

Plural Marriage

Restoration of a Higher Law



By Nate Richardson

RichardsonStudies.com

Contents

EPIC DISCLAIMER: PLURAL MARRIAGE: NOT CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED.....	4
The 7 Women to 1 Man Prophecy & The Restoration of Celestial Plural Marriage in Zion	5
Adoption, Sealings, Blood Lines, Levirate Law, Plural Marriage: An Overview	8
Plural Marriage: A Great Trial for the Brethren: In Their Words.....	13
Plural Wives of Joseph Smith: In Their Words (sources & image credits pending).....	14
More info on Eliza R Snow Smith, a Plural Wife of Joseph Smith	22
Plural Marriage & Joseph as Restorer by Kimberly Smith.....	24
Plural Marriage in the Torah.....	26
Overview of Plural Marriage as an Eternal Celestial Blessing	30
KIMBERLY SMITH ON PLURAL MARRIAGE & PATRIARCHAL ORDER AS HONORING & EXALTING WOMEN.....	37
You'll Rule Only Your Posterity in Eternity	42
No Plural Husbands	43
Orson Pratt: Yes plural in heaven , yes remarry after a spouse dies and he sealed for eternity	44
Diversity of Gene Pool	46
Hugh Nibley on the Jewish Legend of Lillith, Another Wife of Adam	47
Various Plural Marriage Scriptures	48
D&C 132 on Plural Marriage.....	49
Evidence that Plural Marriage was Practiced in the Book of Mormon.....	56
A House Full of Females: Plural Marriage and Women's Rights In Early Mormonism, 1835-1870 by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich – Book Highlights	66
Polygamy's Ancient Purpose & Modern Legal History	71
Plural Marriage (Polygamy): A Zion Celestial Law Standard	75
Children of Joseph Smith's Plural Marriages.....	77

Will Emma Smith be Saved? A Positive View78

On the Life & Character of Emma Smith79

EPIC DISCLAIMER: PLURAL MARRIAGE: NOT CURRENTLY
AUTHORIZED

In my writing of plural marriage in a positive light, please do not mistake this as meaning I endorse the practice at this time. It is ONLY permitted when God allows. It is apostasy to participate in plural marriage at this time. There are strict parameters for this practice and we can't take it into our own hands.

The Grand Test: Get a Spiritual Witness of the Practice

I recently wrote the following to a friend that has bought into the idea that Joseph is an immoral man due to his plural marriages:

Yes [friend], plural marriage was lost to the world. Joseph restored that ancient holy practice. Of course it was different than the norm. He was combatting 1000s of years of apostasy. Humor about sacred things can easily cross into blasphemy. It is my testimony that Joseph was a saint and beloved by God. All hell combines to cast doubt on his holy life and ministry.

The testimony of Joseph is a spiritual matter. There is evidence for him being evil, and evidence for him being holy. Don't rely on puns and comedians for your spiritual foundation, it's not an academic investigation.

Plural marriage is calculated to bring to pass the salvation of endless souls in eternity.

Youthful Marriages Used to be Common

Whether for securing a certain marriage arrangement, or getting started on family creation and childbearing to helping upkeep a household, early marriages used to be common.

The onset of puberty is really nature's standard on when a person can be ready for adult roles of marriage and childbearing. Are you disagreeing with nature, and nature's God?

In today's lackadaisical entitled culture, youths are typically not prepared for marriage at a young age. But we can't hold this standard to all ages of time, or consider that the way we currently do things is "the best of all possible worlds" as Candide would say.

We should not make light of Joseph's youthful plural marriage. Those marriages were conducted and arranged by the spirit and will of God according to pre-mortal arrangements.

The AGE OF MARY the mother of Jesus scholars estimate to be between 12-14 when she was betrothed and gave birth. Jews often married girls at 12 and boys at 13. Apparently God knows that women are capable of being terrific mothers at this age when they are prepared to do so, when their culture helps set them up for it, when they are mature and responsible, etc.

The 7 Women to 1 Man Prophecy & The Restoration of Celestial Plural Marriage in Zion

Heber C. Kimball taught that the Isaiah 3 passage was about 7 **righteous** women going to 1 man.

Elder Bruce R McConkie taught that it is obvious that plural marriage comes back into place in the millennium. Else how would we have so many present of the righteous which have endorsed this practice among us?

The return of that practice may be in a time of the redemption of Zion, which leads into the time of the millennium.

In his 2020 October Conference address, President Eyring pointed out that historically, and likely in the future, there will be far more women than men living in Zion.

An Isaiah 3 scripture speaks of 7 women coming to 1 man to take away their reproach. Reproach here means childlessness or possibly lack of celestial marital status (they come hand in hand). Some say this passage is about desperate desolated wicked women, but if that's the case, why do they want children? Most women don't even want children, those yucky untrendy expensive things. The prophets have said only the righteous women in the last days would even want children.

Some say a war will make it so less men are available, therefore resulting in the ratio of 7:1. However, there are some issues with this theory, which suggest it is the spiritual war, not the temporal wars, that result in this ratio.

Isaiah doesn't specify if the men are married, just if they are righteous.

If the women are humble and righteous, they will seek for members to marry, not non-members. Anyone with an elementary understanding of the doctrine of Christ knows that temple marriage (marriage within the covenant) is of paramount importance.

Adoption, Sealings, Blood Lines, Levirate Law, Plural Marriage: An Overview

(Working on getting more quotes and sources but wanted to get out what I have so far of what I've been learning)

Bloodlines have to do with legally authorized blessings more than DNA.

Authorized baptism is, for all who are not already of the bloodline of Israel, adoption into the house of Israel, & as a son/daughter of Jesus Christ. Christ becomes the covenant father, and the bloodline is changed into the house of Christ. When a person is converted & baptized, their bloodline changes to that of Israel, and they become full heirs of all blessings of that house. They are assigned to a labor in one of the 12 houses of Israel, and look forward to all blessings related to that house. If they or anyone else of Israel forsake their covenants, they lose all blessings thereunto appertaining.

When we are sealed to someone in the temple they become our bloodline. They still have different DNA, but as far as the blessings of God to the seed are concerned, they are now your bloodline. They now share your ancestry. This is true for legal adoptions and temple sealings of those children into their adopted family.

A person may have multiple fathers and mothers in the millennium and eternity. Joseph Smith taught this, and he referred to more than just ancestors, but to having multiple mothers and fathers.

Here is an account to illustrate the adoption through sealing: Jedediah Grant's son **Heber J Grant** (a president of the church) was **a son of Joseph Smith** by virtue of his mother being sealed to Joseph Smith. Heber saw a vision of a counsel in heaven of who was to fill a vacancy in the quorum of the 12 Apostles. He saw Joseph Smith say he wanted one of his sons to represent him in that counsel. Jedediah then said 'yes, why not have the boy who bears my name who is your son be chosen?' Then Heber recognized this as why he was selected. Though Joseph Smith was not the father of his flesh, he became his father by bloodline according to the sealing.

In the full order of the priesthood, people are sealed to the head of that dispensation as their father, in addition to being sealed to their father and mother that raise them. This would be true of those in the dispensation of Adam, Seth, Noah, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, Moses, Peter, Nephi, etc. I understand that all dispensation heads are sealed to Joseph Smith as the gatherer of all things in one in Christ in the last days.

There was an order of family in pre-mortality, and temple sealings can help re-create that perfect order. This does not negate the fact that we are all literally children of God. Perhaps it suggests that there were certain groups of people in pre-mortality who clustered together based on similar views & ambitions, who were eventually ordained to be family in eternity, many of whom would also be family in mortality.

The Levirate law is that when a man dies, someone of his bloodline, typically his brother, enables his wife to continue having children. The children thus born are the sons of the deceased, and in eternity, the man sealed first to that woman has her for eternity. This is a selfless offer on part of both the man and wife. Christ taught of a situation where a man was sealed to a woman, who died, and she married her brother, and so on several brothers who died. The woman belonged only to the first man, and the others were merely helping to build his kingdom in his absence.

Brigham Young was sealed as a son of Joseph Smith. Other early brethren were too, and it was said that they were of the “Smith family” in pre-mortality. It might well be considered that Brigham thus has two fathers, namely Joseph, and the father of his flesh if he was qualified for that sealing. He then became of the same bloodline. After Joseph’s death, Joseph’s wives were then married to Brigham so **Brigham would raise seed to the house of Joseph**, Brigham being the bloodline of Joseph by virtue of the sealing. The seed from these arrangements are the seed and literal bloodline of Joseph. It might be considered that the children of such would be sealed to both Brigham and Joseph, having two fathers.

Plural marriage of multiple women to one man is also in accordance with celestial law when the keys of that ordinance are in effect. Even though plural marriage is not currently in operation in the church today, if a woman who was sealed to a man for time and all eternity dies, her

husband may be sealed to another woman for time and all eternity. President Russel M Nelson is an example of someone in this situation.

There are not situations where a woman has multiple husbands in eternity, though she may, when the keys to such are operative, raise seed to her deceased husband with another of his bloodline. If the husband of a woman dies, she is ineligible to be sealed to another man for time and eternity, but only to be sealed to him for time.

Parents who do not remain faithful to temple covenants do not have right to those children in eternity. Only family relations sealed in temples are in effect in the next life. (I've written more on this topic in the parenting book.)

One could ask: Was not Joseph Smith sealed to a woman who was already married? He was, but it was not meant to be that way. Joseph was commanded to ask her to be a plural wife years prior before she was married, but he feared, and waited. It is also noteworthy that this woman had repeated dreams of marrying Joseph. Eventually she obtained a witness after Joseph asked her for marriage that it was of God, and she consented to the sealing. It is noteworthy that the man she was already married to was not opposed to the sealing, refused to join the church, and would not be involved with her in eternity. The man was also sealed to Joseph as one of his sons, which might offer him opportunity to great blessings within the scope of what he is willing to receive.

What of Mary the mother of Jesus? She is sealed as the wife of Heavenly Father. She was married to Joseph only for time. Sources say Joseph was an older man who already had a family of his own when he betrothed Mary. The Book of Mormon says Mary was carried away by the Holy Ghost for a time. During this time, she was married to Heavenly Father, and conceived the Christ child by him. She then returned to earth, and 9 months later had the holy child. She pondered these things in her heart. Joseph essentially fulfilled the Levirate law for Heavenly Father, raising seed to him through Mary via the children from that temporal marriage forthcoming. Mary is the wife of Heavenly Father in eternity, not Joseph.

Was Jesus in a Plural Marriage? There is great evidence that Jesus was married to at least two woman during his mortal life: Mary and Martha. The wedding where he turned water into wine was likely his own. He was likely in the home of Mary and Martha teaching them because he was married to them, otherwise this would be scandalous. There are many other evidences. See, for example, “Hidden Bloodlines” by the Joseph Smith Foundation, and my notes on such elsewhere in this text.

