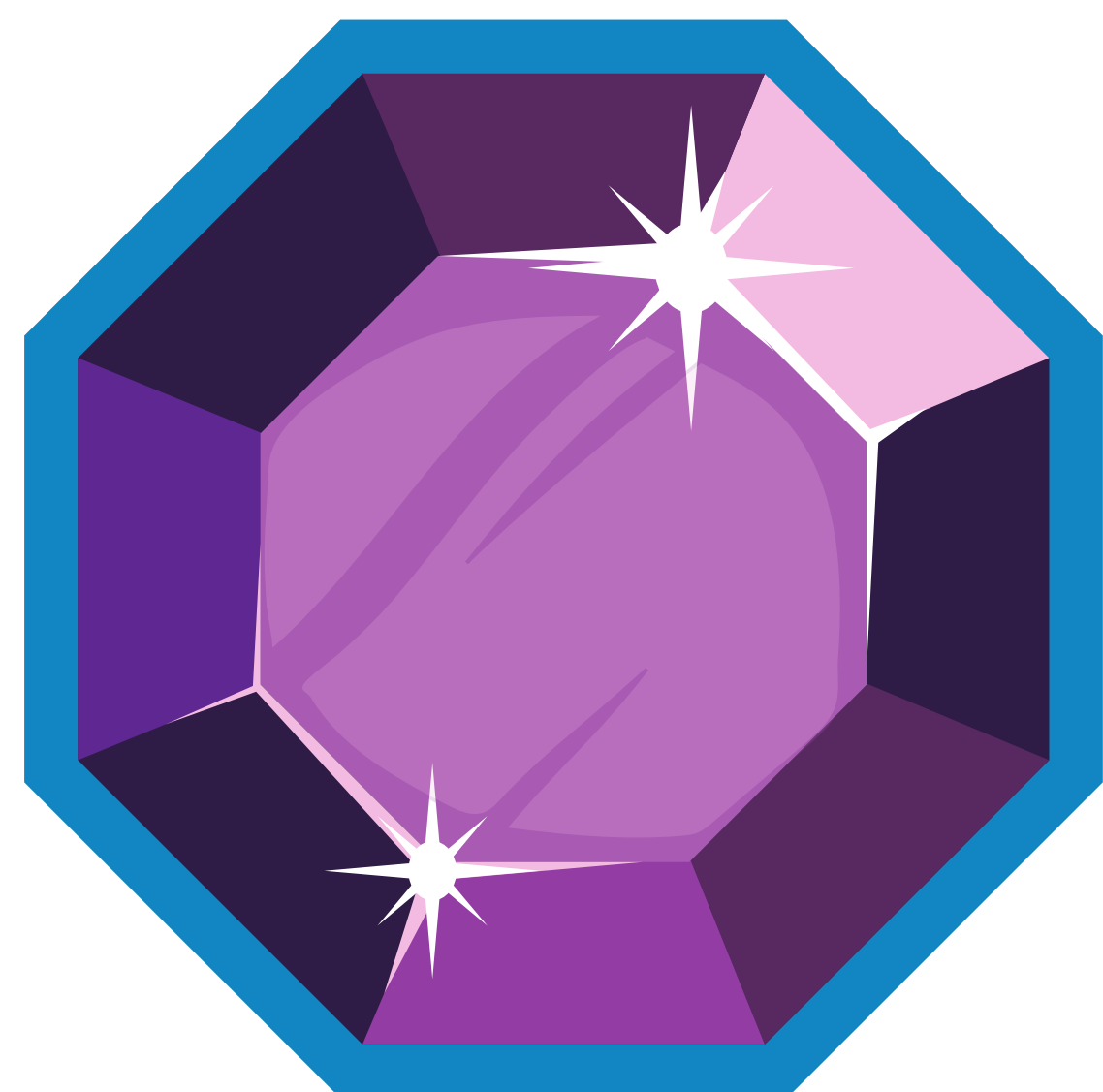
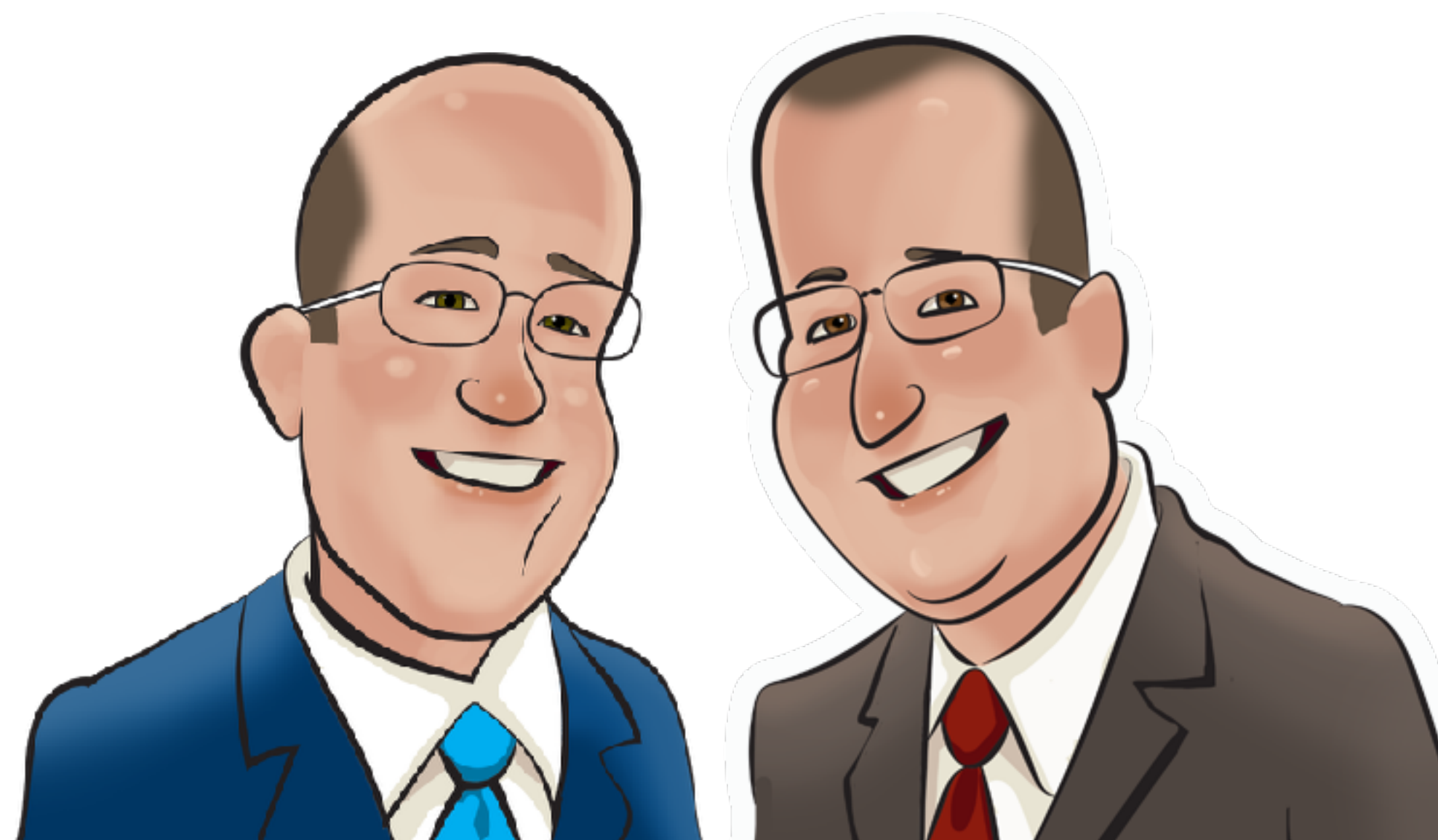
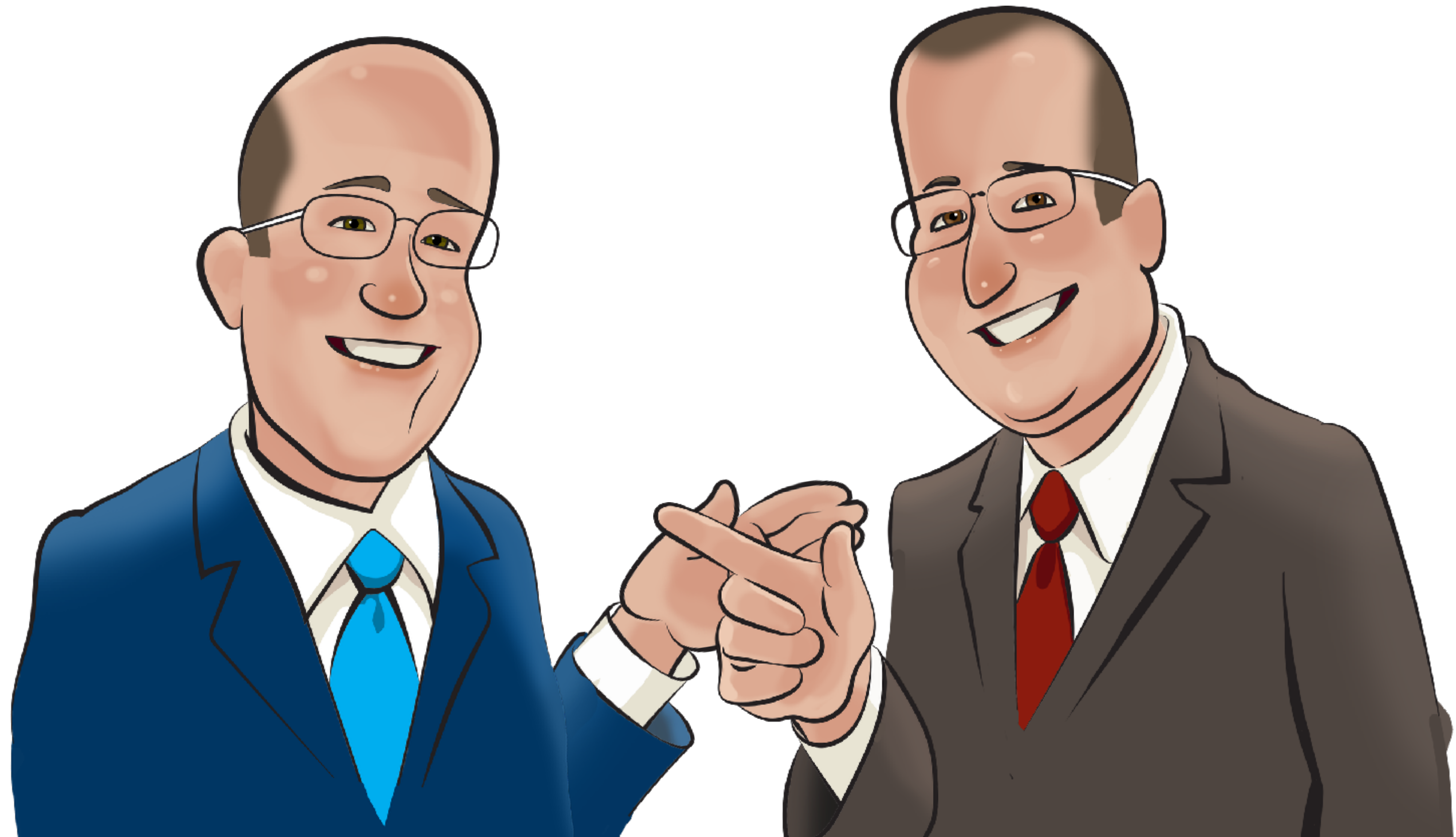


