

Proclamation on Restoration

The Fullness of the Gospel

THE RESTORATION OF THE FULNESS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

A BICENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

We solemnly proclaim that God loves His children in every nation of the world. God the Father has given us the divine birth, the incomparable life, and the infinite atoning sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. By the power of the Father, Jesus rose again and gained the victory over death. He is our Savior, our Exemplar, and our Redeemer.

Two hundred years ago, on a beautiful spring morning in 1820, young Joseph Smith, seeking to know which church to join, went into the woods to pray near his home in upstate New York, USA. He had questions regarding the salvation of his soul and trusted that God would direct him.

In humility, we declare that in answer to his prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph and inaugurated the "restitution of all things" (Acts 3:21) as foretold in the Bible. In this vision, he learned that following the death of the original Apostles, Christ's New Testament Church was lost from the earth. Joseph would be instrumental in its return.

We affirm that under the direction of the Father and the Son, heavenly messengers came to instruct Joseph and re-establish the Church of Jesus Christ. The resurrected John the Baptist restored the authority to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins. Three of the original twelve Apostles—Peter, James, and John—restored the apostleship and keys of priesthood authority. Others came as well, including Elijah, who restored the authority to join families together forever in eternal relationships that transcend death.

We further witness that Joseph Smith was given the gift and power of God to translate an ancient record: the Book of Mormon—Another Testament of Jesus Christ. Pages of this sacred text include an account of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ among people in

the Western Hemisphere soon after His Resurrection. It teaches of life's purpose and explains the doctrine of Christ, which is central to that purpose. As a companion scripture to the Bible, the Book of Mormon testifies that all human beings are sons and daughters of a loving Father in Heaven, that He has a divine plan for our lives, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, speaks today as well as in days of old.

We declare that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, organized on April 6, 1830, is Christ's New Testament Church restored. This Church is anchored in the perfect life of its chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ, and in His infinite Atonement and literal Resurrection. Jesus Christ has once again called Apostles and has given them priesthood authority. He invites all of us to come unto Him and His Church, to receive the Holy Ghost, the ordinances of salvation, and to gain enduring joy.

Two hundred years have now elapsed since this Restoration was initiated by God the Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Millions throughout the world have embraced a knowledge of these prophesied events.

We gladly declare that the promised Restoration goes forward through continuing revelation. The earth will never again be the same, as God will "gather together in one all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10).

With reverence and gratitude, we as His Apostles invite all to know—as we do—that the heavens are open. We affirm that God is making known His will for His beloved sons and daughters. We testify that those who prayerfully study the message of the Restoration and act in faith will be blessed to gain their own witness of its divinity and of its purpose to prepare the world for the promised Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

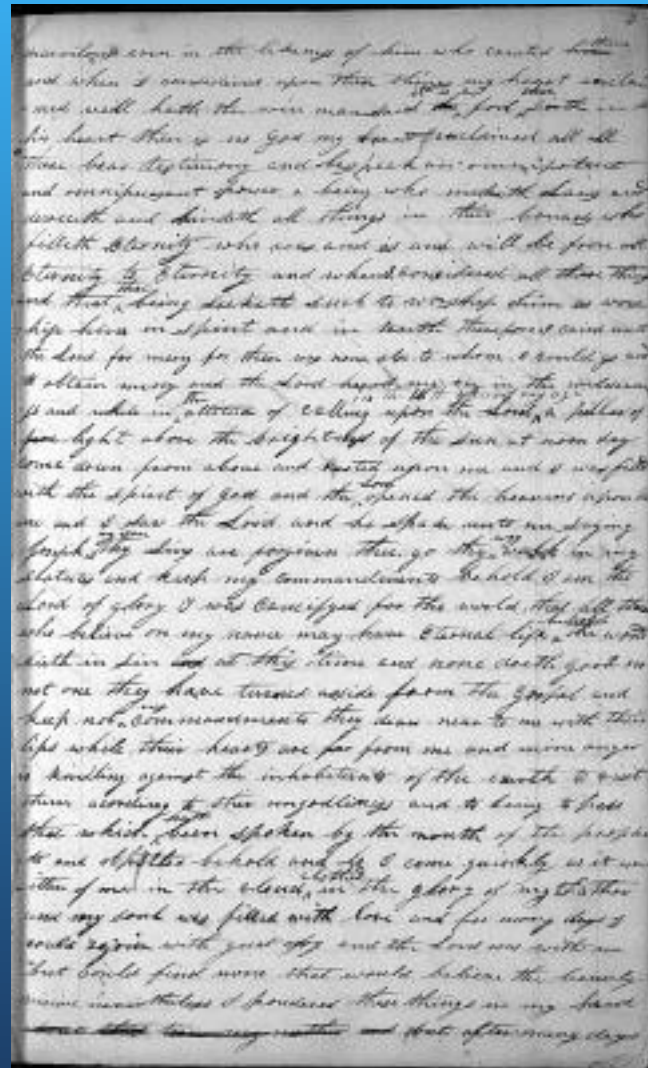
This proclamation was read by President Russell M. Nelson as part of his message at the 190th Annual General Conference, April 5, 2020, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