Was Plural Marriage practiced in the Book of Mormon? There are many references indicating that the great patriarchs of that book had multiple wives, including mentions of “wives” of these men. We also see that they had many children, too many for one wife, particularly in the Book of Ether. The rule of thumb is indeed monogamy, but not so for the holy celestial order. The Book of Mormon was written to a fallen audience, and didn’t need to be concerned with expounding this principle. See the full essay on this elsewhere.

It is important for individuals to marry in the covenant as it preserves the holy royal bloodline of Israel. Marrying outside of the faith or outside of a temple for any reason excludes someone from the holy inheritance of God wherein they become joint heirs with Christ, and receive all the father has, becoming Gods in eternity with a never-ending posterity, and crowns, thrones, kingdoms, and worlds without ends in their command.

Overview of all fathers a person can have: Once adopted to the household of faith in Christ, we then have both Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ as Fathers. If the father of our flesh remains faithful to his temple covenants, he is another of our fathers in eternity. Another father in eternity is the head of the dispensation to which we pertain. These are the several kingdoms to which a person may belong to in eternity. They are his houses. Naturally, a faithful person is authorized to begin their own kingdom as well. Adam, the head of all dispensations on this world under Christ, might well be added to this list. The list might go on much further than this, though perhaps these are those to whom we are direct descendants in 1 generation by virtue of the sealings.

Is Plural Marriage an Eternal Law? From what I can tell based on the teachings of Joseph Smith, scripture, and other prophets, though not

currently authorized, plural marriage is the standard of the celestial kingdom. It is a higher law. Those who practice it without priesthood authority are in a state of apostacy and do so to their condemnation. As noted earlier, the Book of Mormon says the standard is monogamy, but we also read that narrow is the way to eternal life. That book was also written to a fallen audience concerned with living any law at all. Yes, most will not enter plural marriage in eternity. But it is the standard of the exalted. The D&C is clear that this order is the way to populate worlds without end. Joseph Smith and other mighty prophets have also been clear in their teachings on this subject.

Plural Marriage: A Great Trial for the Brethren: In Their Words

- ❖ **Brigham Young:** "It was the first time in my life that I had desired the grave..."
- ❖ **Heber C Kimball:** "... if it had been his death sentence he could not have felt worse."
- ❖ **Hyrum Smith** confided to a friend that he fought that "principle until the Lord showed him it was true."
- ❖ **John Taylor** recalled that "it was one of the greatest crosses that ever was taken up by any set of men since the world stood."

Plural Wives of Joseph Smith: In Their Words

(sources & image credits pending)

Joseph's First Plural Wife in Nauvoo: **Louisa Beaman** was "a woman of irreproachable morality, who entered into the plural marriage relation on a deep-seated conviction that the doctrine was from God."



Mary Elizabeth Rollins: "An **angel** came to me – it went through me like lightning – I was afraid. Joseph Said he came with more **revelation** and **knowledge** than Joseph ever dare reveal."



Desdemona Fullmer: reported a night vision in which an angel told her that the polygamy doctrine was true. “Having been convinced of the truth of polygamy,

I therefore entered into the order.”



Lucy Walker: "As I was praying the last time, an angel of the Lord appeared to me and told me that the principle was of God and for me to accept it."



Helen Mar Kimball: "A vision of my mind was open to see & understand the will & design of the Almighty [*sic*]. I had a view of the order of plural marriage. The beauty & the glory which I saw in it was enough to make up for the trials in this life."



Eliza R Snow Smith: “In Nauvoo I first understood that the practice of plurality of wives was to be introduced into the church. The subject was very repugnant to my feelings—. **But when I reflected that I was living in the Dispensation of the fulness of times, embracing all other Dispensations, surely Plural Marriage must necessarily be included.**”

“It was not long however, after I received the first intimation, before the announcement reached me that the '**set time**' had come — that **God had commanded his servants to establish the order**, by taking additional wives — **I knew that God ... was speaking.**”



Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner:

- ❖ Risked her life to save the Book of Commandments.
- ❖ First woman God commanded Joseph to take as a plural wife.
- ❖ Married to Adam Lightner when Joseph Smith approached her to become his plural wife.
- ❖ “Joseph made known to me that **God** had **commanded** him in July, 1834, to take me for a wife. But he had **not dared** to make it known to me, for when he received the revelation, I was in Missouri and when he did see me, **I was married**. But he was **again commanded** to fulfill the first revelation or **suffer condemnation**, for I was created for him before the foundation of the earth was laid.”
- ❖ I was **not sealed** to him [Joseph Smith] **until I had a witness**. I had been **dreaming** for a number of **years** I was **his wife**. I thought I was a **great sinner**. I **prayed** to God to **take it from me** for I felt it was a sin; but when Joseph sent for me he told me all of these things
- ❖ “Well”, said I, “don’t you think it was an angel of the devil that

told you these things?”

Said he, “No, it was an angel of God, God Almighty showed me the difference between an angel of light and Satan’s angels. The angel came to me three times between the years of 1834 and 1842 and said I was to obey that principle or he would slay me . . .”

I told him I would never be sealed to him until I had a witness. Said he, “You have a witness”. . . . I made it a subject of prayer and I worried about it because I did not dare to speak to a living being except Brigham Young. I went out and got between three haystack where no one could see me. As I knelt down, I thought, why not pray as Moses did? He prayed with his hands raised. When his hands were raised, Israel was victorious, but when they were not raised, the Philistines were victorious. I lifted my hands and I have heard Joseph say the angels covered their faces.

I knelt down and if ever a poor mortal prayed, I did.

- ❖ “My husband did not belong to the Church. I begged him and pled with him to join but he would not. He said he did not believe in it, though he thought a great deal of Joseph. He sacrificed his property rather than testify against Joseph, Hyrum, and George A Smith. After he said this, I went forward and was sealed to Joseph for eternity.”



Helen Mar Kimball:

- ❖ Daughter of Heber C. Kimball
- ❖ Sealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith at 14 years of age
- ❖ Marriage was not consummated
- ❖ “He [her father-Heber C. Kimball] taught me the principle of Celestial marriage and having a great desire to be connected with the Prophet, Joseph, he offered me to him; this I afterwards learned from the Prophet’s own mouth. My father had but one ewe lamb, but willing laid her upon the altar.”
- ❖ “I will pass over the temptations which I had during the twenty four hours after my father introduced to me this principle & asked me if I would be sealed to Joseph, who came next morning & with my parents I heard him teach & explain the principle of Celestial marriage-after which he said to me, “If you will take this step, it will ensure your eternal salvation and exaltation & that of your father’s household & all of your kindred.”
- ❖ For more information on Helen & Joseph’s marriage see www.ldsanswers.org/did-joseph-smith-marry-a-14-year-old-girl

- ❖ See also Helen's own booklet: "Why We Practice Plural Marriage"



For more information on Joseph's plural wives, see the book series "Joseph Smith's Plural Wives" by the Joseph Smith Foundation (Hannah & James Stoddard)

More info on Eliza R Snow Smith, a Plural Wife of Joseph Smith

1842 Patriarchal Blessing: “Thou shalt yet stand in high and holy places, to be honor’d and admired for the integrity of thy heart. Thy fidelity has reach’d the heavens, and thy name is honor’d and admir’d by the heav’nly hosts. Thy steps shall be trac’d in prudence- thy examples are worthy of imitation...

Thy influence shall be great-thy examples shall not be excel’d. Thou hast a heart to be enlarg’d, and a mind capable of expansion; and for thy comfort remember in thy retired walks, that yonder sun is typical of a crown of glory that shall be seal’d upon thy head

The stars that twinkle in yonder sky shall show to thy mind the workmanship of thy Creator, and by those glories thou shalt read the destinies of man **and be capable with thy pen to communicate, to thy fellow man the blessings and glories of futurity: and thy blessing shall roll and continue to thee until time is lost in eternity: and thy name shall be handed down to posterity from generation to generation.”**

- ❖ Second Relief Society President of the Church
- ❖ Accomplished poet and author
- ❖ “Oh My Father,” “Behold, the Great Redeemer Die,” “Praise to the Man”
- ❖ Known to speak in tongues
- ❖ Healed the sick
- ❖ Wilford Woodruff: “Her name and her honor will never be forgotten through all time and eternity.”

- ❖ A daughter of Judah's Royal House
- ❖ Joseph Smith prophesied that she would visit Jerusalem.
- ❖ "Mother Whitney call'd at our wagon just as the word went for meeting, & I remark'd to her that my mind had been impress'd with the idea of going to the land of Palestine & I felt to prophesy that we should yet walk hand [in hand] upon the mountains of Judan even **the land of our inheritance.**"
- ❖ In 1872, Eliza rededicated the land of Palestine for the gathering of the Jews.

Plural Marriage & Joseph as Restorer by Kimberly Smith

- ❖ Careful estimates put Joseph Smith's Plural wives between 30-40.
- ❖ The first plural marriage occurred in the mid-1830's.
- ❖ Likely received the revelation as early as 1831.
- ❖ The written copy was but "a portion of the revelation."
- ❖ When the Lord revealed to Joseph Smith plural marriage he repeatedly said that it was a continuation of the Abrahamic covenant.
- ❖ Abrahamic covenant is an eternal covenant.
- ❖ Abraham was the elect of God before the foundation of this earth. God made a covenant with Abraham. In Genesis 22:18 it reads: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."
- ❖ The plurality of wives was not only sanctioned of the Lord among Israel, but in certain cases it seems to have been absolutely necessary for the continuation of the name and posterity of a righteous man.
- ❖ From the loins of Abraham came Jesus Christ and from him came the Prophet Joseph Smith.
- ❖ "Therefore, thus saith the Lord unto you, with whom the priesthood hath continued through the lineage of your fathers—For ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and have been hid from the world with Christ in God."

- ❖ Joseph Smith is a restorer. His mission was to restore the sacred principles, doctrines, ordinances and power that existed in the Primitive Church, as was had among the righteous Israelites.
- ❖ Plural Marriage is an ancient order of the Priesthood.
- ❖ It is Joseph who governs the practice of plural marriage saying: “I hold the keys of this power in the last days; for there is never but one on earth at a time on whom the power and its keys are conferred; and I have constantly said no man shall have but one wife at a time unless the Lord directs otherwise.” (TPJS, p. 324) The Book of Mormon prophet, Jacob, corroborates the same saying: “For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people . . .”

Plural Marriage in the Torah



Disclaimer as usual: I don't endorse practicing plural marriage at this time, priesthood keys must turn to make this operable.

Moses wrote provisions for plural marriage, so it can't be wicked. Torah was for all time. Christ didn't get rid of the law any more than geometry gets rid of addition.

Treat to needs of all married wives including their needs for sexuality. Treat them all equally.

See writings at Ogdenkraut.com for free on the subject of ancient plural marriage. I don't endorse all of his work.

Israelite Men of war captured women and children to raise up the nation of righteousness.

