

Plural Marriage & The Restoration

A Positive View

Analysis of the Limited Historical Use & Doctrine of Celestial Plural Marriage in the Bible & The Restored church

Including Contributions from Kimberly Watson Smith, Ogden Kraut book highlights, Alma Allred teachings, etc.



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Nate Richardson is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This book is written to benefit people of faith & goodwill everywhere.

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No Keys for Plural Marriage Today

My position is that plural marriage, though it is a higher law of the celestial kingdom as clearly set forth in D&C 132, is not currently authorized.

The 1886 revelation to John Taylor, if it exists at all, wasn't presented to the church and isn't binding upon it.

We should focus on missionary work, temple work, follow the direction of those who hold keys to authorize plural marriage in God's Kingdom.

I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and we do not practice plural marriage.

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

Studying the doctrine of plural marriage allows for an understanding of church history, an understanding of doctrines taught by Joseph Smith, and prepares us to embrace noble polygamists like Abraham Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God.

I suggest in this booklet that plural marriage is the standard law in the highest level of the celestial kingdom. Some have spoken against this, but I find it consistent in the teachings of Joseph Smith, the D&C (132) and others. If not an eventual requirement, it will at least be available to those who seek the blessings and progression which it brings.

Note that no one will be forced to live this law, or any other law. Living Gods laws is always based on our agency, and there is a heaven prepared for us whether or not we live this law. It seems plain that there are monogamous and polygamous marriages in heaven.

I warn that it is spiritually dangerous to take these matters into ones own hands, and repeat that there are no keys to live this law at present. Claims to authority in these regards are contrary to the doctrines of the church, historically questionable, and not to be persued.

The Church president has the keys, and only he has the keys. It is within the law of God that practicing plural marriage can be revoked based on the needs of the church as determined by the Lord Jesus Christ.

LDS Institute Teacher Alma Allred Discusses Plural Marriage with Jason Wallace Presbyterian Pastor

Part 4 of a series, this part on polygamy. See my other writings for notes on the other parts.
<https://youtu.be/pR-htWB8EI0>

There may be more similarities between a protestant church and the LDS church than the LDS church and fundamentalist LDS.

Only 3 percent of LDS lived polygamy. A man had to be called to it. But fundamentalist groups, they're polygamy groups, they all do it.

Monogamy is the rule in the Old and New Testament and the modern church. Polygamy is the exception.

According to Emma's son, Emma said Joseph didn't do polygamy. But we don't have record of Emma saying that firsthand.

Note: We have many records of her being aware of polygamy in the Church and practiced by Joseph, she usually was against it.

We can't tell which of the women sealed to Joseph were for marriage and which were just stealing into family.

The cases where Joseph was sealed to a woman who was already married, Alma says those would have been family sealings, not marriage sealings. Most of the cases of Joseph being sealed to married woman were when that woman's husband was not a member of the church.

Note: These sealings were for eternity, so women whose husbands weren't in the church wanted to secure those eternal blessings without ruining their families. This isn't done today.

John Bennett confessed in public trial that Joseph never taught him anything of unvirtuous behavior.

Marriages which are not performed by the priesthood end at death.

Brigham said that those who were called to polygamy were required to do so for exaltation.

Note - see the aspect of obedience.

Plenty of men who are not polygamists have hope of exaltation.

D&C 132 on polygamy also speaks of a man marrying a woman (singular) for exaltation, that is monogamy.

One man entered a plural marriage after the church said to stop doing that and got an infection and died shortly thereafter. He said he felt it was the judgment of God for going against the council of the church.

Some covenants are for the time being, like circumcision, which is now done away. So it was plural marriage.

The united voice of the church is against polygamy.

Note - would this change of the laws of the land changed? The voice of the church might speak differently, but I doubt it with today's political climate and culture. At this point frankly it's odd that the law outlaws polygamy, but for Church members the policy remains the same: do whatever God (through His prophet) calls you to do.

Brigham Young had about 20 wives but was sealed to many more.

(Note - perhaps as family, not necessarily wives.)

WW Phelps was excommunicated for taking unauthorized wives.

The most reasonable purpose of plural marriage is to make more children, and that is what happened with plural marriage in the church.

It is a very well established concept in the church that there is only one man on the earth who can give people authority to perform plural marriages. Joseph Smith even told his brother Hyrum that he could not authorize plural marriages without his permission.

Fundamentalist LDS have a complete disregard for authority.

Max Anderson's book "Polygamy: Fiction or Fact" rebuts the claims that fundamentalist groups have authority from John Taylor to practice polygamy.

The Smoot hearings say 4% of the church was practicing plural marriage, others claim 20 or 30%.

Brigham Young never lived in an area where they had

communal property. He owned his own home, etc.

God reveals things to us based on the condition in which we find ourselves.

Polygamy worked back then, it would not work in today's society.

Additional note from part 5 in the series: [The Ancient Paths - 5th Interview with Alma Allred, LDS Institute Instructor, on Scripture - YouTube](#)

D&C 101 was before polygamy was practiced large scale.

When the church first started polygamy they were disingenuous about denying it in the same way that Abraham denied Sarah being his wife.

The original D&C 101 was removed because it was incompatible with D&C 132, the more expanded view that plural marriage is authorized in some occasions.

In 1852 D&C 132 was canonized.

An Overview of Plural Marriage as an Eternal Celestial Blessing (5 Parts)



Here are some reasons why I believe plural marriage was not a temporary Abrahamic trial, but rather an important doctrine of God's eternal kingdom, surely to be practiced by some in the Church at a future date. As a member of the LDS Church I do not now live or encourage others to live plural marriage, but there seems to be great misunderstanding about the eternal nature of this important doctrine of the restoration. When plural

marriage returns, it won't be for everyone, but consider the following evidences of plural marriage being a holy eternal principle for those interested in building God's kingdom.

Sections:

1. MORMON PROPHETS TEACH & PRACTICE PLURAL MARRIAGE
2. JACOB 2 & BOOK OF MORMON PLURAL MARRIAGE EVIDENCE
3. WHY DID THE LDS CHURCH DISCONTINUE PLURAL MARRIAGE? IS IT A SHORT TERM TRIAL OR AN ETERNAL PRINCIPLE?
4. PLURAL MARRIAGE AS IDEAL FOR BUILDING ETERNAL FAMILIES: THE PATRIARCHAL ORDER, BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCES, AND THE FAITH RATIO
5. PLURAL MARRIAGE A BLESSING FOR MAN & WOMAN

1. MORMON PROPHETS TEACH & PRACTICE PLURAL MARRIAGE

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

Joseph Smith taught that all of the major patriarchs had multiple wives, and in the restored gospel, many faithful saints and prophets early in this dispensation entered into this practice and testified of the Holy Ghost and angels which bore unmistakable witness to their souls that this was the will of God. Though Joseph had to keep plural marriage private to the public for his own safety, Joseph's involvement with and teaching of plural marriage is undeniable. Brigham Young further taught that he was an apostle of Joseph, and that he received his teachings from Joseph.

Was it a haphazard 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. 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.

Several leaders of the mainstream Church today were sealed to a second wife when their first wives died. Sealings of deceased wives are not nullified in these cases, and participants fully anticipate being polygamously married to both wives in the resurrection. So the doctrine of plural marriage is alive in the Church today, even though they aren't practicing it at this time. This is additional evidence that plural marriage is an eternal principle revealed anew in this dispensation of the fullness of times, discontinued only temporarily.

I remember listening to a recent Q&A session with LDS Church Apostle Quentin L. Cook and someone who worked with Church history. The question came up as to whether plural marriage would be a future requirement. The historian replied that it wouldn't be required, and turned to Elder Cook and said "isn't that right Elder Cook?" then Elder Cook replied something to the extent of, "That's right, but there are many things about polygamy that we just don't understand." To me this was an obvious and sort of hilarious dodging of a difficult subject! It's not taught today because people can't handle it, and God is being merciful with us, gathering all to the basic gospel he can. This principle could be a dividing topic as the church advances to fulfill its destiny to build the New Jerusalem and mirror the faith of the ancients. How will anti-polygamy advocates in the church react when they see mighty prophets of old show up with their plural wives? The promises of God will not be altered for these faithful adherents.

