

D&C Lesson 4
“REMEMBER THE NEW COVENANT,
EVEN THE BOOK OF MORMON”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, February 2001

1. Information and instructions communicated to Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni on September 21 and 22, 1823. [*Joseph was 17 3/4 years old at this time. See JS–H 1:29-50.*]

A. [*JS–H 1:33-35, Moroni’s first appearance, Sunday evening, September 21, 1823*]

He (1) called me by name, (2) said he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, (3) his name was Moroni, (4) **God had a work for me to do**, (5) **my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues** [it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people].

(6) There was a book deposited, (7) written upon gold plates, (8) giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent (9) and the source from whence they sprang. (10) **The fulness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it**, (11) as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants [*3 Ne. 27:13-22*].

(12) There were two stones in silver bows, fastened to a breastplate, deposited with the plates; (13) these stones constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim, (14) the possession and use of these plates were what constituted “seers” in ancient times.

(15) The time to obtain the plates was not yet fulfilled, (16) but when I got the plates, and the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim, I should not show them to any person except to those to whom I should be commanded to show them; (17) if I showed them to others I would be destroyed. (18) The vision was opened to my mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited, clearly and distinctly.

[*JS–H 1:44-45, Moroni’s second appearance*] (19) He informed me of **great judgments which were coming upon the earth**, (20) with **great desolations by famine, sword, and pestilence**; (21) and these judgments would come on the earth in this generation.

[*JS–H 1:46, Moroni’s third appearance*] (22) Satan would try to tempt me to get the plates for the purpose of getting rich. (23) **I must have no other object in view in getting the plates but to glorify God**, (24) and **must not be influenced by any other motive than that of building his kingdom**; (25) otherwise I could not get [the plates].

[*JS–H 1:49, Moroni’s fourth appearance, Monday, September 22, 1823*] (26) He commanded me to go to my father and tell him of the vision and commandments which I had received. [Joseph’s father said “it was of God, and told me to go and do as commanded by the messenger.”]

[*JS–H 1:53, Moroni’s fifth appearance, on the hill as Joseph viewed the plates, Monday, September 22, 1823*] (27) The time for bringing forth the plates had not yet arrived, (28) neither would it until four years from that time, (29) I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, (30) and that he [Moroni] would be there to meet with me, (31) and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for obtaining the plates.

2. Information and instructions communicated to Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni on September 22, 1824-1827. [*JS–H 1:54, Moroni’s sixth?, seventh?, eighth?, appearances, on Mondays, September 22, 1824-26*] [*Joseph was 18 3/4 years old to 21 3/4 years old at this time.*]

(32) I . . . received instruction and intelligence from him [Moroni] at each of our interviews respecting **what the Lord was going to do**, and (33) **how and in what manner his kingdom was to**

be conducted in the last days.

[*JS-H 1:59, Moroni's ninth? appearance, on Monday, September 22, 1827, when Joseph received the Book of Mormon plates*] (34) I should be responsible for the plates; (35) if I should let them go carelessly, or through any neglect of mine, I should be cut off. (36) If I should use all my endeavors to preserve them, they should be protected until (37) he [Moronii] should call for them.

3. *Scripture quotations and commentaries given by Moroni: prophecies of future last-days events and of specific events in the restoration process*

1. [*JS-H 1:41*] "He quoted many other passages of scripture, and offered many explanations." However, five passages he quoted and explained are specifically mentioned by Joseph Smith:

2. [*JS-H 1:36*] **Part of the 3rd chapter of Malachi.** [probably vv. 1-3 or 1-6] [v. 1] A prophecy of the last-days coming of John the Baptist [see Lk. 7:27-28; D&C 13:1, 27:7-8]. [vv. 1-3] A prophecy of the LORD's Second Coming, in glory and judgment. [v. 4] Then [in the millennium] shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD. [vv. 5-6] The LORD will come in judgment, but the sons of Jacob are not [utterly] consumed (*See D&C 109:61-67*).

3. [*JS-H 1:36-39*] **Malachi chapter four.** [vv. 1-2] The LORD's coming in glory, and **they** that come shall burn them up. [vv. 3-4] Ye shall tread down the wicked. Remember the law of Moses. [vv.5-6] **I will reveal unto you the Priesthood**, by the hand of Elijah the prophet. He shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers. (*See D&C 2:1-3; 110:13-16: the coming of Elijah in the Kirtland temple, Apr. 3, 1836: "by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors."* See also D&C 27:9, 35:3-4, 138:46-48.)

4. [*JS-H 1:40*] **Isaiah chapter 11.** Moroni said "it was about to be fulfilled." This chapter prophesies of two or three individuals: (A) The **stem of Jesse** [*D&C 113:1-2: Christ*], (B) a **rod**, also called the **branch** [*D&C 113:3-4: "a servant in the hands of Christ, who is partly a descendant of Jesse [1 Sam. 16:1-13, of Bethlehem, the father of King David] as well as of Ephraim [Gen. 41:50-52, 46:20, 48:10-22, the second son of Joseph who was sold into Egypt, but blessed above his older brother, Manasseh, by his grandfather Jacob], . . . on whom there is laid much power."* Probably the future **David the Prince**, who will build the Jerusalem temple, be visited by Christ there, rule over Israel during the Battle of Armageddon and into the millennium. *See Ezek. 34:22-24, 37:21-26, 44:1-3; Hosea 3:4-5; Jer. 23:5-6; Zech. 3:8-10, 6:11-13; Statement by J.S. HC 6:253 & D&C 132:38-39*) (C.) the **root** [*D&C 113:5-6: "a descendant of Jesse, as well as of Joseph, unto whom rightly belongs the priesthood, and the keys of the kingdom, for an ensign, and for the gathering of my people in the last days."* Differing interpretational views: either **David the Prince** or **Joseph Smith**.]

Summary of Isaiah chapter 11: [vv. 1-5] A rod shall have the spirit of the Lord, judge with righteousness, and slay the wicked. [*Chronological relationship: after 2 Ne. 30:1-15*]. [vv. 6-9] Peace during the millennium. [v. 10] In that day [the millennium?] shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign, to it shall the Gentiles seek. [*David the Prince? or Joseph Smith?*] [vv. 11-16] Israel and Judah shall be gathered to Palestine, unite, and stand together against their enemies.

5. [*JS-H 1:40*] **Acts 3:22-23.** [*Read in the context of Acts 3:18-23.*] [v. 22] Moses said, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you; him shall ye hear. [v. 23] Every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Moroni said, "*that prophet was Christ; but the day had not yet come when 'they who would not hear his voice should be cut off from among the people,' but soon would come.*"

6. [*JS-H 1:41*] **Joel 2:28-32.** [vv. 28-29] It shall come to pass afterward [*after the Battle of Armageddon: see Joel 2:1-11, 20; compare Zech. 12:1-14; Ezek. 38 & 39*], that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; people shall prophesy, dream dreams, see visions. I will pour out my spirit. [vv. 30-31] I will show wonders in the heavens and earth: blood, fire, smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible of the LORD come. [v. 32] Whoso shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered; deliverance shall be in mount Zion, in Jerusalem, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. Moroni said "*this was not yet fulfilled, but was soon to be. . . . the fulness of the Gentiles was soon to come in.*" [See Acts 2:14-21, where Peter applies Joel's prophecy out of

chronological context, while describing the great outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Note that he still says it will be in the “last days,” v. 17.]

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