The Lord's instruction was to kill the man but not the women and children the woman would soon recognized the man as righteous and worthy of praise

The number of men and contrast to the number of women indicate a total

of about 8 y's each and about more than 30 children per man

Sex was the marriage. Jacob couldn't leave Leah after their marriage. Government giving marriage certificates is vanity, as far as society goes, sex makes marriage.

A priest can't marry a divorced woman or a woman raped or a non-virgin

Women with more than 1 man were killed

Judah and Tamar show that before Moses they had the plural law.

Paul taught law of Moses after Christ. Sacrifice was done away for the law stands forever.

The man is required to be the one who works in the Torah the woman has the right to say I'm going to stay at home and not work and he has to provide. It doesn't work the other way around the man can't say that he's going to stay home and she has to provide.

A Jewish tradition holds that if a woman is really against the idea of her husband having more than one wife they can include that in the marriage contract.

A Jewish tradition holds that if the wives of a man don't want to live together they don't have to and he has to provide them each their own house

The Torah forbids a man to marry his sister-in-law. This seems a little strange I'm not sure why this is in there it seems like sisters might want to stay together in the same family. Perhaps it has something to do with genetics or bloodlines.

And yes those are two separate things.

We do know Jacob married Lea and Rachel they were sisters this verse could mean to say don't marry two sisters if your intent is to cause a rivalry if that's not your intent go ahead. Making this a case-by-case

thing where might not be a good idea for two sisters to become Coral lives in some cases where others it would be fine.

However this verse I'm not marrying two sisters could be true even with Jacob's case because Jacob didn't intend to do that he was tricked into it and once a marriage is consummated it can't be undone

Exodus 21 and Deuteronomy 21 talk about laws governing polygamy

Abraham's father had more than one wife so did his brother answered Abraham himself Abraham had wives and concubines

The Bible says man and woman shall be one flesh this means united It doesn't necessarily mean one to one ratio A man and multiple lives can live together in harmony together they are one similarly Jesus told his disciples that they should be one.

(Though we disagree on multiple fronts, special thanks to Mark Lichtenwalter for some of the insights shared here.)

Here are some comments on this essay from Gabriel Owen:

A few review-points if not corrections.

1. Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law tricked Judah, (because he did not give her to his 3rd son.) the conception of Pharez & Zarah was the only time.

The next-of-kin marrying his brother's widow (known now as the Levitical Law of Marriage) was part of their custom even though Levi is Judah's brother.

2. The Biblical Hebrew word translated to "marrying" could also be translated intercourse.

I actually believe that it is saying to not sleep with two sisters at one time, and the Biblical Hebrew word translated to "sisters" is the same word they use for "sister-wives." Not only did Jacob marry sisters, Jesus also married sisters (Mary & Martha) and (while he was living) The Prophet Joseph married a couple sets of sisters.

3. "Case by case thing"? The Prophet Joseph said, "No man shall have

but one wife at a time, unless the Lord directs otherwise.” (DHC 6:46) If the Lord directs sisters to marry the same man is right if He does not, it’s not.

Other notes:

The prophet introduced The Patriarchal Law of Marriage to a small select group know now as Joseph’s Anointed Quorum. Every time it is unwisely taught to general public, it ends up breaking the hearts of the wives and children (as it explains in Jacob Chap. 2). But as it says in Chap. 3 “I ... speak unto you that are pure in heart: Look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto Him.” The Patriarchal Law is not a Telestial Law nor a Terrestrial Law, I person ought not dabble in such matters unless they, as Abraham put it, “sought the blessing of the fathers” (or the Patriarchs). These things must be held sacred for it is a holy principle that should not be trifled with.

As such, My advise is not to expand on such topics, unless directed by His spirit. (Something along the line of a peril before swine thing.)

Overview of Plural Marriage as an Eternal Celestial Blessing



Here are some reasons why I believe plural marriage is not a temporary Abrahamic trial but the standard in the celestial Kingdom. I am not advocating that people go practice plural marriage now. Such is apostasy as these matters are under strict direction of priesthood keys. I'm merely showing that when the full celestial holy order is in place, plural marriage is a part of that.

Sections:

- PROPHETS TEACH & PRACTICE IT
- PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM
- THE BEST SYSTEM FOR BUILDING ETERNAL KINGDOMS
- DISCONTINUED DUE TO UNFAITHFULNESS
- ETERNAL IN DURATION
- NOT JUST A TRIAL
- A BLESSING FOR MAN
- A BLESSING FOR WOMAN
- MOTHERS IN HEAVEN
- ADDITIONAL STUDY

PROPHETS TEACH & PRACTICE IT

For starters, for every one statement from the brethren that plural marriage was a short-lived thing of the past you have about 50 from the brethren stating that it is eternal.

All of the major Patriarchs did actually have multiple wives, Joseph Smith taught that and Brigham Young even said Adam had multiple wives. There's no reason why God couldn't place more than just two people on this Earth.

Though it isn't the same as plural marriage, we do have several apostles today who are sealed to more than one woman as their first wives died and they took another. Sealing of deceased wives are not nullified.

Was it hap-hazard free for all with many families being sealed to Joseph as his children brethren etc.? No, Joseph knew more about these laws than we do, we should not think he knew less than we do. Being sealed to a dispensation head, as well as using sealing power to restore the premortal order of families, are eternal principles which we know little of today.

JACOB 2 & BOOK OF MORMON PLURAL MARRIAGE EVIDENCE:

The Book of Mormon talks about one-to-one ratio as the standard in Jacob 2, but who is the audience? The book was not written to people who are living celestial law, it was written to people who are hell bound sinners not ready for the higher law.

The context of the Jacob 2 passage was also group specific: "For there shall not any man AMONG YOU have save it be one wife"

We do however have a book that IS designed for people who are trying to live celestial law and build Zion, in that book (The Doctrine & Covenants), it does say Celestial (code word for plural) marriage is required. Naturally the practice is not currently in effect, but will be when we go to Zion.

Also, a closer look into the Book of Mormon will show those Patriarchs actually DID practice plural marriage, but it's not brought to center stage as that's not the purpose of the book.

Ether 7:1-2 (righteous Orihah 31 kids)

Ether 6:20 (righteous brother of Jared 22 kids)

2 Ne. 14:1-2 (7 women to 1 man will "be beautiful and glorious")

Alma 10:7-11 (Amulek refers to "my women")

Ether 14:2 ("every man...in the defense of his property and his own life and of his wives and children")

(For the complete article on Plural Marriage in the Book of Mormon:
<http://richardsonstudies.com/2021/08/04/evidence-that-plural-marriage-was-practiced-in-the-book-of-mormon/>)

PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM:

Children are headed by woman, woman are headed by man, man are headed by Christ, Christ is headed by God.

(See 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-25, 28; Colossians 3:14, 18-21; See Acts 5:29)

None of us are subordinate in this order we all work together, we all need each other.

For example, who would dare blaspheme and say that Christ isn't as worthy and divine as Elohim? Not I. Different stations does not indicate different worthiness or merit. All is to be done in wisdom and order.

(For a more elegant and detailed explanation of how the patriarchal order and plural marriage honor and exalt women, see Kim Smith's essay here:

<http://richardsonstudies.com/2021/12/03/kimberly-smith-on-the-patriarchal-order-plural-marriage-as-honoring-and-exalting-women/>)

THE BEST SYSTEM FOR BUILDING ETERNAL KINGDOMS:

D&C 132:63 indicates that plural marriage is not only for raising seed, but that it is for exaltation, and is practiced by Father in Heaven: “for their exaltation in the eternal worlds, that they may bear the souls of men; for herein is the work of my Father continued, that he may be glorified.”

The parable of the talents some people think unfair but the reality is that those who are righteous are entrusted with more as God knows they'll use that resource for building the kingdom.

The biological reality of men versus women in the reproductive system is obvious evidence that man can produce many children while a woman can only produce one at a time so it makes sense that building eternal kingdoms would involve a plural marriage of one man to multiple women. Doctrine and covenants specifically identify as plural marriage as being for the purpose of raising up more seed.

Technically speaking, if there is a more efficient better way to do something, and you chose the inefficient way, you are helping less people than you could, and are thereby choosing a less charitable path. And charity is the essence of Godhood. It is receiving eternal joy as a result of charity.

DISCONTINUED DUE TO UNFAITHFULNESS:

The only reason plural marriage was discontinued was due to government pressure the threat of temples being closed and everyone going to jail. God could have beaten the enemies of the church but the saints were not living worthy of it so they had to step down from this

holy practice. Similarly the reason the Saints didn't get to stay in New Jerusalem Missouri was due to their unworthiness and we will return to both Missouri and the fullness of celestial law including consecration gathering to the promised land and plural marriage.

ETERNAL IN DURATION:

Some say plural marriage is just for this life. But in the Doctrine and Covenants Abraham is identified as being in an exalted enthroned condition with multiple wives.

The Levirate law is clear: though a brother (or brothers if the men each die in turn) of a deceased man raise seed to his kingdom with his surviving wife, the wife belongs to and only to the first man.

NOT JUST A TRIAL:

So why were Joseph Smith, Brigham Young and others so hesitant to live this law? Because they weren't used to it, they knew it would be a hard transition, and they wondered what woman would give consent. These brethren were leaders responsible for bringing a people up to a higher standard than they had ever conceived.

A BLESSING FOR MAN:

Some claim that plural marriage is just a trial. But David was allowed more wives as long as he had permission from God, and this to him was a blessing, not a trial. The only trial for David was to not have what was not given him the ones that were given him there was nothing amiss.

The Lord promised that whoever gives up a wife for the cause of Christ receives 100 fold. For example, if a man chooses to marry a woman who is more humble and God fearing as opposed to a perhaps more young attractive and fun woman who is not God fearing, the man will be blessed exponentially in the very aspects that he sacrificed.

A BLESSING FOR WOMAN:

Question: If man is blessed for faithfulness in having more wives, how is the righteous woman rewarded?

Answer: in having more children. Man cannot have children, this is the privilege of woman.

Children are the blessing to woman, and an infinite number of them are promised to her only if she lives the celestial law of plural marriage.

After the curse is lifted, childbearing will not be a painful inconvenient process (Man's main job in this life is also cursed, the plowing of the fields being full of noxious weeds. There are curses on labor for men and women which will be lifted. All things in heaven will be blessed, including social relationships which are often difficult now.)

Further, a woman would enjoy having more adult female associates to share burdens conversations and joys with.

MOTHERS IN HEAVEN:

Some refer to the universal mother in heaven as referred to in the family proclamation. But that document is addressed to people on this Earth who's to say all the people on this Earth don't have the same mother it actually would make a lot of sense that the people of each Earth have their own mother.

Perhaps the big scale picture is that the man is not quite as involved as the woman when it comes to family. We see even on this Earth the man goes off to work all day while the woman cares for the children. Perhaps God visits each of the earths and wives in turn.

Scripture speaks of this in parable of the man visiting 12 vineyards each in turn. On one level those represent infinite worlds. On another they represent the various families a man creates.