S02E03



# Scripture GEMS

*January 11-17, 2021: D&C 2; JS-H 1:27-65*





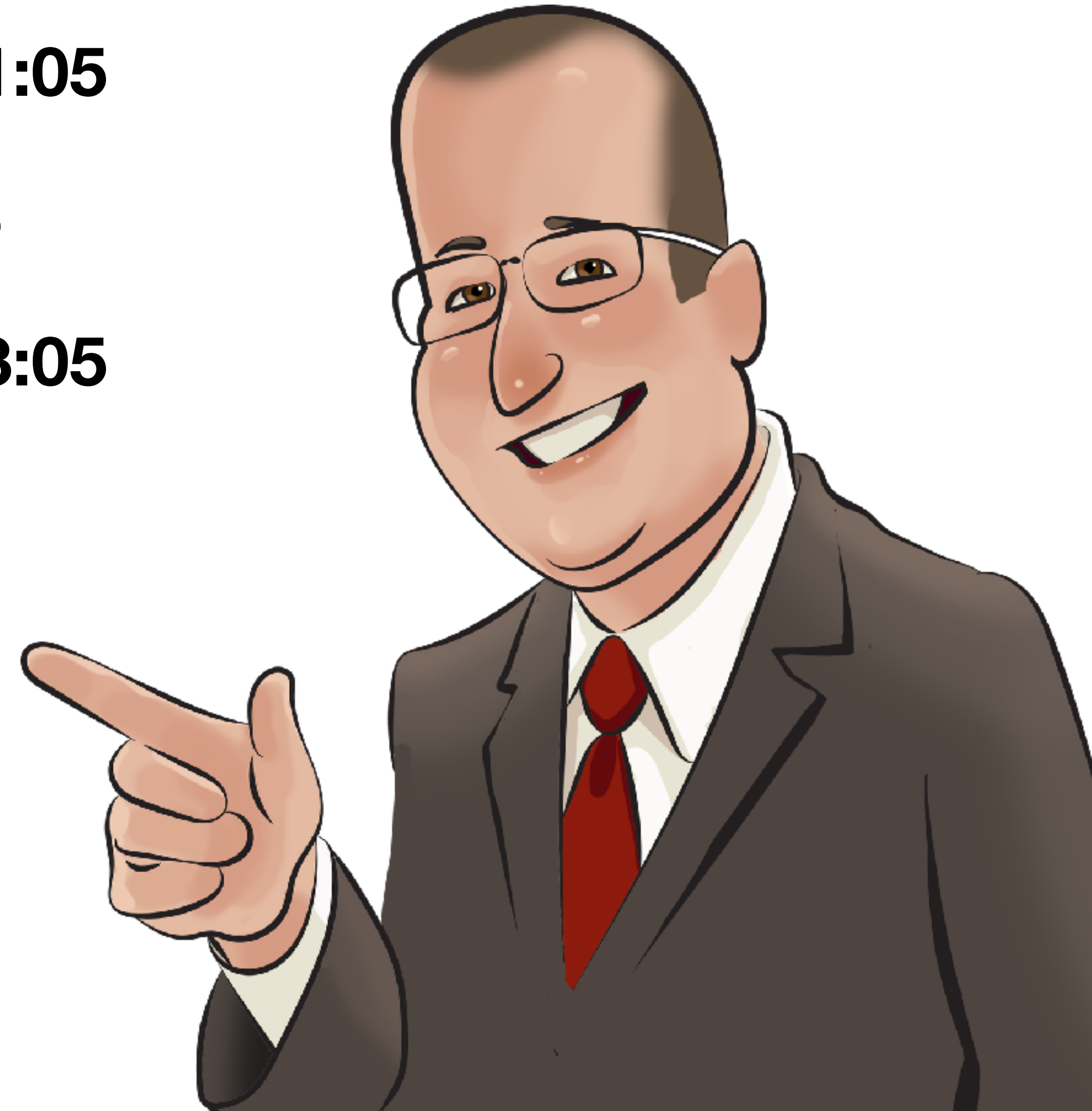


*January 11-17, 2021: **D&C 2; JS-H 1:27-65***

**JS-H 1:27-37 - 01:05**

**D&C 2 - 14:28**

**JS-H 1:38-65 - 23:05**





1820

1821

1822

1823

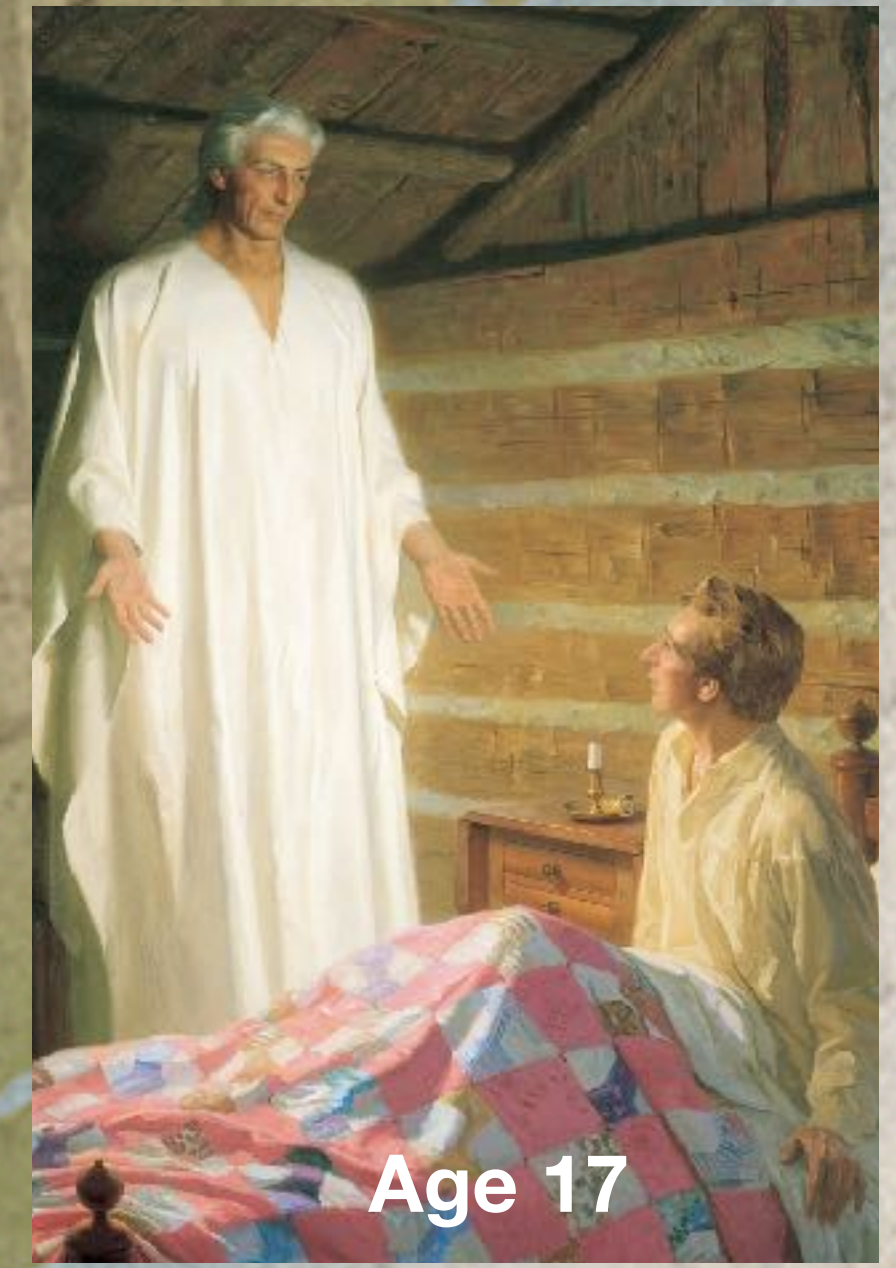
1824

First Vision

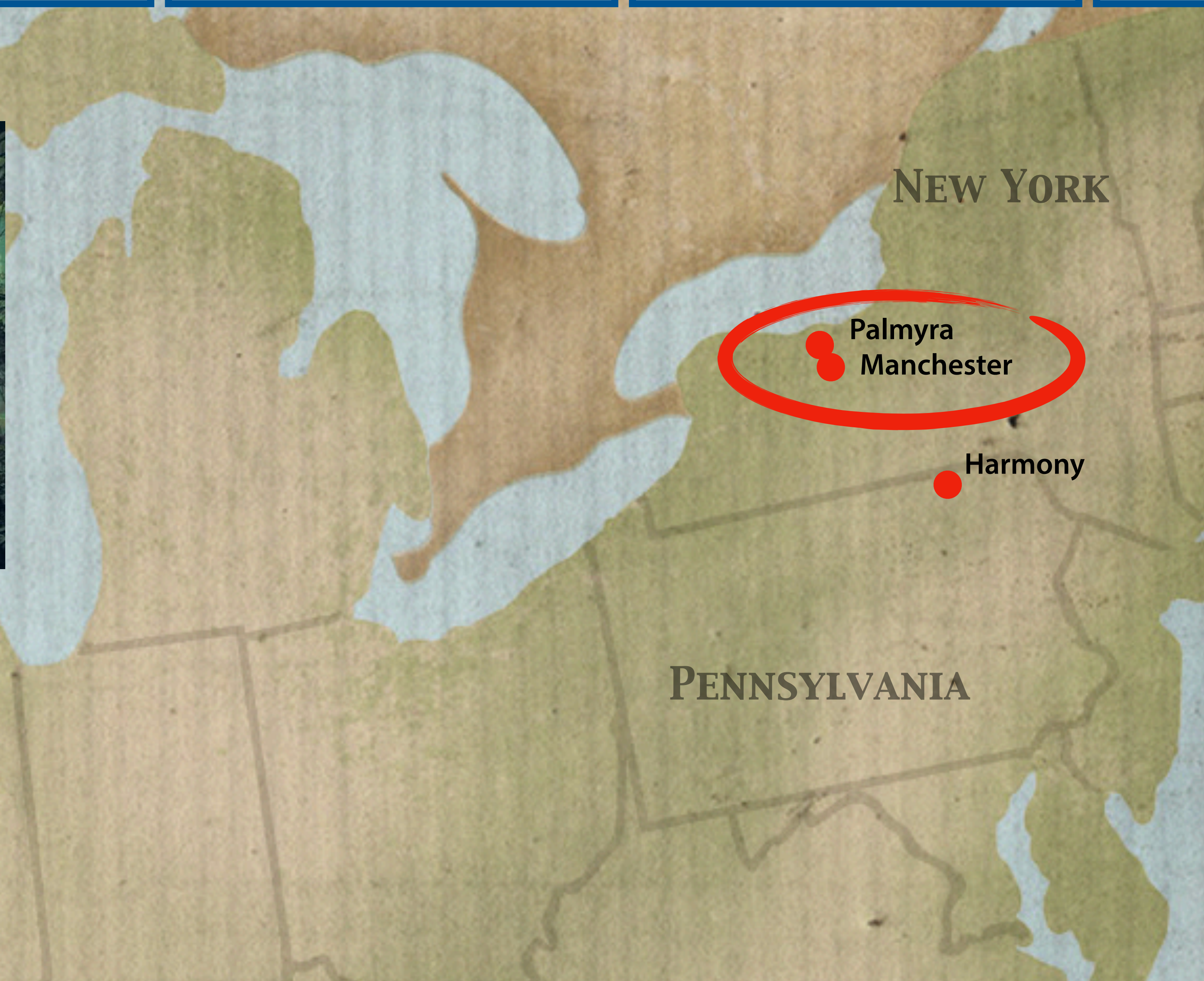


Age 14

Angel Moroni



Age 17



NEW YORK

Palmyra  
Manchester

Harmony

PENNSYLVANIA

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*Moroni appears to Joseph Smith—Joseph’s name is to be known for good and evil among all nations—Moroni tells him of the Book of Mormon and of the coming judgments of the Lord and quotes many scriptures—The hiding place of the gold plates is revealed—*

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**Joseph Desires to Know His Standing Before God**

**Angel Moroni Appears with a Message**

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**“Just as God cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance (D&C 1:31), as we become more like Him, neither can we. The best people have a heightened awareness of what little of the worst is still in them!”**

