

# Moroni Appears to Joseph Smith in His Room

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Joseph Smith—History 1:27–47

*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.* Joseph Smith—History 1:33

After Joseph Smith received his First Vision, he told several people about it. Instead of believing him, most people made fun of him. Still, Joseph knew that he had been called of God. He was a fun-loving boy, however, and sometimes not very serious, so he felt he needed forgiveness. (See Joseph Smith—History 1:27–28.)

On the night of September 21, 1823, 17-year-old Joseph went to his bedroom and began to pray for forgiveness (see verse 29). As he prayed, a light appeared in his room, and “a personage appeared at [Joseph’s] bedside, standing in the air” (verse 30). This personage had on a very white, loose robe (see verse 31).

The messenger introduced himself as Moroni. He said God had sent him to tell Joseph of the work God had for him to do. (See verse 33.)

Moroni told Joseph about a book written on golden plates. This book was about people who had lived on the American continent many years before. Jesus visited these people after He was resurrected and taught them the gospel. Moroni also told Joseph about something called a Urim and Thummim. The Urim and Thummim was with the golden plates, and Joseph was to use it to translate the plates. (See verses 34–35.)

Moroni quoted Old Testament prophecies about events that would happen. He also quoted from

the New Testament. (See Joseph Smith—History 1:36–41.)

Moroni told Joseph that when he got the plates, he should show them only to those God chose to see them. While Moroni was speaking, Joseph saw in a vision the place where the golden plates were buried. (See verse 42.) When Moroni finished speaking, he rose toward heaven until he disappeared (see verse 43).

As Joseph thought about the things he had just seen and heard, Moroni returned and told Joseph the same things he had told him before. Then Moroni told Joseph of many problems that would come to the earth in the future. When Moroni finished, he went up into heaven again. (See verses 44–45.)

Joseph was so overwhelmed he could not sleep. Then, to his surprise, Moroni came a third time. Again Moroni repeated what he had told Joseph. He also warned Joseph that Satan would tempt him to use the golden plates to become rich, but that they should only be used to build God’s kingdom. (See verse 46.)

Again Moroni left. As Joseph pondered his unusual experience, he heard a rooster crow. Moroni’s visits had taken the entire night. (See verse 47.)

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## Summary

On the night of September 21, 1823, 17-year-old Joseph Smith was praying. An angel named Moroni appeared. Moroni told Joseph that God had a work for him and described a book written on golden plates. This book was a record of ancient people who had lived on the American continent, and it

contained the fulness of the gospel. Joseph was to translate this record. Moroni quoted some verses from the Bible and gave Joseph instructions. Moroni appeared to Joseph two more times that night, repeating the same message.

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