**PS: RESPONDING TO A FEW PESKY RUMORS, &
ADDITIONAL STUDY:**

For an article summarizing Levirate law, sealings, adoption bloodlines, multiple fathers & mothers, Mary's marriage to Father, Brigham raising seed to Joseph, Jesus' marriages, questions about Joseph's plurality, etc.:
<http://richardsonstudies.com/2021/09/27/adoption-sealings-blood-lines-levirate-law-plural-marriage/>

KIMBERLY SMITH ON PLURAL MARRIAGE & PATRIARCHAL ORDER AS HONORING & EXALTING WOMEN



Shared with permission.

The Holy Order as defined by God is that Jesus Christ is under the head of The Father. He does the will of God and as he does God's will he becomes equal to God in power and authority.

Man is then subject to Jesus Christ and he falls under Christ's head. Meaning he is required to be obedient to Jesus Christ and as man is obedient to Christ he receives power and authority.

But Jesus Christ is and will forever remain under the head of the Eternal Father and cannot act outside his authority.

Every woman has a divine right to be under the divine protection of a man who is righteous and receives power and authority from Jesus Christ to lead, protect, and bring his family back into God's presence.

Man cannot be saved without Jesus Christ. And both men and women cannot be saved without each other. Man is eternally subject by covenant to obey Jesus Christ. He can never act outside the bounds established by Jesus Christ just as Jesus Christ never and does never do his own will or act outside of the bounds of His Father. But they become equal in power and authority as long as Jesus continues to be obedient.

Man is subject to Christ the same way Christ is subject to the Father.

If a man is righteous like Adam, and a woman obeys his righteous authority she becomes equal to her husband and they are one in mind, purpose, and authority. They are equal.

But man cannot get ahead of Christ and we cannot rule OVER our husbands. That is the way God designed it.

Plural marriage is a woman's principle because it does not deny any woman the right to have a righteous husband who will lead her, protect her, and bring her into God's presence. If her husband fails, she is entitled to choose someone who is more righteous regardless of how many wives he has.

And why was David given so many wives? So he could save them in God's kingdom. David at the time had proven himself worthy of being able to lead his wives and posterity back to God's presence. When David fell, God didn't cause his wives to fall with him instead he gave David's wives to another who was more righteous.

As a woman, I look at it like this. If Jesus Christ is forever subject to His Father, I too can be subject to my husband as long as he stays righteous. Knowing that by doing so we become equal and are able to enjoy exaltation in the Father's kingdom.

My answer would be to read the writings of the Plural wives of the Prophet Joseph Smith especially Eliza R Snow who was One of the greatest women of the Restoration.

She was a plural wife of Joseph Smith and later became a plural wife of Brigham Young.

Yet she became one of the most influential women in the history of the world.

She was a High Priestess, a high Prophetess, a Presidentess. She gave healing blessings, spoke in tongues, walked on Mount Olives and helped to re-dedicate the land of Palatine for the gathering of the Jews.

She along with her counselors in the relief society who were also plural wives of very righteous leaders became the CEO of Deseret's first hospital. The women had their own magazine, met with and influenced Government leaders, they helped lead the women's movement and lead the charge for women's suffrage and more.

Eliza also wrote Hymns that became Doctrine for the church.

The plural wives of the Prophet Joseph Smith are perfect examples of how plural marriage raises women up to be more free And receive the gifts of the spirit that none of us have ever experienced.

You will not find a woman in scripture or in any book of the entire history of the world that are anywhere as powerful, righteous, influential, and as accomplished as Eliza R Snow and some of the other plural wives of the Restoration. Some other examples of women you could study are Helen Mar Kimball and Elizabeth Ann Whitney.

And Eliza R Snow would be the first to tell every woman that being obedient to righteous priesthood authority is what made her so great!

She and other plural wives left a legacy of righteousness that has never been surpassed!!!

But at the end of the day, God never forces a woman to live a principle

that won't make her happy. No woman will be forced to be in a polygamous relationship in this life or the next. But if she is righteous she will want the most righteous man possible even if he has one wife or a hundred wives. The great thing about God's plan is that every woman will get to be the one who chooses her husband.

No it doesn't mean that men are inherently above women. Men are subject to the Priesthood and women are subject to the Priesthood. When they both become righteously obedient to the Priesthood they together can become exalted. Man cannot become exalted without a woman and woman without a man. But they also cannot be exalted if they are unequally yoked in righteousness.

And yes most likely there are far more righteous women than men. That is why God will never deny a righteous woman a right to be eternally sealed to a righteous man.

And I understand how it may seem harsh the way the revelation is worded in Doctrine and Covenants section 132. But we have to remember that Joseph Smith was a dispensation Head. He had a foreordained mission to restore all the laws and ordinances to this generation that are essential to the salvation of all both in last dispensations and future.

Emma as Joseph Smith's 1st wife was also foreordained to fulfill her part of the restoration. She made Covenants long before we came to this world.

The Lord was simply reminding her the seriousness of breaking a Covenant.

This revelation doesn't just apply to Emma it applies to every member of the church.

When you have advanced to the station that Emma had advanced to before this life (she was literally a Queen in the Celestial Kingdom before coming to the earth) and the salvation of other people rests on your shoulders it is not something you can just decide not to fulfill.

If you do a word search of the word “destroyed” in the Old Testament, New Testament, Book of Mormon and etc. you will be surprised how many times the Lord warns his people they will be destroyed if they break the covenant.

And here is something else to think about. If women want to be equal to men shouldn't they also be willing to accept "equal" responsibility? The Lord told the Prophet, Joseph Smith, that he would be destroyed if he showed the plates and the Urim and Thummim to anyone that he wasn't commanded to show. Are we equal or aren't we. If the Lord would destroy Joseph for disobedience shouldn't the Lord also destroy Emma for disobedience. And the Lord literally came to Joseph Smith with a drawn sword commanding him to teach and practice Celestial Plural marriage. So they were equally told they would receive the same punishment for disobedience.

You'll Rule Only Your Posterity in Eternity

Orson Pratt: "Whom do you suppose you will reign over? Will you get somebody else to multiply and spread forth their offspring, and then give that offspring to you? Will you go to your neighbors and say—"Come, you were married for eternity when you were back in yonder world [p. 50b] and you have come forth, having a claim to your wife or wives in the morning of the resurrection. I did not attend to that matter while there, and I was not married there according to the first pattern that was given in the Bible, and inasmuch as I failed in doing this will you, neighbor, give me part of your children? I should like to be a king, and have some subjects to reign over, will you part with some of your children?" "Oh no," says the neighbor, "if you neglected, in yonder world, the divine ordinances pertaining to the probation, you must bear the loss, I cannot spare any of my children. They belong to me; they are under my patriarchal government, they will be my kingdom and I shall reign over my own offspring forever and ever." JD18:41 Orson Pratt

No Plural Husbands

Jesus taught that should a man die, the woman marries his sister, but that marriage is for time only, and is for the purpose of raising up seed to the kingdom of the deceased man through his wife.

This is also for the case of one of the plural marriages of Joseph Smith, her other husband was for time only, she was only sealed to Joseph, and therefore is Joseph's wife in eternity. The man was actually sealed to them as one of their children, that could be a happy situation.

Orson Pratt: "Says one—"Turn it about the other way, then we shall have plurality of husbands." Let me say to the congregation that the object of marriage is to fulfill the commandment which God gave to immortal beings. Could a woman multiply faster by having two husbands? Everybody knows that in this respect there is a difference between the male and the female. In this life, at any rate, if one woman had two husbands, instead of making her more fruitful, the probability is that it would prevent her raising any offspring at all; and if she did, how would the father be known? And hence, God has strictly forbidden, in [p. 56a]this Bible, plurality of husbands, and proclaimed against it in his law." (Lev. 20:10 Deut. 22:22 Rom. 7:2-3) JD18:41 Orson Pratt

Orson Pratt: Yes plural in heaven , yes remarry after a spouse dies and he sealed for eternity

We will say that, in the course of two or three months after this marriage, some accident befalls the wife and she dies. They loved each other and were married for all eternity, and he mourns over the fact that in his youth, in the very prime of his manhood, he is left alone, a widower. Now is it right for him to marry another wife after having been married to one for time and for all eternity? Is it right for him again to receive a young lady for a wife? "Oh, yes," you answer, "it is perfectly right, because that would not be living with two on the earth at the same time." Very well, he goes and marries again; and now the question arises, suppose that they only marry for time, or until death shall part them—we will suppose this, because the man already has a wife on the other side of the veil—what is to become of the second wife in the morning of the resurrection? Can you answer that question? If he only marries her for time, she has no husband when the resurrection comes. Perhaps she is just as good a woman as the wife the man married first for all eternity. What are you going to do with her? Shall she be left in a condition where she can have no posterity, no endless increase, no kingdom in connection with a husband, and no husband? Shall she be left throughout all the future ages of eternity without any such privilege, while the first wife, no better than she is, is married for all eternity, and inherits all the blessings arising therefrom? Would not there be partiality in this? There certainly would. How are you going to remedy this? We answer, when this widower takes this second wife, let her also be married to him for time and all eternity, the same as the first; then, by and by, when the resurrection comes, there come up the [p. 55b] two women. What will you do then? This introduces plurality into the next life, does it not? Polygamists in the next world? It certainly does; and these two women, both having received this man as their husband for all eternity, one of them will now be in just as good a condition as the other. Let this principle be extended. There are some cases in life where two women might die, and a man be still left in his young days without a wife, and he marries a third and perhaps a fourth; in the resurrection they are contemporaneously his wives. Plurality, therefore, would be perfectly

consistent in the world to come, but, “Oh,” says a sectarian, “how awful it is in this world!”

Thus you see that the very moment we admit the eternity of marriage, the very moment that we admit that Adam and Eve were immortal beings, when they were married, and we undertake to follow that pattern, plurality necessarily comes along; either marriage has no bearing upon eternity, and no bearing upon immortality and immortal beings, or else plurality of wives necessarily must exist in eternity. JD18:41 Orson Pratt

Diversity of Gene Pool

This is one convincing argument for Adam practicing plural marriage.

However, some say their untainted DNA back then allowed for marriages to close relatives which today would be devastating.

Hugh Nibley on the Jewish Legend of Lillith, Another Wife of Adam

Brigham Young mentioned Adam had other wives, which makes this account of interest.

“According to the Hebrew tradition, which is very early and very widely testified, he [Adam] had a wife at this time, and she was Lilith. She represents promiscuity. She didn’t like Adam. She did everything she could to keep him from entering into the covenant and marrying in the covenant. Eve wasn’t around then. Her name means “night,” Layla. Way back in the Alphabet of Rabbi Aqiba, a very early writing, we are told about her. She was his mate, but she stands for everything that is promiscuous. She doesn’t want to get married, but she wants to play around; that’s Lilith. Adam was living in an animal state of innocence. He had become as a little child. I guess he would be a pushover for Lilith. But she is a sinister character because she is irresponsible. She is married to him and she has children, but she doesn’t want to be responsible for them, or anything like that. She is regarded as the woman who tries to do everything she can to prevent marriage, to prevent childbirth, and to kill babies in their cribs. That’s Lilith. There are all sorts of early charms from Babylon and elsewhere against Lilith to keep her from her shenanigans. She’s a rather important figure. She represents the sort of sexual license we have in the world today-the anything goes, just have fun” (Hugh Nibley, *Ancient Documents and the Pearl of Great Price*, edited by Robert Smith and Robert Smythe, p.13).