*(Elder Neal A. Maxwell, “Notwithstanding My Weakness,” 16–17).*

*Jesus Tempted by Carl Heinrich Bloch*



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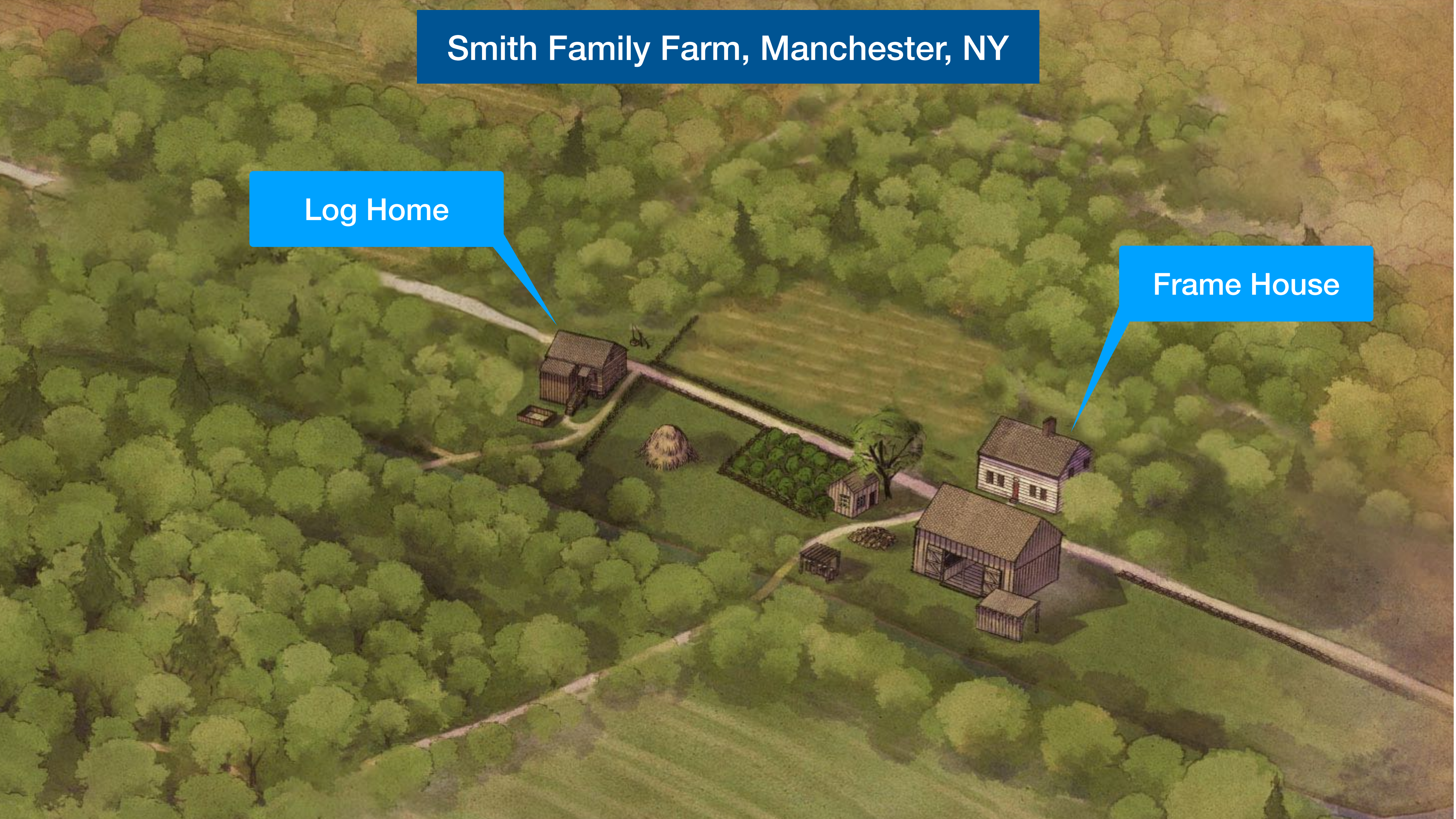
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# Smith Family Farm, Manchester, NY

Log Home

Frame House





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**“[We can] humbly petition the Lord:  
‘Father, what wouldst Thou have me do?’  
The answers come. We feel the changes  
we need to make. The Lord tells us in our  
mind and in our heart”**

*(Elder Neil L. Andersen, “Repent ... That I May Heal You,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2009, 41).*

**“Ask your Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, how He feels about you and your mission here on earth. If you ask with real intent, over time the Spirit will whisper the life-changing truth to you. ... I promise you that when you begin to catch even a glimpse of how your Heavenly Father sees you and what He is counting on you to do for Him, your life will never be the same!”**

*(President Russell M. Nelson, “Becoming True Millennials” [worldwide devotional for young adults, Jan. 10, 2016], [broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)).*



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“He Called Me by Name” by Michael Malm

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**“Young Joseph was told that his name would be ‘both good and evil spoken of’ throughout the world (Joseph Smith—History 1:33). Except from a divine source, how audacious a statement! Yet his contemporary religious leaders, then much better known than Joseph, have faded into the footnotes of history, while the work of Joseph Smith grows constantly and globally”**

*(Elder Neal A. Maxwell in Conference Report, Oct. 1983, 75; or Ensign, Nov. 1983, 54).*

vision, he knew he had, and all the <sup>c</sup>persecution under heaven could not make it otherwise; and though they should persecute him unto death, yet he knew, and would know to his latest breath, that he had both seen a light and heard a voice speaking unto him, and all the world could not make him think or believe otherwise.

25 So it was with me. I had actually seen a light, and in the midst of that light I saw two <sup>a</sup>Personages, and they did in reality speak to me; and though I was <sup>b</sup>hated and <sup>c</sup>persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true; and while they were persecuting me, reviling me, and speaking all manner of evil against me <sup>d</sup>falsely for so saying, I was led to say in my heart: Why persecute me for telling the truth? I have actually seen a vision; and who am I that I can withstand God, or why does the world think to make me deny what I have actually seen? For I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not <sup>e</sup>deny it, neither dared I do it; at least I knew that by so doing I would offend God, and come under condemnation.

26 I had now got my mind satisfied so far as the sectarian world was concerned—that it was not my duty to join with any of them, but to continue as I was until further <sup>a</sup>directed. I had found the testimony of James to be true—that a man who lacked wisdom might ask of God, and obtain, and not be <sup>b</sup>upbraided.

*Moroni appears to Joseph Smith—Joseph’s name is to be known for good and evil among all nations—Moroni tells him of the Book of Mormon and of the coming judgments of the Lord and quotes many scriptures—The hiding place of the gold plates is revealed—*

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27 I continued to pursue my common vocations in life until the twenty-first of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, all the time suffering severe persecution at the hands of all classes of men, both religious and irreligious, because I continued to <sup>a</sup>affirm that I had seen a vision.

28 During the space of time which intervened between the time I had the vision and the year eighteen hundred and twenty-three—having been forbidden to join any of the religious sects of the day, and being of very tender years, and persecuted by those who ought to have been my <sup>a</sup>friends and to have treated me kindly, and if they supposed me to be deluded to have endeavored in a proper and affectionate manner to have reclaimed me—I was left to all kinds of <sup>b</sup>temptations; and, mingling with all kinds of society, I frequently fell into many foolish <sup>c</sup>errors, and displayed the weakness of youth, and the foibles of human nature; which, I am sorry to say, led me into divers temptations, offensive in the sight of God. In making this confession, no one need suppose me guilty of any great or malignant sins. A disposition to commit such was never in my nature. But I was guilty of <sup>d</sup>levity, and sometimes associated with jovial company, etc., not consistent with that character which ought to be maintained by one who was <sup>e</sup>called of God as I had been. But this will not seem very strange to any one who recollects my youth, and is acquainted with my native <sup>f</sup>cheery temperament.

29 In consequence of these things, I often felt condemned for my

**Joseph Desires to Know His Standing Before God**

**Angel Moroni Appears with a Message**

weakness and imperfections; when, on the evening of the above-mentioned twenty-first of September, after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself to <sup>a</sup>prayer and supplication to Almighty God for forgiveness of all my sins and follies, and also for a manifestation to me, that I might know of my state and standing before him; for I had full <sup>b</sup>confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation, as I previously had one.

30 While I was thus in the act of calling upon God, I discovered a <sup>a</sup>light appearing in my room, which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a <sup>b</sup>personage appeared at my bedside, standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor.

31 He had on a loose robe of most exquisite <sup>a</sup>whiteness. It was a whiteness beyond anything earthly I had ever seen; nor do I believe that any earthly thing could be made to appear so exceedingly white and brilliant. His hands were naked, and his arms also, a little above the wrist; so, also, were his feet naked, as were his legs, a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this robe, as it was open, so that I could see into his bosom.

32 Not only was his robe exceedingly white, but his whole person was <sup>a</sup>glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like <sup>b</sup>lightning. The room was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person.

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34 He said there was a <sup>a</sup>book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the <sup>b</sup>fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants;

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

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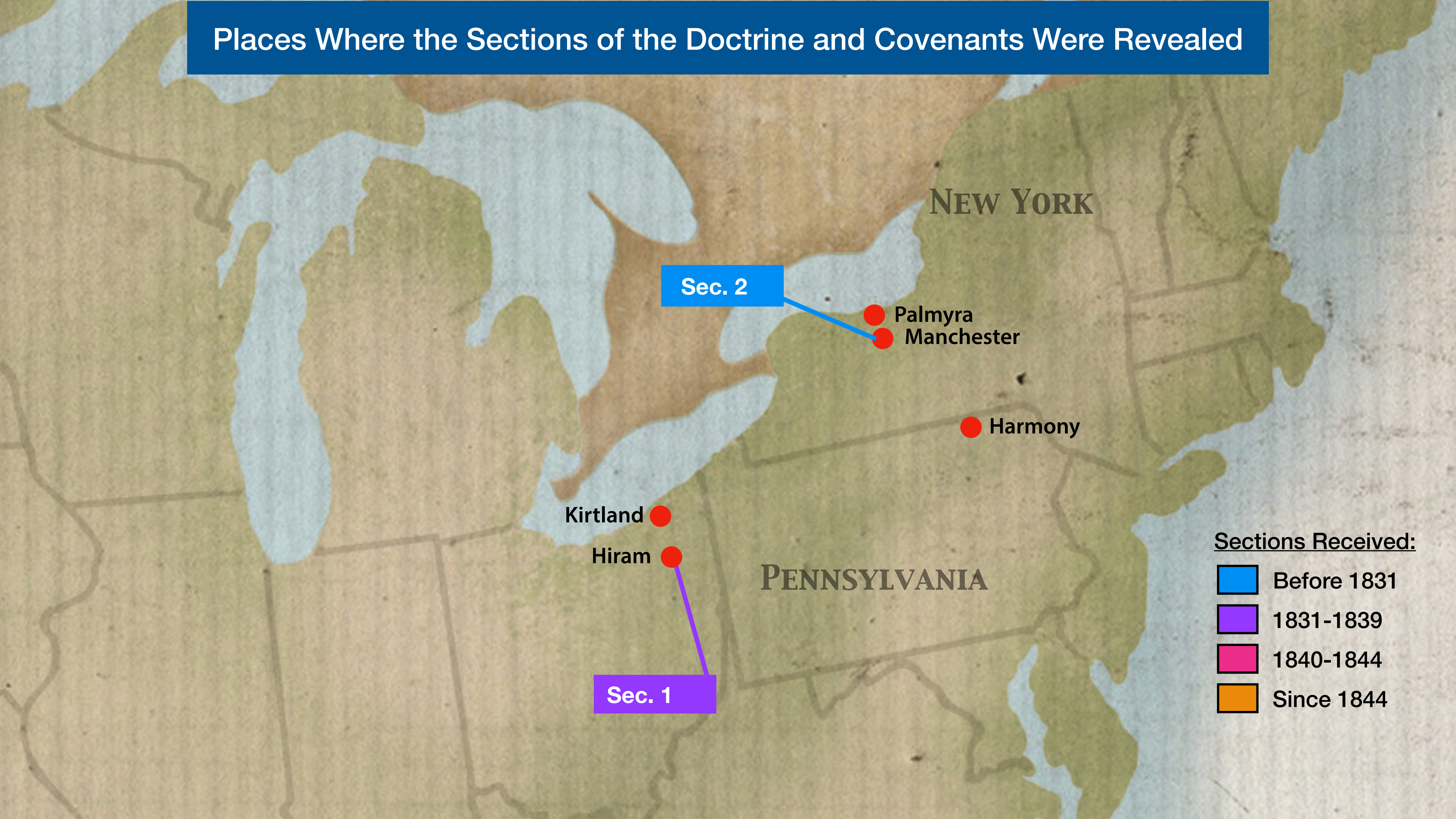
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## **JS-H 1:37 vs. Malachi 4:1**

**37 For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as stubble [KJV “shall be stubble”]; for they that come shall burn them [KJV “and the day that cometh shall burn them up”], saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.**

# Places Where the Sections of the Doctrine and Covenants Were Revealed



Sec. 2

Palmyra  
Manchester

Harmony

Kirtland

Hiram

Sec. 1

Sections Received:

- Before 1831
- 1831-1839
- 1840-1844
- Since 1844

## **This prophecy (Malachi) shows up in every Standard Work:**

- **OT - Malachi 4**
- **NT - Luke 1:17** (Gabriel to Zacharias)
- **Book of Mormon - 3 Nephi 25:5-6** (Christ giving the Nephites Malachi)
- **D&C 2** (Moroni to Joseph Smith)
- **And let's not forget the fulfillment of that prophecy: (see D&C 110:13–16**
- **Pearl of Great Price - Joseph Smith-History 1:39** (Moroni to Joseph Smith)

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# Sources behind the Doctrine and Covenants





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## SECTION 2

*An extract from Joseph Smith's history relating the words of the angel Moroni to Joseph Smith the Prophet, while in the house of the Prophet's father at Manchester, New York, on the evening of September 21, 1823. Moroni was the last of a long line of historians who had made the record that is now before the world as the Book of Mormon. (Compare Malachi 4:5–6; also sections 27:9; 110:13–16; and 128:18.)*

### PROMISES

*1, Elijah is to reveal the priesthood;  
2–3, The promises of the fathers are  
planted **PRIESTHOOD** children.*

BEHOLD, I will ~~reveal~~ unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of <sup>a</sup>Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and <sup>b</sup>dreadful day of the Lord.

