



LESSON 5:

Joseph Smith

Receives the

Gold Plates

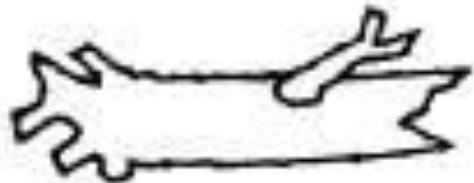
PURPOSE

To help the children understand that when
we are obedient and do our part,
Heavenly Father will help us.

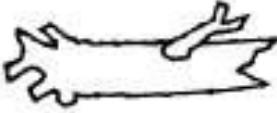
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David Leroohl



What do these objects have in common?



- **Each of these was used by Joseph Smith to hide the gold plates to keep them safe.**
- **In today's lesson, listen to find out how Joseph used each of these locations.**



LESSON 5:

Joseph Smith

Receives the

Gold Plates



- 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.



- When the time had come for Joseph Smith to receive the gold plates, he borrowed a horse and wagon and

went with his wife, Emma, to the Hill Cumorah, where the plates were buried. Joseph left Emma with the wagon at the bottom of the hill and climbed the hill alone to meet the angel Moroni.



- **Moroni gave Joseph the gold plates.**
- **He also gave Joseph the Urim and Thummim and a breastplate, tools to help with the translation of the gold plates.**

Moroni warned Joseph that evil men would be watching for a chance to steal the plates and told Joseph that he must do everything in his power to keep them safe
(see [JS—H 1:59](#)).



Joseph found that
as soon as people
knew that he had
the plates, they
tried to take them
away
(see [JS—H 1:60](#)).



He had to hide the plates in many places
to keep them safe.

**Many people heard
about Joseph
receiving the gold
plates.**

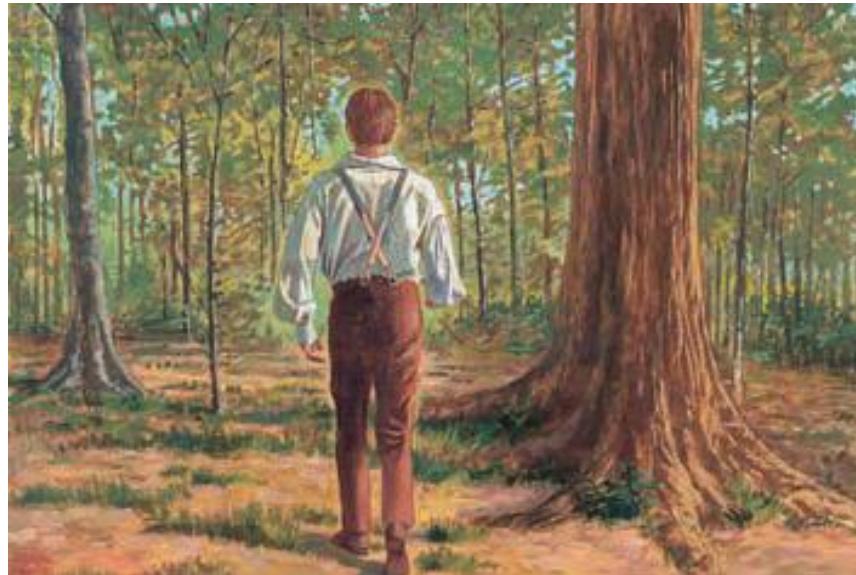
**They tried to steal
the plates from him,
but he hid them
where they could
not be found.**