We solemnly proclaim that God loves His children in every nation of the world. God the Father has given us the divine birth, the incomparable life, and the infinite atoning sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. By the power of the Father, Jesus rose again and gained the victory over death. He is our Savior, our Exemplar, and our Redeemer.

Two hundred years ago, on a beautiful spring morning in 1820, young Joseph Smith, seeking to know which church to join, went into the woods to pray near his home in upstate New York, USA. He had questions regarding the salvation of his soul and trusted that God would direct him.

Proclamation on the Restoration.

Joseph Smith's Handwritten Account: 1832



1832 Account

and when I considered upon these things my heart exclaimed well hath the wise man said the <it is a> fool <that> saith in his heart there is no God my heart exclaimed all all these bear testimony and bespeak an omnipotent and omnipresent power a being who maketh Laws and decreeth and bindeth all things in their bounds who filleth Eternity who was and is and will be from all Eternity to Eternity and when <I> considered all these things and that <that> being seeketh such to worship him as worship him in spirit and in truth therefore I cried unto the Lord for mercy for there was none else to whom I could go and to obtain mercy and the Lord heard my cry in the wilderness

1832 Account, continued

and while in <the> attitude of calling upon the Lord <in the 16th year of my age> a pillar of fire light above the brightness of the sun at noon day come down from above and rested upon me and I was filled with the spirit of god and the <Lord> opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord¹⁶ and he spake unto me saying Joseph <my son> thy sins are forgiven thee. go thy <way> walk in my statutes and keep my commandments behold I am the Lord of glory I was crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have Eternal life <behold> the world lieth in sin and at this time and none doeth good no not one they have turned asside from the gospel and keep not <my> commandments they draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me

1832 Account, transcription

and mine anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth to visit them according to their ungodliness and to bring to pass that which <hath> been spoken by the mouth of the prophets and Ap[o]stles¹⁷ behold and lo I come quickly as it [is?] written of me in the cloud <clothed> in the glory of my Father and my soul was filled with love and for many days I could rejoice with great Joy and the Lord was with me but could find none that would believe the heavenly vision nevertheless I pondered these things in my heart¹

November 1835 to a visitor in Kirtland

and looked around, but saw no person or thing that was calculated to produce the noise of walking, I kneeled again my mouth was opened and my tounge liberated, and I called on the Lord in mighty prayer, a pillar of fire appeared above my head, it presently rested down upon my <me> head, and filled me with joy unspeakable, a personage appeared in the midst, of this pillar of flame which was spread all around, and yet nothing consumed, another personage soon appeared like unto the first, he said unto me thy sins are forgiven thee, he testified unto me that Jesus Christ is the son of God;70 <and I saw many angels in this vision> I was about 14. years old when I received this first communication; When I was about 17 years old I saw another vision of angels,