Various Plural Marriage Scriptures

D&C 124:57-8: “For this anointing have I put upon his head, that this **blessing** shall be put upon the the head of his **posterity** after him.

And, as I said unto **Abraham** concerning the kindreds of of the earth, even so I say unto my servant **Joseph**: In thee and and in thy **seed** shall the kindreds of the earth be **blessed**.”

Abraham, Jacob, and other patriarchs of old are documented as practicing plural marriage as seen in the Old Testament, and the D&C.

The Book of Mormon (Jacob 2) says plural marriage is ordained when God so indicates. Naturally, He usually doesn’t as the people typically aren’t living on that high spiritual plain.

D&C 131:1-4 had the original meaning of applying to plural marriage:

- 1** In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;
- 2** And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];
- 3** And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.
- 4** He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.

D&C 132 on Plural Marriage

D&C 132 is almost entirely devoted to the law of plural marriage and references prophets such as Abraham who were given multiple wives according to God's law. Verses 4-57 focus on this doctrine:

“4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

5 For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted from before the foundation of the world.

6 And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

7 And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.

8 Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion.

9 Will I accept of an offering, saith the Lord, that is not made in my name?

10 Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed?

11 And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was?

12 I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment—that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord.

13 And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God.

14 For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

15 Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.

16 Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.

17 For these angels did not abide my law; therefore, they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.

18 And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife, and make a covenant with her for time and for all eternity, if that covenant is not by me or by my word, which is my law, and is not sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, through him whom I have anointed and appointed unto this power, then it is not valid neither of force when they are out of the world, because they are not joined by me, saith the Lord, neither by my word; when they are out of the world it cannot be received there, because the angels and the gods are appointed there, by whom they cannot pass; they cannot, therefore, inherit my glory; for my house is a house of order, saith the Lord God.

19 And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed, unto whom I have appointed this power and the keys of this priesthood; and it shall be said unto them—Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection; and if it be after the first resurrection, in the next resurrection; and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths—then shall it be written in the Lamb's Book of Life, that he shall commit no murder whereby to shed

innocent blood, and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

20 Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them.

21 Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory.

22 For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me.

23 But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also.

24 This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law.

25 Broad is the gate, and wide the way that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law.

26 Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man marry a wife according to my word, and they are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, according to mine appointment, and he or she shall commit any sin or transgression of the new and everlasting covenant whatever, and all manner of blasphemies, and if they commit no murder wherein they shed innocent blood, yet they shall come forth in the first resurrection, and enter into their exaltation; but they shall be destroyed in the flesh, and shall be delivered unto the buffetings of Satan unto the day of redemption, saith the Lord God.

27 The blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which shall not be forgiven in the world nor out of the world, is in that ye commit murder wherein ye shed innocent blood, and assent unto my death, after ye have received my new and everlasting covenant, saith the Lord God; and he that

abideth not this law can in nowise enter into my glory, but shall be damned, saith the Lord.

28 I am the Lord thy God, and will give unto thee the law of my Holy Priesthood, as was ordained by me and my Father before the world was.

29 Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne.

30 Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph—which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them.

31 This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the promise was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself.

32 Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved.

33 But if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father, which he made unto Abraham.

34 God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife. And why did she do it? Because this was the law; and from Hagar sprang many people. This, therefore, was fulfilling, among other things, the promises.

35 Was Abraham, therefore, under condemnation? Verily I say unto you, Nay; for I, the Lord, commanded it.

36 Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac; nevertheless, it was written: Thou shalt not kill. Abraham, however, did not refuse, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

37 Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children; and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, because they were given unto him, and he abode in my law; as Isaac also and Jacob did none other things than that which they were commanded; and because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods.

38 David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, as also many others of my servants, from the

beginning of creation until this time; and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me.

39 David's wives and concubines were given unto him of me, by the hand of Nathan, my servant, and others of the prophets who had the keys of this power; and in none of these things did he sin against me save in the case of Uriah and his wife; and, therefore he hath fallen from his exaltation, and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord.

40 I am the Lord thy God, and I gave unto thee, my servant Joseph, an appointment, and restore all things. Ask what ye will, and it shall be given unto you according to my word.

41 And as ye have asked concerning adultery, verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man receiveth a wife in the new and everlasting covenant, and if she be with another man, and I have not appointed unto her by the holy anointing, she hath committed adultery and shall be destroyed.

42 If she be not in the new and everlasting covenant, and she be with another man, she has committed adultery.

43 And if her husband be with another woman, and he was under a vow, he hath broken his vow and hath committed adultery.

44 And if she hath not committed adultery, but is innocent and hath not broken her vow, and she knoweth it, and I reveal it unto you, my servant Joseph, then shall you have power, by the power of my Holy Priesthood, to take her and give her unto him that hath not committed adultery but hath been faithful; for he shall be made ruler over many.

45 For I have conferred upon you the keys and power of the priesthood, wherein I restore all things, and make known unto you all things in due time.

46 And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word, saith the Lord, it shall be eternally bound in the heavens; and whosoever sins you remit on earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whosoever sins you retain on earth shall be retained in heaven.

47 And again, verily I say, whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse, saith the Lord; for I, the Lord, am thy God.

48 And again, verily I say unto you, my servant Joseph, that whatsoever you give on earth, and to whomsoever you give any one on earth, by my word and according to my law, it shall be visited with blessings and not

cursings, and with my power, saith the Lord, and shall be without condemnation on earth and in heaven.

49 For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my Father, with Abraham your father.

50 Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac.

51 Verily, I say unto you: A commandment I give unto mine handmaid, Emma Smith, your wife, whom I have given unto you, that she stay herself and partake not of that which I commanded you to offer unto her; for I did it, saith the Lord, to prove you all, as I did Abraham, and that I might require an offering at your hand, by covenant and sacrifice.

52 And let mine handmaid, Emma Smith, receive all those that have been given unto my servant Joseph, and who are virtuous and pure before me; and those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God.

53 For I am the Lord thy God, and ye shall obey my voice; and I give unto my servant Joseph that he shall be made ruler over many things; for he hath been faithful over a few things, and from henceforth I will strengthen him.

54 And I command mine handmaid, Emma Smith, to abide and cleave unto my servant Joseph, and to none else. But if she will not abide this commandment she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord; for I am the Lord thy God, and will destroy her if she abide not in my law.

55 But if she will not abide this commandment, then shall my servant Joseph do all things for her, even as he hath said; and I will bless him and multiply him and give unto him an hundred-fold in this world, of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, wives and children, and crowns of eternal lives in the eternal worlds.

56 And again, verily I say, let mine handmaid forgive my servant Joseph his trespasses; and then shall she be forgiven her trespasses, wherein she has trespassed against me; and I, the Lord thy God, will bless her, and multiply her, and make her heart to rejoice.

57 And again, I say, let not my servant Joseph put his property out of his hands, lest an enemy come and destroy him; for Satan seeketh to destroy; for I am the Lord thy God, and he is my servant; and behold, and lo, I am

with him, as I was with Abraham, thy father, even unto his exaltation and glory.”

Evidence that Plural Marriage was Practiced in the Book of Mormon

This short essay was written by Ogden Kraut and is shared in its original form with permission. It makes great points defending the thesis that plural marriage was in fact practiced by the righteous of the Book of Mormon.

If any man writes to you, or preaches to you, doctrines contrary to the Bible, the Book of Mormon, or the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, set him down as an imposter.

—Joseph Smith

Times & Seasons

April 1, 1844

THE NEPHITES:

Polygamy not for the Wicked

Unlike the Bible, the Book of Mormon doesn't say much about plural marriage. Nor did it say much about any of the other higher principles of the Priesthood. This is understandable when you consider that the book was intended for a priestcraft oriented people, blinded by tradition, custom and superstition. A thousand contending Christian churches were leading the people down different and strange paths. The corruptions of their society and failure to learn and obey Priesthood laws denote a people about to be destroyed rather than a people about to be translated or exalted.

Nephi often read the words of Isaiah to his brothers and he told them, "I did liken all scriptures unto us. . . ." (1 Nephi 19:23), meaning that he applied those passages to themselves as much as to anyone else. He explained that the judgments of God "come upon all nations." (2 Nephi 25:3) And when the Savior appeared among the Nephites, He said, "a commandment I give unto you that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah." (3 Nephi 23:1) Among the last words of Mormon was his admonition to "Search the prophecies of Isaiah."

(Mormon 8:23)

It seems rather strange that the Nephites would include in their historical record, the third and fourth chapters of Isaiah, which tell about a war so terrible that six out of seven [78] men would be killed and “seven women shall take hold of one man” to live plural marriage. (2 Nephi 14:1) Then the next verse says, “In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious.” (v. 2) Such an inclusion would certainly encourage them to accept plural marriage as a desired, correct and honorable principle.

But Nephi knew many things he could not reveal to his brothers or other family members. He said, “I was forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard” (1 Nephi 14:28), and again, “mine eyes have beheld great things, yea, even too great for men; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them.” (2 Nephi 4:25) Moroni said he wanted to write more: “I was about to write more, but I am forbidden.” (Ether 13:13) This appeared again and again in the Nephite record. Mormon explained why only a very small part of the Savior’s teachings could be recorded at that time:

And now there cannot be written in this book even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people;
But behold the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which he taught the people.

And these things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus hath spoken.

And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.

And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation.
Behold, I was about to write them, all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbade [79] it, saying: I will try the faith of my people. (3 Nephi 26:6-11)

If people are too worldly or proud to accept the first principles of the

gospel, there is no reason to offer them any more, as Jesus said, “It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and cast it unto the dogs.” (Mark 7:27)

Thus the Book of Mormon seemed to avoid the subject of plural marriage as much as possible, and even the little that was written was half-hidden in the wording. Many times it would say a man had sons and daughters, and then describing another man it would say he begat many sons and daughters, but it seldom mentioned the exact numbers of children. Had that been the case, plural marriage might have been inferred by those high numbers, as it was in the case of Orihah:

And it came to pass that Orihah did execute judgment upon the land in righteousness all his days, whose days were exceeding many.
And he begat sons and daughters; yea, he begat thirty and one, among whom were twenty and three sons. (Ether 7:1-2)

With 31 children, he had to be a polygamist. And if he was a man of “righteousness all his days” and he had 31 children in polygamy, it must mean that the Lord was not displeased with him or his marriages.