2 And <sup>a</sup>he shall plant in the hearts of the children the <sup>b</sup>promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.

3 If it were not so, the whole <sup>a</sup>earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.

### PENALTY

KJV "I will send you Elijah the prophet"

**“Elijah was a great prophet with great power given him by God. He held the greatest power God gives to His children: he held the sealing power, the power to bind on earth and have it bound in heaven”**

*(President Henry B. Eyring, “Hearts Bound Together,” April 2005 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2005, 78).*

**Elder Joseph Fielding Smith taught that the “sealing power puts the stamp of approval upon every ordinance that is done in this Church...”**

*(Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, Vol 3, p. 129)*

*Elijah Appearing in the Kirtland Temple, by Dan Lewis*



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KJV "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children"

KJV "and the heart of the children to their fathers"

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### PENALTY

KJV "lest I come and smite the earth with a curse"

**“Why would the earth be wasted? Simply because if there is not a welding link between the fathers and the children—which is the work for the dead—then we will all stand rejected; the whole work of God will fail and be utterly wasted”**

*(President Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, ed. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:122).*



# PRIORITY

**Following the first vision, this is the first divine revelation of Joseph Smith and it relates to the importance of the eternal nature of the family. What is the priority in God's work? The exaltation of the family...**

**“,,The most important of the Lord's work that you will ever do will be within the walls of your own home.”**

*(President Harold B. Lee, Area Conference Report, Mexico City, Mexico, August 26, 1972, p. 77)*

proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as <sup>c</sup>stubble; for they that come shall burn them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

38 And again, he quoted the fifth verse thus: Behold, I will reveal unto you the <sup>a</sup>Priesthood, by the hand of <sup>b</sup>Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the <sup>c</sup>Lord.

39 He also quoted the next verse differently: And he shall plant in the hearts of the <sup>a</sup>children the <sup>b</sup>promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.

40 In addition to these, he quoted the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, saying that it was about to be fulfilled. He quoted also the third chapter of Acts, twenty-second and twenty-third verses, precisely as they stand in our New Testament. He said that that <sup>b</sup>prophet was Christ; but the day had not yet come when "they who would not hear his voice should be <sup>c</sup>cut off from among the people," but soon would come.

41 He also quoted the "second chapter of Joel, from the twenty-eighth verse to the last. He also said that this was not yet fulfilled, but was soon to be. And he further stated that the fulness of the <sup>b</sup>Gentiles was soon to come in. He quoted many other passages of scripture, and offered many explanations which <sup>c</sup>cannot be mentioned here.

42 Again, he told me, that when I got those plates of which he had spoken—for the time that they should be obtained was not yet fulfilled—

I should not show them to any person; neither the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim; only to those to whom I should be commanded to show them; if I did I should be <sup>a</sup>destroyed. While he was conversing with me about the plates, the vision was opened to my <sup>b</sup>mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited, and that so clearly and distinctly that I knew the place again when I visited it.

43 After this communication, I saw the light in the room begin to gather immediately around the person of him who had been speaking to me, and it continued to do so until the room was again left dark, except just around him; when, instantly I saw, as it were, a conduit open right up into heaven, and he <sup>a</sup>ascended till he entirely disappeared, and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance.

44 I lay musing on the singularity of the scene, and marveling greatly at what had been told to me by this extraordinary messenger; when, in the midst of my <sup>a</sup>meditation, I suddenly discovered that my room was again beginning to get lighted, and in an instant, as it were, the same heavenly messenger was again by my bedside.

45 He commenced, and <sup>a</sup>again related the very same things which he had done at his first visit, without the least variation; which having done, he informed me of great <sup>b</sup>judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by <sup>c</sup>famine, <sup>d</sup>sword, and pestilence; and

that these grievous judgments would come on the earth in this generation. Having related these things, he again ascended as he had done before.

46 By this time, so deep were the impressions made on my mind, that sleep had fled from my eyes, and I lay overwhelmed in <sup>a</sup>astonishment at what I had both seen and heard. But what was my surprise when again I beheld the same messenger at my bedside, and heard him rehearse or repeat over again to me the same things as before; and added a caution to me, telling me that Satan would try to <sup>b</sup>tempt me (in consequence of the indigent circumstances of my father's family), to get the plates for the purpose of getting <sup>c</sup>rich. This he forbade me, saying that I must have no other object in view in getting the plates but to glorify God, and must not be influenced by any other <sup>d</sup>motive than that of building his kingdom; otherwise I could not get them.

47 After this third visit, he again ascended into heaven as before, and I was again left to <sup>a</sup>ponder on the strangeness of what I had just experienced; when almost immediately after the heavenly messenger had ascended from me for the third time, the cock crowed, and I found that day was approaching, so that our interviews must have occupied the whole of that night.

48 I shortly after arose from my bed, and, as usual, went to the necessary labors of the day; but, in attempting to work as at other times, I found my <sup>a</sup>strength so exhausted as to render me entirely unable. My father, who was laboring along with me, discovered something to be wrong with me, and told me to go home. I started with the intention of going to the house; but, in attempting to cross the

fence out of the field where we were, my strength entirely failed me, and I <sup>b</sup>fell helpless on the ground, and for a time was quite unconscious of anything.

49 The first thing that I can recollect was a voice speaking unto me, calling me by name. I looked up, and beheld the same messenger standing over my head, surrounded by light as before. He then again related unto me all that he had related to me the previous night, and commanded me to go to my <sup>a</sup>father and tell him of the vision and commandments which I had received.

50 I obeyed; I returned to my <sup>a</sup>father in the field, and rehearsed the whole matter to him. He <sup>b</sup>replied to me that it was of God, and told me to go and do as commanded by the messenger. I left the field, and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were deposited; and owing to the distinctness of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant that I arrived there.

51 Convenient to the village of Manchester, Ontario county, New York, stands a <sup>a</sup>hill of considerable size, and the most elevated of any in the neighborhood. On the west side of this hill, not far from the top, under a stone of considerable size, lay the plates, deposited in a stone box. This stone was thick and rounding in the middle on the upper side, and thinner towards the edges, so that the middle part of it was visible above the ground, but the edge all around was covered with earth.

52 Having removed the earth, I obtained a lever, which I got fixed under the edge of the stone, and with a little exertion raised it up. I looked in, and there indeed did I behold the <sup>a</sup>plates, the <sup>b</sup>Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate, as

## Angel Moroni Appears with a Message

37c Ex. 15:7 (7-8); Nahum 1:10;

Salvation for the Dead. b Gal. 3:5, 8, 18, 29.

42a JS—H 1:59. b TG Mind.

46a D&C 8:27.

48a 78 Strength.

51a D&C 128:20.

## **Acts 3:22-23**

**22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.**

**23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.**

**This prophecy (v. 22) appears in every one of our Standard Works:**

- OT - Deuteronomy 18:15
- NT - Acts 3:22, 7:37
- Book of Mormon - 3 Nephi 20:23
- D&C - 133:63
- Pearl of Great Price - Joseph Smith-History 1:40

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48a 78 Strength.

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## **Joel 2:28-32**

**28 ¶ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:**

**29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.**

**30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.**

**31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.**

**32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.**

proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as <sup>c</sup>stubble; for they that come shall burn them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

38 And again, he quoted the fifth verse thus: Behold, I will reveal unto you the <sup>a</sup>Priesthood, by the hand of <sup>b</sup>Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the <sup>c</sup>Lord.

39 He also quoted the next verse differently: And he shall plant in the hearts of the <sup>a</sup>children the <sup>b</sup>promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.

40 In addition to these, he quoted the <sup>a</sup>eleventh chapter of Isaiah, saying that it was about to be fulfilled. He quoted also the third chapter of Acts, twenty-second and twenty-third verses, precisely as they stand in our New Testament. He said that that <sup>b</sup>prophet was Christ; but the day had not yet come when "they who would not hear his voice should be <sup>c</sup>cut off from among the people," but soon would come.

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I should not show them to any person; neither the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim; only to those to whom I should be commanded to show them; if I did I should be <sup>a</sup>destroyed. While he was conversing with me about the plates, the vision was opened to my <sup>b</sup>mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited, and that so clearly and distinctly that I knew the place again when I visited it.

43 After this communication, I saw the light in the room begin to gather immediately around the person of him who had been speaking to me, and it continued to do so until the room was again left dark, except just around him; when, instantly I saw, as it were, a conduit open right up into heaven, and he <sup>a</sup>ascended till he entirely disappeared, and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance.

44 I lay musing on the singularity of the scene, and marveling greatly at what had been told to me by this extraordinary messenger; when, in the midst of my <sup>a</sup>meditation, I suddenly discovered that my room was again beginning to get lighted, and in an instant, as it were, the same heavenly messenger was again by my bedside.

45 He commenced, and <sup>a</sup>again related the very same things which he had done at his first visit, without the least variation; which having done, he informed me of great <sup>b</sup>judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by <sup>c</sup>famine, <sup>d</sup>sword, and pestilence; and

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that these grievous judgments would come on the earth in this generation. Having related these things, he again ascended as he had done before.

