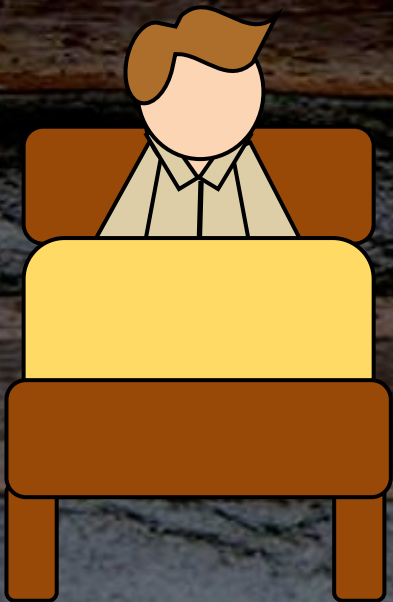




**Doctrine and Covenants 2
and
Joseph Smith History 1:27-65**



Joseph Prays For Forgiveness-

3 Years After First Vision

Sept. 21, 1823

Joseph suffers
persecution

What are some experiences Joseph Smith had as a youth that you can relate to?

According to the end of Joseph Smith—History 1:28 what did Joseph say about the temptations and errors he fell into?

He was not guilty of any great sins, but he sometimes felt that he did not act as one who had been called of God should act.

What did Joseph Smith do about the guilt he felt for his sins?

He prayed for forgiveness and asked to know of his standing before God.

**Guilty of Levity--
humor or frivolity,
especially the
treatment of a serious
matter with humor or
in a manner lacking
due respect.**



Joseph Smith—History 1:27-29

Joseph's Understanding

Malachi 4:1, 5-6



...turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers...

Isaiah 11:11-12



And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Acts 3:22-23



A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me...

Joel 2:28-29



...*that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh;...

Moroni

He was the son of Mormon around Ad 350 to AD421

He spent his last years protecting and adding to the ancient records given to him by his father, left alone for about 35 years. The civilizations he knew had been destroyed by their own doing

He buried them in a vault (stone) on the crest of the Hill Cumorah

He wrote the title page for the entire book (Book of Mormon)

He held the keys of restoring the divine message of hope and exaltation in the latter days

John the Revelator had a vision of him (Rev. 14:6-7)

His image can be found on the spires of the modern-day Temples of the Church

He was the angelic messenger who visited the young Joseph Smith for the first time on September 21, 1823

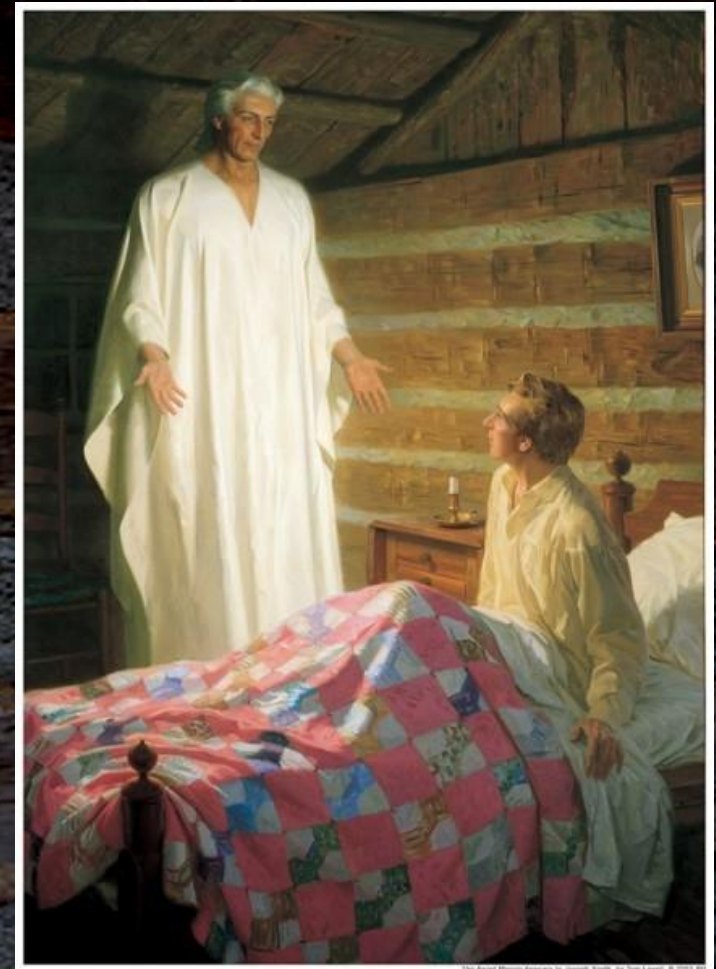


Angel Moroni

**His loose robe was exceedingly white
His whole person was glorious beyond description.
His countenance truly like lightning.**

**When I first looked upon him, I was afraid; but
the fear soon left me.**

**He called me by name and said unto me that he
was a messenger sent from the presence of God
to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God
had a work for me to do; and that my name
should be had for good and evil among all
nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should
be both good and evil spoken of among all
people.**



The Book

A Book of Gold Plates containing a history of former inhabitants of the land



There were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates;



and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted “seers” in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book.