Amulek said as he was journeying to see a “near kindred,” that “an angel of the Lord” appeared unto him and told him about a “chosen man of God”. Amulek was instructed to return and take this “holy man” into his house and care for his needs. He did this and as a result Amulek recorded that Alma “blessed mine house, he hath blessed me, and my women, and my children, and my father and my kinsfolk.” (See Alma 10:7-11.)

[80] Amulek must have been a good man because, first of all he was instructed by an angel of God. He had possibly taken as wives some of the widows left from the many wars, and Alma blessed his wives, or “women” as he called them. Amulek was recognized as a righteous man by God and obviously would have lived righteously with those women.

One of the most faithful men described in the Book of Mormon was the brother of Jared. It is said of him:

And there were many whose faith was so exceeding strong, even before Christ came, who could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and

they were glad.

And behold, we have seen in this record that one of these was the brother of Jared; for so great was his faith in God, that when God put forth his finger he could not hide it from the sight of the brother of Jared, because of his word which he had spoken unto him, which word he had obtained by faith. (Ether 12:19-20)

Because of his great faith, “the Lord could not withhold anything from his sight; wherefore he showed him all things, for he could no longer be kept without the veil.” (Ether 12:21) He was so inspired that “the things which he wrote were mighty even as thou art, unto the overpowering of man to read them.” (v. 24) Here was a good man—a man who conducted his life and his family according to the will of the Lord. He was worthy to raise a large family with many wives, which is what must have happened, as we read that “the number of the sons and the daughters of the brother of Jared were twenty and two souls,” (Ether 6:20), indicating that he, too, must have had more than one wife.

Another indication of plural marriage in the Book of Mormon is also recorded in Ether:

[81] Wherefore every man did cleave unto that which was his own, with his hands, and would not borrow neither would he lend; and every man kept the hilt of his sword in his right hand, in the defense of his property and his own life and of his wives and children. (Ether 14:2)

This passage is talking of “every man” (singular) and “his property”, but mentions “his wives” (plural).

Just like any principle and doctrine of the Gospel, both the righteous and wicked have been permitted to obey and live them, for whatever reasons—and it is no different with plural marriage. There is the example of Riplakish, a wicked man—

... who did not do that which was right in the sight of the Lord, for he did have many wives and concubines, and did lay that upon men’s shoulders which was grievous to be borne; yea, he did tax them with heavy taxes; and with the taxes he did build many spacious buildings.

And he did erect him an exceedingly beautiful throne; and he did build many prisons, and whoso would not be subject unto taxes, he did cast into prison; and whoso was not able to pay taxes he did cast into prison; and he did cause that they should labor continually for their support; and whoso refused to labor he did cause to be put to death. (Ether 10:5-6)

Certainly this is enough evidence to show Riplakish was a very wicked man! Yet he “did have many wives and concubines” and “did afflict the people with his whoredoms and abominations.” (v. 5, 7) Because of his free agency, he was entitled to this lifestyle as much as anyone else; but it certainly doesn’t mean he took additional wives because he wanted to obey God and become a more righteous man.

[82] Along these same lines, King Noah, son of righteous King Zeniff, did not walk in the ways of his father and became corrupted by selfish lusts and vanity. It is said of him:

For behold, he [Noah] did not keep the commandments of God, but he did walk after the desires of his own heart. And he had many wives and concubines. And he did cause his people to commit sin, and do that which was abominable in the sight of the Lord. Yea, and they did commit whoredoms and all manner of wickedness. * * *

And it came to pass that he placed his heart upon his riches, and he spent his time in riotous living with his wives and his concubines; and so did also his priests spend their time with harlots. (Mosiah 11:2, 14)

The Devil enjoys influencing wicked men to twist and abuse righteous principles, and polygamy seems to be one of his favorite areas, as there are countless cases of those who lived that doctrine unrighteously.

Riplakish and Noah were just two examples of the type of men whom the Lord did not want to live plural marriage; and apparently there were many others during the time of Jacob, Lehi’s son, for he warned the people:

And now, my brethren, I have spoken unto you concerning pride; and those of you which have afflicted your neighbor, and persecuted him because ye were proud in your hearts, of the things which God hath given you, what say ye of it?

Do ye not suppose that such things are abominable unto him who created all flesh? And the one being is as precious in his sight as the other. And all flesh is of the dust; and for the selfsame end hath he created them, that they should keep his commandments and glorify him forever.

And now I make an end of speaking unto you concerning this pride. And were it not that I must speak [83] unto you concerning a grosser crime, my heart would rejoice exceedingly because of you.

But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord: This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.

Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.

Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph.

Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.

Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none;

For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts. (Jacob 2:20-28)

The key words here are “among you”—talking of the wicked people he has just been addressing. Why should they be allowed to continue in the abuse of such a holy principle? As verse 23 states, these people were guilty of three serious sins:

1. They were beginning to wax in iniquity.
2. They did not understand the scriptures.
3. They were committing whoredoms (multiplying wives), like David and Solomon.

For these reasons, the Lord wanted them restricted to only one wife and no concubines. Plural marriage must have been practiced among the Nephites before this time or why [84] else would this limitation now be

placed on them by the Lord? Because of their actions, the Nephite people, generally speaking, had really become unworthy of even one wife. As Jacob goes on to describe their iniquities, it becomes even more evident why the Lord restricted them to one wife:

Behold, ye have done greater iniquities than the Lamanites, our brethren. Ye have broken the hearts of your tender wives, and lost the confidence of your children, because of your bad examples before them; and the sobbings of their hearts ascend up to God against you. (Jacob 2:35)

Except ye repent the land is cursed for your sakes; and the Lamanites, which are not filthy like unto you, nevertheless they are cursed with a sore cursing, shall scourge you even unto destruction. . .

Behold, the Lamanites your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our fathers—that they should have save it were one wife, and concubines they should have none, and there should not be whoredoms committed among them.

And now, this commandment they observe to keep; wherefore, because of this observance, in keeping this commandment, the Lord God will not destroy them, but will be merciful unto them; and one day they shall become a blessed people. (Jacob 3:3, 5-6)

The Lamanites apparently had also been guilty of abusing the principle of plural marriage and the Lord had already commanded them to have just one wife; but because of their renewed obedience, they would “one day . . . become a blessed people,” indicating their people would once again be righteous enough to live plural marriage. But it was harder to get the Nephites to obey, and because of their disobedience and abuse of plural marriage, they were under greater condemnation.

[85] But did this instruction of having “one wife” apply to the righteous leaders and people who tried to live close to the Lord and obey all His commandments? Certainly there must have been a few of them scattered throughout the Nephite communities, who felt that instruction did not pertain to them.

Jacob 2, verse 24, referred to David and Solomon’s having “many wives

and concubines, which thing was abominable before me.” We need to remember that when David and Solomon were in good favor with the Lord, He blessed them in every way, which included their wives; but when they apostatized, they were no longer worthy of those good women. David was guilty of murder and adultery, and Solomon took foreign wives which led to further unrighteousness:

Foreign marriages brought foreign religions, and the king compromised the convictions which he had expressed in his dedicatory prayer for the temple (I Kings 8:23, 27) by engaging in syncretistic worship to placate his wives. This violent breach of Israel’s covenant could not go unpunished. (Illus. Bible Dict., vol. 3:1472)

After such sins and “multiplying wives” out of lust, David and Solomon were no longer worthy to live plural marriage or to take additional wives. This is what the scripture is referring to as being “abominable before me.”

With this explanation it becomes a little more clear what Jacob meant when he said:

And now it came to pass that the people of Nephi, under the reign of the second king, began to grow hard in their hearts, and indulge themselves somewhat in wicked practices, such as like unto David of old desiring many wives and concubines, and also Solomon, his son. (Jacob 1:15)

[86] Both David and Solomon corrupted themselves, their families and their kingdoms through their immorality. The purpose of plural marriage is to live pure lives and raise up a righteous posterity. They failed to do this and so did the Nephites, and thus they were forbidden from taking plural wives.

It is easy to understand the potential nature of good and evil in all things. For example, a fire can warm a house or burn it down. A gun may provide food for hungry people, or it can kill the people themselves. So it is with plural marriage—it can exalt or destroy. Like any other marriage, it is neither good nor bad in and of itself; its value is determined by the way it is used or abused.

Jacob left the door open for the righteous to live plural marriage when he said:

For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things. For behold, I, the Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the mourning of the daughters of my people in the land of Jerusalem, yea, and in all the lands of my people, because of the wickedness and abominations of their husbands. (Jacob 2:30-31)

So apparently it was just as difficult for men to live this principle righteously in those days as it has been in our dispensation. So Jacob issued a type of Manifesto for his time similar to what was declared and accepted in the LDS Church in 1890. Orson Pratt commented:

But because the Lord dealt thus with the small branch of the House of Israel that came to America, under their peculiar circumstances, there are those at the present day who will appeal to this passage in the [87] Book of Mormon as something universally applicable in regard to man's domestic relations. The same God that commanded one branch of the House of Israel in America, to take but one wife when the numbers of the two sexes were about equal, gave a different command to the hosts of Israel in Palestine. But let us see the qualifying clause given in the Book of Mormon on this subject. After having reminded the people of the commandment delivered by Lehi, in regard to monogamy, the Lord says—"For if I will raise up seed unto me I will command my people, otherwise they shall hearken unto these things;" that is, if I will raise up seed among my people of the House of Israel, I will give them a commandment on the subject, but if I do not give this commandment, they shall hearken to the law which I give unto their father Lehi. That is the meaning of the passage, and this very passage goes to prove that plurality was a principle God did approve under circumstances when it was authorized by Him. (JD 13:191-92, Oct. 7, 1869)

Of course, he is talking here about accepted procedure of the Church, allowing for the fact that there will always be a few who wish to obey eternal principles in or out of the Church.

The Book of Mormon is an amazing book. It is so amazing that it must

be true, because truth is stranger than fiction. Unlike fiction, however, it teaches principles, religious themes, history and a vast amount of common sense. It depicts the lives of both good and bad men as descriptively and eloquently as any in the Bible. From such illustrative examples comes a precious understanding of good and evil, and the fruits resulting from each.

Our actions determine our outcome—not merely the beliefs we claim nor what we possess. For instance, gold is neither good nor bad, but its use by either good or bad individuals determines its significance and value. Both good [88] and bad individuals hold government offices, and how they use that power becomes a factor in determining their true worth.

So now we come to the principle of plural marriage. It, too, can be received and lived by both good and bad men and women; it can be righteously practiced or it can be terribly abused. The Book of Mormon gives us important instructions by providing a glimpse into the fateful history of plural marriage. We can learn from the many examples that plural marriage is not a principle to be lived by the wicked, and God will not tolerate His Church in any dispensation to abuse it for long.

