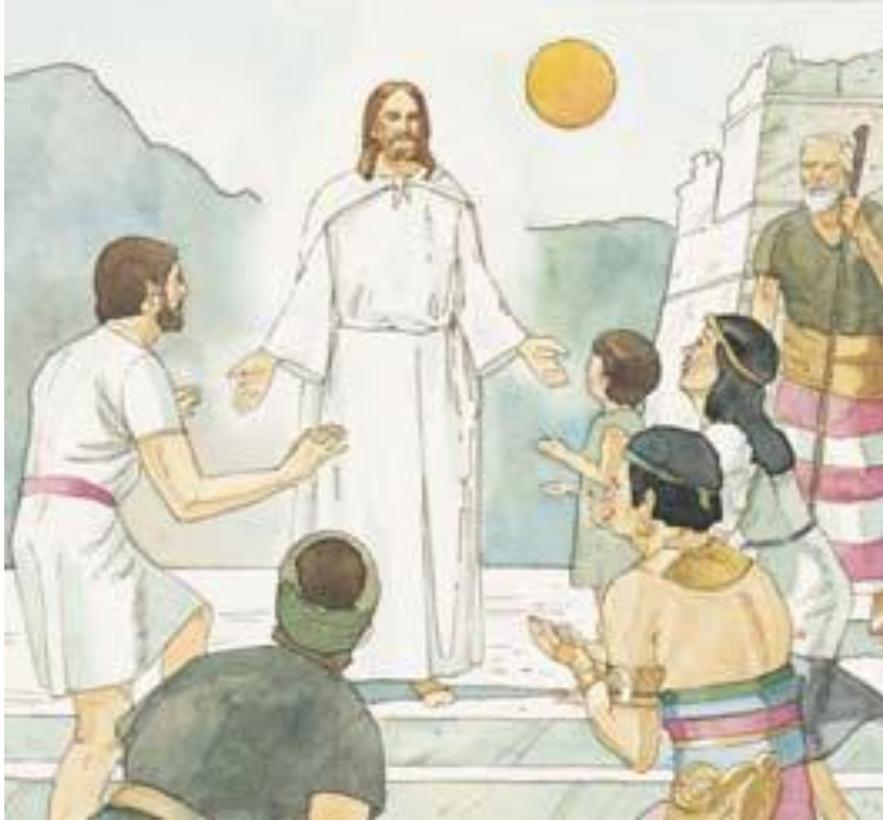




- Joseph saw a bright light in his room.
- An angel was standing in the light.
- The angel's face was very bright.
- He wore a beautiful white robe.

- The angel said his name was Moroni.
- God had sent him to talk to Joseph.
- Moroni said God had a work for Joseph to do.





- The angel Moroni told Joseph about a book.
- The book was about people who had lived in the Americas long ago.
- Jesus Christ had come to these people and taught them His gospel.

- Moroni said the book was written on gold pages called plates.
- It was written in a language that is unknown to us today.
- God wanted Joseph to translate the book into English.



- The angel Moroni said the gold plates were buried in a hill near Joseph's home.
- Moroni said that two stones, called the Urim and Thummim, were hidden with the plates.



- The stones would help Joseph translate the book.
- While Moroni was talking, Joseph saw a vision that showed him where the plates were buried.

- Moroni also told Joseph about Elijah, who was a great prophet who lived long ago.
- The story of Elijah is in the Old Testament.



- Moroni said that Elijah would come and restore special priesthood power to the earth.



- This power would make it possible for families to be sealed together in the temple so they could live together forever.

- The angel Moroni went away, then came back two more times that night.
- He told Joseph many things each time, then left when it was morning.
- Joseph got up and went to work with his father on the farm.





- Joseph was too tired to work, so his father sent him home.
- As he started home, he fell to the ground.
- Moroni then appeared again and repeated what he had said during the night.
- When Moroni left, Joseph told his father the things Moroni had taught him. Joseph's father believed him.
- He knew that God had sent Moroni, and he told Joseph to obey him.

- Joseph went to the hill where the gold plates were buried.
- He found the plates in a stone box that was underneath a big rock.
- The Urim and Thummim were also in the box.





