

**THE ANGEL**

**NEPHI**

**OR**

**MORONI?**

**Prove all things by the words of truth in The Bible, Record of Nephites and The Word of the Lord. All this is established for mankind, the guidelines of hope and deliverance. Man's idealisms shall come to naught.**

**Message 102:18**

Because we, The Church of Christ “The Church With the Elijah Message,” believe in The Record of the Nephites (better known as The Book of Mormon), we are put into the category of what some call “The Restoration Movement.” What we like to be called is “Christians” and nothing else. Why? Because we feel that much of the Restoration Movement base their beliefs on man-written historical events that are not consistent with the inspired written word. In other words, their beliefs are based on history, not the written word of God. Please remember that in the Bible, Malachi 3:6, God says He changes not. It is so important that we believe in an unchangeable God.

One of the beliefs in the Restoration is that the angel Moroni appeared unto Joseph Smith. We believe that it was the angel Nephi. Please let us explain our position on this subject.

In two different places in the Bible, there is a story about when several people came to Jesus, trying to trick him. They gave Him a scenario about a woman that married a man, and he died, then she married his brother and he died, so she married the other brother and he died. The question asked was, “Whose wife is she in the resurrection?” Mark 12:24,25 **And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? For when they shall rise from the dead (the resurrected), they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.** In the book of Luke 20:35-36, concerning the same story, Jesus states it this way: **But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.**

This tells us there are at least two different kinds of angels: Angels made at the beginning, and then those that were human at one time and were resurrected. Now let’s understand that the generic term for an angel really means “Heavenly Creature.”

Now let’s go to The Record of the Nephites and turn to the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter of Alma, where an angel told Alma what happens to the souls from death until their resurrection.

**Alma 40:11.** Now concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection. *Behold, it hath been made known unto me by an angel*, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life.

12. And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those which are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, &c.

13. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, which are evil; for behold, they have no part nor portion of the spirit of the Lord; for behold, they chose evil works, rather than good; therefore the spirit of the Devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house; and these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the Devil.

14. Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked; yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful looking for of the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, until the time of their resurrection.

Now we see that **all** souls stay either in Paradise or in [Hell] until their resurrection. Correct?

Now let's take another step. When was there a resurrection? We can find this in Matthew 27:52,53: **And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection (Jesus), and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.**

We have to understand that the saints were the only ones to have risen, and those that slept (the dead, you don't sleep in graves) went into the Holy City. This is a resurrection. That's the only way they could have gone from one place to another.

The next step is to find out when the next resurrection will be. This we can also find in the Bible. In the Second book of Thessalonians 4:16, For the **Lord himself shall descend from**

heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **and the dead in Christ shall rise first**. When Christ comes back to Earth is when the next resurrection is going to be.

The point that we are making is the saints that died **before** Christ were resurrected and became as angels. The saints that died **after** Christ are still in Paradise waiting for their resurrection, which won't be until Christ comes back to Earth. Nephi lived and died before Christ. Moroni died after Christ. So Moroni is still in paradise awaiting his resurrection. Even in Moroni's last statement, the very last verse of The Record of the Nephites (or Book of Mormon), it states: (Moroni 10:34) **And now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the Paradise of God, until my spirit and 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.**

Now let's go to the books on Church History, Volume one, page 12. It states that the angel that appeared to Joseph Smith was named "NEPHI." At the bottom of the page it states "later changed to Moroni." In other publications, it may state that the angel's name was Moroni, but again at the bottom of the page, it will state that originally it was Nephi. Also in *The Times and Seasons*, which Joseph Smith was supposed to have edited it before going to print, it also states that the angels name was Nephi. There is so much confusion in the Restoration's history, and we know who is the author of confusion

So here is where the problem lies: Are we to base our beliefs on the written history of man, or base our beliefs on the written word of God? We of The Church of Christ, will base our beliefs on the written word of God Almighty.



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