2. JACOB 2 & BOOK OF MORMON PLURAL MARRIAGE EVIDENCE:

One of the biggest objections to plural marriage is Jacob chapter 2 in The Book of Mormon which talks about monogamy as the standard, 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 any higher laws (and yes, potential access to higher laws are a fact of the gospel as evidenced in every volume of scripture). 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"

A closer look into the Book of Mormon will show those patriarchs actually DID teach and practice plural marriage at other times than that of the people in the book of Jacob, though it's not brought to center stage as that's not the purpose of the book. Consider these 5

passages from the Book of Mormon which hint at and teach the righteousness of plural marriage when God sanctions it:

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

Ether 6:20 (righteous brother of Jared had 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 defence of his property and his own life and of his wives and children")

(See Ogden Kraut's article on Plural Marriage in the Book of Mormon for a more detailed look into this topic, which can be accessed at:

<http://richardsonstudies.com/2021/08/04/evidence-that-plural-marriage-was-practiced-in-the-book-of-mormon/>

3. WHY DID THE LDS CHURCH DISCONTINUE PLURAL MARRIAGE? IS IT A SHORT-TERM TRIAL OR AN ETERNAL PRINCIPLE?

While the Book of Mormon is a basic missionary tract to help people learn the basic gospel of Jesus Christ and repent from their hell bound ways, the Doctrine and Covenants is designed for people who are trying to live celestial law and build Zion. In section 132 it says that celestial marriage is God's new and everlasting covenant. Monogamous marriages done in temples are surely pleasing to God and valid, but it is clear that the fullness of God's law includes plural marriage for those interested in the unique blessings which that practice offers (and which provide for women who would otherwise not have the blessings of eternal marriage). Bruce R. McConkie spoke of a day when the mainstream Church would return to this holy practice, he predicted it would commence again once the millennial reign of Christ began; perhaps he came to this conclusion from the scripture which says that Zion must be built by adherence to all celestial laws.

So why were Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and other righteous saints so hesitant to live this law? Because they weren't used to it, they knew it would be a hard

transition for themselves and their people. After all, this practice had been lost all throughout the dark ages, and restoring it would shock the masses. These brethren were leaders responsible for bringing a people up to a higher standard than anyone had conceived. The mysteries of Godliness are being revealed, and it is at times strong medicine.

Some say plural marriage is just for this life. Some go so far as to suggest it was a negative thing which we just had to muscle through. They say "thank God it's over, that Abrahamic trial!" but this is not the spirit of Zion, and is in direct opposition to scripture! True, this doctrine is an Abrahamic trial to many who have been called to live it, but the Doctrine and Covenants shows that Abraham is identified as being in an exalted enthroned condition with multiple wives. Both he and his wives are exalted together! The trial of faith blooms into a bouquet of blessings as we leave behind the false traditions of our fathers.

The only reason plural marriage was discontinued in the mainstream Church was due to government pressure: the threat of temples being closed, taxed, 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. The saints were constantly complaining and slow to heed council. Similarly the D&C [Doctrine and Covenants] says the reason the Saints didn't get to stay in New Jerusalem Missouri was due to their unworthiness. Faithful saints understand that God still expects his covenant people to build up the center stake of Zion in Missouri, and look forward to the return of all of His laws identified in the D&C, including plural marriage.

If the saints were being saints, this practice in the mainstream Church would have never been discontinued. It's like when the Israelites rejected the judge system in favor of a king. A sad rejection of higher law, but God allowed it. The story of Joseph loaning the Book of Mormon manuscript to Martin Harris also comes to mind. At some point, when the saints complain enough, God says "fine, do it your way, see how that works for you."

4. PLURAL MARRIAGE AS IDEAL FOR BUILDING ETERNAL FAMILIES: THE PATRIARCHAL ORDER, BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCES, AND THE FAITH RATIO

A related topic which must be understood when looking at plural marriage is the patriarchal order, which teaches us to humbly play our part rather than proudly seek our will and our ways above God's ways, which we do not always understand. God presides over Christ, Christ presides over men, men preside over women, and women preside over children (see 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-25, 28; Colossians 3:14, 18-21; Acts 5:29). Let us not be among those who seek to overthrow the scriptural patriarchal order of family! None of us are subordinate in this order, we all work together, and we all need each other. For example, who would dare blaspheme and say that Christ isn't as worthy and divine as His Father? Not I. Different stations does not indicate different worthiness or merit. All is to be done in wisdom and order. We are all made for a purpose, and those purposes are all glorious! We are all joint heirs with Christ to all the Father has (D&C 84). The wives of God (and the wives of any righteous man) are considered his equal partners, and they counsel together through His presiding leadership and provision to bring to pass our eternal life and immortality. When God commands plural marriage (or anything else), all we can do is accept or reject it - we do not tell Him our opinions about other ways we think would work better. Naturally plural marriage and the patriarchal order are hard to understand today. Surely we must be patient as we may not fully understand the mind of God at this time. God is love, and his ways are generous just and holy to all. God is the creator, and he knows what is best, and how to arrange us into families to help us fulfill the measure of our creation, and be filled with an eternal fullness of joy!

(For further study on the patriarchal order and plural marriage being principles which honor and exalt women, see Kimberly Watson Smith's essay here: <http://richardsonstudies.com/2021/12/03/kimberly-smith-on-the-patriarchal-order-plural-marriage-as-honoring-and-exalting-women/>)

D&C 132:63 indicates that plural marriage and the seed resulting from it are important elements of the exaltation of the saints, and that it 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 can apply to plural marriage (as Joseph covertly taught), and to women having many children (while to others the privilege of childbearing and marriage will be revoked). Some think these principles of family growth are unfair, but in reality those who are righteous are entrusted with more as God knows they'll use that resource for building the kingdom. The mark of a saint is the desire to work together with others to build the kingdom of God, and this centers in building families. God is a family man, and the path for all to be like our Heavenly Parents (and thus glorify God) is to build righteous families.

We read of the universal Father and Mother in heaven in the 1995 Family Proclamation, and some use this to claim that God is monogamous. But that document is addressed to people on this Earth, and it could very well be that all the people on this Earth do have the same mother. Brigham taught that the people of each Earth have their own mother. Either way, we know that men and women have different but equally important roles. On this Earth the man goes off to work (often with the older sons and other men) while the woman and older daughters (and sometimes sister wives in plural marriages) care for the young children and the household. Perhaps what we see on earth is typical to what occurs in heaven, and the parable of the Lord visiting 12 vineyards each in turn comes to mind as he oversees his family kingdoms (worlds, etc.).

The biological reality of men versus women in the reproductive system is obvious evidence for plural marriage. 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. The Doctrine and Covenants specifically identifies plural marriage as being for the purpose of raising up more seed. If there is a more efficient, better way to do something, and you chose the inefficient way, you are helping fewer people than you could, and are thereby choosing a less charitable path, and charity is the essence of Godhood. Godhood is receiving eternal joy as a result of charity. Though some have listened to the adversary to pervert this holy practice, the true essence of celestial plural marriage is charity, and our bodies bare record of it!

Some complain that the birth rate is 1:1, which couldn't allow for plural marriage. It's true that the typical lifestyle for most people is monogamy. Plural marriage was never meant for everyone. But consider how very

few respond to God's invitations to live higher ways which offer more growth; it's an obvious reality that there are more women than men generally interested in religion at all, and that there are more women than men in the church (particularly so when considering the quality of those members, and even more particularly so when considering the number of single men to single women in the church; see the article "Dateonomics" <https://speakingofpolygamy.com/2018/02/25/dateonomics/>)

Just a few years ago President Henry B. Eyring [a member of the First Presidency of the LDS Church] pointed out the fact that there are more women than men in Zion. He said, "If the past is prologue, at the time of the Savior's coming, the daughters who are deeply committed to their covenants with God will be more than half of those who are prepared to welcome Him when He comes. But whatever the numbers, your contribution in creating unity among the people prepared for that Zion will be far greater than half." (Oct. 2020 [Sisters in Zion \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/))

Another demonstration of God's provision for his people to be taken care of and continue growing the orderly kingdom of God in their families is the levirate law: the brother (or brothers if the men each die in turn) of a deceased man is to raise seed to his brother's kingdom (which family kingdom is a branch of God's kingdom) with the deceased man's surviving wife (or wives), and the wife belongs to and only to the first man in eternity. This was enacted with the wives of Joseph Smith being married to Brigham Young at Joseph's death, and children from those marriages are Joseph's seed.

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/>

5. PLURAL MARRIAGE A BLESSING FOR MAN & WOMAN:

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 (and for us) is to not partake of what

God has not given. Beware the Achilles Heel so to speak – God will bless you, but only if you stay within the abundant parameters he has set. There will always be temptation and trials, but living for God ensures an ultimate restoration of all that was lost. Faithful saints eventually learn that all God has required of them worked toward their blessing, rather than their cursing.

The Lord promised that whoever gives up a wife for the cause of Christ will receive 100 fold (Matt. 19:29). 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. That's how all sacrifice works, the blessings you get in return are related to what you sacrificed, and far exceed what you would have had otherwise. Plural marriage will be an obvious fulfillment of blessings for men and women who chose to keep the faith. A woman who chooses a righteous man over a faithless one will be blessed with eternal increase, which the faithless man could never have given her. Today women do not have full choice of which man they will choose to marry, and often remain single or they get involved in the great horrors and dangers of dealing with a man of little faith. It is not good for man to be alone, and it is not good for woman to be alone.

A righteous woman can learn to be glad for her husband to take another wife if it is God's will – her heart would rejoice to see her husband's kingdom expand, and she would know that as her husband is blessed, she is blessed. She is part of him, and he is part of her. His kingdom is her kingdom. His power and glory are her power and glory. As a being of perfect charity, the saintly woman will rejoice at the opportunity to give additional women the blessings of eternal marriage which she enjoys by allowing these needy women into her family as plural wives when God commands it. The faithful woman knows that no blessing is lost when following the Lord, only gained.

Central to the woman's blessings of living plural marriage are not only in her kingdom growing by her husband's plural wives, but by the endless posterity she is promised. A fullness of God's blessings of eternal posterity, which posterity is the highest and holiest ambition of woman (and the end to which all of men's work is done,) is only to be realized by those who live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Man cannot have children; this is the privilege of woman. She gains full access to that privilege as she selects a righteous priesthood holding man to marry, which also means being open to sharing her husband

with additional sister wives who also want that blessing when the Lord so allows. Together, they can all rejoice in their cups running over!

A plural wife is blessed not only to have a righteous husband, but to have sister wives who participate with her in the family kingdom. Surely righteous women can find uncommon joy and success as they work together to raise children in the home. Women can enjoy having more adult female associates to share burdens, conversations, joys and tears with. The tendency of women to long for one another's company is an obvious reality, a need which is sadly often going unmet today. Or if a woman manages to find a close female friend, it takes her energy and time away from her family, whereas a sisterwife relationship is a female relationship kept within the family. The former leads to weaker families and the latter leads to stronger.

While bearing children is a blessing to woman, today it is a very painful process. After the curse is lifted, childbearing will not be such an overwhelming burden. Man's main job in this life is also cursed, the plowing of the fields being full of noxious weeds. The curses on labor for men and women will be lifted. All things in heaven will be blessed, including social relationships which are often difficult now. Today is the trial of faith and a foretaste of God's blessings, while tomorrow is the rest of the Lord, and the realization of more joyful family relations full of life and wonder than we can now comprehend.

God will help us all to be perfectly satisfied in our families as we sacrifice to build His kingdom. For those who qualify for and are called to living celestial plural marriage, this proves to be a blessing beyond comprehension.

(See Nate's free book "Plural Marriage & The Restoration: A Positive View" available at RichardsonStudies.com for additional essays on this subject.)



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.

A woman fully committed to her husband and the family kingdom would be happy for him to receive another wife as this would build the kingdom all the more.

Full Text of D&C 132 on Plural Marriage

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Nauvoo, Illinois, recorded July 12, 1843, relating to the new and everlasting covenant, including the eternity of the marriage covenant and the principle of plural marriage. Although the revelation was recorded in 1843, evidence indicates that some of the principles involved in this revelation were known by the Prophet as early as 1831. See [Official Declaration 1](#).

[1–6](#), Exaltation is gained through the new and everlasting covenant; [7–14](#), The terms and conditions of that covenant are set forth; [15–20](#), Celestial marriage and a continuation of the family unit enable men to become gods; [21–25](#), The strait and narrow way leads to eternal lives; [26–27](#), The law is given relative to blasphemy against the Holy Ghost; [28–39](#), Promises of eternal increase and exaltation are made to prophets and Saints in all ages; [40–47](#), Joseph Smith is given the power to bind and seal on earth and in heaven; [48–50](#), The Lord seals upon him his exaltation; [51–57](#), Emma Smith is counseled to be faithful and true; [58–66](#), Laws governing plural marriage are set forth.

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—

2 Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter.

3 Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same.

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.

58 Now, as touching the law of the priesthood, there are many things pertaining thereunto.

59 Verily, if a man be called of my Father, as was Aaron, by mine own voice, and by the voice of him

that sent me, and I have endowed him with the keys of the power of this priesthood, if he do anything in my name, and according to my law and by my word, he will not commit sin, and I will justify him.

60 Let no one, therefore, set on my servant Joseph; for I will justify him; for he shall do the sacrifice which I require at his hands for his transgressions, saith the Lord your God.

61 And again, as pertaining to the law of the priesthood—if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then is he justified; he cannot commit adultery for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else.

62 And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him, and they are given unto him; therefore is he justified.

63 But if one or either of the ten virgins, after she is espoused, shall be with another man, she has committed adultery, and shall be destroyed; for they are given unto him to multiply and replenish the earth, according to my commandment, and to fulfil the promise which was given by my Father before the foundation of the world, and 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.

64 And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, if any man have a wife, who holds the keys of this power, and he teaches unto her the law of my priesthood, as pertaining to these things, then shall she believe and administer unto him, or she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord your God; for I will destroy her; for I will magnify my name upon all those who receive and abide in my law.

65 Therefore, it shall be lawful in me, if she receive not this law, for him to receive all things whatsoever I, the Lord his God, will give unto him, because she did not believe and administer unto him according to my word; and she then becomes the transgressor; and he is exempt from the law of Sarah, who administered unto Abraham according to the law when I commanded Abraham to take Hagar to wife.

66 And now, as pertaining to this law, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will reveal more unto you, hereafter; therefore, let this suffice for the present. Behold, I am Alpha and Omega. Amen.

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

And, as I said unto **Abraham** concerning the kindreds of the earth, even so I say unto my servant **Joseph**: In thee 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.

[Evidence that Plural Marriage was Practiced in the Book of Mormon by Ogden Kraut](#)

Ether 1:41

Ether 6:20

Alma 10:11

2 Ne. 14:1-4 / Isaiah 4

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

[Various Plural Marriage Scriptures](#)

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. *

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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.

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 million miles away from Zion culture, not even close.

It Made a Peculiar People

What did the effect of plural marriage have? One thing we can be sure. The saints stayed together because they were a distinct people, a distinct culture, rejected of the world, all in for being an independent people. God wants a peculiar people.

Keys Turned Against Plurality Due to Lack of Obedience

Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants was revealed to Joseph Smith as early as 1831 but officially put into writing in 1843

(<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/revelation-12-july-1843-dc-132/1>). It details the essential nature of this law for the kingdom of God in its highest and fullest and holiest order.

“If we do not Embrace that principle soon the Keys will be turned against us for if we do not keep the same law that Our Heavenly Father has we Cannot go with him. The word of the Lord to us was that if we did not obey that Law we Could not go where our Heavenly Father dwells. A man obeying a lower Law is not qualified to preside over those who keep a higher Law.” -Wilford Woodruff's Journal, Vol. 8, p.126

To put it simply, plural marriage is a higher/celestial law which is not meant for the population in general, and is not available except in the most strict of circumstances. The Book of Mormon says its only to raise up seed and to usually do monogamy unless told otherwise, but this is to the fallen Nephite culture. For the Zion people, for the celestial realm, this is, as taught in the D&C and by many prophets, the standard and norm.

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 women 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 apostasy 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.

[Celestial \(Plural\) Marriage by Orson Pratt – Highlights](#)

The full text is available free at ogdenkraut.com

Here are my notes on this text:

Hilarious invitation for apostate Christians to come convert Mormons against plural marriage from the scriptures

Speaks of the wicked being unworthy to marry and have children, not having that privilege in life to come, of adulterers worthy to be slain as they are unworthy to spread their influence and seed

Calculates about of about every 39 or 48 children only 1 was a firstborn in Israel at time of Egypt and Moses.

Without plural marriage many women resort to prostitution and they avoid marriage preferring cohabitation for short spans with various women. Many women go childless.

The same thing that glorifies God glorifies man and this thing is increasing posterity

Hosea? Was commanded to marry two wicked women

God would rather send many of his children to a righteous family then to send them to a wicked one for this reason a man may have many wives

When a man dies his wife marries another man for time only so she is cared for and can raise additional seed.

We have a mother in heaven but we do not worship her or pray to her she is not the head
Israel was severely rebuked when they tried this

Psalms 45 versus 8 and 9 I think she also verse 6 7
wives of Christ
Hebrews applies these verses to Christ

The Holy Ghost prepared Mary to be able to be in the presence of the father to conceive Christ

A Bible verse was changed from honorable wives to honorable women as the translators did not like polygamy

In the dark ages when priests would read the Bible to people or tell people about the Bible and the people could not read it for themselves the idea of polygamy was squashed then the reformers came many of them knew it was right and practiced it
They kept this private for the most part to avoid public reproach as the people had been trained to not believe such a thing

The prophecy of Isaiah is not yet fulfilled that speaks of seven women to one man. This is reserved for a people called Zion. In that day the branch of the Lord will be glorious it says and holy.

Psalms 45:17 the wife of Christ would be praised forever also in the Book of Revelation talks about her and describes the holy city she would be in and talks about the names on the forehead meaning these are the names given to those people

The wedding of Christ will be celebrated at the second coming as taught in the parable of the 10 virgins

ADVICE FOR GOVERNING FAMILIES:

It's a mistake to allow children to not be punished when they need to be punished then the children learn to resist all instruction. By that which she calls love she ruins many of her children if she fails to discipline them. At age 1 to 2 it's time to begin. Gentle discipline trains a child to be obedient in all things. The wide differences in the disposition of children is usually due to the differences in their training. Let parents begin to discipline their children when they are young.

Do not discipline a child when angry because you'll have poor judgment as to how much discipline to give at that time. Let the children see that you punish them not from your anger but for their good. They will learn that you are not a tyrant doing whatever you wish but that you are doing what's best for them. Be deliberate and calm in your councils and reproofs, but be earnest.

Do not threaten something you're not willing to follow through with or the children will take up the habit of lying, they will believe that there is no harm in lying. Never failed to award and punish according to your promises.

Do not be so rigid in your governing of your family that they think you are never pleased with them remember mercy and love. Justice should be tempered with Mercy and love should be interwoven in all things. May your children not fear you to run from you but enjoy your presence. Govern your children as parents not as tyrants they will copy your methods. Do not be continually scolding.

When a father is disciplining a child the mother should not intervene this is against the order of God's government and it creates division. If the mother is not satisfied she can speak to the father in private not in front of the children. For wives to disagree and quarrel is a great evil and even greater evil if done in front of the children. If parents want to quarrel and destroy their happiness at least let them do it out of the presence of the children so as to not also destroy the happiness of the children.

Send your kids off to school when they are about age 5. Mothers teach your children in all kinds of domestic labor. It is wrong for children to expect their parents to

labor for them while they are lazy.

We are adopted into the family of the faithful into the bosom of Abraham the polygamist. He is the example who we want to sit down with. He will be called our father and we his children. The same gospel saved him as does us. Who would dare say we are more righteous than our father Abraham? He continued in polygamy, he didn't repent of it, and we know we are saved not in our sins, but once we repent of them, so polygamy isn't sin.

Leah gave her husband another handmade this pleased the Lord so the Lord gave Leah another child

Divorce is wrong so if someone was a polygamist for example in Islam why would we have them divorce their wives to become a Christian

Note it seems that polygamy has to come back before we teach the Asian and Islamic Nations because it would be absurd for us to require them to leave behind their various wives and children

Plural Marriage in the Bible by Ogden Kraut – Book Highlights

These are a few highlights from the text, much more is taught in the full text. The full text is online free at ogdenkraut.com.

Polygamy is the most freedom for woman, to choose her husband.

Just because we are to be one in marriage doesn't mean that's only one wife just like how Jesus wanted all of his disciples to be one with him

We know about Eve but that doesn't mean Adam did not have other wives we do know that he had other ribs we know of the garden of Eden but that does not mean that we're not other gardens

It's an obvious historical fact that in the age of the Bible, polygamy prevails.

God didn't hint at Lamech doing wrong. The kill was self defense. The polygamy wasn't mentioned as wrong. He was a great poet and had great offspring. God in those days punished immediately to set the example, and Lamech wasn't punished. The 70x punishment he spoke of was to comfort his wives saying that would've happened if I was wrong but I'm not.

Prophets polygamy wasn't like the harems.

Polygamous peoples are often more chaste than monogamist.

Peter holds up Sarah as a prototypical woman. She gave another to her husband for seed.

A man was to be kind to qualify for another wife. The wife could say no to another of she knew him to be unruly, as more family to that man would only bring more misery.

Plural marriage allows for wives specializing in what they enjoy most, like a small business. One might enjoy sewing, and other cooking, another teaching children, etc.

It's possible that Sarah was cursed with not having a child due to rejecting polygamy then was blessed with child as soon as she can send it to that we know she was bearing before and fruitful after we also know she had some jealousy issues

If Hagar was living in sin the angel would not have come to comfort her and send her back to that situation

It was while Abraham was living with two wives that his name was changed to a greater name and he was promised he would be a father of many nations for the first time

Genesis 17:18 show that after Abraham entered polygamy he had more angelic visitations and it was after he entered polygamy that he was called a friend of God

God likely told Abraham that he would assign an angel to watch over Hagar

Abraham spoke with God face to face often. Abraham was honored by Christ more than any other ancient

prophet. The New Testament apostles also honored Abraham and among all the peoples of the world Abraham is the most honored prophet of all time.

Sarah gave more wives to Abraham even after Hagar

Jesus and his apostles never identify polygamy as a sin

The bishop having one wife was so that a man with a larger family wouldn't be overwhelmed in the time it takes to do the work of a bishop so he has time to take care of his family

Note it could even be suggested that an ideal Bishop is someone who's kids are raised and they are empty nesters but actually in the ideal gospel plan a man could continue to be raising children throughout his life even in his older ages by means of polygamy so this 1 wife recommendation is the earliest stages of a mature man. We note that without marriage a man isn't fully a man and is not demonstrated his capacity to govern social dynamics we also note that it may be wise to prove a man with one wife for a while before giving him a second.

Naturally the scripture could also be referring to having at least one wife.

God did not curse Abraham for his other wives instead he blessed them

God withheld no blessing from Sarah for allowing the polygamy

Abe saw his polygamous family was blessed so he also took Keturah and others

Christ selected a polygamist Abraham for Christians to look forward to sitting down in heaven with.

Leah was blessed for giving Zilpah to Jacob the scripture says.