The Seer Stone

A picture of a smooth, brown, egg-sized rock is shown in the printer's manuscript of the Book of Mormon following a news conference Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church History Library, in Salt Lake City. The Mormon church for the first time is publishing photos of a small sacred stone it believes founder Joseph Smith used to help translate the story that became the basis of the religion. The Mormon church is taking another step in its push to be more transparent and is releasing more historical documents that shed light on how Joseph Smith formed the religion.
(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

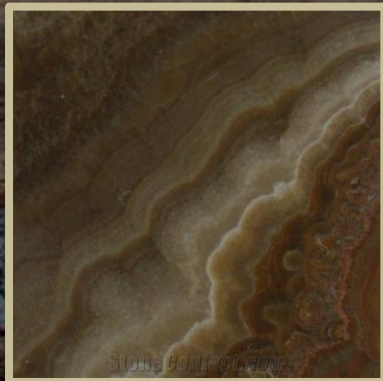


Urim and Thummim

Light and Protection

And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the **Urim and the Thummim**; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

An instrument prepared of God to assist man in obtaining revelation from the Lord and in translating languages.



The stone for the tribe of Joseph is an Onyx. It is described as a chocolate-colored oval shape. This stone passed from Joseph Smith to Oliver Cowdery and then to the Church through Brigham Young and others.

Seer Stone Belonging to Joseph Smith



Malachi

He was the last of the Old Testament prophets

The Book of Malachi was written around 430 BC

He lived in the Holy Land about 170 years after Lehi and his family left Jerusalem

His purpose was to call the people to repentance and to prepare for the Second Coming and judgments of the Lord

Because his words were not written in the Brass plates, Jesus had the Nephites write Malachi's words in their records

His words included the truths about the law of tithing and the sealing commission of Elijah

He prophesied of "a messenger" speaking of John the Baptist, to prepare the way for the Savior

Moroni also cited the words of Malachi to Joseph Smith concerning the prophet Elijah

He is included among the elect whom President Joseph F. Smith beheld during his vision of the work of salvation going on in the spirit world (D&C 138:46)



A Little Variation

*“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; for they that come shall burn them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”*

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”

Malachi 4:1



*And he shall **plant** in the hearts of the children **the 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.***

“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Malachi 4:6

Elijah

Meaning: Jehovah is my God

He was a Tishbite in a long line of extraordinary prophets

He commenced his ministry around 926 BC among the northern tribes of Israel

Peter, James, and John witnessed Elijah (Elias) and Moses at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-11)

He restored the keys of sealing power of the priesthood to Joseph Smith (D&C 110:13-16) in the Kirtland Temple on April 3, 1836

He taught the Doctrines of Salvation

He fasted 40 days and his successor Elisha received the priesthood power from him

He held the “keys of the power of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers...(D&C 27:9)



Isaiah

Isaiah played a profound role in the Book of Mormon. His words were upon the plates of brass obtained from Laban.

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and wrote in the period 740 BC to 701 BC at a time when Israel had incurred the anger of the Lord through pride and idolatry

Isaiah's language includes much symbolism, although he uses references of his own time with those of future times

The message from Isaiah is one of the mission of the Redeemer and the atoning power of the Father's plan of salvation

Isaiah's words are the bridge that unites the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Book of Mormon

Isaiah is quoted in the Book of Mormon more than any other prophet—



Isaiah and Acts

*The stem of Jesse (Christ) will judge in righteousness—The knowledge about God will cover the earth in the Millennium—The Lord will raise an ensign and gather Israel
Isaiah 11*



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.

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

Acts 3:22-23

That Prophet = Christ

Joseph Smith—History 1:40

Joel

The Lord will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.

There will be dreams and visions.

Wonders in Heaven and earth

Sun into darkness and moon into blood

The Coming of the Savior-- Millennium

This is not yet fulfilled

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.'

Joel 2 :32



Sending Angels



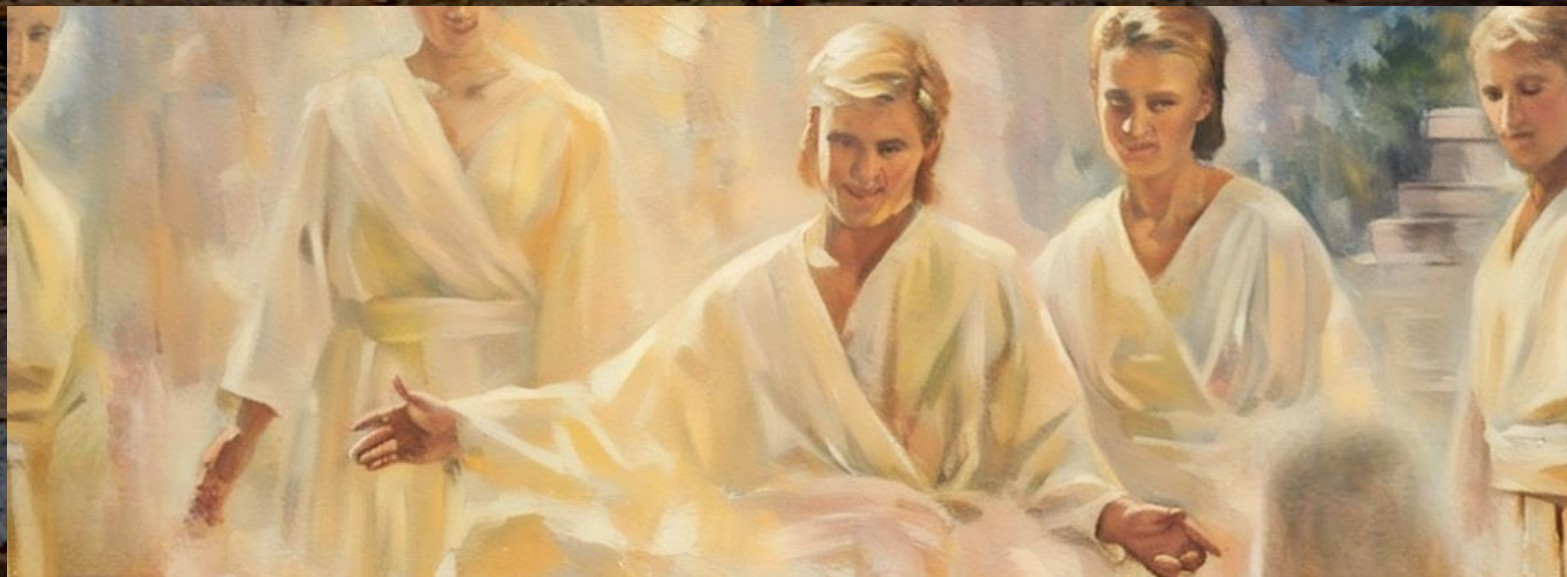
From the beginning down through the dispensations, God has used angels as His emissaries in conveying love and concern for His children. ...

