

crowned at the right hand of the Son of Man with crowns of glory, and as many of the spirits as were in prison came forth and stood on the right hand of God, and the remainder were reserved in chains until the judgment of the great day," (Pearl of Great Price, page 20.) These Scriptures establish the fact that the resurrection which took place at and immediately after the resurrection of Christ was the *first* resurrection, and that this was the period upon which the expectation, faith and hope of all saints was centered. Further, that those who know no law, or, in other words, had died without a knowledge of the plan of salvation, had part in the first resurrection through the redemption of Christ.

The question next arises, "Did the resurrection cease when this was accomplished; or was it continued for some time after the Savior's ascension into heaven? If so, how long was it continued?" In the Book of Doctrine of Covenants (Sec. 27) it is recorded that the Savior told Joseph: "I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you upon the earth." The others He names who should be present at that time, (with some of whom Joseph was acquainted, for they had committed to him the power and authority of the Priesthood which they held) were Moroni, Elias, John the Baptist, Elijah, Joseph, Jacob and Abraham. Except Moroni, these all lived previous to the death of Jesus; consequently, we can readily believe that these faithful men were among the first to come forth in the resurrection of which we have been speaking, and that in ministering to Joseph and others they did so in their resurrected bodies. To these may be added Moses, who appeared to Joseph and Oliver in the Kirtland Temple on the 3rd day of April, 1838, and committed the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the Ten Tribes from the North. In addition to these it is said: "And also with Peter, James and John whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be Apostles and especial witness of My name, and bear the keys of your ministry, and of the same things which I revealed unto them."

We all understand that John was translated; so that he would necessarily appear in his translated body, as the final change will not take place with him until after the second coming of the Savior. But

Peter and James had both been executed as martyrs. Therefore they must have appeared in spirit form unless they had received their resurrection; and we have shown in a former lecture upon Priesthood that it is contrary to the order of heaven for spirit to minister to flesh to confer the authority of the Holy Priesthood, which was done by Peter and James in connection with John at the particular time mentioned. Hence we conclude that Peter and James did appear and minister to Joseph and others in their resurrected bodies.

The Prophet Moroni closed his record 421 years after the coming of Christ. In speaking of himself he says: "And now I bid unto all farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and my body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air to meet you before the pleasing bar of the Great Jehovah, the Eternal Judge of both quick and dead; amen." His words certainly indicate that he would die; and yet when this individual appeared to Joseph, he did so in the form of a man. Joseph's description of him is very full and complete. He says: "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 the 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 wrists; as also were his feet naked a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this 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 was 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 God unto me, and that his name was Moroni."

On the ninth day of October, 1843, Joseph Smith makes the following explanation: "Spirits can only be revealed in flaming fire or glory. Angels have advanced further, their light and glory being tabernacled; hence they appear in bodily shape."

This agrees with the revelation given on February 9th, 1843, where in three grand keys are given by which good or bad angels or spirits may be known: "There are two kinds of beings in heaven, viz., angels, who are resurrected beings, having bodies of flesh and bones. Second, the spirits of just men made perfect—they who are not resurrected, but inherit the same glory. When a messenger comes saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand and request him to shake hands with you. If he be an angel he will do so, and you will feel his hand. If he be the spirit of a just man made perfect, he will come in his glory; for that is the only way he can appear. Ask him to shake hands with you, but he will not move, because it is contrary to the order of heaven to deceive; but he will still deliver his message."

It certainly appears from this that Moroni was a resurrected being, for he appeared to Joseph in bodily shape, and he it was who delivered to him the plates and afterwards received them from his hands, as Joseph himself testified, on the 2nd day of May, 1838. And without question he still holds them in his possession. The testimony of the three witnesses, and more especially that of David Whitmer, many times repeated, was that the angel Moroni not only brought and laid the plates before them, but also turned over the leaves of the record one by one, in the presence of himself, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris. But, to place the matter beyond all dispute, we will quote Joseph's answer to the question, "How and where did you obtain the Book of Mormon?" as given by him May 8th, 1838: "Moroni, who deposited the plates (from whence the Book of Mormon was translated) in a hill in Manchester, Ontario County, New York, *being dead and raised again therefrom*, appeared unto me and told me where they were, and gave me directions how to obtain them."

Seeing, then, that Moroni was resurrected at the time he appeared to Joseph, his resurrection could not have taken place until some time after he deposited the plates in the hill Cumorah, which, as we have shown, was not until four hundred and twenty-one years after Christ; for his last recorded words were: "I soon go to rest in the Paradise of God." And as Moroni's resurrection occurred at so remote a period, why may we not suppose that other faithful Saints who died upon the American continent after the ascen-