Moses's first wife was the Midianite his second wife was the Cushite Ethiopian. Some have suggested these are the same woman but it is easily shown there are not. More on this in the text

Moses gave more laws concerning polygamy than any other Bible writer it is obvious that he would have been living that law

Moses's laws show that God recognizes the legitimacy

of the second wife as well as the first. That man can have multiple wives and it isn't sin so long as he provides for them and isn't impartial in inheritance. On the other hand adulterers are to be stoned to death, there's a difference.

If God wanted to stop polygamy he wouldn't have made these laws about how to live in polygamy. It would be like trying to eliminate theft by telling thieves how to divide the spoils.

Most of the men in ancient Israel were married men the law of the beautiful woman being brought home after a month of mourning she becomes the wife the soldier already has a home a lot of this is primarily about married men in the first place. In one battle the men took home on average three women each and this was just one battle this was a command to be done for each battle.

Note : the women would learn the Lord's ways, that these Israelites were the righteous all along, and learn to love them.

Levirate law marry the deceased man's wife to raise seed to him.

Note: Firstborn only, others to the living? It says firstborn, idk about the rest. I think all go to the deceased. We know the woman is only belongings to the deceased in eternity.

About 39 kids each man, they had to be plural.

In the ancient law of God no man would dare to seduce a woman and then abandon her any more than he would to murder her, the penalty is the same. Whenever a man and woman have sexual intercourse they are married from that moment, he is bound to protect and provide for her the rest of his life. That's the man was required to bear his responsibility. Woman deserve this security and recompense. By surrendering her body to him, she became his, and his responsibility.

There's a great difference between lying with a woman with intention to betroth and just having her without intention of marriage.

Note look into this sounds sketch.

Tamar's rape wasn't as insulting to her as the man commanding her to leave.

Our "progress" leads to orphans widows divorce

whoredoms, leads us away from God's laws.

A woman with more than 1 man was to be killed.

David takes three wives before becoming King if this was a sin in Israel they would have never let him become king

God did not mention David's polygamy as a sin and kept keeping blessings and success upon him

David was rebuked for the case of Uriah but he was not repentant for polygamy in general but repentant for that specific murder we see after all of this repentance he gains another wife in his old age.

David was given Saul's wives they were not given to people who were single.

A prophet was sent to rebuke David in the case of Uriah but no prophet was sent before that to rebuke his polygamy.

God repeatedly chose polygamists as his leaders obviously people look to leaders as the example and God knows that if he didn't want polygamy he should not have chose polygamists as his leaders

Saul a polygamist made an illegal burnt offering and was punished for that but was not punished for his polygamy

God continually told David how to win wars gave him inside knowledge while he was a polygamist David was receiving regular Revelations and this is not how it works for people living in adultery

Polygamist children are always mentioned in the genealogies

Sometimes the sons are listed and the daughters are not so we see many of these characters had many more children than the record even lists which helps us understand many more polygamists than we know

David had a child through adultery that died a week later whereas the legal polygamist children lived on to be Kings etc.

When David committed adultery with another man's wife he suffered agony and torment of soul this did not

happen with any of his legal polygamist wives.

Bastard sons were not to enter into the congregation of Israel even to the 10th generation
Note this seems a heavy law but it was to maintain the strict morality standards in Israel

Neither God or David ever called his illegitimate child a son. The child of Bathsheba is called his man-child. Yet he calls Absalom a children of a polygamist marriage his son.

The son of multiplying wives is whenever someone takes more wives than he can provide for control and teach for example Solomon got in trouble when he took heathen wives who worshiped false gods

Not multiply horses to oneself and to not multiply wives to oneself does not mean that you can have no more than one horse or one wife it means don't take more than you can take care of or govern

A concubine is different from a wife in that if the concubine wants a divorce and to leave she cannot take an inheritance of property and wealth with her

The children of concubines are listed in the genealogy of patriarchs

Marriages to foreign nations were not always forbidden if they were converted you could marry them
The issue with Solomon is that he did not convert those wives

In some instances foreign women are brought in to build up Israel

Some abuse polygamy but we don't ban it anymore than we ban fire

Goes over many kings priests and commoners who had plural marriage and were never punished by God and were considered clean and able to offer sacrifice whereas there are many who do things that are strictly forbidden that get immediate punishment

The book of Hosea shows a prophet being explicitly commanded to live plural marriage

If plugging me were against the laws of God the book would have said so and given a specific punishment for

it just like other laws

John taught baptism before Christ Jewish teachers did teach baptism the laws of God are eternal a few scriptures can be misinterpreted to suggest to the contrary but it is not so

Jesus was a rabbi not so much a carpenter they frequently sent lawyers to try and get him on the law but he knew the law and they couldn't do it he was called Rabbi by Nicodemus by Peter and others and he never refuted this title.

Jews have a hard time accepting Christianity because of the celibacy thing. the Jews knew that if you are not married and have a family you're not living a complete life.

Jewish weddings were the law and they were a time of rejoicing and they were performed at a very early age. 18 was the oldest a man should wait to marry and marrying younger was even better.

Jesus would have been nailed by the Pharisees if he was not married this was part of the law and he could not have been the perfect example without doing this.

Gospel of Thomas every woman who makes herself male will enter into the kingdom of God note this sounds like it should be translated as every woman who joins a man will enter. Is it not written that the two shall become one? Together they merit the kingdom.

Gospel of Philip says the consort of Jesus followed him the word consort means spouse

Jesus portrayed himself as an obedient servant rather than a lawgiver

The question is not what evidence is there for Jesus being married the question is what evidence is there for celibacy in the law of God

Christ clarified expanded and vindicated the law he did not do away with it. Galatians says we must do the law and Deuteronomy says whoever takes from the law is cursed.

Muhammad did away with the law of Moses in favor of his own Quran.

Paul taught that the scriptures of the Old testament are

able to make the wise unto salvation. The law of Moses is the same as the law of Christ. Paul wrote that we should do the law he said the law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ but we cannot interpret this to mean that the law of Moses is no more important . Paul also says the gospel was taught to Abraham.

Note Here are scriptures I've collected

SALVATION INCLUDES WORKS AS SEEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: GOD IS THE SAME TODAY YESTERDAY & FOREVER

<http://richardsonstudies.com/2018/02/01/imploring-god-new-testament/>

SALVATION INCLUDES GRACE AS SEEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: GOD IS THE SAME TODAY YESTERDAY & FOREVER

<http://richardsonstudies.com/2018/01/27/graceful-god-old-testament-scripture-references/>

Jesus makes the law of Moses active and when he tells them to search the scriptures he's talking about the law of Moses

We don't allow our children to steal and then when they're adults tell them to not steal that it's wrong similarly God would have declared polygamy as evil from the beginning if it was evil

Christ said not one jot or tittle will pass from the law so it's bizarre to think that he would just completely start a whole new law

Note but I am still unsure of the word fulfill the law

Many points concerning the marriages of Jesus their titles they gave him that Jesus came to them first after the resurrection that they were the last ones there at the cross and the most often visitors at the tomb and many other such evidences are given there's also a multitude that follows Jesus around it says it's a multitude of women that gives him sustenance it doesn't say it was men who did that it was the women and they were being the command to take care of their husband

Isaiah speaks of his train filling the temple this refers to his family his wives

Isaiah says at his crucifixion he sees his seed truly his wife and children were at that event making it all the

more excruciating

Jesus was a king and through his marriage he carried on the patriarchal lineage of priesthood the king has an urgent duty to have an heir we see on the cross it was written his crime of him being a king he was called a king he lived as a king he died as a king

The New testament is a mirror reflection of the Old testament

The scripture says love your neighbor does that mean you cannot have more than one neighbor? Similarly the scripture about men having a wife and wife having a man does not mean polygamy cannot exist in this situation.

The nuns lived as wives of Christ even with a ring on their hand thus Christ will be the greatest polygamist of all time

Note in this United States government we are the slaves there is not religious freedom for us to practice God's love plural marriage when we are freed from this slavery shall we not live the law of god? For now we wait as slaves

The church does not make rules for the state but the state should also not make rules for the church.