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**A letter Oliver Cowdery wrote to W. W. Phelps, which contains an account of Moroni's visit to Joseph Smith:**

**“Though fear was banished from his heart, yet his surprise was no less when he heard him declare himself to be a messenger sent by commandment of the Lord, to deliver a special message, and to witness to him that his sins were forgiven, and that his prayers were heard; and that the scriptures might be fulfilled, which say—‘God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen; yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things which are, that no flesh should glory in his presence’ [1 Corinthians 1:27–28]”**

*(Latter Day Saints' Messenger and Advocate, Feb. 1835, 79).*

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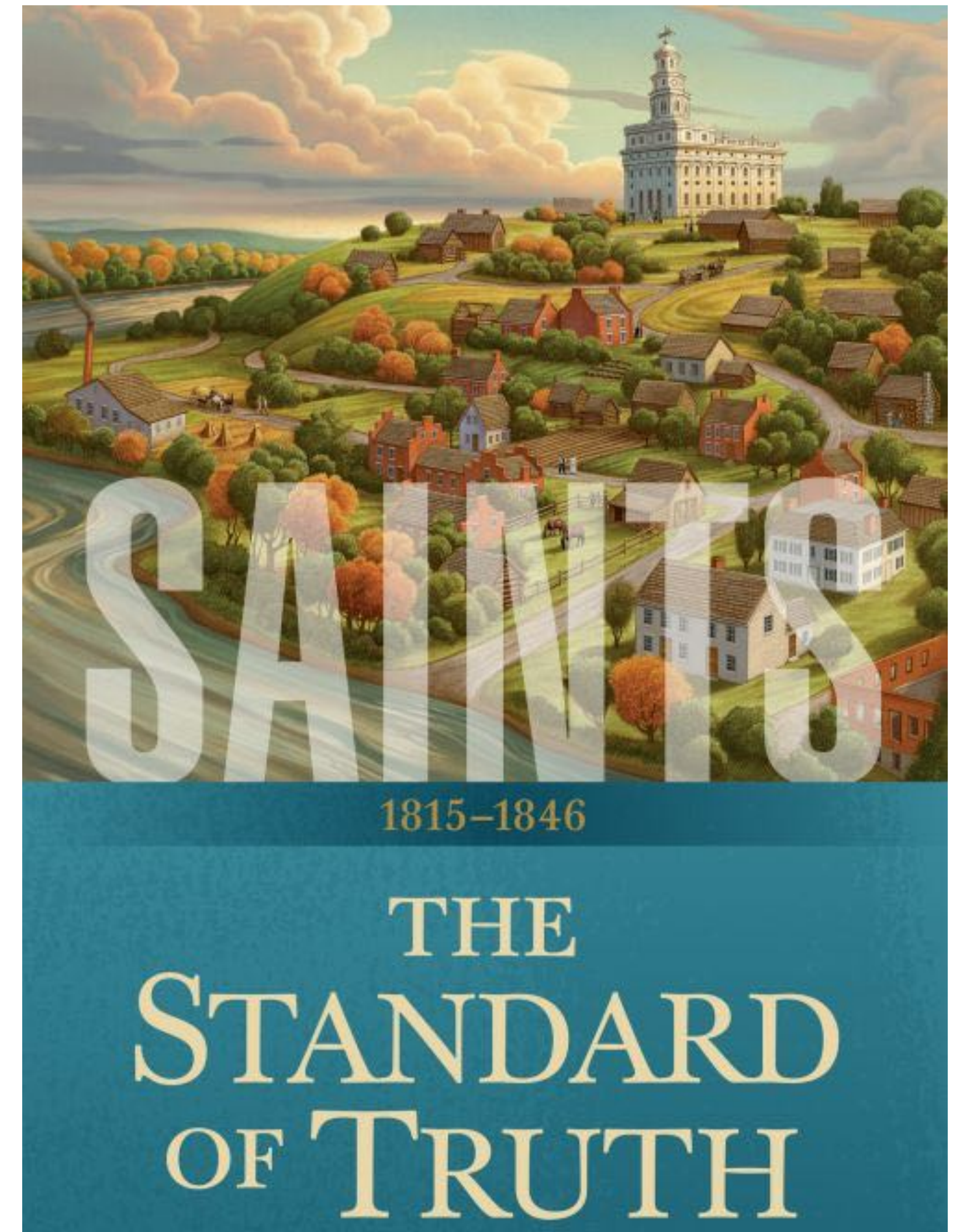
**“The messenger whom he saw the previous night, visited him again, and the first thing he said was, ‘Why did you not tell your father that which I commanded you to tell him?’ Joseph replied, ‘I was afraid my father would not believe me.’ The angel rejoined, ‘He will believe every word you say to him’”**

*(History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, ed. Preston Nibley [1958], 79).*

*By Gary E. Smith*

**Joseph Sr. wept when his son told him about the angel and his message. “It was a vision from God,” he said. “Attend to it.”**

**(Saints Vol 1, p 24)**



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stated by the messenger. The box in which they lay was formed by laying stones together in some kind of cement. In the bottom of the box were laid two stones crossways of the box, and on these stones lay the plates and the other things with them.

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.

54 Accordingly, as I had been commanded, I went at the end of each year, and at each time I found the same messenger there, and received instruction and intelligence from him at each of our interviews, respecting what the Lord was going to do, and how and in what manner his <sup>a</sup>kingdom was to be conducted in the last days.

*Joseph Smith marries Emma Hale—He receives the gold plates from Moroni and translates some of the characters—Martin Harris shows the characters and translation to Professor Anthon, who says, “I cannot read a sealed book.” (Verses 55–65.)*

55 As my father’s worldly circumstances were very limited, we were under the necessity of <sup>a</sup>laboring with our hands, hiring out by day’s work and otherwise, as we could get opportunity. Sometimes we were at home, and sometimes abroad, and by continuous <sup>b</sup>labor were enabled to get a comfortable maintenance.

56 In the year 1823 my father’s family met with a great <sup>a</sup>affliction by the death of my eldest brother, <sup>b</sup>Alvin. In the month of October, 1825,

I hired with an old gentleman by the name of Josiah Stool, who lived in Chenango county, State of New York. He had heard something of a silver mine having been opened by the Spaniards in Harmony, Susquehanna county, State of Pennsylvania; and had, previous to my hiring to him, been digging, in order, if possible, to discover the mine. After I went to live with him, he took me, with the rest of his hands, to dig for the silver mine, at which I continued to work for nearly a month, without success in our undertaking, and finally I prevailed with the old gentleman to cease digging after it. Hence arose the very prevalent story of my having been a money-digger.

57 During the time that I was thus employed, I was put to board with a Mr. Isaac Hale, of that place; it was there I first saw my wife (his daughter), Emma Hale. On the 18th of January, 1827, we were married, while I was yet employed in the service of Mr. Stool.

58 Owing to my continuing to assert that I had seen a vision, <sup>a</sup>persecution still followed me, and my wife’s father’s family were very much opposed to our being married. I was, therefore, under the necessity of taking her elsewhere; so we went and were married at the house of Squire Tarbill, in South Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York. Immediately after my marriage, I left Mr. Stool’s, and went to my father’s, and <sup>b</sup>farmed with him that season.

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 <sup>a</sup>me with this

## Joseph Marries Emma Hale

### Joseph Receives the Plates from Moroni and Translates Some of the Characters

charge: that I should be <sup>b</sup>responsible for them; that if I should let them go carelessly, or through any <sup>c</sup>neglect of mine, I should be cut off; but that if I would use all my endeavors to <sup>d</sup>preserve them, until he, the messenger, should call for them, they should be protected.

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 <sup>a</sup>get 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 <sup>b</sup>day, being the second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

61 The excitement, however, still continued, and rumor with her thousand tongues was all the time employed in circulating <sup>a</sup>falsehoods about my father’s family, and about myself. If I were to relate a thousandth part of them, it would fill up volumes. The persecution, however, became so intolerable that I was under the necessity of leaving Manchester, and going with my wife to Susquehanna county, in the State of Pennsylvania. While preparing to start—being very poor, and the persecution so heavy upon us that there was no probability that we would

ever be otherwise—in the midst of our afflictions we found a friend in a gentleman by the name of <sup>b</sup>Martin Harris, who came to us and gave me fifty dollars to assist us on our journey. Mr. Harris was a resident of Palmyra township, Wayne county, in the State of New York, and a farmer of respectability.

62 By this timely aid was I enabled to reach the place of my destination in Pennsylvania; and immediately after my arrival there I commenced copying the characters off the plates. I copied a considerable number of them, and by means of the <sup>a</sup>Urim and Thummim I translated some of them, which I did between the time I arrived at the house of my wife’s father, in the month of December, and the February following.

63 Sometime in this month of February, the aforementioned Mr. Martin Harris came to our place, got the characters which I had drawn off the plates, and started with them to the city of New York. For what took place relative to him and the characters, I refer to his own account of the circumstances, as he related them to me after his return, which was as follows:

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59h <sup>tc</sup> Dependability:

Preservation of

<sup>h</sup> D&C 5:1 (1–32)



**As Joseph approached the Hill Cumorah, he had thoughts about the poverty of his family and the possibility that the plates or the popularity of the translation would produce enough wealth to “raise him above a level with the common earthly fortunes of his fellow men, and relieve his family from want.” When he reached down for the plates he received a shock and was thus prevented from taking them out of the box. Twice more he tried and was thrown back. In frustration he cried out, “Why can I not obtain this book?” Moroni appeared and told him it was because he had not kept the commandments but had yielded to the temptations of Satan to obtain the plates for riches instead of having his eye single to the glory of God as he had been commanded.**

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**Repentant, Joseph humbly sought the Lord in prayer and was filled with the Spirit. A vision was opened to him, and the “glory of the Lord shone round about and rested upon him. ... He beheld the prince of darkness. ... The heavenly messenger [Moroni] said, ‘All this is shown, the good and the evil, the holy and impure, the glory of God and the power of darkness, that you may know hereafter the two powers and never be influenced or overcome by that wicked one.’ ... You now see why you could not obtain this record; that the commandment was strict, and that if ever these sacred things are obtained they must be by prayer and faithfulness in obeying the Lord. They are not deposited here for the sake of accumulating gain and wealth for the glory of this world: they were sealed by the prayer of faith, and**

CHURCH HISTORY  
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RELIGION 341 THROUGH 343

CHAPTER 4

**was strict, and that if ever these sacred things are obtained they must be by prayer and faithfulness in obeying the Lord. They are not deposited here for the sake of accumulating gain and wealth for the glory of this world: they were sealed by the prayer of faith, and because of the knowledge which they contain they are of no worth among the children of men, only for their knowledge.” Moroni concluded by warning Joseph that he would not be allowed to obtain the plates “until he had learned to keep the commandments of God— not only till he was willing but able to do it. ...**

**“The ensuing evening, when the family were altogether, Joseph made known to them all that he had communicated to his father in the field, and also of his finding the record, as well as what passed between him and the angel while he was at the place where the plates were deposited.”**

The book cover features a teal background with a photograph of a forest path. The title is written in a serif font, and the subtitle is in a smaller serif font. The text is centered on the cover.

**CHURCH HISTORY  
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## Joseph Marries Emma Hale

### Joseph Receives the Plates from Moroni and Translates Some of the Characters

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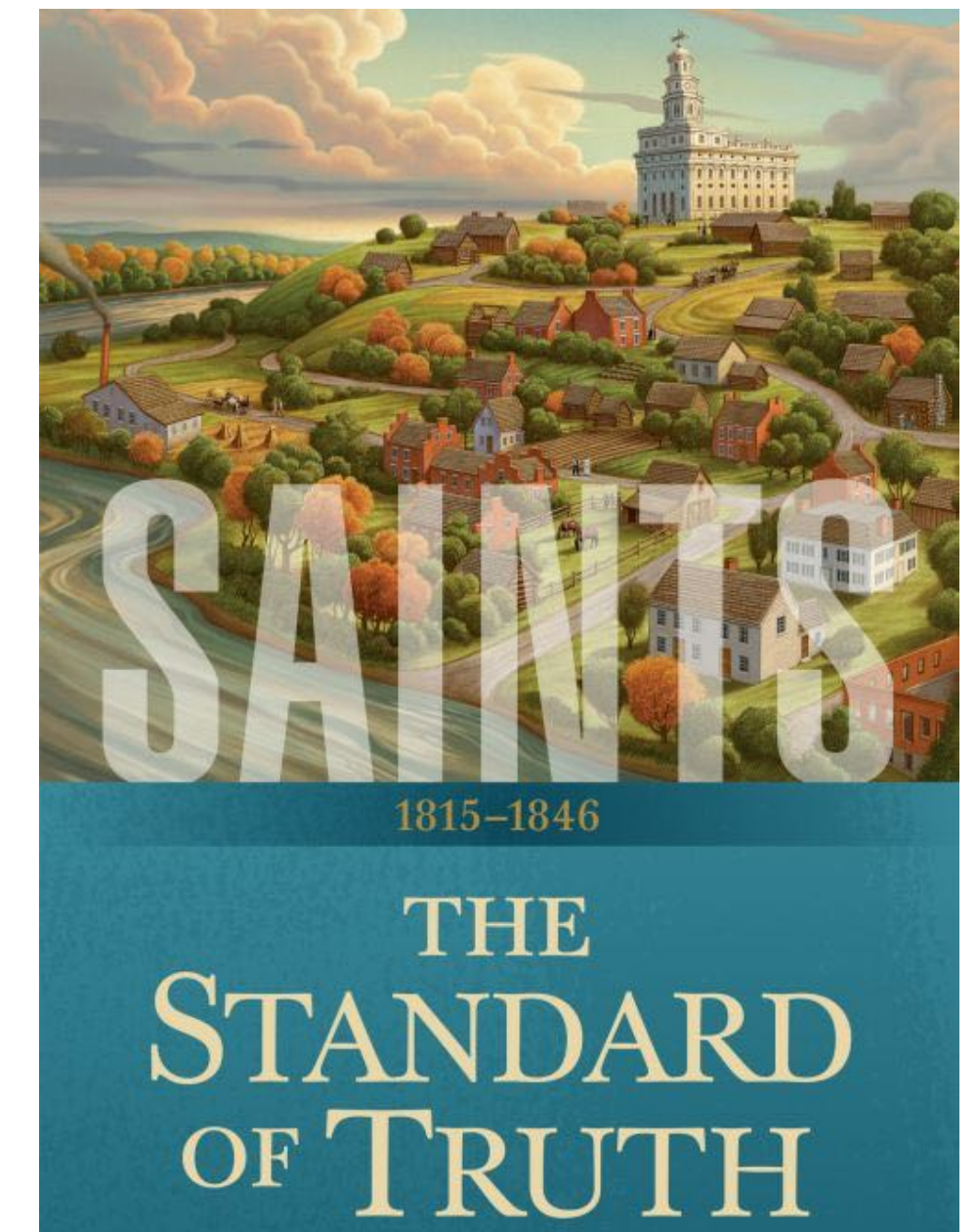
Preservation of