November 1835 to a visitor in Kirtland

and looked around, but saw no person or thing that was calculated to produce the noise of walking, I kneeled again my mouth was opened and my tongue liberated, and I called on the Lord in mighty prayer, a pillar of fire appeared above my head, it presently rested down upon my <me> head, and filled me with joy unspeakable, a personage appeared in the midst, of this pillar of flame which was spread all around, and yet nothing consumed, another personage soon appeared like unto the first, he said unto me thy sins are forgiven thee, he testified unto me that Jesus Christ is the son of God;70 <and I saw many angels in this vision> I was about 14. years old when I received this first communication; When I was about 17 years old I saw another vision of angels,

We further witness that Joseph Smith was given the gift and power of God to translate an ancient record: the Book of Mormon—Another Testament of Jesus Christ. Pages of this sacred text include an account of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ among people in the Western Hemisphere soon after His Resurrection. It teaches of life's purpose and explains the doctrine of Christ, which is central to that purpose. As a companion scripture to the Bible, the Book of Mormon testifies that all human beings are sons and daughters of a loving Father in Heaven, that He has a divine plan for our lives, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, speaks today as well as in days of old.

Proclamation on the Restitution.

1st
Joseph Knight Sr. Reminiscence

from thence he went to the hill where he was informed the Record was
and found it was in a place he was acquainted
with the plan it was so plain in the vision that he had of the place
he went and found the place and opened it and found a plane box
he uncovered it and found the book and took it out and laid down by
his side and that he would cover the ~~place~~ again then thinking there
might be something else here but he was told to take the book and
go right a way and after he had covered the place he turned round
to take the book and it was not there and he was astonished that the book
was gone he that he would look in the place again and as if it had not
got back again he had heard people tell of such things and he
opened the box and behold the book was ~~there~~ there he took hold of
it to take it out again and behold he could not stir the book any
more then he said the mountain he exclaimed why cant I stir
this book and he was answered you have not Jane with you should
have took the book and a gone right away you cant have it now
Joseph says when Sam^l gave it the answer was the 22nd day of September
next if you bring the right person with you Joseph says who is
the right person the answer was your oldest Brother But before
September came his oldest Brother died then he was disappointed
and did not know what to do But when the 22nd day of September
came he went to the place and the personage appeared and told
him he could not have it now But the 22nd day of September
next he will have the book if he goes with him the right
person Joseph says who is the right person the answer was you
will know then he looked in his glass and found it was Emma
Hale thought as of old the girl of Kinsplaining a girl
that he had seen before for he had bin down there before
with me

He instructed Joseph to purify his heart and strengthen his mind to receive the record. “If ever these sacred things are obtained they must be by prayer and faithfulness in obeying the Lord,” Moroni explained. “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.”²²

Joseph asked when he could have the plates.

“The twenty-second day of September next,” Moroni said, “if you bring the right person with you.”

“Who is the right person?” Joseph asked.

“Your oldest brother.”

Standard of Truth, p. 26-27.

Ever

He died a short time later, and sorrow settled over the house. At the funeral, a preacher all but said Alvin had gone to hell, using his death to warn others of what would happen unless God intervened to save them. Joseph Sr. was furious. His son had been a good young man, and he could not believe that God would damn him.²⁸

With Alvin gone, talk of the plates ended. He had been such a staunch supporter of Joseph's divine call that any mention of them brought his death to mind. The family could not bear it.

Standard of Truth, p. 29.

A year later:

“You must take them into your hands and go straight to the house without delay,” the angel had said, “and lock them up.”³⁰

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.

Standard of Truth, p. 29.

h.....

In September 1826, Joseph returned to the hill for the plates, but Moroni said he was still not ready for them. “Quit the company of the money diggers,” the angel told him. There were wicked men among them.⁹ Moroni gave him one more year to align his will with God’s. If he did not, the plates would never be entrusted to him.

The angel also told him to bring someone with him next time. It was the same request he had made at the end of Joseph’s first visit to the hill. But since Alvin was dead, Joseph was confused.

“Who is the right person?” he asked.

“You will know,” Moroni said.

Joseph sought the Lord’s direction through his seer stone. The right person, he learned, was Emma.

Standard of Truth, p. 34.

