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Lesson 52 - The Visit of the Angel Moroni

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LESSON 52.—THE VISIT OF THE ANGEL MORONI.

TIME.—*Sept. 21, 1823.*

PLACE.—*Manchester, Ontario Co., New York.*

TEXT.—*Rev. 14: 6, 7.*

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.

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come; and worship Him that made Heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water.

LESSON STATEMENT.

After receiving his first vision, as related in the last lesson, Joseph continued his usual labor, withstanding the attacks of his enemies, and cherishing in his heart the remembrance of the vision he had seen. Many attempts were made to cause him to deny having received this revelation, but they were all unsuccessful. For three years and a half he had no further manifestation from heaven, and during all that time he saw himself and those near and dear to him, shunned by those who had formerly been friendly. He was sometimes forced into the society of those who scoffed at all religious beliefs, and many things conspired to rob him of the great testimony he had obtained; but he still held it.

On the night of September 21, 1823, he had retired to rest, and was silently praying that God would give him a heavenly manifestation, to dispel all doubts. While thus engaged, he was surprised to observe the room becoming lighter, until the brilliancy exceeded that of the sun at noon. In the midst of this glorious light stood a personage, rather taller than an ordinary man, clothed in a robe of dazzling brightness, with head, face, neck, hands, wrists, feet, and ankles bare, and surrounded

by a light even more brilliant than that which filled the remainder of the room. His countenance was most beautiful to behold, bearing an expression of earnest love and tenderness. He moved without touching the floor, for he did not require its support.

This glorious personage called Joseph by name, and announced himself as an angel, Moroni, sent of God to deliver a message. He said that God was about to restore the Gospel to the earth, and that Joseph was the instrument chosen for the performance of this work. As a consequence of his accepting this mission, Joseph should be known throughout the earth, being loved by the pure, but reviled by the ungodly. Moroni also stated that in a hill near the town of Manchester were concealed holy records, which contained an account of a people who inhabited this land many centuries before. These records should be delivered to Joseph, in connection with the Urim and Thummim, and with the aid of this instrument he should be enabled to translate the records into the English language.

While listening to these instructions, Joseph was enabled to see in vision the hill described by the angel, and the exact spot where the records were concealed. This vision was so distinct that when he afterwards visited the hill he found the place of concealment, without difficulty.

Moroni then proceeded to quote from the Bible the prophecies contained there, pointing to the great latter-day work. He impressed upon Joseph's mind the

around, he saw Moroni at his side. The angel informed Joseph that a period of four years must elapse before he would have the privilege of taking the plates, and that during that time he would be tried and tempted, and instructed in the things of God.

The angel further told him that he might visit the hill each year on the 22nd of September, when he would be permitted to view the plates, and receive further instructions and counsel.

Moroni then imparted much valuable knowledge to Joseph, and finally showed him some of the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven, and also the followers of the Evil One; Moroni warned Joseph to avoid the influence of Satan, and keep himself pure and unspotted from the world.

Joseph, after having restored the stone and the thin cover of earth to their former place, saw the departure of the angel, and then returned to his home.

NOTE.

CUMORAH.—A lofty hill near the towns of Palmyra and Manchester, in the State of New York, where the records of the Nephites were hidden until they were brought forth in this dispensation through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith. It was near this hill, then called Ramah, that the battle of extermination was fought in the last days of the Jaredites.—*Ether 15: 11-34.*

The hill Cumorah was a very important place in the history of the Nephites, for it was at the foot of this hill that the final battle took place between the Nephites and the Lamanites, when all of the former, with the exception of some twenty-five, were slain.—*Mormon, 6: 6-15.*

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That Joseph was willing to obey the angel and relate his experience, to his father. 2. That his father was inspired to accept Joseph's testimony. 3. That Joseph was willing to work in spite of his weakness. 4. That the powers of darkness are always ready to try to lead us astray. 5. That we should not use holy things for a selfish

purpose. 6. That it was necessary for Joseph to be tested, before he was allowed to take the precious records. 7. He could not take them out of the box without the consent of the angel. 8. No one could have found this box without having been guided there by a higher power. 9. That Joseph received much valuable instruction while he was waiting to obtain the plates.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. Of what event does the lesson give an account? 2. What was the date on which this occurred? 3. How long after Moroni's visit? 4. What was the cause of Joseph feeling weak? 5. What did he attempt to do, in spite of his weakness? 6. Where did he go to work? 7. What did his father tell him to do? 8. What happened as he was going home? 9. Whom did Joseph see? 10. What did the angel repeat to him? 11. What did he then tell Joseph to do? 12. How did his father receive his message? 13. Repeat his words to Joseph? 14. Where did Joseph then go? 15. What two powers did he feel while on the way? 16. What did the Evil One try to get Joseph to do? 17. What did the Spirit of God tell him? 18. Describe the location of the hidden plates? 19. What did he see there? 20. What did he then do? 21. What did he see in the box? 22. What did he attempt to do? 23. Why could he not do this? 24. Whom did Joseph see at his side? 25. What did the angel tell him? 26. Why was it necessary for him to wait so long? 27. What did Moroni show him? 28. What more did he tell Joseph? 29. What did Joseph do with the stone lid? 30. Where did he then go? 31. What do you know of the Hill Cumorah?