

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MORMONISM



Edited by
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of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

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3. facilitates correcting and updating the data;
4. gives a reference number for a microfilm copy of the original information;
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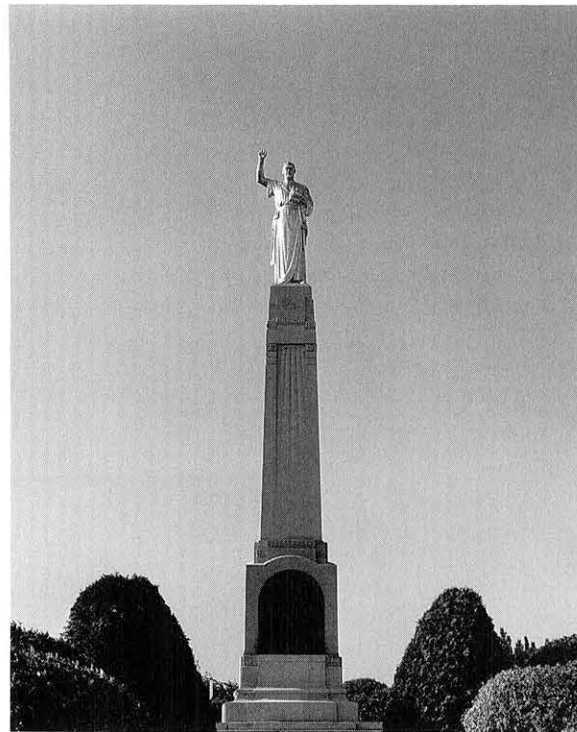
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ANGEL MORONI STATUE

A monument to the angel Moroni (*see* MORONI, ANGEL) stands atop the hill CUMORAH, four miles south of Palmyra, New York, where MORONI₂ gave



Angel Moroni Monument, by Torlief S. Knaphus (1935, granite and cast bronze, 39'), at the Hill Cumorah, south of Palmyra, New York. This monument stands on the Hill Cumorah where the gold plates containing the Book of Mormon record were deposited and where the Angel Moroni delivered them in 1827 to Joseph Smith.

Joseph Smith the GOLD PLATES from which he translated the Book of Mormon (*see* MORONI, VISITATIONS OF). Mounted on a 25-foot shaft of white granite, the ten-foot bronze figure of Moroni points toward heaven with the right hand and holds a replica of the plates with the left. Created by Norwegian sculptor Torleif S. Knaphus, the monument was dedicated by Church President Heber J. GRANT on July 21, 1935.

Moroni was the last in a line of prophet-leaders in the Western Hemisphere whose history is recorded in the Book of Mormon. Latter-day Saints believe John the Revelator foretold Moroni's angelic ministry: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6).

Because Moroni's mission was vital to the RESTORATION of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a statue of Moroni as a herald sounding a trumpet has been placed on several Latter-day Saint TEMPLES (e.g., Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.).

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ANGELS

[*This entry consists of three articles:*

- Angels
- Archangels
- Guardian Angels

The first article discusses the nature of angels as pertaining to their ministry to people on the earth, showing that different classes perform different types of service. The second article examines a hierarchy among angels, and identifies Michael as an archangel. The last article explores the concept of guardian angels, and examines what the scriptures and the Brethren have said. It proposes the Holy Spirit as a type of guardian angel.]

ANGELS

Latter-day Saints accept the reality of angels as messengers for the Lord. Angels are mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, the Book of Mor-

mon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price and are prominent in the early history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Angels are of various types and perform a variety of functions to implement the work of the Lord on the earth.

The skepticism of the modern age has tended to diminish belief in angels. However, Jesus Christ frequently spoke of angels, both literally and figuratively. When Jesus' disciples asked him to "declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field," he responded, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world . . . and the reapers are the angels" (Matt. 13:36–39). Angels are actual beings participating in many incidents related in scripture (e.g., Luke 1:13, 19; 2:25; John 20:12, etc.). They exist as a part of the "whole family in heaven" (Eph. 3:15). All people, including angels, are the offspring of God.

In form angels are like human beings. They do not, of course, have the wings many artists symbolically show (*TPJS*, p. 162). Concerning the two angels who visited Lot's home in Sodom, the local residents inquired, "Where are the *men* which came in to thee this night?" (Gen. 19:1, 5, emphasis added). Daniel described the angel Gabriel as having "the appearance of a man" (Dan. 8:15). At the sepulcher of the risen Savior "the angel of the Lord descended from heaven" (Matt. 28:2) as "a young man . . . clothed in a long white garment" (Mark 16:5). A quite detailed description of an angel was given by Joseph Smith in recording the visit of the angel Moroni (JS—H 1:30–33, 43).

The angels who visit this earth are persons who have been assigned as messengers to this earth: "There are no angels who minister to this earth but those who do belong or have belonged to it" (D&C 130:5).

There are several types and kinds of beings, in various stages of progression, whom the Lord has used as angels in varying circumstances. One kind is a spirit child of the Eternal Father who has not yet been born on the earth but is intended for earthly mortality. Such is probably the type of angel who appeared to Adam (Moses 5:6–8).

In the early days of the mortal world, many righteous persons were taken from the earth, or translated (*see* TRANSLATED BEINGS). Enoch and his people (Moses 7:18–21, 31, 63, 69; Heb. 11:5), Moses (Alma 45:19), and Elijah (2 Kgs. 2:11–12) were all translated. The Prophet Joseph SMITH taught that translated beings "are designed for fu-