A short time later, Joseph and Emma came into the house. Lucy looked to see if Joseph had the plates but left the room trembling when she saw his empty hands.

Joseph followed her. “Mother,” he said, “do not be uneasy.” He handed her an object wrapped in a handkerchief. Through the fabric, Lucy felt what seemed to be a large pair of spectacles. They were the Urim and Thummim, the seer stones the Lord had prepared for translating the plates.

Standard of Truth, p. 38.

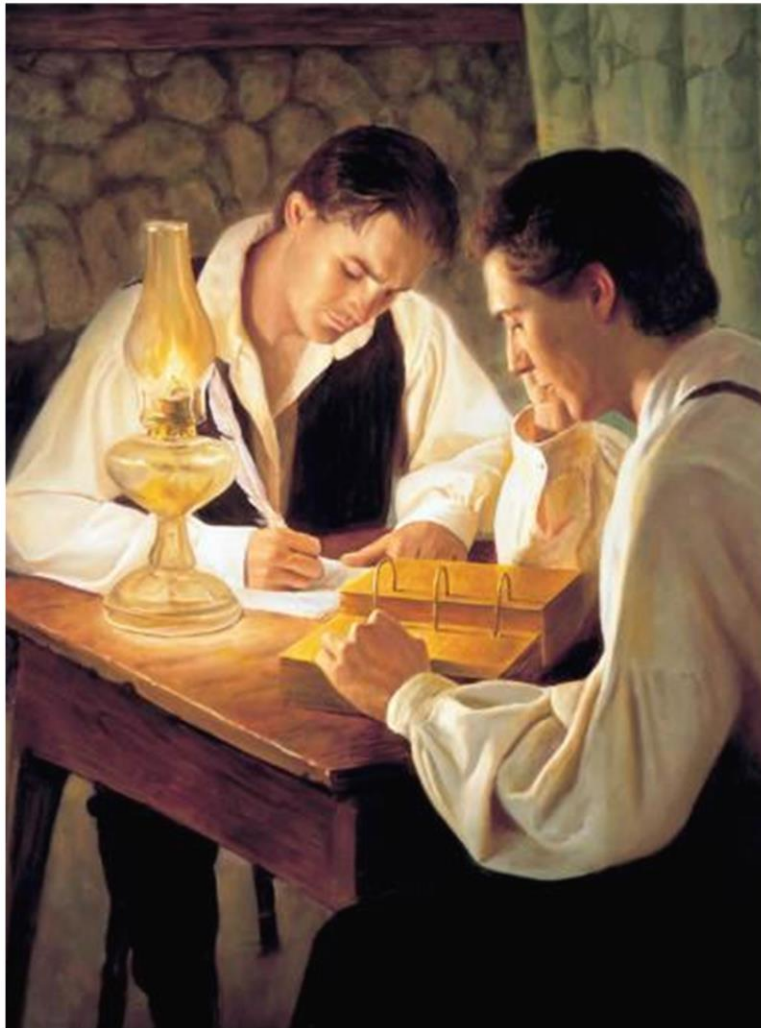
Lucy was elated. Joseph looked as if a great weight had been lifted off his shoulders. But when he joined the others in the house, he made a sad face and ate his breakfast in silence. After he finished, he leaned his head forlornly on his hand. “I am disappointed,” he said to Joseph Knight.

“Well,” the older man said, “I am sorry.”

“I am greatly disappointed,” Joseph repeated, his expression changing to a smile. “It is ten times better than I expected!” He went on to describe the size and weight of the plates and talked excitedly about the Urim and Thummim.

“I can see anything,” he said. “They are marvelous.”²⁷

Standard of Truth, p. 39.





Q. *What is the truth of Mormonism?*

A. I know Mormonism to be the truth; and believe the church to have been established by divine direction. I have complete faith in it. In writing for your father I frequently wrote day after day, often sitting at the table close by him, he sitting with his face buried in his hat, with the stone in it, and dictating hour after hour with nothing between us.