If God doesn't make something a sin laws of men cannot make it a sin either.

Romans did not become Christian but Christianity became Roman and the Romans insisted on monogamy even though they were allowing frequent divorces etc.

Martin Luther performed plural marriage and he said perhaps the people are not ready for this precious doctrine from the Bible

Peter is spoken of as having two houses he was probably a polygamist

Due to the superstitions of his day Joseph Smith had to live polygamy in private

Polygamy allows for many children to exist in a family so that they don't need to rely on the gentiles for friendships

The Orson Pratt marriage rules are repeated things such as correcting faults in private and failure to discipline children when needed out of love is actually ruining them and the woman needing to be subjected to the man that the man rules as the head that the woman should not marry him unless she is willing to be ruled by him. Children who refuse to help their parents should not marry.

In the Bible the monogamists were never promised as many blessings as the polygamists.

Marriage Covenant by Ogden Kraut – Book Highlights

Introduction: Here are my notes of interesting things as I listened through this book. There's much more than I've put here. There are two themes: be a good spouse, and live God's laws of marriage as defined in the scripture. I will say some of the ideas here are a bit testy and not how we do things these days. The book speaks of plural marriage, of man governing woman, and various old testament laws which we are quite unfamiliar with. I think many of these things are often misunderstood and or abused, and I don't know the full extent to which many of these things will come back as the restoration of all things. Those who live God's law will certainly understand that any unrighteous dominion whatsoever is absolutely unacceptable. How to navigate all this, I really don't know. But I'll share my notes on these things with you.

Notes:

A man who drinks and swears will sooner or later become promiscuous with women

When a woman marries a man with bad habits hoping that he will improve nine times out of 10 he gets worse and so does she

A woman might admire a man who knows how to dance who's charming who can talk about history and literature or science but if he doesn't know the gospel he's not a good spouse and there's a good chance the love will die

out and he cannot lead you to God

Mary someone who is intelligent pure and godly and your love for each other can grow stronger and despite your weaknesses you can go to God. A woman should choose a god-fearing man. A woman can discern that when she has met a god-fearing man that love and marriage can last she knows in her heart and has confidence to go forward with it but the opposite is also true if the man is not god-fearing there will not be comfort of heart and confidence that the marriage will work or that you'll go to God.

Warns against "light literature" and spending lots of time in theatres

It's better to be an Old maid single than to marry a bad man

If a man asks you to marry him outside of the temple you know his interest in you is only temporary

If you marry outside of the temple God has nothing to do with the contract

Note some see this as Stern or hard doctrine but it is very fair because first got invites all to participate and second those who didn't hear about it or have the opportunity in this life will have that in the next so it boils down to one thing which is are you going to say yes or no to God

The Israelite woman desired to be given to her husband as a gift more so than property
It was an exchange of vows not currency

An ancient Israel marriage to one's cousin was common

Anciently the woman would marry wearing a veil so I cannot be visible to the groom until the marriage was complete.

The wives of ancient Jewish marriages had authority in the home they were not treated like slaves as often happens in Eastern countries. They knew that woman is part of man.

For the Jews regenerating the human species was their top duty it was the first command after all

Without consent from the father no one could marry in ancient Israel

Anciently a man generally showed more affection to his wife if she bore him children it seems their happiness was centered on this thing. This is part of the reason why a barren woman would give her handmaiden to raise up seed to herself and why the man who died would have his brother marry his wife to raise up seed to him.

Men were allowed to divorce their wife but the wife was not allowed to divorce the man. If the father so chose he could also divorce the children which would mean they would leave with the mother and to not be heirs to his property.

Note all of this seems harsh but remember the book of Jasher speaks of Ishmael almost slaying Isaac we see that sometimes there can be very rebellious and violent attitudes and dispositions we also remember the law in Israel that wayward sons could be stoned (though I doubt there were very many wayward sons because fatherlessness which prevails these days would have been virtually absent then.)

And as for the woman not being able to divorce the man she probably would have been able to go to the elders of the church for relief if the man was abusive we know there are several scriptures which speak of a man losing servants if he is abusive and this of course would apply to losing a wife and children.

If a woman was underage would require permission of the father to be married if she was of age she could decide herself note double check this

When the woman is married her father no longer has rule over her but the husband does

Any property of the woman is at the man's disposal unless he specifically deeded land to her

Note in the text it says some of these were Roman things which came from Jewish things double check on these last few items

Affection in marriage should be as though they were one person

Man is her guide but not her taskmaster

How happy would society be if we had fewer ladies and more housewives

The first blessing God gave to man was society and that society was marriage

Man and its fullest creation is a two-part organization male and female working together. To be made in the image of God you must have male and female.

God said it is not good for men to be alone this is not limited to a certain part of life note the child is in the care of its parents when it is of age it is to marry if death occurs remarriage is to take place

As Christ is eternally the head of the church so is the husband eternally the head of the wife and note remember the scripture says all of the body is needed don't be jealous with whatever your part is

Man and woman married are inseparable this is why Adam ate the fruit

Twice the Lord miraculously intervened to protect the wife of Abraham because she was fore ordained to be the wife of Abraham

A priest's daughter who defiled herself was to be burned with fire

Sons of Aaron were to take a wife who is not a w**** or profane or who was put away from her husband

Adultery was punishable by stoning
This involved a married woman having relations with another man

If unmarried individuals had relations they were required to marry and note having relations is the same thing as getting married and all social duties of marriage are immediately effective as soon as these relations are had it wasn't about getting a piece of paper from the government

Alma teaches that adultery is the sin next to murder

Jesus's mission on this Earth was not to be a legislator or an administrator of the law this is why he did not cause the woman taking an adultery to be stoned

Christ refuse to get involved with a certain legal dispute between two brothers he said who made me a ruler over you he wasn't there to get involved with that

Jesus forgave people he didn't change the law if he changed the law then the things those people did would

not have been sin and they would not have needed forgiveness he did not change the law he forgave them in certain instances

Woman should call their husbands Lord and Master but these days they don't like to do that

The woman's Master is man and the man's Master is Christ and Christ's Master is God

A woman who is alienated from her husband who does not care for her husband this is fornication of the mind this is serious and could even be just grounds for divorce because it's so seeds of great evil in the children etc

Woman do not divorce the husband anymore than property frees itself from its owner
Note I do not understand this and it seems there would surely be a means of freeing a woman who is an abusive marriage

The scripture laments children oppress them and woman rule over them

Woman is given to man, not man to woman.

Someone needs to be in charge to govern, and God has ordained that to be the man.

A concubine like a wife couldn't be taken from a man but if he wished to let the concubine go free he could.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife. Shows the woman belongs to the man. Doesn't say don't covet thy neighbors husband, because the husband isn't here, but she is his.

Passive and submissive to the husband the woman was to be. He would give her righteously.

The woman cannot put away the husband anymore than the child can put away the parent.

If a man takes another wife with permission of her father he may do so and his first wife cannot object.
Note I think dc132 says 1st wife's permission should be sought.

"They desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee" Woman desires her husband, and the husband is to rule over her. If he doesn't rule, she won't desire

him. These instructions were given together, and one won't happen without the other.

Note - was this a temporary curse for our life here? Perhaps not, perhaps it's a good eternal thing, but to be done in a Godly way.

An abusive man would be whipped in public

The man is under the law of Christ not under the law of woman. woman is not to teach admonish rebuke or reprove him or usurp authority over him

The woman should not seek any other guide or direction then her husband and the Lord otherwise she will be miserable

If a woman commits fornication the man should not seek to reform her but should put her away, they will both be happier and she can go to some man who she respects
Note apparently they divorced women can remarry

The support and education are duty of the father and all of his means must go to that ends

A divorced wife after going to another cannot return to her husband

Where the woman is mild and submissive the families live in peace
note of course the husband must also be gentle and wise.
There must be zero on righteous Dominion if we are to please God and build his kingdom.