I have spoken here of heavenly help, of angels dispatched to bless us in time of need.

But when we speak of those who are instruments in the hand of God, we are reminded that not all angels are from the other side of the veil.

Some of them we walk with and talk with—here, now, every day.

Jeffrey R. Holland



Conditions Given by Angel Moroni

Joseph should not show them to any person

Joseph should not show anyone the breastplate with the Urim and Thummin

If Joseph showed the plates to anyone the plates would be destroyed



Joseph had a clear vision of where the plates were



The Conduit

“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 ascended till he entirely disappeared, and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance.”



2 More Visits—Overwhelmed and Astonished



“After this third visit, he again ascended into heaven as before, and I was again left to 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..”



Joseph and His Father

Joseph obeyed Moroni's command and told his father about his experience the previous night.

His father believed him and counseled him to do what Moroni had told him to do.

Joseph went to the hill where the gold plates were buried.



“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 plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate, as 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.”

Joseph and His Father

“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 that time should come for obtaining the plates.”



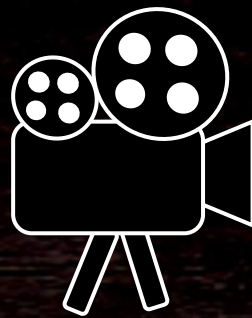
“Accordingly, as I had been commanded, I went at the end of each year, and at each time I found the same messenger there and received instruction and intelligence from him at each of our interviews, respecting what the Lord was going to do, and how and in what manner his kingdom was to be conducted in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



Sources:

Video:

Deciding How to Focus Repentance (0:39)



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

Who’s Who in the Book of Mormon by Ed. J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 46, 69-72,
116-117, 126-129

Presentation by ©<http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/>

Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Ministry of Angels,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 29–30

Urim and Thummim

Hebrew term that means “Lights and Perfections.” An instrument prepared of God to assist man in obtaining revelation from the Lord and in translating languages. See Ex. 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21; Deut. 33:8; 1 Sam. 28:6; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65; JS—H 1:35.

Using a Urim and Thummim is the special prerogative of a seer, and it would seem reasonable that such instruments were used from the time of Adam. However, the earliest mention is in connection with the brother of Jared (Ether 3:21–28). Abraham used a Urim and Thummim (Abr. 3:1–4), as did Aaron and the priests of Israel, and also the prophets among the Nephites (Omni 1:20–21; Mosiah 8:13–19; 21:26–28; 28:11–20; Ether 4:1–7).

There is more than one Urim and Thummim, but we are informed that Joseph Smith had the one used by the brother of Jared (Ether 3:22–28; D&C 10:1; 17:1).

(See *Seer*.) A partial description is given in JS—H 1:35. Joseph Smith used it in translating the Book of Mormon and in obtaining other revelations.

This earth in its celestial condition will be a Urim and Thummim, and many within that kingdom will have an additional Urim and Thummim (D&C 130:6–11).

Bible Dictionary



A Treasured Testament

BY ELDER RUSSELL M. NELSON JULY 1993



“Joseph Smith would put the seer stone into a hat, and put his face in the hat, drawing it closely around his face to exclude the light; and in the darkness the spiritual light would shine. A piece of something resembling parchment would appear, and on that appeared the writing. One character at a time would appear, and under it was the interpretation in English. Brother Joseph would read off the English to Oliver Cowdery, who was his principal scribe, and when it was written down and repeated to Brother Joseph to see if it was correct, then it would disappear, and another character with the interpretation would appear. Thus the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God, and not by any power of man.” (David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, Bingham, Utah, 1827, p. 18.)

SEER STONE

In Joseph Smith's day, some individuals claimed that they had a gift to "see," or receive divine or supernatural messages, through seer stones. These beliefs came from the Bible and from European cultural traditions brought to early America by immigrants. Joseph Smith and his family accepted these beliefs, and Joseph occasionally used stones he located in the ground to help neighbors find missing objects or search for buried treasure.

When Joseph Smith received the golden plates in 1827, he also received a translation instrument with them, "two stones in silver bows" used by "'seers' in ancient or former times" (Joseph Smith—History 1:35). This instrument was referred to in the Book of Mormon as the "interpreters."