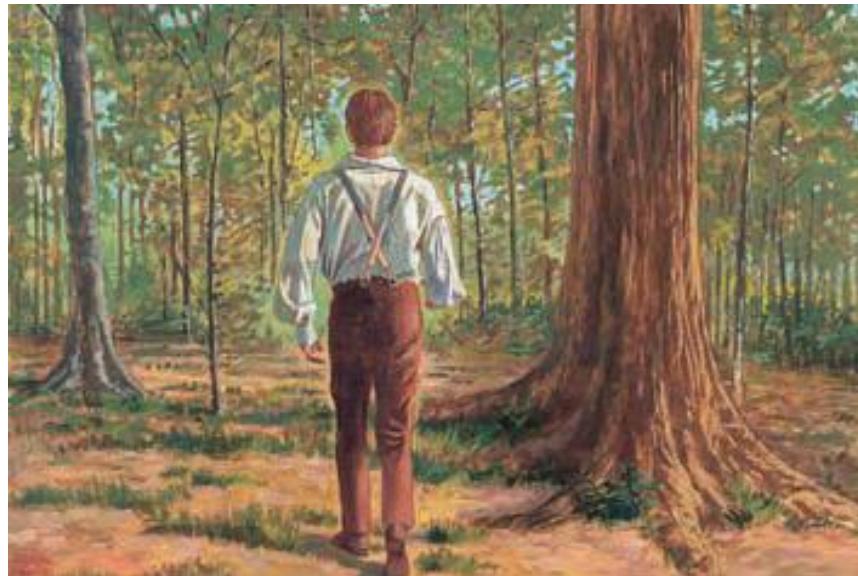
**God helped
Joseph keep the
gold plates safe.**

❑ After Joseph and Emma left the hill where the plates had been buried, Joseph stopped and took the plates into the woods.

❑ There he found a large fallen tree that was soft and decayed inside.



He cut back the bark of the tree, dug out a hole, and hid the plates inside, covering them up again with the tree bark.



- A few days later, while Joseph was working several miles away from Palmyra, his family learned that some men were coming to search for the gold plates.



- Emma immediately got a horse and rode to warn Joseph about the men.
- Joseph had also been warned through the Urim and Thummim that the plates were in danger.



- Joseph returned to Palmyra and took the plates from the tree, wrapped them in a linen cloth, and started for home with them.



- He thought it would be safer to travel through the woods rather than on the road, but in the woods someone hit him from behind with a gun.



- Joseph knocked down the man who attacked him and ran away as fast as he could.

- He was attacked twice more, but was able to escape each time and bring the plates safely to his home.



**On another occasion,
Joseph learned that a
mob was coming to
look for the plates.**

**He pulled up some
stones in front of the
fireplace and hid the
plates underneath**



**As soon as the stones
were put back into
place, a group of men
came up to the house.**

**Joseph and his father
and brothers ran out
the front door yelling.**



The mob thought that
there were many men
helping Joseph and
ran away frightened.



- A few days later Joseph was inspired to take the plates, along with the wooden box in which he kept them, from under the fireplace stones.



- He carried the bundle across the street to a workshop on the Smith farm.

- He took the gold plates out of the box, wrapped them in cloth, and hid them in the loft of the shop.
 - Then he pulled up some floorboards, hid the empty wooden box under the boards, and nailed the boards back down.



- When night came, a mob came and hunted for the plates.
 - The mob pulled up the floorboards and found the empty wooden box, but the gold plates remained safe where Joseph had hidden them in the loft.



- Because of all the persecution and the people trying to steal the gold plates, Joseph knew that he would not be able to work on their translation in Palmyra.



- Joseph and Emma decided to move to Harmony, Pennsylvania, where Emma's parents lived.



- Joseph was worried about how to get the gold plates safely to Harmony.
- He put the plates in a box and put the box at the bottom of a barrel.



- Joseph then filled the barrel with beans and nailed down the lid.
- With the barrel and their other belongings in a wagon, Joseph and Emma set off for Harmony.