God did not make everyone equal everyone has different rights based on their works of righteousness many scriptures recognize that some people are Bond servants

Do the others what you would have done to you this is the law and the prophets this scripture shows that we do this in the context of the law and the prophets we don't negate the law in our attempts to do unto others what we would have done to us we see that it is fanatical to claim that there should be no bond servants as this is clearly set forth in the law but we should treat them well

If a man seduces a maid and does not marry her he is guilty of adultery
And is worthy of death

The woman is not to be compelled to be married it is to

be her free choice

If my father does not consent to his daughter's marriage a price must be paid to him note I thought it said earlier the marriage wasn't allowed to happen if he did not consent but it does seem like there should be a possibility for people who very much want to marry to do so we know Joseph and Emma Smith had to elope

Being able to provide and care for your wives is one of the checks in place to ensure that you don't have too many

A woman cannot marry, only a man can marry and the woman is given in marriage

A woman lawfully divorced is free to remarry

We are to live by every word of God

The job of the New testament was not to give law, it was to establish the grace and truth of Christ.

We wouldn't have abortions if God's law of polygamy were allowed because any sexual relations required marriage and it is the lack of marriage and stability which often leads people to abort babies

Brigham said the divorces that he gives people are because of the hardness of their hearts and it would be better if it were not so

If a woman can find a man with higher priesthood and authority and his disposed to take her she can choose to go to him. said Brigham Young, which Joseph Smith taught note The mystery of the matter is finally solved in that it is the woman who chooses to go not the man of higher power who takes her by force. Hey woman could therefore see if her husband is not making progress as he should and he refuses to make changes and make progress that she could go to another.

People aren't equal here, and they won't be equal in heaven.

The woman cannot be a servant of the devil but is to serve man; note
something about women not going to hell? Perhaps not becoming perdition.
review this passage

There are times when it is good for men and women to be a part such as when the woman is in the unclean stage wherein the body needs rest etc
note I'm not sure if he's suggesting this but one could consider pregnancy as also a time that sexual intercourse is not needed. He does speak of sex being for reproduction not just recreation I think he's suggesting different seasons to be with different wives

A woman being with multiple men leads to disease

Sometimes men have a mistress on the side a secret mistress but this isn't necessary God would give them that woman and this would lead to much less problems much less infanticide etc

A woman has a short time window where she can bear children after that she has a Happy Time living at home helping with all the other wives and children and such as for the man he can bear children all throughout his life and God may see fit to give him a hundred wives and he can have his own tribe etc supply great military strength etc

When a man is faithful a woman can look at him who is her husband and see him in his future state glorious beyond description, one she would want to worship

God withheld the higher doctrine of polygamy for a time so that the Nations and so much ignorance and superstition that some of them might be saved

Brigham was tired of the whining and complaining of many of the plural wives in the territory and of the gentiles who said they didn't like that system he said I'll let them all go they can all go fend for themselves the only ones who wanted to stay were those who were willing to let the man be the head of the family

Brigham said the wives and children should say Amen to what the father says rather than trying to dictate to him how things should be

Dragon told his wives to teach the children the gospel of life and salvation or else he would send elders to come teach it to them or come himself

Brigham said if a wife has borne me all the children she can bear then the celestial law would tell me to take another wife who can bear me more children

There are many spirits pure and holy awaiting for Tabernacles let us help them come do not make them come to the wicked

"But now we have got to fight the good fight of faith, sword in hand, as much so as men have when they go to battle; and it is one continual warfare from morning to evening, with sword in hand. This is my duty, and this is my life." -Brigham Young

Women should not just care for their husband and children but for the other wives and their children and not just one's parents but the parents of the other wives

Brigham said Joseph Smith has the keys of resurrection for this dispensation. If we go to God's heaven it'll be by his approval.

Brigham said he makes his own heaven. It's what we make it.

Brigham said Burn all the adulterers and adopt their illegitimate children clean them up and teach them right

Brigham said These unholy adulterous gentiles want to tell the saints how to live let them clean up their lives before they tell the saints how to live and how to marry

Brigham said he could reveal all there is in eternity and those who don't have their heart right won't understand it or remember it

Concubines were sanctioned by the early Christian Church

Brigham said if one of his daughters wanted to marry a man of 70 years with 70 wives a good man he does not think he would withhold his consent

Brigham said his council is for women to obey their husbands but not to follow their husbands to the devil

Brigham said parents should lead their children by faith far more than by the rod

Martin Luther said laws should encourage the multiplication of families
Note he was in favor of polygamy

Martin Luther said the devil keeps spouses quarreling he

keeps them so they're unhappy separate and so that when they're together they're quarreling we must always be praying to get along in marriage

Orson Pratt said There is no evil in love but there's much evil in lack of love and no woman should be married to a man unless she loves him and if she loves him even only a little this can be increased to perfection

John Taylor said people are unreasonable when they are Love struck and that we should never be struck very bad we should be able to throw someone off at any time if they are unrighteous
Note I think he is referring to the courting stage

Brigham said young men build a house even if it's a 10-ft square cabin and get a wife for it and then you can be happy in your toils knowing that you can go home to this

No one can expose themselves to vice without going toward embracing it

We are to become Kings and how is that who will be real over it is our posterity our children will obey us and we will wear a crown

Those of any faith shouldn'tarry one of a different faith

Parents who neglect to train their children cannot go to the celestial Kingdom

As a tree is judged by its fruit so is a home judged by its children no I think this is Joseph f Smith

There's no marriage in any kingdom but celestial, it's only for the faithful. They that have faith will get more family, they without faith will get less, taken ever what they have.

If the son of the hated wife is the firstborn he still gets the double portion. But the children born in adultery are bastards with no rights.

The child of David and Bathsheba when their marriage was illegal was a cursed child that died later David legally took Bathsheba and they had a legal son Solomon

Lehi's people were the only ones told to live monogamy, and this due to their small size, that they came with a 1:1 ratio of men to women in the house of faith.

Jacob 2 says when not doing polygamy obey this law of Lehi about monogamy. It was that circumstance.

There may be 1:1 male female birthd but the males often die in the first year, the next few years, and onward. It's always more women than men.

At least 14 years after the manifesto general authorities continued to do plural marriages. They didn't see it as a revelation from God.

The plural marriage revelation was recieved before it went public, this is normal, do it was for the revelation on civil war and other revelations. They are given and made public when the Lord sees fit.

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

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.”



- ❖ 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”



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 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 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.

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

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 recognize 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 wives 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.

In the torah 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” (in the marketplace) 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. Brigham taught of each woman being the Eve of her own world, which could suggest all from this world are from the same Mother in Heaven, that each world is from a different mother.

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.

We know of Jesus Christ marrying 2 sisters Mary and Martha (See "Hidden Bloodlines" JosephSmithFoundation.org or see "Mormonism and the Holy Grail" book)

Exodus 21 and Deuteronomy 21 talk about laws governing polygamy.

Abraham's father had more than one wife, so did his brother, and Abraham himself 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 wives 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.)

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

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.)

Plural Marriage a Restored Order Not Understood

Contributed by Kimberly Watson Smith, shared with permission.

First and foremost it is important to understand that Joseph Smith was a RESTORER and he was under divine commission from the Almighty to restore the

ancient law of marriage in preparation for the gathering of Israel.

The law of Plural marriage did produce a righteous seed and the strength of the church today are multi generational members who are the posterity of those in the early days of the church who practiced this biblical law. The Prophets and apostles of the church for decades were all raised in homes of parents who lived Plural marriage.

Secondly, it is important to understand that when God revealed Plural marriage to Joseph Smith he also revealed the understanding of ETERNAL MARRIAGE. The sealing of Joseph Smith with his wives in Nauvoo enables him to claim them during the Millennium where he and all of his wives will have a thousand years to raise up even more seed to God during a time of righteousness.

Those who had the revelation revealed to them by God himself had the eternities opened up before them and they understood were laying the foundation for something greater and yet to come.

We are so limited in our understanding of its divine purpose and none of us have an understanding of it the way that Joseph Smith did .

In fact he even said that to understand the purpose of Plural marriage would take a fullness of the Priesthood which none of us have today.