During the translation of the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith apparently used both of these instruments—the interpreters and his seer stone—interchangeably. They worked in much the same way, and the early Saints sometimes used the term "Urim and Thummim" to refer to the seer stone as well as the interpreters. The Prophet also received several of the revelations found today in the Doctrine and Covenants by means of these instruments of revelation.³ As Joseph became more experienced in spiritual matters, he eventually started receiving revelation without these aids.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/seer-stones?lang=eng>

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Bible Dictionary.

<p>Group 1 Doctrine and Covenants 2:1—</p> <p>Who is Elijah?</p> <p>What priesthood power did Moroni say Elijah would restore?</p>	<p>Group 2 Doctrine and Covenants 2:2—</p> <p>Who are the fathers and the children referred to in this verse?</p>	<p>Group 3 Doctrine and Covenants 2:3—</p> <p>Why would the earth be utterly wasted if the sealing power had not been restored?</p>

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<p>Doctrine and Covenants 2:1— God would send Elijah to restore the sealing power to the earth before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Doctrine and Covenants 2:2— Our hearts can be turned to our ancestors, and we can perform ordinances for them in temples.</p>	<p>Doctrine and Covenants 2:3— Without the power to unite families for eternity, the earth would be destroyed at Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.</p>
<p>“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,” <i>Ensign or Liahona</i>, May 2005, 78).</p>	<p>In the prophecy that “he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers,” the phrase “the fathers” refers to “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to whom the promises were made. What are the promises? They are the promises of a continuation of the family unit in eternity” (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, <i>Millennial Messiah</i> [1982], 267). In the prophecy that “the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers,” the phrase “their fathers” refers to “our dead ancestors who died without the privilege of receiving the gospel, but who received the promise that the time would come when that privilege would be granted them. The children are those now living who are preparing genealogical data and who are performing the vicarious ordinances in the temples” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Doctrines of Salvation</i>, ed. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:127).</p>	<p>“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, <i>Doctrines of Salvation</i>, ed. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:122).</p>

JOSEPH SMITH HISTORY 1:55-65



WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN FIVE YEARS?

What things might change in your life in 5 years?

What things are you prepared for if something happens different than what you expected?



Joseph Smith –History 1:55-56

Joseph Smith's brother Alvin dies in 1823, and goes to Chenango County, NY and labors for a man named Josiah Stool (or Stowell) 1825



Original home of Josiah Stowell and now sits vacant. Josiah Stowell took Joseph as one of his hired hands to his farm where he was employed as a wool carder, farmer, and worker looking for a silver mine.

JOSEPH'S LIFE CHANGES

Joseph boarded with
Mr. Isaac Hales who
had a daughter,
Emma



Rendition of home where Emma grew up



EMMA HALE SMITH

She was born July 10, 1804 in Harmony, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, daughter of Isaac Hale and Elizabeth Lewis Hale

Her father did not consent for Joseph to marry her so they eloped and married in January 1827

She assisted as a scribe in the translation of the Book of Mormon

She was baptized on June 28, 1830 by Oliver Cowdery

She was instrumental in preparing a selection of hymns for the Church

She was given a revelation (D&C 25) outlining her role in the Restoration

She was the first President of the Relief Society in 1879

She and Joseph had 9 children—only 4 grew to maturity

Following the Martyrdom, she declined to go west with the Saints

She married Major Lewis Bidamon and died April 30, 1879 in Nauvoo, Illinois at the age of 74



LUCY MACK SMITH

“We were pleased with his choice and not only consented to his marrying her, but requested him to bring her home with him and live with us.”



RESPONSIBILITY AND PRESERVATION

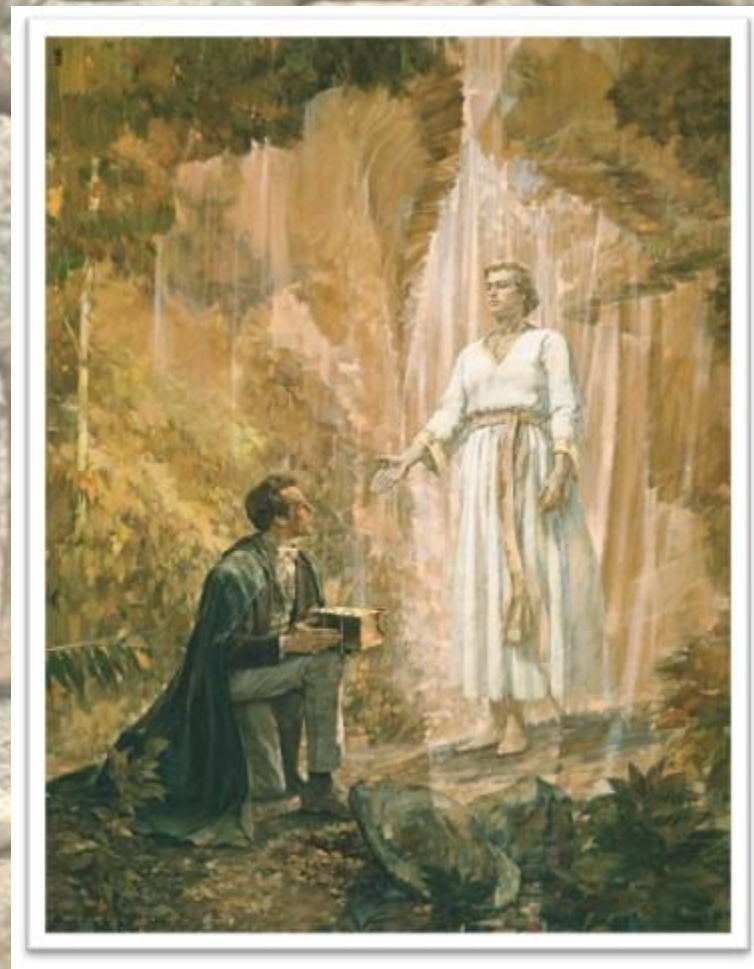
How would you treat something that was valuable?