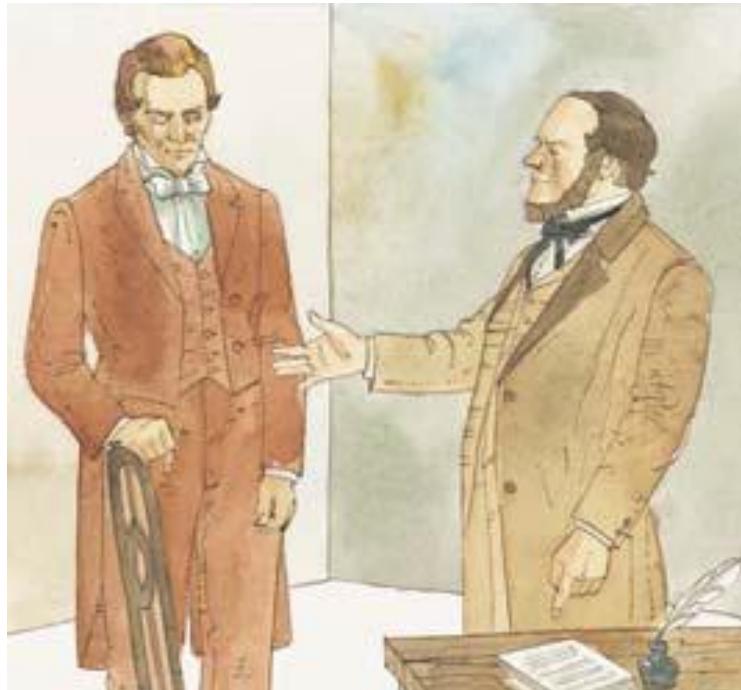
- Although they were stopped along the way and their wagon was searched by people looking for the plates, the plates were not found.



- Because Joseph did his best to protect the plates as he had been commanded, Heavenly Father helped him keep the plates safe and also sent help in other ways.



- Part of this help came from a successful farmer named Martin Harris, an old friend of the Smith family



- When Joseph and Emma were preparing to move to Harmony, Martin Harris came to Joseph and said, “Here, Mr. Smith, is fifty dollars; I give this to you to do the Lord’s work with; no, I give it to the Lord for his own work”



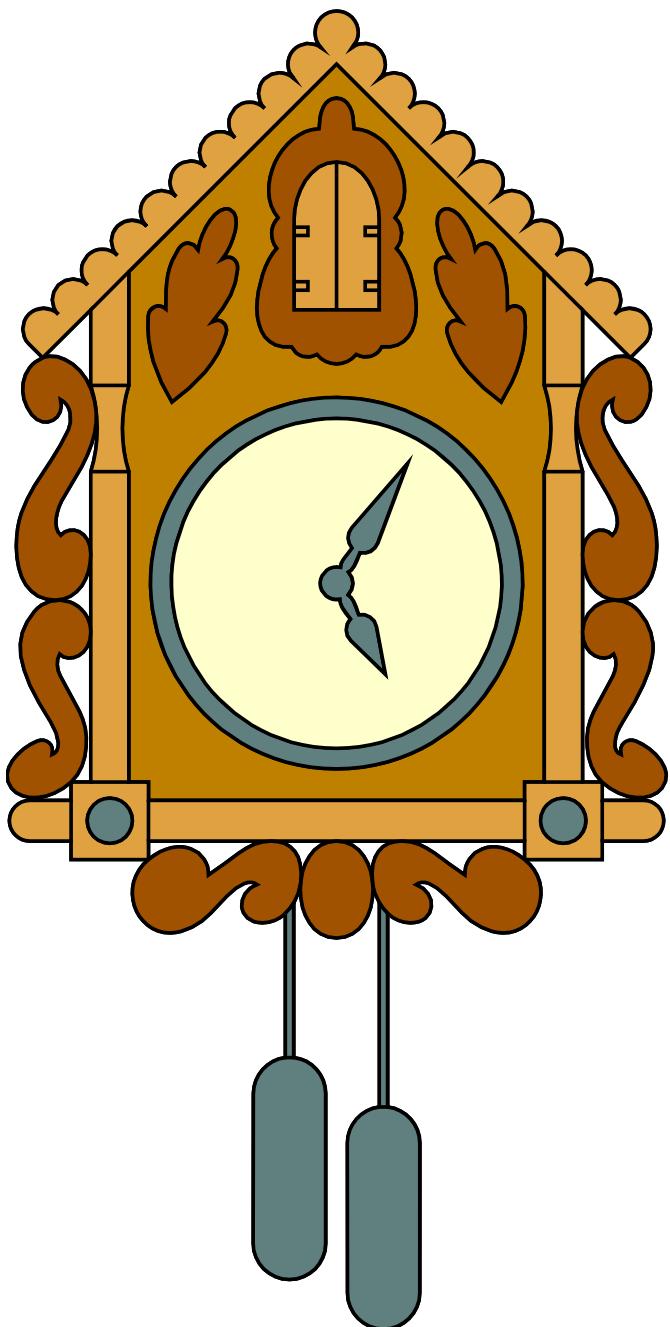
- Martin Harris continued to help Joseph Smith in a number of ways. After Joseph and Emma moved to Harmony, Martin visited Joseph there.