A House Full of Females: Plural Marriage and Women's Rights In Early Mormonism, 1835-1870 by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich – Book Highlights

This book doesn't have all its facts and stories right, but here are some interesting things from it. These notes are not a through summary of all topics treated in the text. There may be incorrect sources used in this work, as it is common knowledge that conspiring individuals always plot against the Lord's anointed, and particularly against Joseph Smith, whose name has been prophesied to be known for good and evil among all peoples. There is a progressive history movement among church scholars which repeats information from sources which have long been considered anti-Mormon (anti-Latter-day Saint).

The current church policy is that anyone practicing polygamy is excommunicated. I do not advocate for the practice of polygamy, but rather for remaining in full fellowship in the church. For salvation we must do as God tells us. We follow God's prophet and find salvation, not looking to the past for guidance, but the present word of God. Rejecting modern prophets in behalf of ancient or even recently passed ones is the classical narrative of the fall of nations. The people of Noah's day rejected Noah in the name of Adam, thinking they were ok since they were in some form following the councils of Adam. The Jews rejected Jesus Christ in the name of Moses. Christians today reject Joseph Smith / Mormonism in the name of Jesus Christ. Some Mormons today reject the current president in the name of Joseph Smith. All of these are incorrect. God speaks today, hear him and find salvation.

It's also interesting to note that polygamy is so popular today in places like Utah and Nevada, that polygamists won't be arrested for the practice, only if child marriages or forced marriages or government welfare fraud is involved. It's still illegal in every state of the USA, but like speeding in a car, it's too hard to enforce the law on this topic. At one point, the makers of the TV show "Sister Wives" about a polygamist family in Lehi Utah were about to be sued for breaking the law so flagrantly and making Utah look bad. The governor raised a law suit, but they moved to Nevada and Nevada didn't want to mess with the case so

it was dropped. The Lehi family was actually happy they were getting sued because you can't ask for a law to be changed unless you are being harassed by its enforcement. With recent advances in marriage law (namely allowing premarital cohabitation without marriage and legalizing same sex marriage in 2015), if a polygamist case were to be brought to the federal court today, it may likely cause the law to change (for the state, not the church).

Book Highlights:

- to gather together was a very large emphasis; the women of the Mormons would gather together, and they would often do political things, calling for political things; 700 women at a meeting all spoke out to the government wanting their freedom and their free rights that they come from all over the world to obtain. They defended polygamy.
- Joseph Smith was teaching one woman about the order of the priesthood meeting polygamy and she said go teach it to someone else and Joseph Smith looked at her reprovngly and said will you tell me who to teach? I am to teach you and it is for you to decide whether or not you will believe what I teach but I must teach
- Joseph Smith taught Wilford Woodruff and other apostles that God would not reveal his secrets to his servants unless they were willing to keep them.
- Brigham Young said that the Relief Society would help the Saints to resist foreign Fashions and Gentile merchants
- one woman responded when someone said that it wasn't fair when one man got 60 wives and other men got none, that what woman wouldn't rather have 1/60 part of Parley Pratt then to have the whole of some other man
- Brigham told the saints that the US government had turned into a mob and was breaking the Constitution and that they would have to go forth and defend it; he asked them if they would be willing to give up all that they had worked for in the past 10 years and abandon their homes and flee into the mountains if necessary; the entire congregation shouted yes, there were thousands of people at that meeting. Harriet Thatcher who had recently arrived said she had never seen such unity in her life
- John Taylor preached a sermon where and he said that the Mormons had lived away from the other states and hadn't bothered anyone but now like a wicked monarch pursuing it's people wickedly, the United States was

coming after the Mormons, and just like how the United States treated the Indians unfairly, they are treating the Mormons unfairly.

-Wilford Woodruff said that these are solemn times because the armies of the Gentiles are coming against us because of our religion and we have to defend ourselves against 25 million people

-it was said that whoever would speak against polygamy was in darkness (the book says who said this, I don't recall.)

-Joseph Smith said that we'll see so much blood that our hearts will be sick of it

-Brigham Young agreed to relent his position as Governor because the US was pressing upon them, but he said that he would not allow troops to occupy that land, he said that rather than do that he would burn his own village as others have done in Russia.

-The leaders made plans to take the 30,000 people on an exodus out of Salt Lake and to leave a group of Men Behind To Burn the City if the United States Army where to come.

-One man when reflecting on being driven from his home by the US Army pushing for living his religion said that though he was about to have the best garden he ever had that season, he would have to let it go, because being pushed from homes was the fate of every man in any generation who dared to worship the true and living God

-Patty Hogan said, I think I can take the spoiling of my things with joy, oh Lord help me so to do! this she said when they're being driven from their homes yet again

-Brigham Young said there many women who care more about their husbands sleeping with them that they do about building the kingdom God, and if a man was to submit to such a woman he would not be worth shocks in building up the kingdom of God

-it was said that one woman complained to Brigham young wanting "pillow council" more than "ward council", Brigham told her that even if she never got pillow council again, she should go home and do right.

-Wilford Woodruff said a man's family was his kingdom, and no man had a right to interfere with him; his family was his throne and kingdom.

-a woman moved 30 times within 21 years as a Mormon. Before becoming a Mormon, she lived in one place, but she says she doesn't know which was more pleasant, because even in the times of moving and at times even living in a wagon cover for a home, that she was comforted by the spirit of God. She reported that she had witnessed Gods guardianship over her in thousands of instances. She had to live in a

place that smelt like a horse stall, she said to herself that if the baby Jesus could live in such a place, so could she.

-Eliza Snow wrote about the need to lay everything on the altar as a sacrifice for God; that like Eve, women shouldn't care if they were the first or 50th wife; it mattered not, because Eve did what she was supposed to, and this is her eternal glory as a goddess; one was to be humble and not worry about being the center of attention even in the eyes of ones spouse.

-Heber Kimball chastised one of the sisters; he said that because she bore it like a Christian, he loved her ten times more; he reminded her that who the Lord loveth he chasteneth

-there was various incidences of speaking in tongues including a time when several saying a song in the language spoken by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and it was reported to have been one of the most Heavenly songs ever heard

-Wilford Woodruff said any almost any fool can go and preach the gospel but it takes a very wise man to be a patriarch of his home and save his family

-Joseph Smith said that it was men's privilege to take as many wives as he could

-Joseph or one of the brethren said something along the lines of how you could even become like Abraham and have thousands on your own children, making a little kingdom, your own tribe/army, and that it's basically your duty to get as many children as you can; those are the people that you basically rule; this was the Lord's order and the way of establishing his purposes. No less than thrones of exaltation was the promise to all involved in the creation of these kingdoms.

-They were also allowed to divorce if both parties were not happy. This ability to divorce for reasons of unhappiness is a very modern idea, that marriage wasn't just something that you have to stay in because you covenanted to enter, but that if happiness wasn't there for both parties, the marriage could indeed be dissolved; it could be considered that the ability to divorce was what made the polygamy program healthy and successful

-if a man divorced he was required to continue to provide for the child or children he sired from that marriage.

-Heber Kimball said one of the great mysteries of this church is how someone in it could want some pants and everyone else not give them to him. Here he's talking about how we should take care of each other in

the church, but that such doesn't always happen.

-Emma had eight children over course of 12 Years.

-a miraculous account reported that a baby slept 7 hours straight during an entire temple dedication, and then awake at the end, and shouted hosanna's with them!

-the women didn't keep a lot of journals and they didn't want to sound like they were complaining, they didn't want to sound like Sariah in the Book of Mormon who complained; the Mormon women often would write to their husbands and say it is very hard but I don't regret that you're gone preaching the gospel; they all expected the second coming neigh at the doors, and they were making great sacrifices for this.

-Each block of the settlements namely SLC had 10 units; each unit had about an acre and a half of land and a small house and so each household could have about a large orchard and garden.

-Travelers coming to see SLC marveled at how beautiful it was; even the streets had lovely brooks running along side them and so forth.

-Wilford Woodruff lived in one of the richest areas of Utah and was the second richest person that lived in that area, but even the more rich among them were not to be lazy; you had to work hard no matter how rich you were

-when the government was coming after the Saints, there was a saying that though the saints were like the worker bees, those coming after them would learn they could also sting.

-Eventually church leaders practicing polygamy had to live in hiding to not be arrested by the US government. Wilford Woodruff wrote as he officially ended this church practice, that he was acting for the temporal salvation of the church and had considered the matter in great length in prayer. There were rumors at that time that the US government was about to close down their temples if they would not cease the practice.

Polygamy's Ancient Purpose & Modern Legal History

*Note: Though I recognize its place in celestial law, I do not endorse polygamy at this time as the keys for it are not turned. Practicing plural marriage without authorization has the opposite of its intended effect.

Introduction to the Philosophy of Polygamy

Polygamists want to be free to practice their plural marriage because they are usually acting out of religious conviction. Minor reasons behind this have been presented as a method of alleviating the poor who seek marriage but cannot find it bringing psychological belonging and children, and as an act of charity toward children by birthing them into wholesome families so they don't have to go to corrupt families. Strict religionists view their religious philosophies as the key to world peace, and they want to spread that message, but since no one will hear it, the most effective way to pass it on is through posterity. Hence the logic of having as numerous a posterity as possible. Sacred texts like The Holy Bible, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Quran encourage a numerous posterity, and in some cases, multiple wives to accomplish that objective.

Those in opposition to polygamy argue that it is generally barbaric, that it often accompanies a spirit of misogyny, that it is generally disrespectful to women as intelligent human beings, and they argue that children in polygamous families are disfavored because the adding of adult role models from time to time in their lives can be difficult for them to attach to and cope with seeing as polygamy is a very small minority in western culture.

Effects of Banning Polygamy in Early America

The Mormon's are the obvious culture of interest in this unique case of polygamy rising in the civilized world. Mormons preached polygamy and lived it despite it being a large factor in being chased from state to

state until landing in uncharted territory of the west where federal and state laws didn't apply. Eventually Utah was made a state and more pressure came to ban polygamy. Mormon leaders like Wilford Woodruff went into hiding to avoid jail sentences, and many Mormon leaders did jail time for polygamy. Eventually the Mormon leader then Wilford Woodruff declared that God had changed the polygamy policy. His journal reflects the great pressure he was under from civil authorities to do so, including threats to the sacred houses of worship called temples. Wilford's journal further expressed that "for the temporal salvation" of the saints, there was no choice but to end polygamy.

Mormons attempted to get the US to change its existing law banning polygamy on the grounds of religious freedom being protected in the First Amendment, but their case was denied, saying that you could believe in polygamy, just not practice it (Reynolds v US 1878). The US was trying to avoid a Pandora's box of others seeking allowances to unpopular ideas on the grounds of religious freedom behaviors (like smoking paote, killing chickens, etc.). This shows that the consequences of laws have dramatic impacts on family life. Hundreds of children were born in polygamous families, and thousands today have polygamous ancestry. Though polygamy has been discontinued in Mormonism, still today a large portion of its missionary force are descendants of polygamists.