Joseph was entrusted with something very valuable, to not let them go carelessly or neglect them

KEEPING THEM SAFE

“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.”



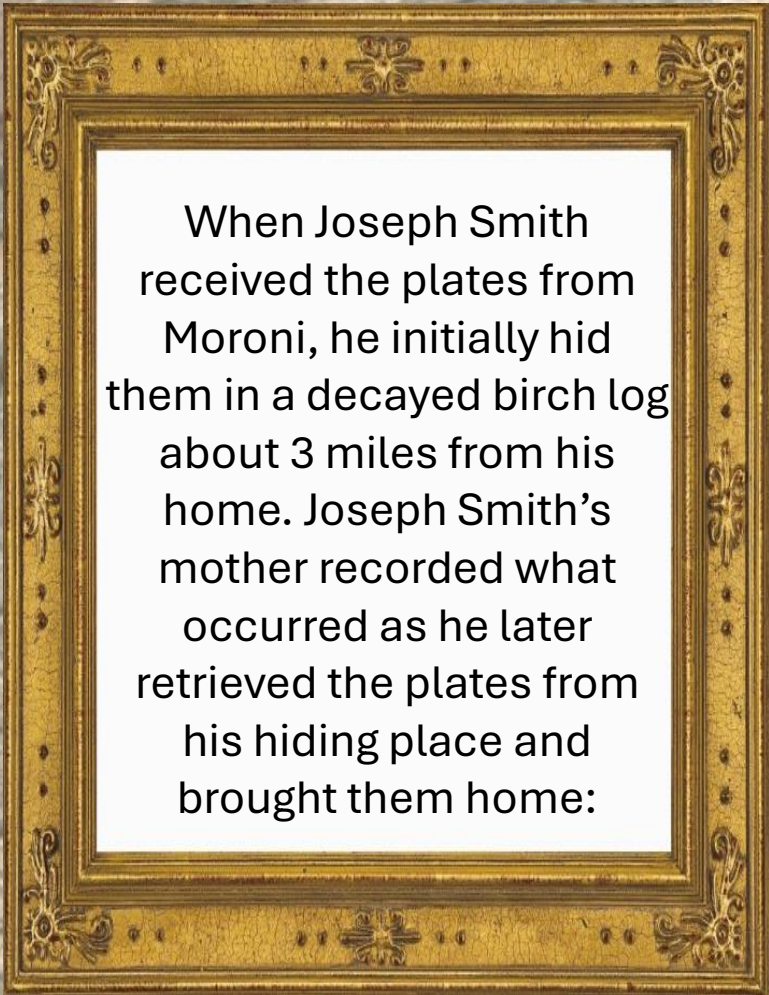
As we take responsibility for and preserve that which the Lord has given us, He will extend His protection and help.

KEEPING OUR SACRED OBLIGATIONS

*We are also responsible for
taking care of our covenants*



AN EXCERPT—LUCY MACK SMITH



When Joseph Smith received the plates from Moroni, he initially hid them in a decayed birch log about 3 miles from his home. Joseph Smith's mother recorded what occurred as he later retrieved the plates from his hiding place and brought them home:

“Joseph, on coming to them, took them from their secret place, and, wrapping them in his linen frock, placed them under his arm and started for home.

“After proceeding a short distance, he thought it would be more safe to leave the road and go through the woods. Traveling some distance after he left the road, he came to a large windfall, and as he was jumping over a log, a man sprang up from behind it and gave him a heavy blow with a gun. Joseph turned around and knocked him down, then ran at the top of his speed. About half a mile farther he was attacked again in the same manner as before; he knocked this man down in like manner as the former and ran on again; and before he reached home he was assaulted the third time. In striking the last one, he dislocated his thumb, which, however, he did not notice until he came within sight of the house, when he threw himself down in the corner of the fence in order to recover his breath. As soon as he was able, he arose and came to the house. He was still altogether speechless from fright and the fatigue of running”

Joseph Smith from Lucy Mack Smith

URIM AND THUMMIM

The Urim and Thummim was “an instrument prepared of God to assist man in obtaining revelation from the Lord and in translating languages” (Bible Dictionary, “Urim and Thummim”). Joseph Smith used the Urim and Thummim to aid in the translation of the Book of Mormon. In addition to the Urim and Thummim, the Prophet used a seer stone in the translation process.



