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## Lesson 54 - Joseph Receives the Records

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# Deseret Sunday School Union Leaflets.

## LESSON 54.—JOSEPH RECEIVES THE RECORDS.

TIME.—*September 22, 1827.*

PLACE.—*The Hill Cumorah.*

TEXT.—*Mormon, 8: 16.*

And blessed be him that shall bring this thing to light; for it shall be brought out of darkness unto light, according to the word of God; yea, it shall be brought out of the earth, and it shall shine forth out of darkness, and come unto the knowledge of the people; and it shall be done by the power of God.

### LESSON STATEMENT.

As stated in the last lesson, four years were to pass away from the time Joseph first saw the plates, before they were to be entrusted to him. In other words, Joseph waited until he was nearly twenty-two years old before he received the precious charge. It would perhaps enter the minds of some, that Joseph having received all these manifestations and knowing what his mission was to be, would not have felt inclined to continue the labors of every-day life; but such was not the case. He well knew that the routine of daily toil was all necessary in its place, and he further knew that he must remain humble, or he would fail in fulfilling the purposes of God.

Accordingly, Joseph continued working on his father's farm for nearly two years after the events related in the last lesson, when he received the offer of employment elsewhere. Accepting this offer, Joseph went to his new place of labor in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, where he entered the employ of a man named Josiah Stool. While laboring there, Joseph boarded at the house of Isaac Hale, who had a daughter named Emma, a very worthy young woman, whom Joseph learned to love sincerely. She returned the affection, and her father was asked to give his

consent to their marriage. At first he hesitated, for he knew that Joseph was poor, but finally, in January of the year 1827, his consent was given, and Joseph and Emma were married on the 18th of that month.

They left Pennsylvania and traveled northward to the house of Joseph's parents. He went to work on the farm, in order to obtain means for the support of his family. Nothing of an extraordinary character occurred during the following summer, and at length the 22nd day of September came—the day when the records were to be delivered into Joseph's hands.

During the four years that he had been waiting, he had visited the hill on each anniversary of the angel's appearance, and there met Moroni and received necessary instruction from him, and hence he was well prepared for the charge about to be conferred upon him. On the morning of that day Joseph again visited the hill Cumorah, and was told by the angel to lift the records out of the box. As he did so he was filled with inexpressible joy, for he knew that the plates thus entrusted to him were of a most precious character.

Together with the plates was the Urim and Thummim, which was to be used by Joseph in translating the records, and this instrument was fastened to a large breastplate of pure gold. The plates were of gold, and were fastened with rings along one edge, thus presenting the appearance of a book. (As these records have been described in a former lesson, see No. 42, it is not

considered necessary to repeat the description here.)

Joseph was told by the angel that he alone would be held responsible for the plates, and that the only way he could resist the efforts which would be made to take them from him, would be by remaining faithful to his trust and to the commandments of God. But if he was unfaithful, and by his carelessness permitted the plates to be lost, the displeasure of God should come upon him, and he should be destroyed.

Even on the journey toward his home, with the precious records in his charge, Joseph experienced the power of the Evil One, for unknown men under the influence of Satan attacked him three different times, and it was only by the assistance of God that he was enabled to withstand them and keep the records. At length, in a bruised and weary condition he reached his home.

#### NOTES.

**PENNSYLVANIA.**—One of the middle States, situated south of New York. It is bounded on the north by New York, on the east by New Jersey, on the south by Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia, and on the west by West Virginia and Ohio. It was first settled by the Quakers under William Penn, and was named after him, the word Pennsylvania meaning Penn's woods.

**EMMA HALE.**—The daughter of Isaac Hale, and afterwards the wife of the Prophet Joseph. She was married to Joseph Smith January 18, 1827, and after his death she married on December 23, 1847, a man named L. C. Bidamon. She died in Nauvoo, April 30, 1879.

#### WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That Joseph was humble and willing to labor, even after receiving his great vision. 2. That he was regular in his visits to the hill Cumorah to meet the angel. 3. That Joseph's long waiting was finally rewarded by his receiving the records. 4. That Satan is always ready to try to stop the progress of God's work, and that he can always

find evil men to assist him. 5. That we can withstand the attacks of the Evil One only by the assistance of God. 6. That this assistance will be given to us if we are faithful in His work.

#### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. How long was it from the time Joseph first saw the plates until he received them? 2. What was the date on which they were given to him? 3. What was he required to do once a year during this period? 4. How did he show his humility during this time? 5. How long did he labor with his father? 6. Where did he then go? 7. What do you know about Pennsylvania? 8. For whom did he labor here? 9. With whom did he board? 10. What feeling arose between Emma Hale and Joseph? 11. How did her father view this? 12. When were they married? 13. Where did they then go? 14. What did Joseph do there? 15. Where did he go on the 22nd of September, 1827? 16. What did the angel tell him to do? 17. What did he take besides the plates? 18. What is the Urim and Thummim? 19. Describe the plates. 20. What did the angel tell Joseph in relation to his responsibility? 21. What was the only means by which he could keep the plates? 22. What would be his punishment if he permitted them to be destroyed? 23. What occurred while Joseph was carrying the plates home? 24. Tell what you know of Emma Hale.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE PASSAGES.

**OUT OF THE DUST.**—And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.—*Isaiah, 29: 4.*

Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.—*Psalms, 85: 11.*