- While Joseph was at the hill, the angel Moroni came to him.
- Moroni would not let Joseph take the gold plates yet.
- He told Joseph to come to the hill on the same day each year for four years.

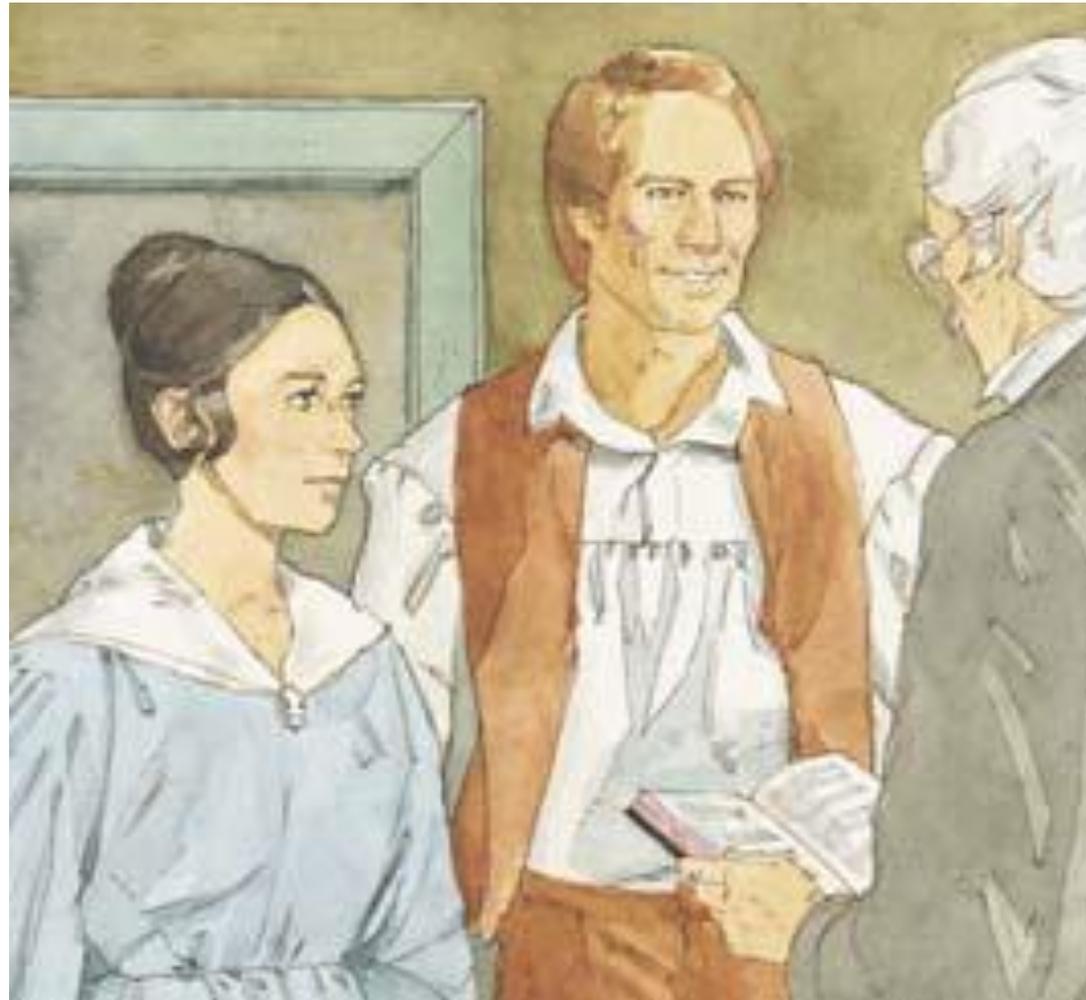
- Joseph obeyed Moroni and went to the Hill Cumorah each year.
- There Moroni taught Joseph about the Lord's kingdom on earth.





- Joseph Smith's family was poor and needed money.
- Joseph wanted to help his family, so he went to the state of Pennsylvania to work.
- He lived with a man named Mr. Hale.

- Mr. Hale had a daughter named Emma.
- Joseph and Emma loved each other, and after a time they got married.
- Then they went back to live with Joseph's family in New York, where Joseph helped his father on the farm.





- Several months after Joseph and Emma were married, Joseph went again to the Hill Cumorah.
- Four years had passed since Joseph had first seen the gold plates, and this time Moroni let him take them.
- Moroni told Joseph to take good care of the plates.

- Many people heard about Joseph receiving the gold plates.
- They tried to steal the plates from him, but he hid them where they could not be found.
- God helped Joseph keep the gold plates safe.



- People in the area caused a lot of trouble for Joseph.
- They told lies about him and his family.



- The trouble was so bad that Joseph and Emma decided to go back to Pennsylvania, where Joseph hoped he could begin translating the plates in peace.
- A man named Martin Harris lived near Joseph.
- He was kind to Joseph and Emma and gave them money to help them move.





- Why did Joseph Smith pray on the night of 21 September 1823? ([JS—H 1:29.](#))
- How was Joseph's prayer answered? ([JS—H 1:30–33.](#))



- Why don't angels appear to us when we pray?
- In 1823 the truth was not on the earth and had to be brought back by heavenly messengers.

- Because we now have the gospel, most of our personal prayers are answered in other ways.



- Answers to our prayers sometimes come into our minds as we listen to lessons or talks in church, talk to our parents or Church leaders, or read the scriptures.

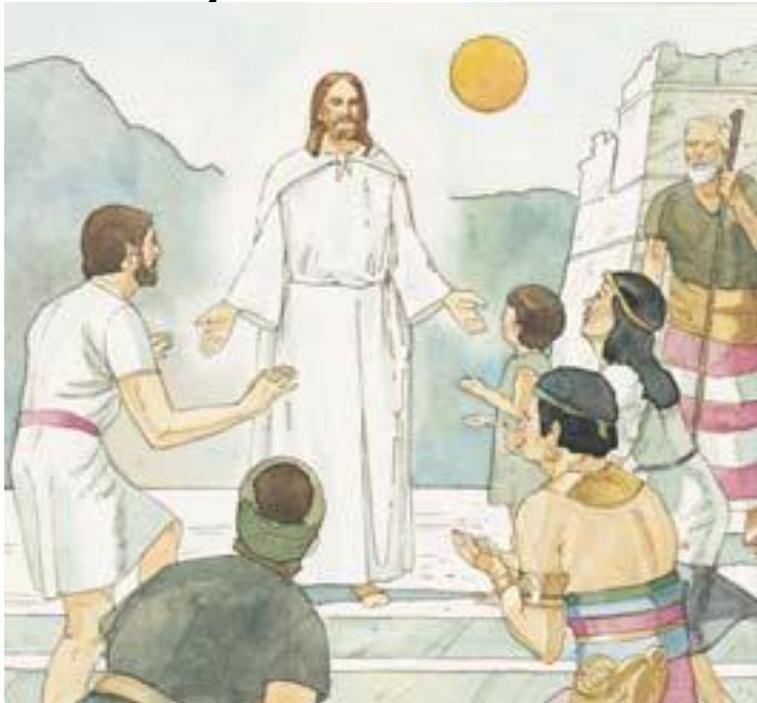


- Who was Moroni?
- Moroni was the last of the Nephite prophets.
- He lived about a.d. 400 and wrote some of the Book of Mormon.
- What did Moroni do with the gold plates when he finished writing on them? ([Mormon 8:1, 4.](#))
- Why was Moroni chosen to visit Joseph Smith?



- What did Moroni say would happen to Joseph Smith's name? ([JS—H 1:33.](#))
- What are some examples of how Joseph Smith's name has been "had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues"?
- How has your membership in the Church affected how people think of you?

- What book did Moroni tell Joseph about? ([JS—H 1:34.](#))
- What did the book contain?
- What was deposited with the gold plates? ([JS—H 1:35.](#))
- Why were these items necessary?
- Why is it important that we have the Book of Mormon today?



- What warnings did Moroni give Joseph in [Joseph Smith—History 1:42, 46](#)? How can knowing about Satan and his plans help us resist Satan’s temptations?





- What happened the morning after Moroni's visits to Joseph?  
([JS—H 1:48–49.](#))
- How did Joseph's father react when Joseph told him about Moroni?  
([JS—H 1:50.](#))
- Why do you think Joseph's father believed him?
- How can we gain the trust and confidence of our parents?



- How was Joseph able to find the exact place where the gold plates were buried? ([JS—H 1:50.](#))
- What is the name of the hill where the plates were buried? (Cumorah; see [Mormon 6:6.](#))

- Why was Joseph forbidden to take the plates with him at this time? ([JS—H 1:53.](#))
- Remember that Joseph was only seventeen years old and still had much to learn before he was ready to translate the plates.



The background features several thick, expressive brushstrokes. A series of blue strokes forms a jagged, wave-like pattern across the upper and middle sections. A large, vibrant orange stroke sweeps across the lower half of the image, partially overlapping the blue strokes. The overall style is dynamic and artistic.

# ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Moroni's message was very important to Joseph Smith.
- The message explained to Joseph that he was called by God to do an important work and told him some of what that work would be.
- What important work was Joseph Smith called to do?
- The Book of Mormon is the translation of the gold plates.
- Moroni's message is also important to us. Write on the chalkboard

*What I Can Learn from Moroni:*

**The Book of Mormon is True**

*What I Can Learn from Moroni:*

**The Book of Mormon Tells  
about the people who lived on  
the American continent long  
ago**

*What I Can Learn from Moroni:*

**The Book of Mormon contains  
the fullness of the gospel of  
Jesus Christ**

- We can learn what we need to do to live the gospel of Jesus Christ by reading and studying the Book of Mormon.

- Let's read the following paragraph:
- *Moroni was a messenger sent by God to Joseph Smith. Moroni told Joseph that God had an important work for him to do. Moroni also told Joseph that a book written on gold plates buried in the hillside contained the fulness of the gospel and a history of the ancient inhabitants of the American continent.*
- Can you repeat the message just read?
- Let's read the above paragraph again.
- Can you repeat the message above now?
- When you repeat the message above, it makes the message easier to remember.
- The complete message Moroni gave was much longer than the one above. Moroni repeated the message to help Joseph Smith understand and remember the message.
- Why is it helpful to study the same principles of the gospel over and over?

- Let's try to memorize the ninth article of faith.
- *9 We believe all that God has <sup>a</sup>revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet <sup>b</sup>reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.*

# Testimony

- I am grateful for the message that Moroni gave to Joseph Smith and to us.
- I testify to you that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and that the Book of Mormon is true.
- I would encourage you to learn more about the gospel by reading from the Book of Mormon each day.

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(Enter Name Here)

***THE END***

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## JS—H 1:29

29 In consequence of these things, I often felt condemned for my weakness and imperfections; when, on the evening of the above-mentioned twenty-first of September, after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself to <sup>a</sup>prayer and supplication to Almighty God for forgiveness of all my sins and follies, and also for a manifestation to me, that I might know of my state and standing before him; for I had full <sup>b</sup>confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation, as I previously had one.

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## JS—H 1:30–33

30 While I was thus in the act of calling upon God, I discovered a<sup>a</sup>light appearing in my room, which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a<sup>b</sup>personage appeared at my bedside, standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor.

31 He had on a loose robe of most exquisite<sup>a</sup>whiteness. It was a whiteness beyond anything earthly I had ever seen; nor do I believe that any earthly thing could be made to appear so exceedingly white and brilliant. His hands were naked, and his arms also, a little above the wrist; so, also, were his feet naked, as were his legs, a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this robe, as it was open, so that I could see into his bosom.

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## Mormon 8:1, 4

1 Behold I, <sup>a</sup>Moroni, do finish the <sup>b</sup>record of my father, Mormon. Behold, I have but few things to write, which things I have been commanded by my father.

4 Therefore I will write and <sup>a</sup>hide up the records in the earth; and whither I go it mattereth not.

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## JS—H 1:33

33 He called me by <sup>a</sup>name, and said unto me that he was a <sup>b</sup>messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for <sup>c</sup>good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people.

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## JS—H 1:34

34 He said there was a <sup>a</sup>book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the <sup>b</sup>fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants;

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## JS—H 1:35

35 Also, that there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a <sup>a</sup>breastplate, constituted what is called the <sup>b</sup>Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates; and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted <sup>c</sup>“seers” in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book.

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42 Again, he told me, that when I got those plates of which he had spoken—for the time that they should be obtained was not yet fulfilled—I should not show them to any person; neither the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim; only to those to whom I should be commanded to show them; if I did I should be <sup>a</sup>destroyed. While he was conversing with me about the plates, the vision was opened to my <sup>b</sup>mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited, and that so clearly and distinctly that I knew the place again when I visited it.

## JS—H 1:42,46

46 By this time, so deep were the impressions made on my mind, that sleep had fled from my eyes, and I lay overwhelmed in <sup>a</sup>astonishment at what I had both seen and heard. But what was my surprise when again I beheld the same messenger at my bedside, and heard him rehearse or repeat over again to me the same things as before; and added a caution to me, telling me that Satan would try to <sup>b</sup>tempt me (in consequence of the indigent circumstances of my father's family), to get the plates for the purpose of getting <sup>c</sup>rich. This he forbade me, saying that I must have no other object in view in getting the plates but to glorify God, and must not be influenced by any other <sup>d</sup>motive than that of building his kingdom; otherwise I could not get them.

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JS—H 1:44–46, 49

44 I lay musing on the singularity of the scene, and marveling greatly at what had been told to me by this extraordinary messenger; when, in the midst of my <sup>a</sup>meditation, I suddenly discovered that my room was again beginning to get lighted, and in an instant, as it were, the same heavenly messenger was again by my bedside.

JS—H 1:44–46, 49

45 He commenced, and <sup>a</sup>again related the very same things which he had done at his first visit, without the least variation; which having done, he informed me of great <sup>b</sup>judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by <sup>c</sup>famine, <sup>d</sup>sword, and pestilence; and that these grievous judgments would come on the earth in this generation. Having related these things, he again ascended as he had done before.

## JS—H 1:44–46, 49

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## JS—H 1:44–46, 49

49 The first thing that I can recollect was a voice speaking unto me, calling me by name. I looked up, and beheld the same messenger standing over my head, surrounded by light as before. He then again related unto me all that he had related to me the previous night, and commanded me to go to my <sup>a</sup>father and tell him of the vision and commandments which I had received.

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48 I shortly after arose from my bed, and, as usual, went to the necessary labors of the day; but, in attempting to work as at other times, I found my<sup>a</sup> strength so exhausted as to render me entirely unable. My father, who was laboring along with me, discovered something to be wrong with me, and told me to go home. I started with the intention of going to the house; but, in attempting to cross the fence out of the field where we were, my strength entirely failed me, and I<sup>b</sup> fell helpless on the ground, and for a time was quite unconscious of anything.

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## JS—H 1:50

50 I obeyed; I returned to my <sup>a</sup>father in the field, and rehearsed the whole matter to him. He <sup>b</sup>replied to me that it was of God, and told me to go and do as commanded by the messenger. I left the field, and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were deposited; and owing to the distinctness of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant that I arrived there.

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## Mormon 6:6

6 And it came to pass that when we had gathered in all our people in one to the land of Cumorah, behold I, Mormon, began to be old; and knowing it to be the last struggle of my people, and having been commanded of the Lord that I should not suffer the records which had been handed down by our fathers, which were <sup>a</sup>sacred, to fall into the hands of the Lamanites, (for the Lamanites would <sup>b</sup>destroy them) therefore I made <sup>c</sup>this record out of the plates of Nephi, and <sup>d</sup>hid up in the hill Cumorah all the records which had been entrusted to me by the hand of the Lord, save it were <sup>e</sup>these few plates which I gave unto my son <sup>f</sup>Moroni.

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## JS—H 1:53

53 I made an attempt to take them out, but was forbidden by the messenger, and was again informed that the time for bringing them forth had not yet arrived, neither would it, until four years from that time; but he told me that I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, and that he would there meet with me, and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for obtaining the plates.

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