- 
- Joseph had copied many of the characters from the gold plates and translated some of them.

- Martin took the characters and their translation to Charles Anthon, a professor of languages in New York City, and later to a Dr. Mitchell.





***DISCUSSION
TIME***



- How many years passed between the angel Moroni's first visit and when Joseph Smith received the gold plates? ([JS—H 1:53.](#))
- Why did Joseph have to wait so long to receive the plates?

- What responsibility did the angel Moroni give Joseph Smith concerning the gold plates?
(JS—H 1:59)



- What warning and promise did Moroni give Joseph?

- What happened as soon as it was known that Joseph Smith had the gold plates? ([JS—H 1:60.](#))



Why do you think people wanted to try to get the gold plates away from Joseph?

- The gold plates were worth a lot of money, Satan did not want the plates to be translated.



- Although these people did not believe Joseph was a prophet, they did believe he had the gold plates.

- Why do you think people believed Joseph had the gold plates even though they did not believe he was a prophet?

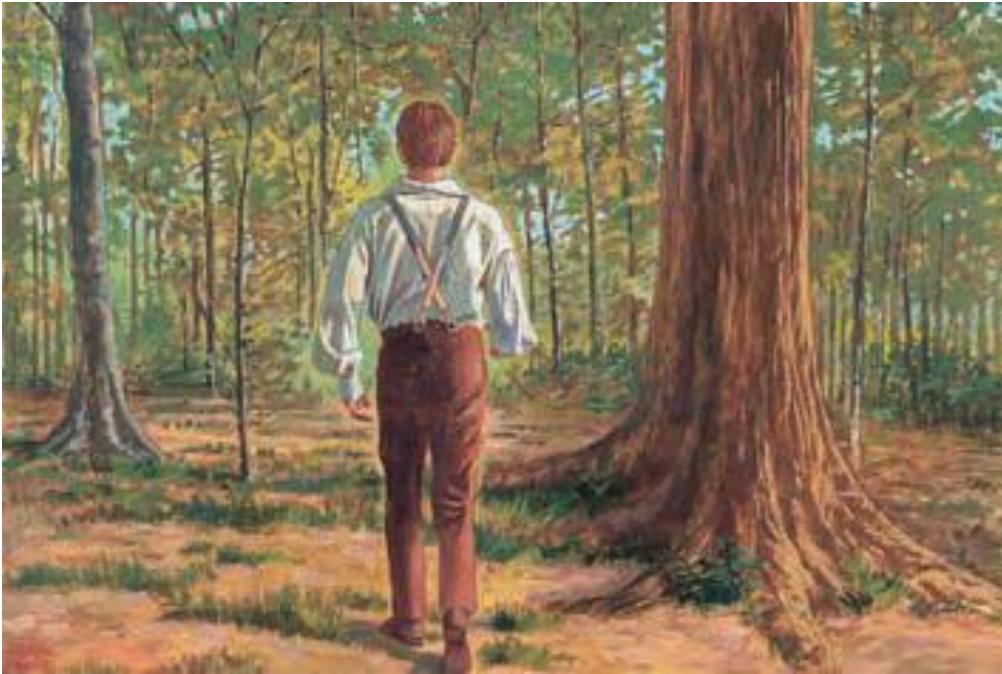




- What did Joseph Smith do to keep the plates safe?
- How did Joseph know when and where to move the gold plates to keep them safe?