Q. *Had he not a book or manuscript from which he read, or dictated to you?*

A. He had neither manuscript or book to read from.

Q. *Could he not have had, and you not know it?*

A. If he had anything of the kind he could not have concealed it from me.

—Emma Smith, 1879



Q. *Are you sure that he had the plates at the time you were writing for him?*

A. The plates often lay on the table without any attempt at concealment, wrapped in a small linen table cloth, which I had given him to fold them in. I once felt of the plates, as they thus lay on the table, tracing their outline and shape. They seemed to be pliable like thick paper, and would rustle with a metallic sound when the edges were moved by the thumb.

—*Emma Smith, 1879*

Events Surrounding the Translation of the Book of Mormon, 1827–1828

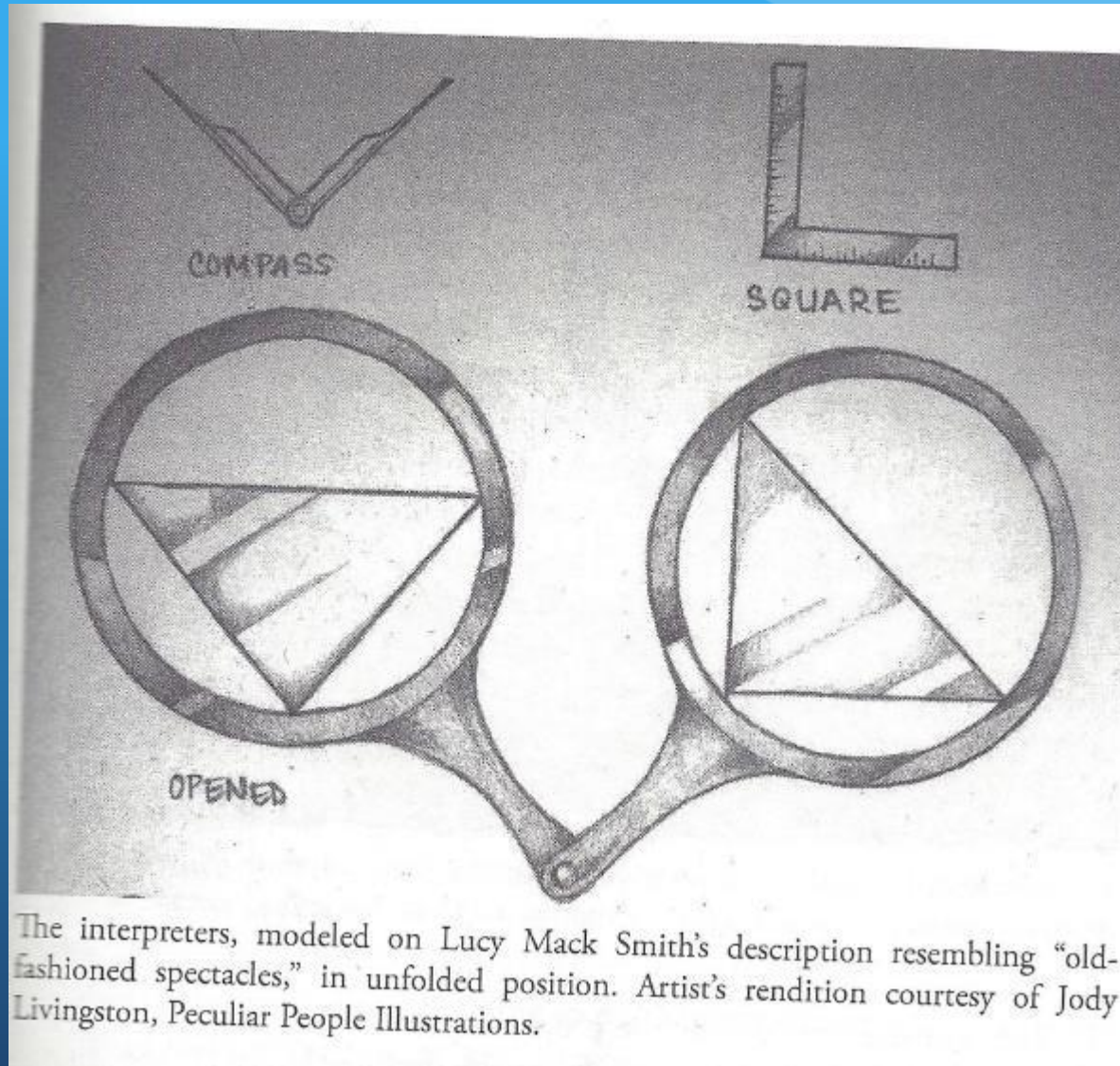
1827	Sept.	Joseph obtains the plates from the angel Moroni
	Oct.	
	Nov.	
	Dec.	
1828	Jan.	Joseph and Emma move to Harmony, Pennsylvania
	Feb.	Joseph translates some characters from the plates Martin Harris takes sample of characters and Joseph's accompanying translation to Charles Anthon
	Mar.	
	Apr.	Book of Lehi translated (April 12–June 14)
	May	
	June	Joseph and Emma's first child is born and dies Martin Harris loses 116 pages
	July	Joseph travels to Manchester, New York Interpreters and plates are taken away from Joseph
	Aug.	
	Sept.	Joseph reobtains interpreters and plates
	Oct.	
	Nov.	
	Dec.	David Whitmer makes business trip to Palmyra, where he meets Oliver Cowdery