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**Moroni's instructions for retrieving the plates were clear. "You must take them into your hands and go straight to the house without delay," the angel had said, "and lock them up."**

**At the hill, Joseph pried up the rock, reached into the stone box, and lifted out the plates. A thought then crossed his mind: the other items in the box were valuable and ought to be hidden before he went home. He set the plates down and turned to cover the box. But when he returned to the plates, they were gone. Alarmed, he fell to his knees and pleaded to know where they were.**

**Moroni appeared and told Joseph that he had failed to follow directions again. Not only had he set the plates down before safely securing them, he had also let them out of his sight. As willing as the young seer was to do the Lord's work, he was not yet able to protect the ancient record.**



**(Saints Vol 1, p 29-30)**

**Between 1823, when Joseph first saw the plates, and 1827, when he was allowed to take them from the hill, Joseph received additional heavenly instruction. Lucy Mack Smith's history says that during this time, Joseph "continued to receive instructions from the Lord" (History of Joseph Smith, 82).**

**President John Taylor said: "When Joseph Smith was raised up as a Prophet of God, Mormon, Moroni, Nephi and others of the ancient Prophets who formerly lived on this Continent, and Peter and John and others who lived on the Asiatic Continent, came to him and communicated to him certain principles pertaining to the Gospel of the Son of God" (in Journal of Discourses, 17:374).**



**Joseph Smith's mother also wrote: "During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling, and the animals upon which they rode; their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life among them"**

**(History of Joseph Smith, 83).**



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**Alvin was a faithful and serious young man, and Joseph idolized him. Joseph saw in him a guileless person who lived an upright life. Alvin loved Joseph, too, and was greatly interested in the sacred record. As death neared he counseled Joseph: “I want you to be a good boy, and do everything that lies in your power to obtain the Record. Be faithful in receiving instruction, and in keeping every commandment that is given you.” Joseph learned by revelation years later that Alvin was an heir to the celestial kingdom (see D&C 137:1–6).**



1820

1821

1822

1823

1824

1825

1826

1827

First Vision

Angel Moroni

Alvin Died

Joseph boards with Isaac Hale and meets Emma



Palmyra



Manchester



Harmony

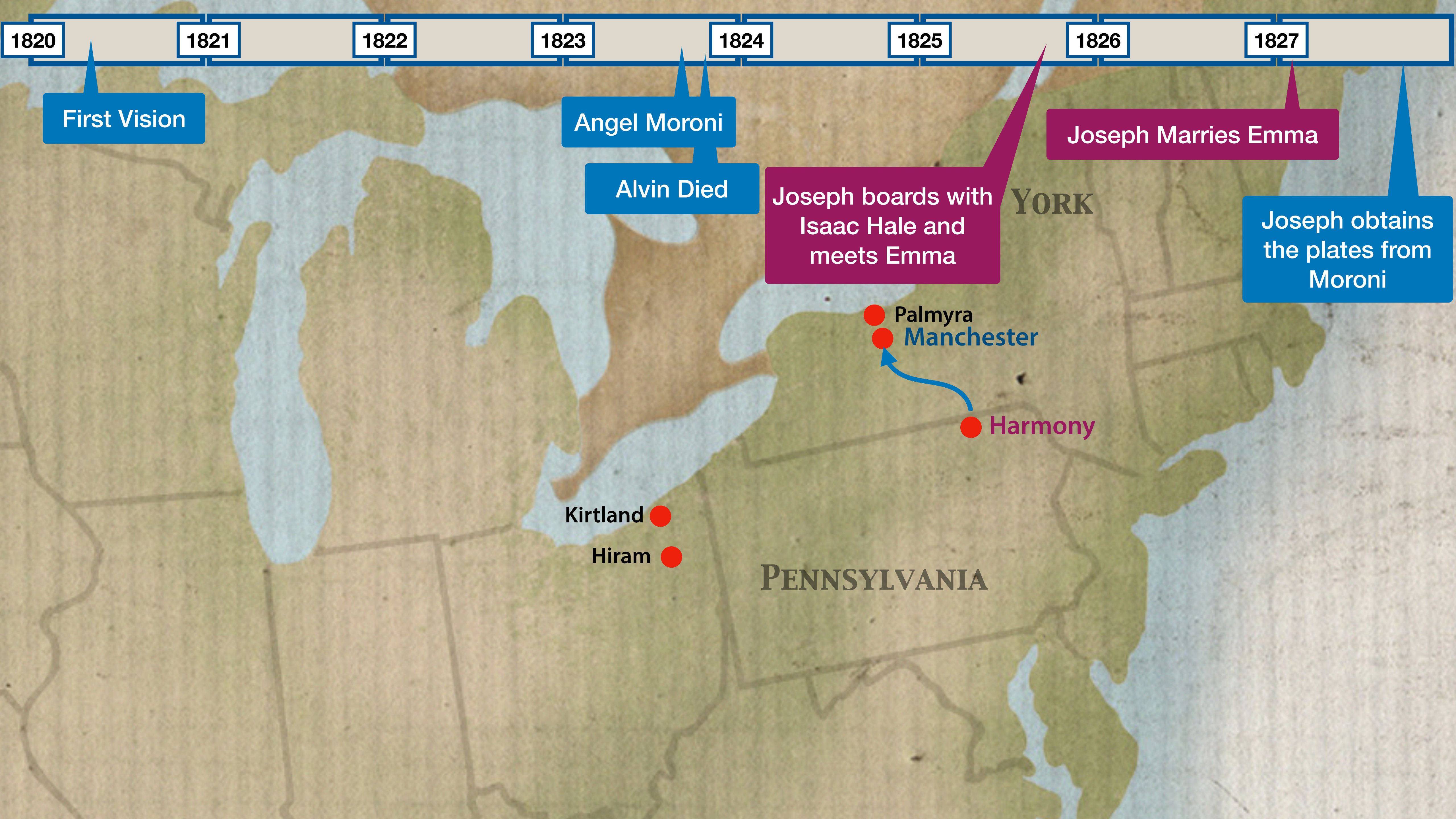
Kirtland ●

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PENNSYLVANIA





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Joseph Marries Emma

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Long before sunrise on 22 September 1827...





**For the first time in over fourteen hundred years the precious records were entrusted to a mortal. Joseph carefully hid the plates in a hollow log near his home. The Prophet's friends were not the only ones who eagerly anticipated his receiving the plates. Others in the neighborhood had heard that Joseph was going to bring home valuable metal plates. Some of them may have also been involved in searching for the silver mine and now felt that they should have a share in any treasure. Joseph soon learned why Moroni had strictly charged him to protect the plates. "Every stratagem that could be invented" was used to get them from him (v. 60). For example, Willard Chase, a neighboring farmer, along with other treasure seekers, sent for a sorcerer to come and find the place where the plates were hidden. When the Smiths learned of the plot they sent Emma to get Joseph, who was working in Macedon a few miles west of**



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Efforts to steal the plates intensified, but Moroni’s promise of protection was also fulfilled. Joseph often moved the plates from their hiding place just minutes

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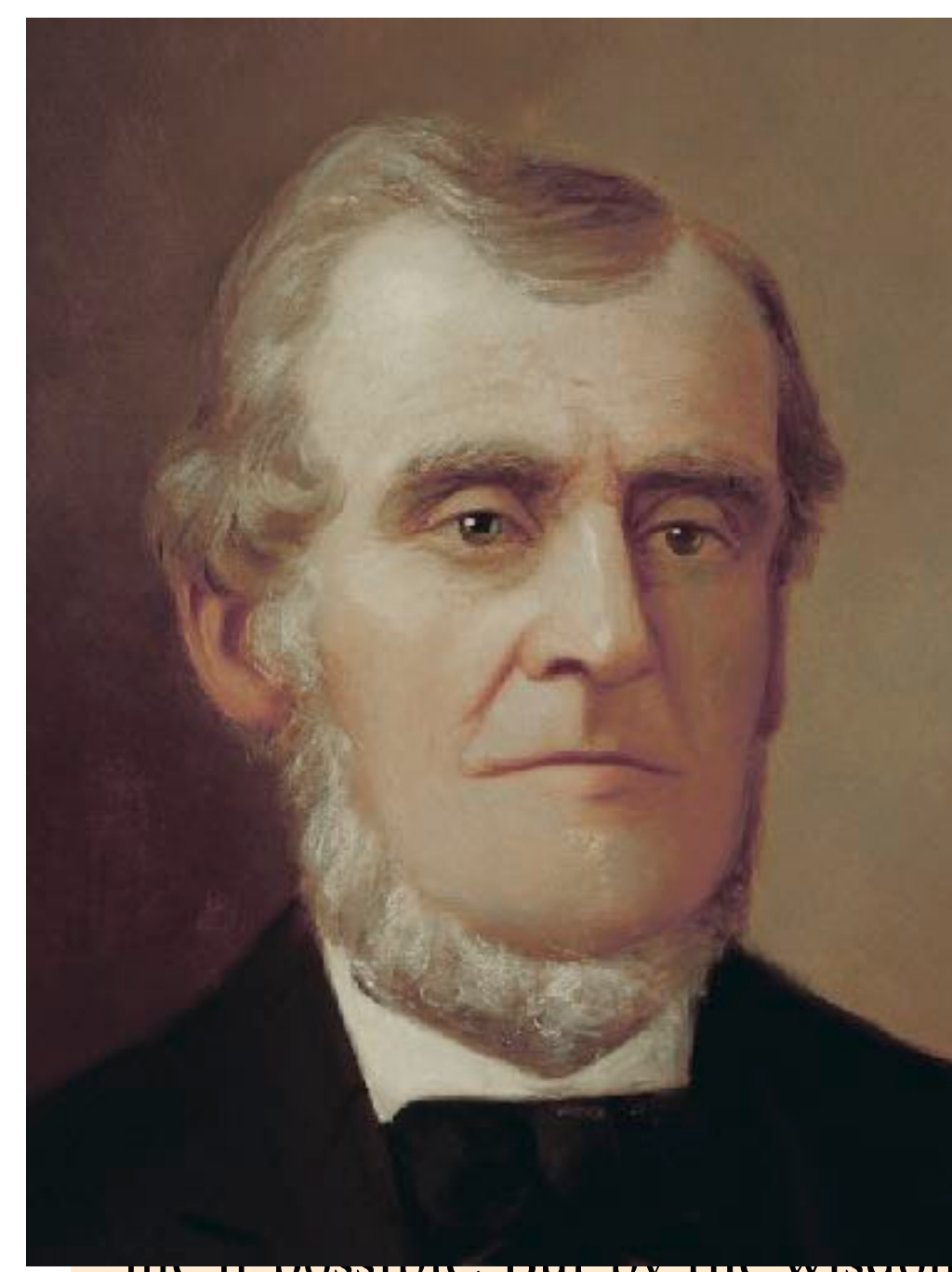
CHURCH HISTORY  
IN THE FULNESS  
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RELIGION 341 THROUGH 343

# Smith Family Farm, Manchester, NY

Cooper Shop





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## Martin Harris' Account of Taking the Translated Characters to Learned Men

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1822 1823 1824 1825 1826 1827 1828 1829

Angel Moroni

Alvin Died

Joseph boards with Isaac Hale and meets Emma

Joseph Marries Emma

Joseph obtains the plates from Moroni

Martin Harris gives Joseph \$50 so he and Emma can move to Harmony, PA. The plates are hidden in a barrel of beans.