Effects of Banning Polygamy in Modern America

Though the Mormons have not expressed interest in legalizing polygamy today (and excommunicate anyone practicing it), groups like the Amish, the FLDS, Islam, and other polygamous groups are not able to spread their religion as they would like to in the US. They believe that polygamy is a moral obligation, but that they are being held back in their efforts to please God. As immigration becomes more popular in the US we will see interesting cases about polygamy.

Some recent cases show how the US has dealt with immigration and polygamy. One case involved a foreigner who left one wife in his home country, and upon his death in the US, the law respected his foreign marriage and allowed some of his inheritance to go to his foreign polygamous wife who was not living the US with him. Another recent US case involved a man who wanted to maintain a marriage with a minor whom he had legally wed in his home country before immigrating to the

US, but this was not tolerated as child protection laws are very strict. The US policy is to allow people the right to marry. This developed in a Supreme Court interracial marriage case, overturning the idea that race was not an appropriate way to limit people's choice of marriage (1967 *Loving v Virginia*). This has led to even prisoners marrying.

The Sister Wives television program featured a Lehi Utah family who practiced polygamy, and who almost won a legal battle for polygamy in the civilized world. The governor of Utah was mad at this flagrant violation of law and sued. The polygamist family was happy that charges were pressed so they could finally get a law passed allowing them to be publicly and legally polygamist (a law can't change unless you can say someone is using it against you). This seemed to them to be an easy case since so many were allowed already to have sex outside of marriage in cohabitation, to have homosexual marriage, and other practices which were not common 100 years ago. When the case went to local courts, it was approved, but other courts challenged the decision and it was denied. The case went to the Supreme Court and since the family had moved to Nevada and Nevada was not pressing charges, and Utah could not since they moved, the case was dropped.

Though barely, polygamy remains illegal. It is treated like speeding too fast and not highly monitored and enforced in a few states like Utah and Colorado. However, if a case came up where there was child abuse, tax fraud, or welfare fraud, the polygamy would be prosecuted. Though child protection laws, tax laws, and welfare laws will remain in place, it seems there is but one more straw needed to break the camel's back when it comes to legalizing polygamy.

Legalizing Polygamy: A Question for Modern Society

Given the prevalence of allowing other types of marriage such as the 5/4 Supreme Court ruling that all states were required to issue same sex marriage licenses (*Obergefell v. Hodges*, June 26, 2015), polygamy might soon be legal also. Forbidding it at this point could appear to some as prejudice as other forms of marriage are so widely accepted. The political culture today suggests a libertarian view of marriage, that religious and non-religious people alike may choose which form of marriage to enter into by their free will and choice. Some religions, such as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, would not participate in polygamy (it has by them been unequivocally banned and declared not

to be the will of the Lord in our time), but those whose religious standards do allow polygamy, such as Islam, would be allowed to practice their religion, and find joy in following their conscience freely. Expression of the religious conscience is at the bedrock of Americanism, and many suggest that polygamy qualifies as a religious freedom, not to be disturbed by the government inasmuch as it doesn't harm others. The historic definition of marriage has included either a monogamous relation between a man and a woman or a polygamous relation between a man and a number of women.

The United States values its citizens having the right to "the pursuit of happiness" (Declaration of Independence), which historically has generally meant creating a family of your own and in your own way. Consensual polygamy was not always banned in US history, though homosexuality always has been (until very recently). Consensual polygamy is to some an ethical family arrangement. Globally, polygamy is currently practiced by millions. As the US becomes more global, it will need to decide what to do with foreign cultures increasingly coming to America, including polygamy.

Americans must rightly have strict laws forbidding underage marriage and forced marriage, which are 2 historic issues with polygamy. The age of adulthood in many societies (especially historically) is congruent with the onset of puberty, but when evaluating the age of adulthood, the debate must include ramifications of modern culture; modern lifestyles likely justify a later legal age of adulthood, that of 18 years. Non-consensual marriages must continue to not be tolerated in our modern humane society. With certain parameters in place, some suggest that polygamy could serve its intended and historic purpose of making marriage a real option for all (particularly the widowed and poor), making childbearing in a wholesome family context a real option for all, and giving children the opportunity to be reared in homes of faith and decency.

Many religious voices, including the Latter-day Saints, renounce the modern-day practice of polygamy. Some call polygamy a barbaric tradition which, if ever useful, has outgrown its time. While this may be true, the libertarian political climate of our time may yet have a reasonable case for again legalizing polygamous marriage in the United States.

Plural Marriage (Polygamy): A Zion Celestial Law Standard

Some say the Isaiah scripture about 7 women to 1 man describes the desolated people not the Zion people, I'm not familiar enough with the passage to say, but I do understand plurality as an eternal principle.

Perhaps the next US civil war creates a 7:1 scenario as well in Zion because that's the America based one, whereas Armageddon is eastern based.

President Eyring did speak of women in Zion being more numerous than men in his 2020 October conference address.

Some say that more women qualify for exaltation, which is a part of the reason for this standard. We know that men and women are equally capable, but it seems that the men often chose other paths. Some rabbis speak of ancient texts stating that the gods have thousands of wives for this reason. This isn't the modern romantic idea of marriage (two halves completing each other), but those familiar with antiquity are aware that the romantic social view is a fairly modern concept. Growing to love your partner(s) is ancient and right, but the obsession with finding "the one" is strange. President Kimball taught that people who live the gospel can be compatible, as the gospel refines them.

The main reason of course is to have a children centered culture. All stages of life are centered in child rearing in the consecrated plural marriage scenario. Jacob says its only for when the Lord ordains to raise up seed, but it makes sense that in the celestial law, that is ALWAYS the case, as the Lord ALWAYS wants to raise up seed!

He cannot, of course, trust the Gentiles with this way of life, as they would not get the spirit of it, but make it into vanity (the Gentiles don't care so much about having children, especially not lots of them).

Will this be required as part of the celestial law to build Zion the New Jerusalem? Our culture is so far away from understanding much less tolerating this doctrine, we have a long way to go. And the government as it now stands won't allow it, of course that will have to fall too.

Elder Cook was with a church historian doing a broadcast, the question of plurality for exaltation was raised, the historian said "nope, not needed for exaltation" then she turned to Elder Cook and said "right

Elder Cook?" Elder Cook's reply was somewhat hilarious as he politely disagreed, in effect, with the historian. He said something like, "that's right... but there's much about plural marriage that we do not understand..."

The teachings of the early brethren are clear on this: it is the standard of the exalted. One could argue that we are so far away from Zion culture that most of us don't even need to worry about this law since we won't be qualified to live it anyway... As Hugh Nibley said, our culture is a mission miles away from Zion culture, not even close.

Children of Joseph Smith's Plural Marriages

There was a man who was a son of Joseph Smith through a plural wife who didn't know it, Porter knew it, and spared the man's life for this reason. John Rockwell, 2nd great grandson of Porter said that at a lecture of his tonight.

(It makes sense that the sons from Joseph's plural marriages would be kept hidden, like the bloodline of Christ.)

Do we know of any other plural sons of Joseph, or is it likely they're hidden?

Of course, many of the children of Brigham Young were Joseph's children, as Brigham was sealed to Joseph, and after Joseph's death, Brigham took many of the wives to Joseph to raise up seed to Joseph, according to the Levirate law.

The antis say they were aborted but I can't believe that for a second. If I recall, the doctor they said supposedly performed those was a lying apostate not to be trusted.

Naturally there could have been a few of the marriages which were more spiritual than temporal in nature too.

Will Emma Smith be Saved? A Positive View

When asked on their feelings of Emma these days, the brethren say “very positive.” Here is some analysis of how this could be the case.

D&C says those with calling and election sure won't be cut off no matter what, except sinking against Holy Ghost. It says they must pay for their own sin from that point on, a heavy burden for sin indeed. Hyrum Andrus points this out too.

Now let's talk about Emma Smith. She with Joseph had her second anointings. Therefore, she will suffer greatly, but after, yet be exalted. She did not shed innocent blood, though she came close to it when telling Joseph and Hyrum to go to Carthage.

Early church presidents said she won't be, but that doesn't square with scripture, as indicated above. Several prophets have taught that if any teaching does not square with scripture to throw it out.

Did Emma sin against the Holy Ghost and shed innocent blood, revoking her exaltation? That's for God to decide. Rejecting and lying about plural marriage was serious sin, but it may not disqualify her ultimately.

Advising Joseph against his inspired plan to go west and instead go to Carthage is near to but not the same as shedding innocent blood. She was also pregnant at the time, so we don't know her heart and the difficulties she was bearing.

Joseph said he would get Emma from hell. This squares with scripture: severe punishment, then exaltation for those whose second anointings have been received.

Also Joseph likely has extra power to save those close to him (I heard righteous priesthood holders have some of that ability), if they don't defect based on the conditions described in the scriptures.

On the Life & Character of Emma Smith

the angel Moroni told Joseph when he went to get the plates that he hadn't been faithful enough in keeping the commandments so we had to come back in a year later try again this happened several times finally the angel told him if you don't come back with the right person you'll be cut off.

Joseph and Emma were told they could not get married and her father's house which was the custom of the day so they went and got married by the justice of the peace just them.

Emma's father was very wealthy and she as his only daughter was set to inherit much if not all of it she was also very educated and talented perhaps more so than any other woman in New England. she's saying beautifully all of the educated boys in town were interested in her. Joseph Smith had a bad reputation due to the gold Bible and Angel stories and he had a third grade education and his skills were chopping down trees and digging Wells but Emma gave up her status and financial opportunities to be with Joseph because of her testimony.

Emma went with Joseph to get the plates and Joseph was indeed given the plates Emma was the one or when I commanded to bring.

They buried five children

and Joseph discovers that Martin Harris has lost the 116 pages of Book of Mormon transcript translation the first thing Joseph says is this will kill Emma then he says I have lost my soul. Emma was very sick at the time and she had given up so much for the translation. And Joseph told Emma about the loss she said just start over Joseph said I have the angel has taken the urim and thumim. Emma said you have seen an angel you've been called to do this work you need to repent and so Joseph repents and gets the urim and thumim back.

they moved 16 times in 17 years of marriage and it wasn't until the 7th home that it was A Home of their own.

A man betrayed Joseph then went to his house and told Emma your house is now my house, get out. She had 4 children. She could only bring what she could carry. She went and grabbed the inspired interpretation of the bible transcript, sewed pockets inside her dress to hide them, and they left. She then had to walk 300 miles. Whenever we read the Joseph Smith translation of the Bible we should say a prayer of gratitude for Emma.

Emma took many people into her house even when she was sick she took care of the sick.

Joseph went to jail 37 times before going to Carthage jail.

Thousands of people came through Emma's house for the funeral viewing.

Emma lived 35 years alone in Nauvoo after the martyrdom.

Brigham took the Saints West 2 years after the martyrdom.

Just before her death she gave powerful testimony of the divine origin of the Book of Mormon and said that she never apostatized.

Lucy Smith speaks of how she's never seen anyone endure so much as Emma did.