The initial scribes for the lost manuscript

- Emma Smith
- Alva Hale (Emma's older brother)
- Reuben Hale (Emma's younger brother)
- Samuel Smith (Joseph's younger brother)
- Martin Harris until about June 14, 1828

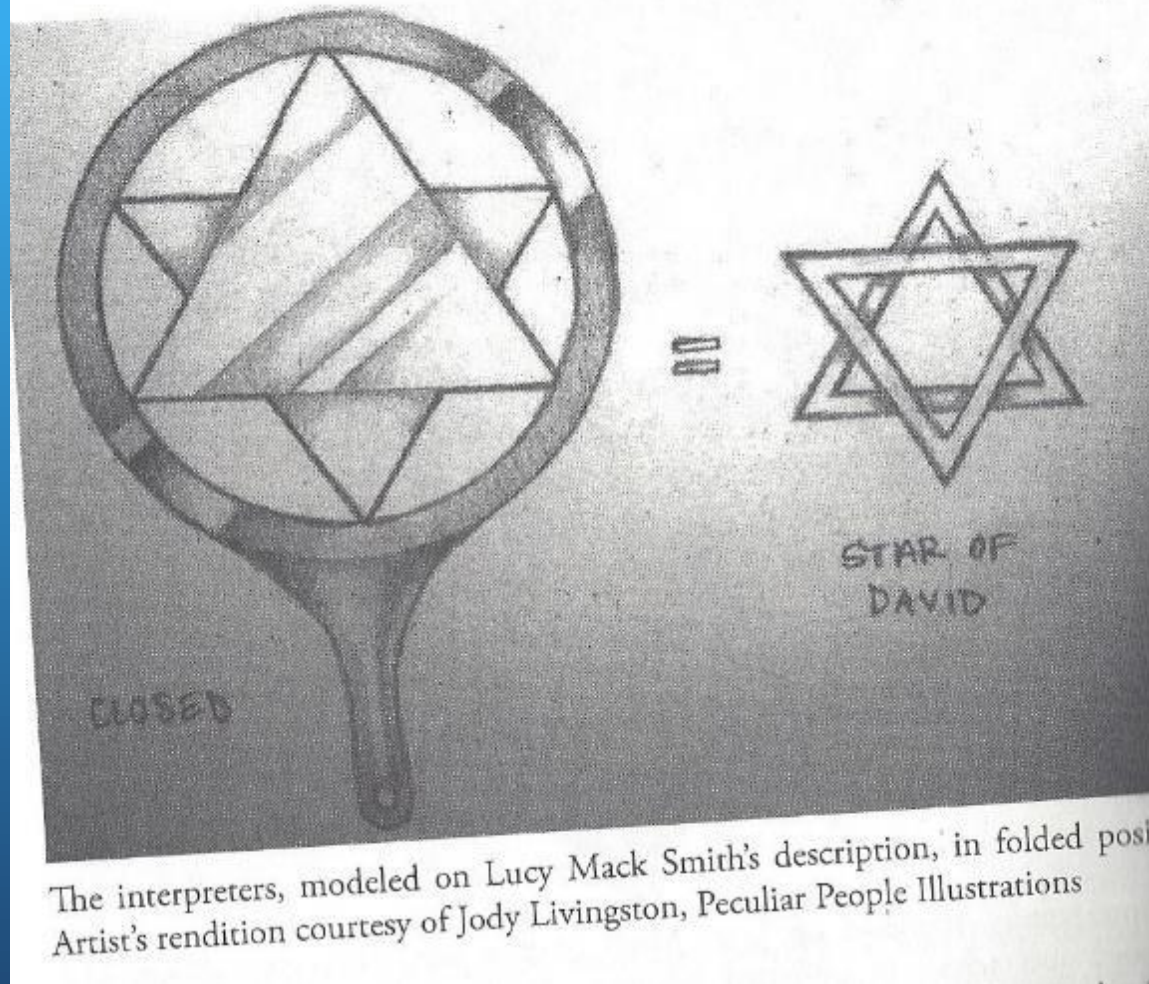
What were the Interpreters?