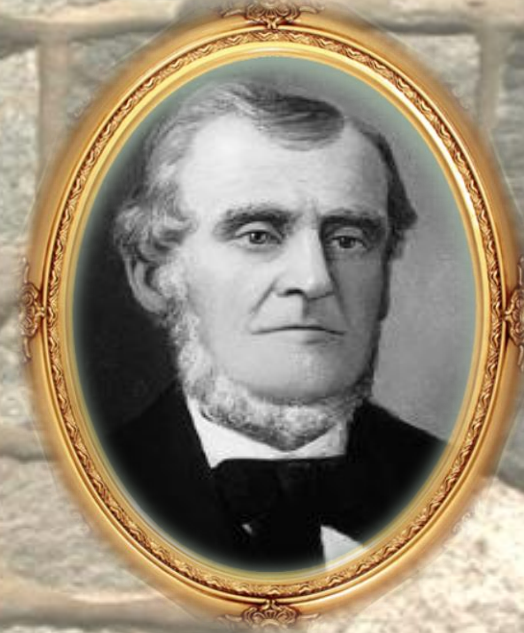
RESPECT FOR SACRED THINGS

“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



MARTIN HARRIS' JOURNEY

In 1828, Joseph Smith copied some of the characters onto a piece of paper. Martin Harris asked if he could present a copy of some of the characters from the plates to scholars in New York who had knowledge of ancient languages and civilizations. Several copies of the characters were made. It is unknown whether this was the actual copy that Martin Harris presented to the scholars.



TAKING THE WRITINGS TO A PROFESSOR

“I went to the city of New York, and presented the characters which had been translated, with the translation thereof, to Professor Charles Anthon, a gentleman celebrated for his literary attainments. Professor Anthon stated that the translation was correct, more so than any he had before seen translated from the Egyptian. I then showed him those which were not yet translated, and he said that they were Egyptian, Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic; and he said they were true characters. He gave me a certificate, certifying to the people of Palmyra that they were true characters, and that the translation of such of them as had been translated was also correct. I took the certificate and put it into my pocket, and was just leaving the house, when Mr. Anthon called me back, and asked me how the young man found out that there were gold plates in the place where he found them. I answered that an angel of God had revealed it unto him.”



TEARING THE TRANSLATION

“He then said to me, ‘Let me see that certificate.’ I accordingly took it out of my pocket and gave it to him, when he took it and tore it to pieces, saying that there was no such thing now as ministering of angels, and that if I would bring the plates to him he would translate them. I informed him that part of the plates were sealed, and that I was forbidden to bring them. He replied, ‘I cannot read a sealed book.’ I left him and went to Dr. Mitchell, who sanctioned what Professor Anthon had said respecting both the characters and the translation.”



Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell—1764-1831
Born in Long Island--manual

PRUDENT MEN SHALL BE HID

For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:

And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

Isaiah 29:10-12



**The prophecies of
the Lord's servants
will come to pass**

Sources:

Video:

A Marvelous Work and a Wonder (3:57)



Who's Who in the Doctrine and Covenants by Ed. J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 133-134

Emma Smith Art sketch –Chris White Photo Courtesy of RLDS Archives

Lucy Mack Smith, History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, ed. Preston Nibley [1958], 93).

Joseph Smith (in Lucy Mack Smith, History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, ed. Preston Nibley [1958], 108).

Elder D. Todd Christofferson (“A Sense of the Sacred” [Church Educational System fireside for young adults, Nov. 7, 2004], 9,

Manual on Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell-- Chapter Four: A Period Of Preparation, 1823–29 Church History In The Fulness Of Times Student Manual, (2003), 37–51

Joseph Smith—History 1:59–62. **“By means of the Urim and Thummim I translated”**

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said the following about the translation process and Joseph Smith’s use of the Urim and Thummim and the seer stone:

“The Prophet Joseph alone knew the full process, and he was deliberately reluctant to describe details. We take passing notice of the words of David Whitmer, Joseph Knight, and Martin Harris, who were observers, not translators. David Whitmer indicated that as the Prophet used the divine instrumentalities provided to help him, ‘the hieroglyphics would appear, and also the translation in the English language ... in bright luminous letters.’ Then Joseph would read the words to Oliver (quoted in James H. Hart, “About the Book of Mormon,” *Deseret Evening News*, 25 Mar. 1884, 2). Martin Harris related of the seer stone: ‘Sentences would appear and were read by the Prophet and written by Martin’ (quoted in Edward Stevenson, “One of the Three Witnesses: Incidents in the Life of Martin Harris,” *Latter-day Saints’ Millennial Star*, 6 Feb. 1882, 86–87). Joseph Knight made similar observations (see Dean Jessee, “Joseph Knight’s Recollection of Early Mormon History,” *BYU Studies* 17 [Autumn 1976]: 35).

“Oliver Cowdery is reported to have testified in court that the Urim and Thummim enabled Joseph ‘to read in English, the reformed Egyptian characters, which were engraved on the plates’ (“Mormonites,” *Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*, 9 Apr. 1831). If these reports are accurate, they suggest a process indicative of God’s having given Joseph ‘sight and power to translate’ (D&C 3:12).

“If by means of these divine instrumentalities the Prophet was seeing ancient words rendered in English and then dictating, he was not necessarily and constantly scrutinizing the characters on the plates—the usual translation process of going back and forth between pondering an ancient text and providing a modern rendering.

“The revelatory process apparently did not require the Prophet to become expert in the ancient language. ...

“Whatever the details of the process, it required Joseph’s intense, personal efforts along with the aid of the revelatory instruments. The process may have varied as Joseph’s capabilities grew, involving the Urim and Thummim but perhaps with less reliance upon such instrumentalities in the Prophet’s later work of translation. Elder Orson Pratt of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said Joseph Smith told him that he used the Urim and Thummim when he was inexperienced at translation but that later he did not need it, which was the case in Joseph’s translation of many verses of the Bible (see *Latter-day Saints’ Millennial Star*, 11 Aug. 1874, 498–99)” (“By the Gift and Power of God,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1997, 39).