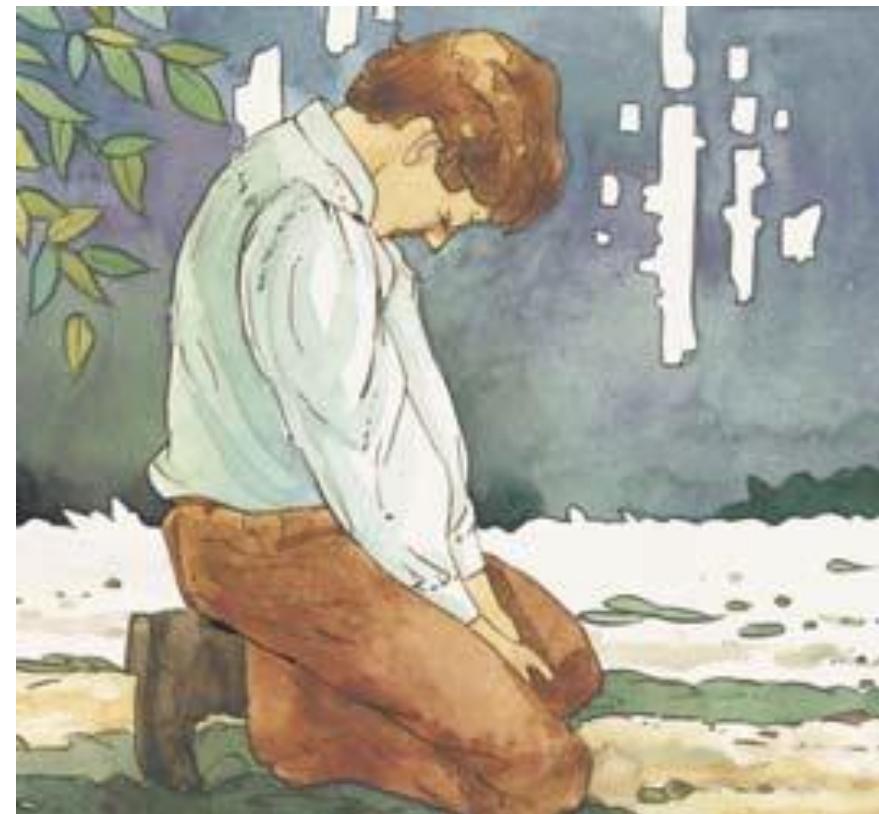


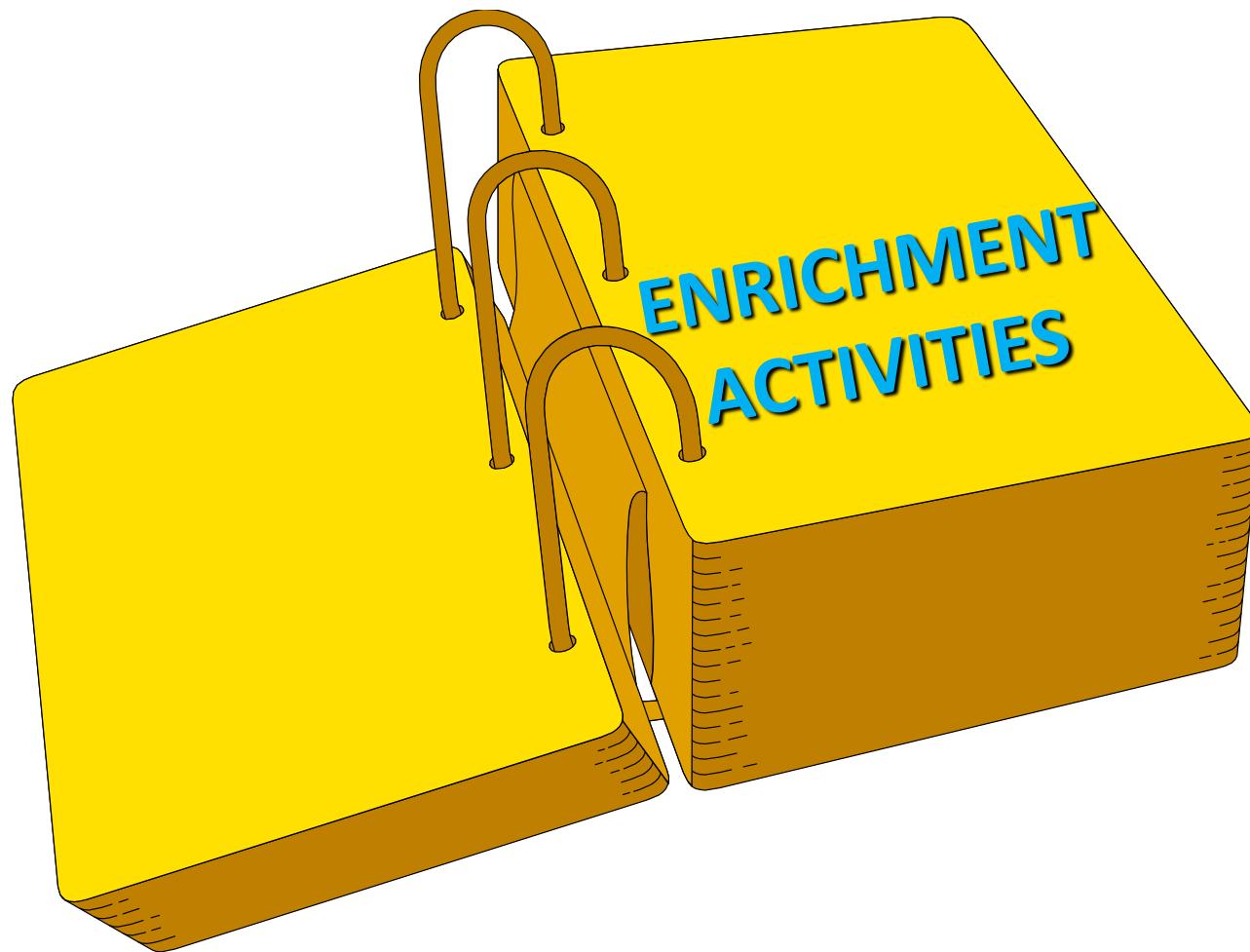
- Heavenly Father helped Joseph know when the plates were in danger.



- Joseph did his part and was obedient to Moroni's warning.

- When we have problems or difficulties, how can we receive Heavenly Father's help in solving them?
- Can anyone share a time when Heavenly Father has helped you with problems.





T

Pray about the problem or difficulty

Live worthily and follow the promptings of the spirit

Do all you can to solve the problem

- **Heavenly Father will help us with our problems and difficulties when we do our part.**
- **How might the following be solved using these three steps?**

Pray about the problem or difficulty

Live worthily and follow the promptings of the spirit

Do all you can to solve the problem

- You are going to have a test at school.
- You have been asked to give a talk in Primary.
- You are going to play in a sports event

Pray about the problem or difficulty

Live worthily and follow the promptings of the spirit

Do all you can to solve the problem

- You have just moved to a new area and you want to make new friends.
- You have had a quarrel with a friend.

Pray about the problem or difficulty

Live worthily and follow the promptings of the spirit

Do all you can to solve the problem

- You sometimes fight with a brother or sister.
- You are going to perform in a program or recital.

Pray about the problem or difficulty

Live worthily and follow the promptings of the spirit

Do all you can to solve the problem



You want to play with a friend but your parents need you to help at home.

- Can you name anyone that helps you each day?
- Heavenly Father can give you help in the form of friends.
- The Lord inspired Martin Harris to help Joseph Smith when Joseph needed help.