- Lucy Mack Smith saw and handled through thin cloth
- Lucy heard Joseph describe them
- “‘keys’ of triangular shape—‘three cornered diamonds’”.
- “set in curved frames”
- “‘connected with each other in much the same way, as old-fashioned spectacles’”
 - Don Bradley, *The Lost 116 Pages*” (2019) pp. 45-53.



The interpreters, modeled on Lucy Mack Smith's description resembling "old-fashioned spectacles," in unfolded position. Artist's rendition courtesy of Jody Livingston, Peculiar People Illustrations.

The Lost 116 Pages



The interpreters, modeled on Lucy Mack Smith's description, in folded position
Artist's rendition courtesy of Jody Livingston, Peculiar People Illustrations

Old Fashioned Spectacles



Late May 1829 Oliver Cowdery
begins to act as scribe.

Seer Stone





Copyright © 2014 Anthony Sweat

Sweat
2014

Proclamation on Restoration

We affirm that under the direction of the Father and the Son, heavenly messengers came to instruct Joseph and re-establish the Church of Jesus Christ. The resurrected John the Baptist restored the authority to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins. Three of the original twelve Apostles—Peter, James, and John—restored the apostleship and keys of priesthood authority. Others came as well, including Elijah, who restored the authority to join families together forever in eternal relationships that transcend death.

On April 6, 1830, Joseph and Oliver met in the Whitmer home to follow the Lord's commandment and organize His church. To fulfill the requirements of the law, they chose six people to become the first members of the new church. Around forty women and men also crowded into and around the small home to witness the occasion.²¹

Standard of Truth, p. 85

Organization of Church, April 6, 1830

Dear brethren, and your confederates, as far as we have opportunity, and time, have to our brethren, that we had received a commandment to organize the church. And accordingly we met together for that purpose, at the house of the late Mr. [unclear] in [unclear] on Tuesday the sixth day of April. At that time, eight hundred and thirty.

Having done the meeting by solemn prayer to our Heavenly Father we proceeded, (according to former commandment) to call on our brethren to know whether they accepted or not of the things of the Kingdom of God. And when they were satisfied that we should proceed, and be organized, as a church according to said commandment, which we had received. To this they consented by an unanimous vote. I then laid my hands upon Oliver Cowdery and advised him an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, after which he advised me also to the office of an Elder of said Church. We then both bowed, clasped it, and broke it with them, also Oliver clasped it, and drank it with them. He then laid his hands on each individual member of the Church present that they might receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and be baptized members of the Church of Christ. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us to a very great degree. Hallelujah, hallelujah, while we all praised the Lord and repeated some hymns.

While yet together I received the following commandment:

Revelation to Joseph Smith, Jr., Given at Haysville, Mo. N. Y., April 6th 1830.