Elder Neal A. Maxwell

“Many who read the Book of Mormon understandably desire to know more about its coming forth, including the actual process of translation. This was certainly so with faithful and loyal Hyrum Smith. Upon inquiring, Hyrum was told by the Prophet Joseph that ‘it was not intended to tell the world all the particulars of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon’ and that ‘it was not expedient for him to relate these things’ (*History of the Church*, 1:220). Thus what we do know about the actual coming forth of the Book of Mormon is adequate, but it is not comprehensive. ...

“Whatever the details of the process, it required Joseph’s intense, personal efforts along with the aid of the revelatory instruments. The process may have varied as Joseph’s capabilities grew, involving the Urim and Thummim but perhaps with less reliance upon such instrumentalities in the Prophet’s later work of translation. Elder Orson Pratt of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said Joseph Smith told him that he used the Urim and Thummim when he was inexperienced at translation but that later he did not need it, which was the case in Joseph’s translation of many verses of the Bible (see *Latter-day Saints’ Millennial Star*, 11 Aug. 1874, 498–99). ...

“Why do we not have more disclosure concerning the process of translation of the Book of Mormon? Perhaps the full process was not disclosed because we would not be ready to understand it, even if given. Perhaps, too, the Lord wanted to leave the Book of Mormon in the realm of faith, though it is drenched with intrinsic evidence. After all, Christ instructed Mormon, who was reviewing the Savior’s own teachings among the Nephites, not to record all of them on the plates because ‘I will try the faith of my people’ (3 Ne. 26:11). Perhaps the details of translation are withheld also because we are intended to immerse ourselves in the substance of the book rather than becoming unduly concerned with the process by which we received it” (“By the Gift and Power of God,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1997, 39, 41).

Joseph Smith—History 1:63–65. Who were the **scholars** Martin Harris visited?

Martin Harris visited at least three men who had 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 Mitchell, 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 among the leading classical scholars of his day. At the time of Martin Harris’s visit, Charles Anthon was adjunct professor of Greek and Latin. He knew French, German, Greek, and Latin and was familiar, if books in his library are evidence, with the latest discoveries pertaining to the Egyptian language, including the early work of Champollion.



Joseph said that he was married to Emma Hale on January 1827 "while I was yet employed in the service of Mr. Staal." (There are two known spellings of Josiah's last name, Stowell and Staal.) After Joseph and Emma were married, the newlyweds were taken by Josiah to Joseph's parents home in Manchester, New York, (the Smith Family Farm) where they stayed from January to December 1827.



Joseph and Emma lived in a small three room farm house on a 13 1/2 acre farm that they purchased from Emma's brother. The house burned down in 1918, but this sketch (below) was made from a photograph of the original home before it burned.

While living on this small farm Joseph translated most of the Book of Mormon, with Oliver Cowdery acting a scribe. Also, while they were living here Emma was asked to make a selection of sacred hymns which became the first hymn book for the Church.

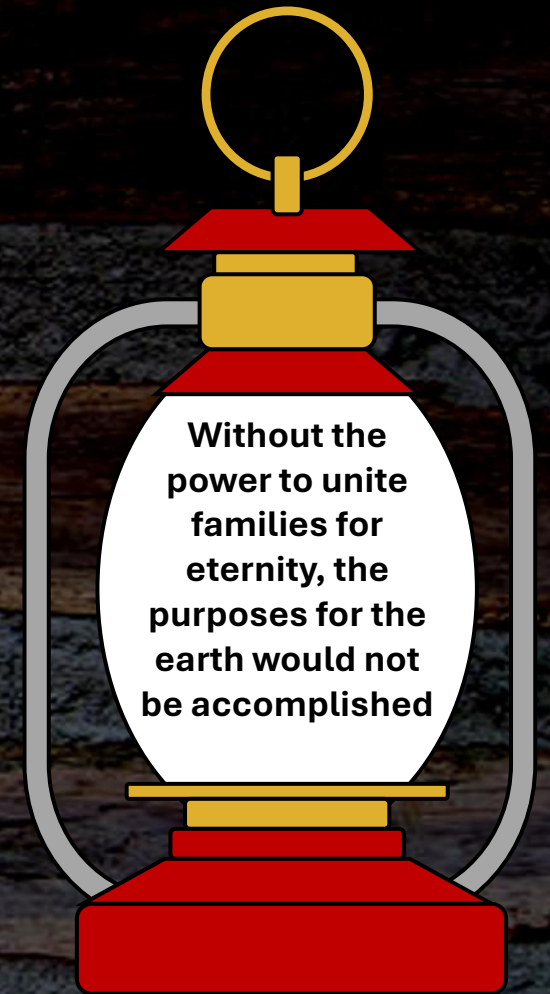
Emma's parents, Isaac and Elizabeth Hale, lived on a farm next to where Joseph and Emma settled. The sketch below is an artist's rendition of their home, the home where Emma grew up.

Joseph Smith—History 1:56. “Hence arose the very prevalent story of my having been a money-digger”

Since the early days of the Restoration, critics have attacked Joseph Smith's character because he was employed as a youth to dig for money. Critics labeled his efforts as “money-digging” or “treasure-seeking” in an effort to blot his character. Joseph Smith grew up in a time and culture in which treasure-seeking or digging for buried gold and silver was common and accepted. In his history, Joseph Smith explains that he and his family were hired to dig for silver (see Joseph Smith—History 1:56).

<http://wattspalmyramission.blogspot.com/2011/04/historic-harmony-susquehanna-river-lds.html>

Doctrine and Covenants 2



Turn the Hearts of the Children...

