

ANGELIC VISITATION OF 1823

Editor's Note: Excerpts from account of visit of the angel Moroni to Joseph Smith.

"While I was thus in the act of calling upon God I discovered light appearing in the room, which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor. He had on a loose robe of most exquisite 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 his robe, as it was open so that I could see into his bosom. Not only was his robe exceedingly white, but his whole person was glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like lightning. The room was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person.

"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. He said there was a 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 fullness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants.

After telling me these things he commenced quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament. He first quoted part of the third and the fourth chapters of Malachi He then quoted from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, saying that it was about to be fulfilled. He also quoted the third chapter of Acts, twenty-second and twenty-third verses . . . saying that that prophet was Christ, but the day had not yet come when "They who would not hear his voice should be cut off from among the people," but soon would come. He also quoted the second chapter of Joel from the twenty-eight to the last verse. He said that this was not yet fulfilled, but was soon to be. And he further stated the fullness of the Gentiles was soon to come in.

"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 up till he entirely disappeared and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance."