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Moroni Delivers the Plates/"Feast of Trumpets"

Author(s): Sharon Price Anderson

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Moroni Delivers the Plates

In the Sacred Grove, Joseph was told to join none of the churches. He was informed that the gospel in its fullness would be made known to him in the future. Three and a half years after his first vision, he received another heavenly manifestation. As he prayed on the night of 21 September 1824, an angel named Moroni appeared and told him of an ancient scriptural record that was written on plates of gold and buried near Palmyra. The next day, as instructed, Joseph went to the place where the plates were hidden. Once a year for the next three years, Joseph returned to the same location to receive further instruction from Moroni. Finally, on 22 September 1827, Joseph received the gold plates, a portion of which would be translated and published as the Book of Mormon. Interestingly and significantly, on the very day that Moroni delivered the plates of gold to Joseph Smith, the Feast of Trumpets was celebrated by faithful Jews.

In ancient Israel a shofar, or ram's horn trumpet, was used to herald holy days. The Feast of Trumpets, described in Leviticus, marked the beginning of Israel's final harvest. It was observed at the beginning of the seventh month of the Judaic calendar which usually falls in our September. This is the season to harvest grapes and olives for wine and oil. This is also the month when figs and pomegranates are gathered. It was the time God set to remember His promises to regather Israel, a time for new revelation that would lead to a new covenant with Israel, and a time to prepare for the Millennium.¹¹

Feast of Trumpets

September 22nd 1827

Israel's seventh month
begins anew.
Shofars sound
the final harvest.
In slanting rays of
dwindling days that
turn toward darkness,
Jacob's children gather grapes,
pomegranates, figs
from vineyards, trees.
Amber oil flows
abundantly.
A voice of warning
trumpets repentance
across a fruitful land—
Remember the covenant.
Prepare for judgment.

This day Cumorah
yields the word,
truth preserved
in leaves gold as
September sun
shining through
autumn aspen.
Joseph receives earth's
precious bounty.

Moroni's trumpet
proclaims the news—
Prepare the feast.
Turn from sin.
Begin the final
gathering in!

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation (Leviticus 23:24).