Joseph begins limited translation of the plates

Martin takes characters to the learned.

Palmyra  
Manchester



Harmony

Kirtland ●

Hiram ●

PENNSYLVANIA

charge: that I should be <sup>b</sup>responsible for them; that if I should let them go carelessly, or through any <sup>c</sup>neglect of mine, I should be cut off; but that if I would use all my endeavors to <sup>d</sup>preserve them, until he, the messenger, should call for them, they should be protected.

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 <sup>a</sup>get 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 <sup>b</sup>day, being the second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

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ever be otherwise—in the midst of our afflictions we found a friend in a gentleman by the name of <sup>b</sup>Martin Harris, who came to us and gave me fifty dollars to assist us on our journey. Mr. Harris was a resident of Palmyra township, Wayne county, in the State of New York, and a farmer of respectability.

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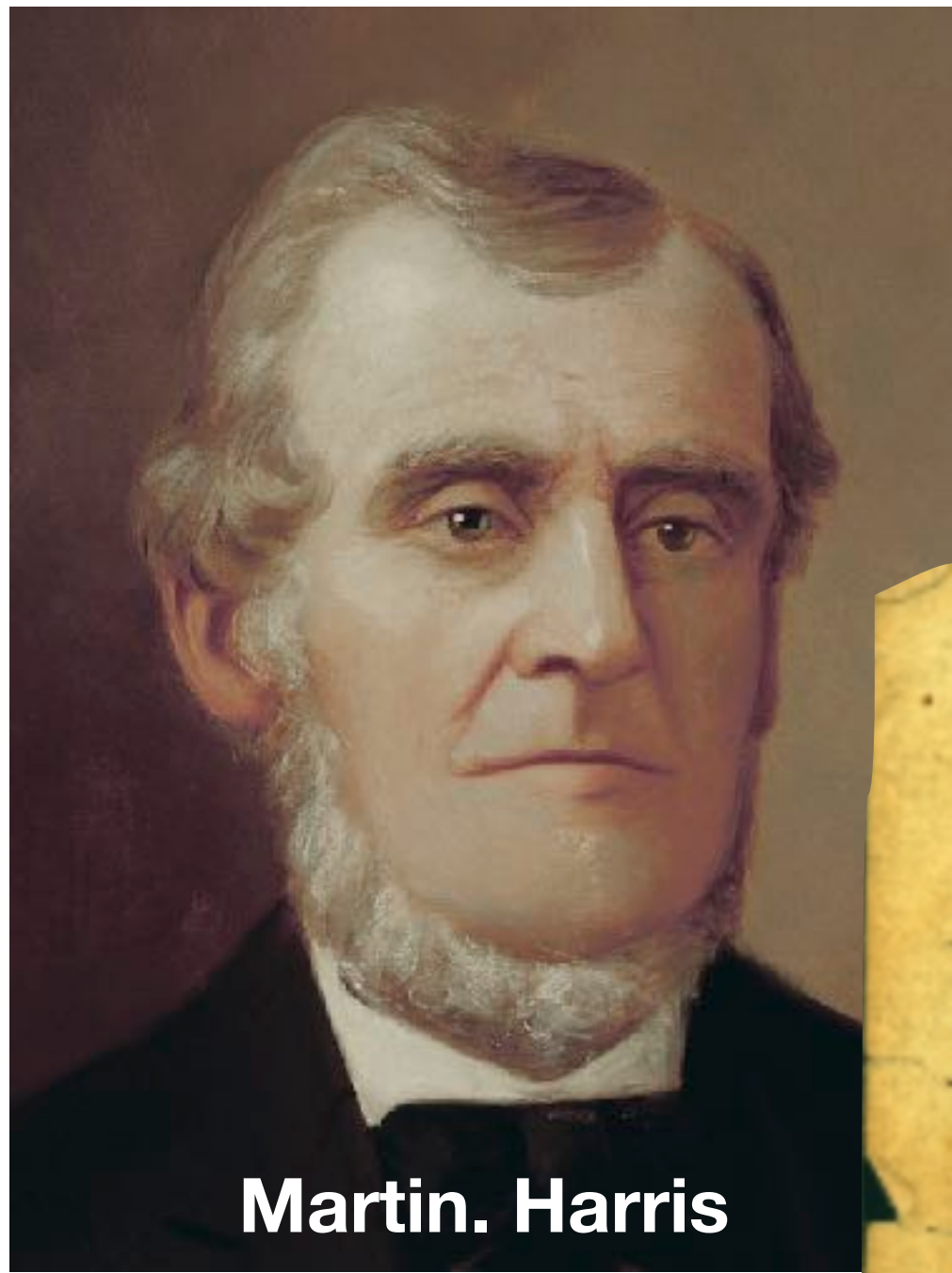
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Martin Harris

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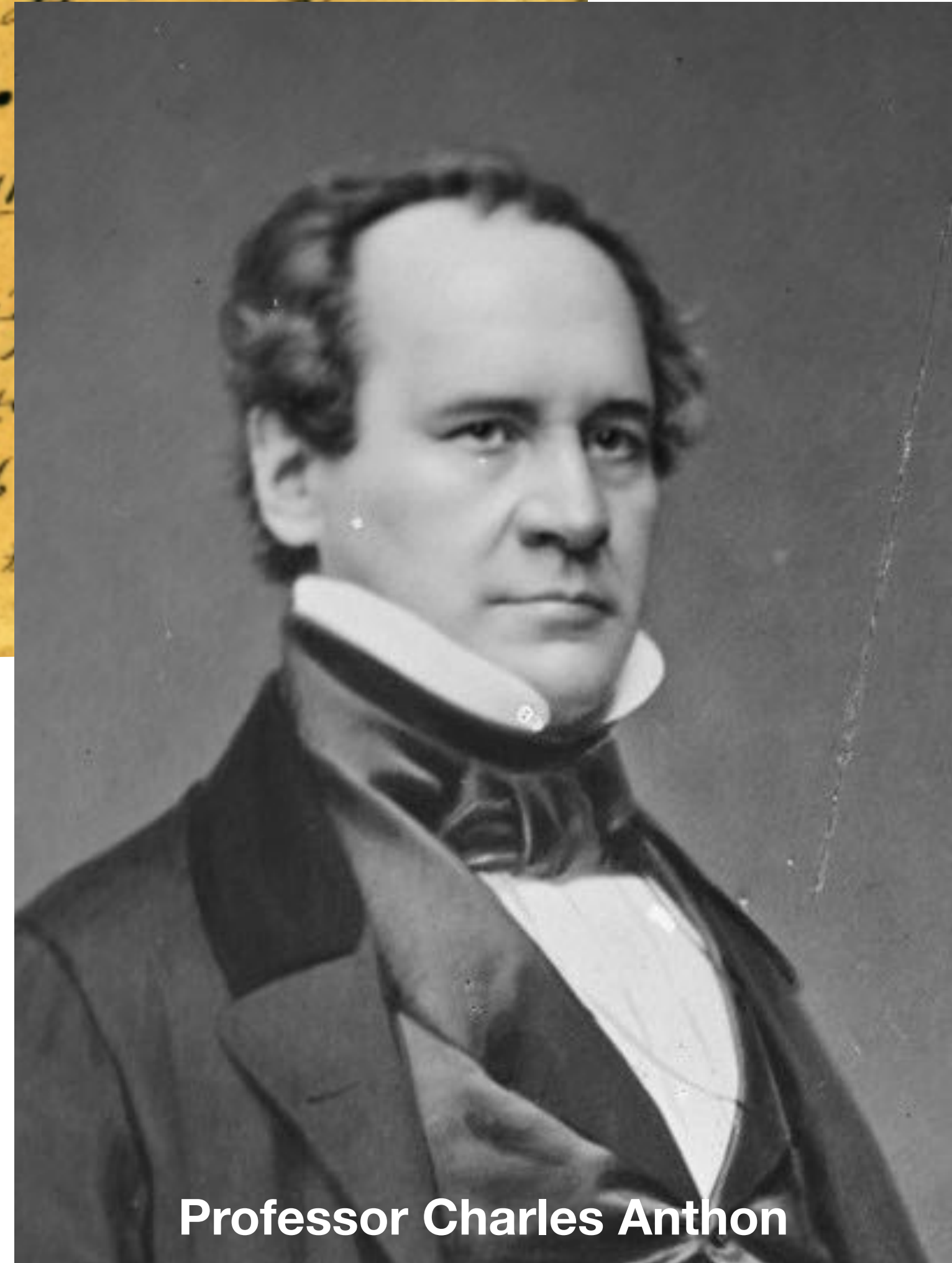
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Professor Charles Anthon



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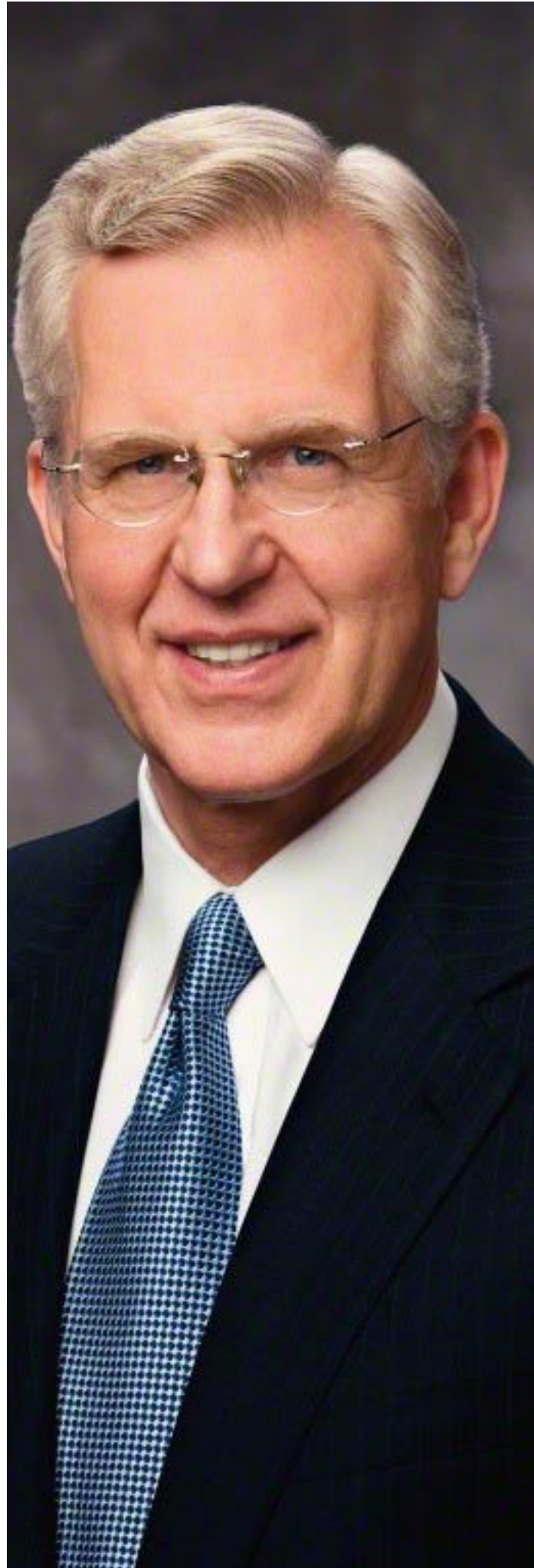
**Martin visited at least three men with reputations as able linguists. In Albany, New York, he talked with Luther Bradish, a diplomat, statesman, world traveler, and student of languages. In New York City he visited Dr. Samuel Mitchill, vice president of Rutgers Medical College. He also visited a man who knew several languages, including Hebrew and Babylonian. This was Professor Charles Anthon of Columbia College in New York City, who was perhaps the most qualified of Martin's contacts to judge the characters on the document. He was among the leading classical scholars of his day.**