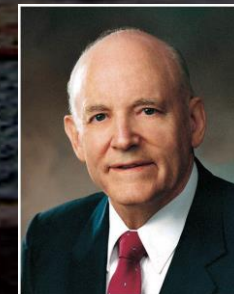
“Temple and family history work is one work divided into two parts. They are connected together like the ordinances of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Some members may not be able to do both works because of health or distances to temples.”

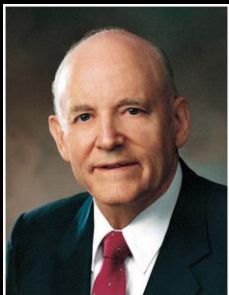
Elder Richard G. Scott



“We must accomplish the priesthood temple ordinance work necessary for our own exaltation; then we must do the necessary work for those who did not have the opportunity to accept the gospel in life. Doing work for others is accomplished in two steps: first, by family history research to ascertain our progenitors; and second, by performing the temple ordinances to give them the same opportunities afforded to the living.”

President Howard W. Hunter





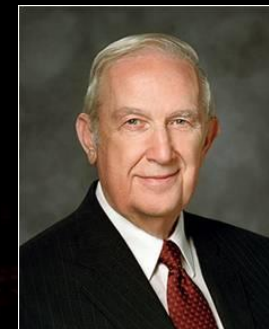
“There are many members of the Church who have only limited access to the temples. They do the best they can. They pursue family history research and have the temple ordinance work done by others. Conversely, there are some members who engage in temple work but fail to do family history research on their own family lines. Although they perform a divine service in assisting others, they lose a blessing by not seeking their own kindred dead as divinely directed by latter-day prophets. ...

“I have learned that those who engage in family history research and then perform the temple ordinance work for those whose names they have found will know the additional joy of receiving both halves of the blessing.”

President Howard W. Hunter



“Father in Heaven wants each of us to receive both parts of the blessing of this vital vicarious work. He has led others to show us how to qualify. It is up to you and me to claim those blessings.



“Any work you do in the temple is time well spent, but receiving ordinances vicariously for one of your own ancestors will make the time in the temple more sacred, and even greater blessings will be received. The First Presidency has declared, ‘Our preeminent obligation is to seek out and identify *our own* ancestors.’ [First Presidency letter, Feb. 29, 2012; emphasis added.]

“Do you young people want a sure way to eliminate the influence of the adversary in your life? Immerse yourself in searching for your ancestors, prepare their names for the sacred vicarious ordinances available in the temple, and then go to the temple to stand as proxy for them to receive the ordinances of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost.

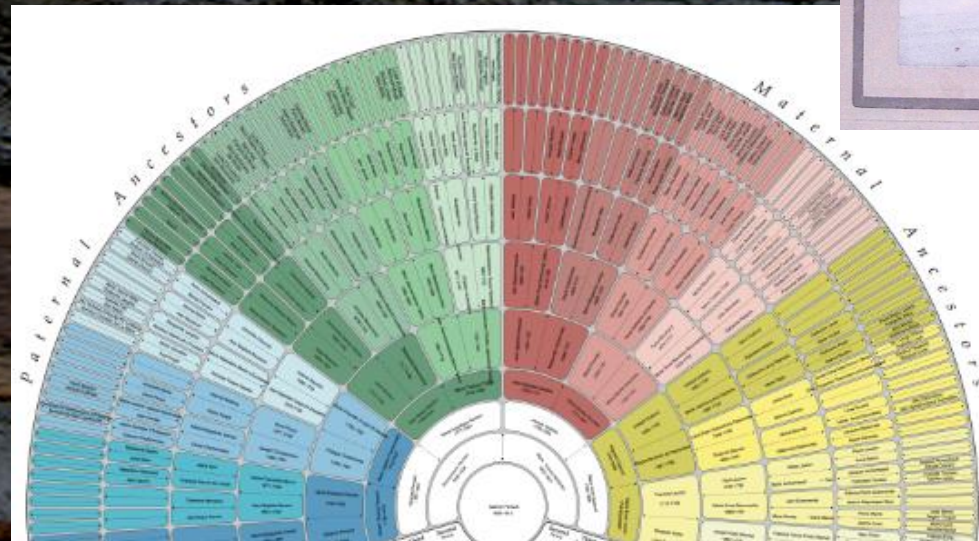
As you grow older, you will be able to participate in receiving the other ordinances as well. I can think of no greater protection from the influence of the adversary in your life.”

Elder Richard G. Scott



FamilySearch or Family Tree

- ❖ Explore your family tree and learn how you are connected to your ancestors.
- ❖ Upload family photographs, including the names of individuals in each image.
- ❖ Record favorite stories or memories about family members.
- ❖ Identify deceased family members who can receive temple ordinances.



If Elijah had not come we are led to believe that all the work of past ages would have been of little avail, for the Lord said the whole earth, under such conditions, would be utterly wasted at his coming. ...

If this sealing power were not on the earth, then confusion would reign and disorder would take place of order in that day when the Lord shall come, and, of course, this could not be, for all things are governed and controlled by perfect law in the kingdom of God.

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. Such a condition, of course, shall not be.
Joseph Fielding Smith



Sources:



Video:

“From the Head to the Heart” (2:56)

“Discover Your Family History: Discover Your Story” (2:42)

Elder Richard G. Scott (“The Joy of Redeeming the Dead,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 93).

President Howard W. Hunter (“A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, 4)

Joseph Fielding Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church* [2013], 219)