1. Behold, thou shalt be a record kept among men, and in it thou shalt be called a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apothecary Jesus Christ, an Elder of the Church, through the will of the Father, and the grace of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's being inspired of the Holy Ghost to lay the foundation thereof, and to build it up unto the most holy father, which church was organized and established, in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and thirty, in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month, which is called April.

2. Wherefore, receiving the church, thou shalt give heed unto our his words, and commandments, which he shall give unto you, as he cometh unto you, whether by an angel before you, or by his word ye shall receive, as if from heaven come mouth, voice, presence and power, for by doing these things, the Father of all shall not be deceived against you: yea, and the Lord God will be from the presence of death, up from before you, and since the resurrection shall be for you a work, and his name shall glorify in the name of the Lord God. Therefore have I inspired to receive the church of you in mighty power for your good, and his name shall be glorified and his kingdom shall be established.

History, 1838-1856, volume A-1 [23 December 1805-30 August 1834], Handwriting James Mulholland

Having opened the meeting by solemn prayer to our Heavenly Father we proceeded, (according to previous commandment) to call on our brethren to know whether they accepted us as their teachers in the things of the Kingdom of God, and whether they were satisfied that we should proceed and be organized as a Church according to said commandment which we had received. To these they consented by an unanimous vote. I then laid my hands upon Oliver Cowdery and ordained him an Elder of the [HC 1:77] “Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.” after which he ordained me also to the office of an Elder of said Church. We then took bread, blessed it, and brake it with them, also wine, blessed it, and drank it with them. We then laid our hands on each individual member of the Church present that they might receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and be confirmed members of the Church of Christ. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us to a very great degree. Some prophesied, whilst we all praised the Lord and rejoiced exceedingly. Whilst yet together I received the following commandment.

power to the West. Right after coming from prayer the
following vision was granted to both of them.
The Lord said unto them, from this evening and the
evening of this understanding were given. They saw the
Lord standing upon the breast work of the pulpit
before them, and under his feet was a sphere of
of pure gold, in color like amber; his eyes were
as a flame of fire, the hair of his head was
like the pure silver, his countenance shone as
the brightness of the sun, and his voice was
as the sound of the rushing of great waters,
even the voice of Lokmeh, saying, I am the
first and the last, I am in the likeness of a man,
I am slain, I am your Advocate with the
Father. Behold your sins are forgiven you, you
are clean before me. Therefore lift up your heads
and rejoice, let the hearts of your brethren rejoice
and let the hearts of all my ~~children~~ ^{people} rejoice, who
have with their sins, built this house to my name.
For behold I have accepted this house and your
name shall be here, and I will manifest
myself to my people, in bearing in this house.
For I will appear unto you, and speak
unto them with mine own voice, if my
people will keep my commandments and
do not pollute the holy house, for the hearts of
thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice
in consequence of the blessing which shall be put
upon it, and the covenant with which my
servants have already been entered, and shall
hereafter be entered in the house, and the gates
of this house shall be shut to foreign lands, and
this is the beginning of the blessing, which shall

Elijah Restores Keys

After Elias departed, Joseph and Oliver had another glorious vision. They saw Elijah, the Old Testament prophet who ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire.

“The time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi,” Elijah declared, referring to the Old Testament prophecy that he would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers.

“The keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands,” Elijah continued, “and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.”²⁴

Standard of Truth, p. 240-241.

Manifestation at Kirtland Temple Dedication

April 29th an angel was seen over the Elders, many prophesys given & speaking in tongues, this 29th of March two Corums continued all night in the House, the Twelve guarded it, the Heavens was opened, two saw the Savior, some saw charlots and other things one lay about half an hour and saw from eternity to eternity, many miracilous experiences told, many visions told.

Benjamin Brown, letter to Dear wife [Sarah M. Brown], circa 1836 April

With reverence and gratitude, we as His Apostles invite all to know—as we do—that the heavens are open. We affirm that God is making known His will for His beloved sons and daughters. We testify that those who prayerfully study the message of the Restoration and act in faith will be blessed to gain their own witness of its divinity and of its purpose to prepare the world for the promised Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Proclamation on the Restoration.