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**Martin Harris's trip was significant for several reasons. First, it showed that scholars had an interest in the characters and were willing to give them serious consideration as long as an angel was not part of their story. Second, it was, in the view of Martin and Joseph, the direct fulfillment of prophecy relative to the Book of Mormon. Third, it was a demonstration that translating the record would require the assistance of God; intellect alone was insufficient (see Isaiah 29:11–12; 2 Nephi 27:15–20). Finally, it built up Martin's own faith. He returned home confident that he had evidence to convince his neighbors of Joseph Smith's work. He was now ready to wholeheartedly commit himself and his means to the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon.**

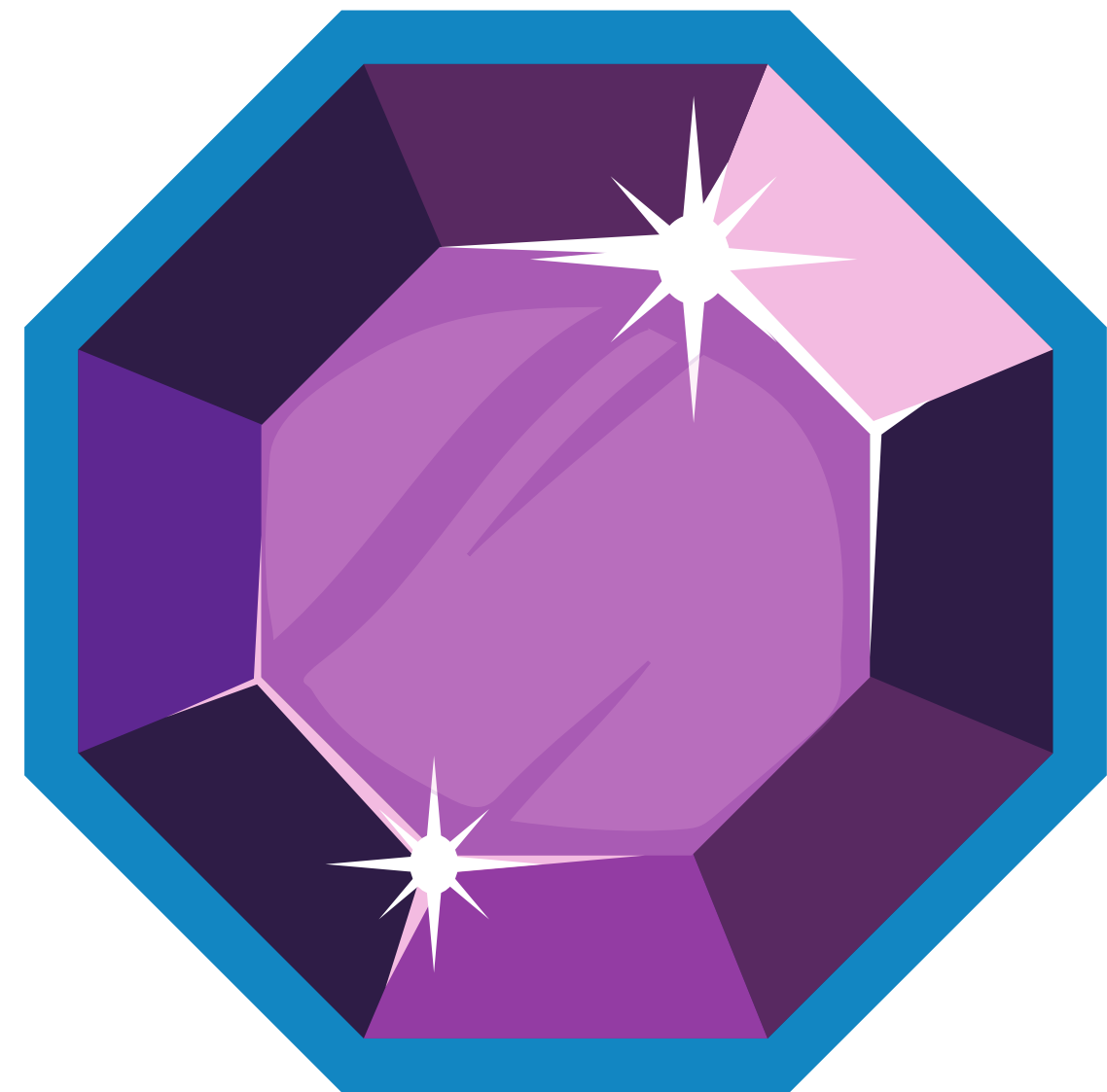
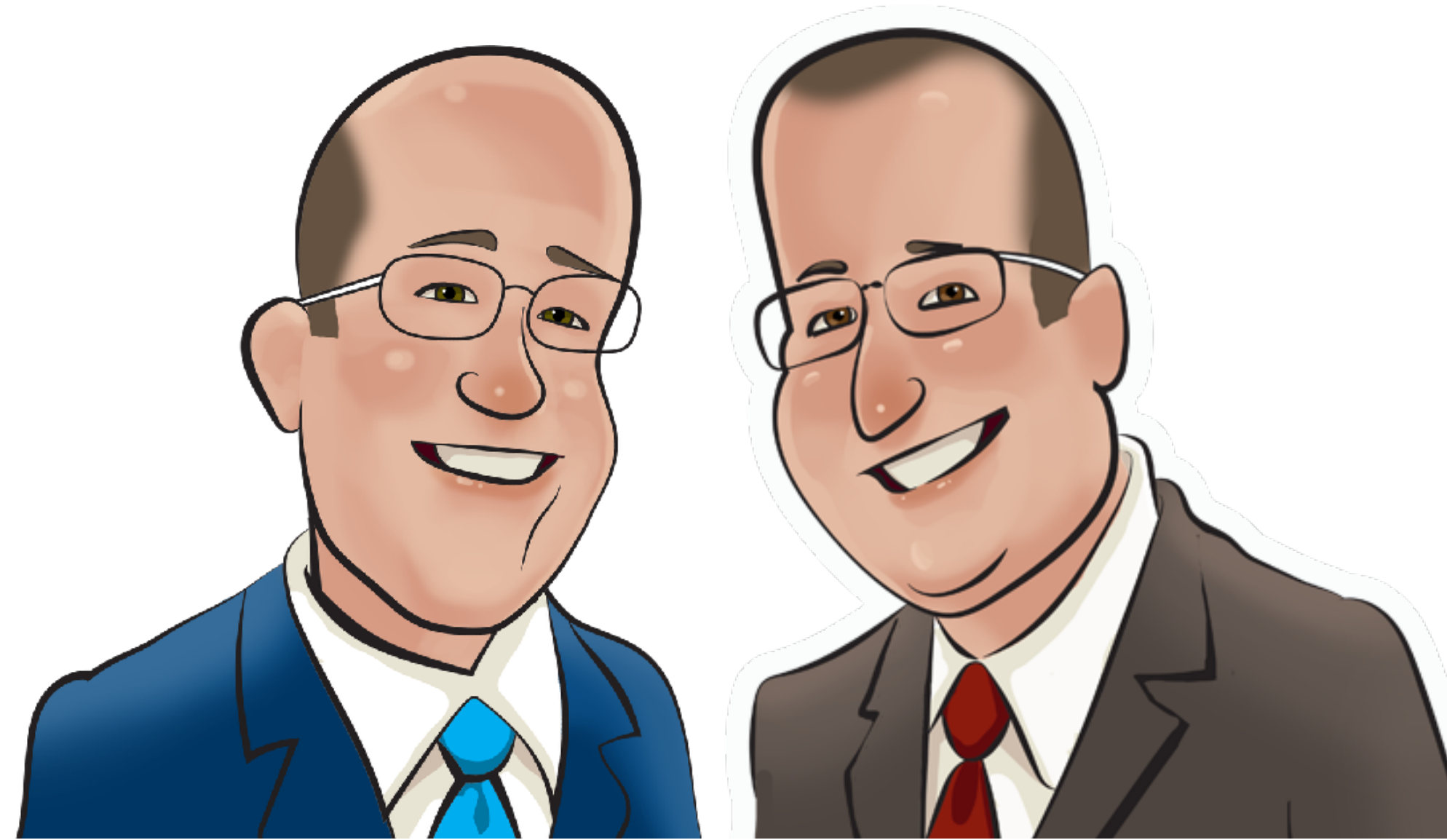


**“Be wise with what the Lord gives you. It is a trust. ...**

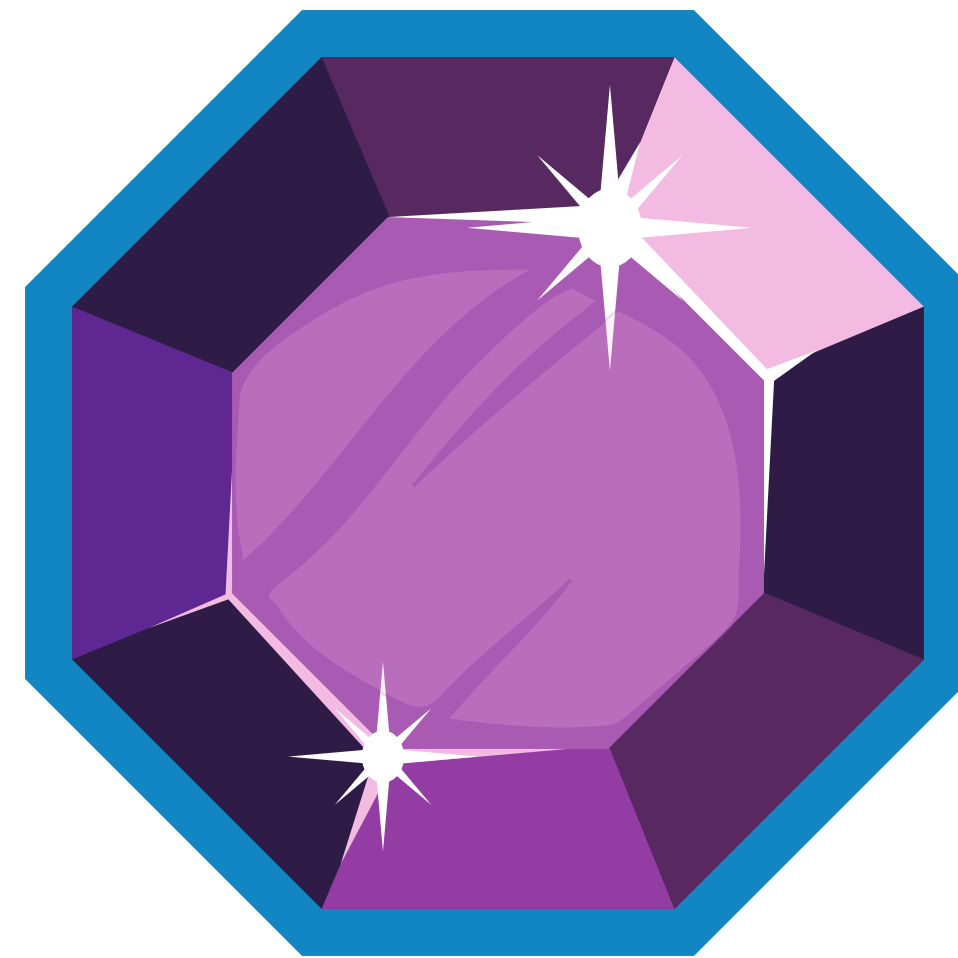
**“Rather than drifting into carelessness, may your life be one of increasing exactness in obedience. I hope you will think and feel and dress and act in ways that show reverence and respect for sacred things, sacred places, sacred occasions”**

*(Elder D. Todd Christofferson, “A Sense of the Sacred” [Church Educational System fireside for young adults, Nov. 7, 2004], 9, 10; [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu)).*





# Scripture GEMS



**Final music:**

**"Five Variants of 'Dives and Lazarus': 1st Movement" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arranged by Jon Fullmer**

**Violin: Becky Fullmer**

**Cello: David Affleck**

**Outro Audio Production: David Affleck**