- It is important to be a friend and help others in need whenever possible.
- Can anyone share an experience when you needed help and help came in the form of a friend, or an experience when you were able to help a friend.

- The Urim and Thummim is a sacred tool given by God to help prophets receive revelations from the Lord and translate languages.
- Joseph Smith described the Urim and Thummim as “two stones in silver bows ... fastened to a breastplate” (JS—H 1:35).

- The Prophet stated that when he was humble and prayerful, he could look into these stones and read the strange language on the gold plates.
- He could also look into these stones and get Heavenly Father's word about certain things he ought to know and do.

❑ Let's find the following scriptures that refer to the Urim and Thummim:

- ❑ [Exodus 28:30](#)
- ❑ [Mosiah 28:11, 13](#)
- ❑ [Ether 3:23–24, Ether 4:4–5](#)
- ❑ [Doctrine and Covenants 17:1](#)

- You have heard about these gold plates.
- Here's some facts about the plates.

- Each gold plate was six inches wide and eight inches long.
- Joseph Smith described each plate as “not quite so thick as common tin”



- Three rings bound the book of plates together.
- The whole book was about six inches thick.
- The plates had small characters engraved on them.



- A portion of the book was sealed and could not be translated.
- Joseph Smith was told that the sealed part would be translated at a future time.



Testimony

I want to bear my testimony that Heavenly Father loves each of us and will help us as we are obedient and do our part.

I appreciate the example and diligence of Joseph Smith as he faced many problems and challenges in protecting the gold plates.

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Jaden Thomas

THE END

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JS—H 1:59

59 At length the time arrived for obtaining the plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate. On the twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, having gone as usual at the end of another year to the place where they were deposited, the same heavenly messenger delivered them up to ^ame with this charge: that I should be ^bresponsible for them; that if I should let them go carelessly, or through any ^cneglect of mine, I should be cut off; but that if I would use all my endeavors to ^dpreserve them, until he, the messenger, should call for them, they should be protected.

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JS—H 1:60

60 I soon found out the reason why I had received such strict charges to keep them safe, and why it was that the messenger had said that when I had done what was required at my hand, he would call for them. For no sooner was it known that I had them, than the most strenuous exertions were used to ^aget them from me. Every stratagem that could be invented was resorted to for that purpose. The persecution became more bitter and severe than before, and multitudes were on the alert continually to get them from me if possible. But by the wisdom of God, they remained safe in my hands, until I had accomplished by them what was required at my hand. When, according to arrangements, the messenger called for them, I delivered them up to him; and he has them in his charge until this ^bday, being the second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

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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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JS—H 1:35

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

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Exodus 28:30

30 ¶And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the ^aUrim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.

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Mosiah 28:11, 13

11 Therefore he took the records which were engraven on the plates of ^abrass, and also the plates of ^bNephi, and all the things which he had kept and preserved according to the commandments of God, after having translated and caused to be written the records which were on the ^cplates of gold which had been found by the people of Limhi, which were delivered to him by the hand of Limhi;

13 And now he translated them by the means of those two ^astones which were fastened into the two rims of a bow.

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Ether 3:23–24

- 23 And behold, these ^atwo stones will I give unto thee, and ye shall seal them up also with the things which ye shall write.
- 24 For behold, the ^alanguage which ye shall write I have confounded; wherefore I will cause in my own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write.

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Ether 4:4–5

- **4 Behold, I have written upon these plates the ^avery things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were ^bgreater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared.**
- **5 Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should ^aseal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the ^binterpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord.**

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Doctrine and Covenants 17:1

1 Behold, I say unto you, that you must rely upon my word, which if you do with full purpose of heart, you shall have a ^aview of the ^bplates, and also of the ^cbreastplate, the ^dsword of Laban, the ^eUrim and Thummim, which were given to the ^fbrother of Jared upon the mount, when he talked with the Lord ^gface to face, and the ^hmiraculous directors which were given to Lehi while in the wilderness, on the borders of the ⁱRed Sea.

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