

# Joseph got the plates on the Feast of Trumpets September 22, 1827



We find nothing in the history of Joseph Smith's family to indicate that they had any interest in the feasts of Israel, or the Hebrew calendar. Nor was it the purpose of the angel who visited Joseph Smith, to favor him with special instructions concerning these things. Instead, he was commanded to be responsible and obedient, concerning the safe keeping of the metal plates, and he was given whatever instructions he would need concerning the translating and publishing of this sacred volume of history, so that everyone could have equal access to the contents of the Book of Mormon.

In late evening, Sept. 21, 1823, the angel visited Joseph, and told him about the existence of the plates which were buried in a stone box at the top of a hill near Palmyra, New York, about two miles from Joseph's home. The next morning while Joseph was out on the farm, the angel came to him again, and later that same day, Sept. 22, Joseph went to the hill where the plates were hidden, and there the angel met him again, and there, Joseph saw the plates for the very first time, but was not permitted to take them. He was told that the time had not yet come for this record to be brought forth to the world. Joseph was told to come back to that same place at that same

time every year, where he would be given further instructions. Joseph, of course, kept these appointments according to the Gregorian calendar. It was not the purpose of the angel to distract Joseph from his mission by instructing him about the Hebrew calendar, and so Joseph met the angel at the hill again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September every year until 1827.

On Saturday, September 22, 1827, which was not only a weekly Sabbath, but also the Feast of Trumpets, Joseph Smith was permitted to take into his

personal custody, this sacred volume of history inscribed on metal plates.

This exact date when Joseph received the plates, is given in a brief history found in the front of most editions of the Book of Mormon. This date is verified in a history written by Joseph's mother, Lucy Smith, and by Joseph Knight, who was a visitor in the Smith home on that date. Although this date was well known among early Mormons, history gives no indication that anyone recognized that it was a Feast of Trumpets until years later.

The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, pages 634-641, list the first day of each lunar month from 1800 through 2000 A.D., according to the Jewish calendar proclaimed by Hillel II, along beside the corresponding Gregorian calendar dates. The portion of this list reproduced here on the right, shows September 22, 1827 to be the Feast of Trumpets, the first day of Tishri, which is the seventh month, (the first being Nisan, the month for Passover). On September 21, 1827 at 7:00 P.M., C.S.T., the new moon would have been visible, being approximately 21½ hours past conjunction, making the first day of that particular new month as determined by the visible crescent, coincide with Hillel's calendar.

In some years there is uncertainty about which month to use for Passover in the spring. This uncertainty exists in those years when the new month begins very near, or before, the equinox. But the date of Nisan 1 = March 29, 1827, shown here in this chart, was over a week after the equinox, being a year when there was no uncertainty. There is no doubt that **September 22, 1827** was in fact a **Feast of Trumpets!**

5587

Tishri I . . . . .	Oct.	2, 1826
Heshvan I . . . . .	Nov.	1, 1826
Kislev I . . . . .	Dec.	1, 1826
Tebeth I . . . . .	Dec.	31, 1826
Shebat I . . . . .	Jan.	29, 1827
Adar I . . . . .	Feb.	28, 1827
Nisan I . . . . .	Mar.	29, 1827
Iyar I . . . . .	Apr.	28, 1827
Sivan I . . . . .	May	27, 1827
Tammuz I . . . . .	June	26, 1827
Ab I . . . . .	July	25, 1827
Elul I . . . . .	Aug.	24, 1827

5588

Tishri I . . . . .	Sept.	22, 1827
Heshvan I . . . . .	Oct.	22, 1827
Kislev I . . . . .	Nov.	20, 1827
Tebeth I . . . . .	Dec.	19, 1827
Shebat I . . . . .	Jan.	17, 1828
Adar I . . . . .	Feb.	16, 1828
Nisan I . . . . .	Mar.	16, 1828
Iyar I . . . . .	Apr.	15, 1828
Sivan I . . . . .	May	14, 1828
Tammuz I . . . . .	June	13, 1828
Ab I . . . . .	July	12, 1828
Elul I . . . . .	Aug.	11, 1828

\*5589

Tishri I . . . . .	Sept.	9, 1828
Heshvan I . . . . .	Oct.	9, 1828
Kislev I . . . . .	Nov.	7, 1828
Tebeth I . . . . .	Dec.	7, 1828
Shebat I . . . . .	Jan.	5, 1829
Adar I . . . . .	Feb.	4, 1829
Adar Sheni I . . . . .	Mar.	6, 1829
Nisan I . . . . .	Apr.	4, 1829
Iyar I . . . . .	May	4, 1829
Sivan I . . . . .	June	2, 1829
Tammuz I . . . . .	July	2, 1829
Ab I . . . . .	July	31, 1829
Elul I . . . . .	Aug.	30, 1829

The annual feasts of **Lev 23** were *sacred appointments* to keep people *in touch* with Yahweh. **Num 10:1-10** shows that the correct dates were announced by the blowing of trumpets. This procedure was so important that Yahweh gave a special day for it to be remembered! (**Lev 23:24** & **Nu 29:1**) And it is significant that the Feast of Trumpets occurs on the *first* day of a lunar month! If this had always been obeyed, there is no way the Israelites could have become scattered or cut off from Yahweh's presence, leaving them in confusion about the *time* or *place* of the appointments. The latter day gathering of Israel is an ongoing theme in the Book of Mormon<sup>1</sup> and it is significant that this sacred volume of history was taken from its depository and given to us on a Feast of Trumpets.

It is highly coincidental, or else providential, that even the variant Hebrew calendars show September 22, 1827 to be a day when the blowing of trumpets should have been remembered! Also see **Isaiah 18:3** and compare **Isaiah 5:26** with **2 Ne 29:1-3**. (2 Ne 12:42-45)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Ne 10:14; 15:18-20; 19:15-16; 22:12-25; 2 Ne 6:5-14; 9:1-2; 10:7-8; 25:17-18; 29:14; 30:7-8; 3 Ne 5:24-26; 10:7; 16:5; 20:12-13, 29-34; 21:1-29; 29:1-9; Morm 5:14-20 and Eth 13:11. (1 Ne 3:18-19; 4:28-33; 5:253-255; 7:23-59; 2 Ne 5:13-37; 6:1-3; 7:12-14; 11:28-34; 12:73-74, 85-87; 3 Ne 2:107-109; 4:59; 7:29; 9:48-49, 67-72, 86-106; 10:1-8; 13:54-62; Morm 2:41-49; Eth 6:11-12)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Verse numbers of RLDS editions are in parentheses