Plural Marriage & Patriarchal Order As Honoring & Exalting Women by Kimberly Watson Smith



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 rededicate the land of Palestine 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.

Plural Marriage & Joseph as Restorer by Kimberly Smith

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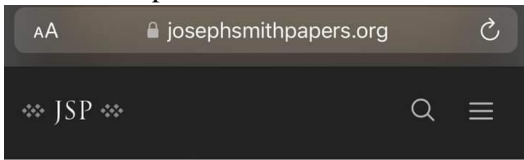
- ❖ Careful estimates put Joseph Smith's Plural wives between 30-40.
- ❖ The first plural marriage occurred in the mid-1830's.
- ❖ Likely received the revelation as early as 1831.
- ❖ The written copy was but "a portion of the revelation."
- ❖ When the Lord revealed to Joseph Smith plural marriage he 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 . . ."

Why Was Hiram J Brown Excommunicated For Teaching Polygamy? By Kim Smith

Shared with permission.



NOTICE.

As we have lately been credibly informed, that an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints, by the name of Hiram Brown, has been preaching Polygamy, and other false and corrupt doctrines, in the county of Lapeer, state of Michigan.

This is to notify him and the Church in general, that he has been cut off from the church, for his iniquity; and he is further notified to appear at the Special Conference, on the 6th of April next, to make answer to these charges.

JOSEPH SMITH,
HYRUM SMITH.

Presidents of said Church. [p. 423]

History taken out of Context is a dangerous Cancer. Sadly, those who who persist in presenting quotes and statements out of context and without seeking to understand the circumstances surrounding the statement are purposely misrepresenting the historical record and that is both intellectually dishonest and morally wrong.

Hiram J Brown was never taught or instructed on the doctrine of Celestial plural marriage by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He had only heard rumors of the Doctrine by Joseph Smith's avowed enemy John C Bennet. Having received it from a wicked source, Hiram j Brown was excommunicated for teaching the counterfeit polygamy doctrine.

Enemies of the Prophet Joseph Smith in Nauvoo also falsely equated plural marriage with the 'spiritual wife system' and 'polygamy,' and unjustly inferred that Joseph Smith was implicated in that practice. The Prophet abhorred and denounced those wicked

counterfeit practices in public and in private.

The revelation which the Prophet received, however, related to the contrasting subject of eternal plural marriage covenants, together with the keys and authority to seal marriage for eternity.

Joseph Smith made it clear that to practice plural marriage except in the way ordained by divine law was a serious transgression of such magnitude that it jeopardized the offender's eternal salvation.

Hiram Brown was teaching without authority and without a knowledge or understanding of revelation and he was rightly excommunicated for his crime.

Plural Kim Smith Gives History Of Plural Marriage, Of RLDS Trying To Deny That, It Resurfacing – by Kim Smith

POLYGAMY DENIAL: We Must Learn From Our History To Avoid Being Deceived

I know I speak about this Ad Nauseam but it so important that we do not deny revelations from the Lord or we will be damned.

To deny that Joseph Smith taught and entered in plural marriage is a growing trend among members who have adopted and are resurrecting the 200 year old RLDS position.

For those un-familiar with history. The RLDS church began by leading men in Nauvoo who apostatized from Joseph Smith after he read them the revelation on Celestial marriage 1843.

Shortly after Joseph Smith's death, They started a secret campaign in Nauvoo claiming Joseph Smith was a fallen prophet for having introduced plural marriage and that is why he was murdered.

The RLDS Church never adopted or taught any of the

doctrines and ordinances restored by the Prophet Joseph Smith with respect to baptism for the dead, temple endowments, eternal marriages, and other ordinances crucial to exaltation in the afterlife. They even denied that the Prophet ever received the revelation on eternal marriage, even for monogamous marriages. Those with the pretended authority to 'reorganize' the Church refrained from making derogatory remarks about the martyred Joseph Smith long enough to deceitfully convince his son, Joseph Smith III, to join the Reorganized Church in 1860, in which he was ordained President of the High Priesthood.

The RLDS Church revolved around opposition to two central issues: plural marriage and Brigham Young. They adopted doctrines that were out of harmony with the revelations and instructions of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Ironically, most of the people who became early members of the Reorganized Church either had neglected to aid in the construction of the temple at all, or they later abandoned construction of the Nauvoo Temple.

The RLDS Church—known today as the Community of Christ—has never succeeded in its attempts to usurp authority away from Brigham Young or the original Church. They did not adhere to the strict order of the Priesthood to carry out the building of temples and administer saving ordinances for the living and the dead. They can hardly claim to be in possession of the faith of ancient Israel and, at the same time, not claim to have received as a part of that restoration the concept of temple worship. The Lord revealed that "the fullness of the priesthood" is received within the walls of the sacred temple itself. This fullness of the priesthood is received through washings, anointings, solemn assemblies, oracles in holy places, ordinances, endowments, and sealings. In consequence, the RLDS Church could never be guided by revelation through priesthood authority, or acknowledged by the Lord as His people.

Plural marriage is an ancient law. It was practiced by Moses, Abraham, David, and others. The most righteous women in the Old Testament were plural wives to these ancient Patriarchs including Hannah, Ruth, Sarah, Rachael, Leah, and Rebekah.

To deny this reality is to deny the scriptures.

2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom,

If God says "I gave thee thy master's wives into thy bosom...." then that is the way that it is.

Numbers Chapter 12 talks about Moses taking a plural wife.

Aaron and Miriam, who had at times delivered the Lord's word to Israel, once dared to speak against Moses regarding a wife that he took. In response the Lord came to them in fierce wrath, and smote Miriam with leprosy, asking how they dared to speak against the man who God spoke face to face with.

I will just point out a few significant qualifiers from Jacob 2 that are often overlooked by Members who misapply Jacob's prohibition against polygamy to be universal:

In verse 27, we find that the restriction from practicing polygamy was actually limited in its application to the people present at this meeting where Jacob addresses them: "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." To apply this scripture beyond the intended scope is textually unsupported.

In verse 30, Jacob includes a caveat to this direction to live monogamously: "For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people (to live polygamy); otherwise they shall hearken unto these things." Can you think of a single other commandment God has ever given where He included a caveat or exception with it? The fact that He did so in this case provides concrete evidence that monogamy is not an eternal truth or natural state – it was a commandment specific to this limited group of Nephites and was requisite for them to obey until it was rescinded (until God commanded otherwise).

In today's world the Prophet Joseph Smith and the early saints who practiced plural marriage are under attack. Even though we are not called upon to practice plural marriage today, each faithful member of the Church must eventually gain his/her own testimony that

the Prophet Joseph Smith did receive a revelation from God which commanded plural marriage.

The Prophet Joseph Smith stated:

I have tried for a number of years to get the minds of the saints prepared to receive the things of God; but we frequently see some of them, after suffering all they have for the work of God, will fly to pieces like glass as soon as anything comes that is contrary to their traditions; they cannot stand the fire at all. How many will be able to abide a celestial law, and go through and receive their exaltation, I am unable to say, as many are called, but few are chosen. 14

How many of us have testimonies that will “stand the fire.” in regard to plural marriage?

Why Joseph Kept Plural Marriage Largely Private by Kimberly Watson Smith

Yes Joseph Smith publicly denied polygamy. His life depended upon it.

Keeping the revelation and practice of plural marriage secret and out of public view was a matter of life or death for the Saints. Joseph Bates Noble performed the first plural marriage of Joseph Smith on April 5, 1841, to Louisa Beaman. The Prophet dictated the words of the ceremony to Noble, and later cautioned him, “In revealing this to you, I have placed my life in your hands, therefore do not in an evil hour betray me to my enemies” (Joseph B Noble, affidavit, June 26 1869).

Reflecting back on the events in Nauvoo Apostle Orson Hyde related:

“What would it have done for us, if they had known that many of us had more than one wife when we lived in Illinois? They would have broken us up, doubtless, worse than they did.”

Those involved with Nauvoo polygamy authorized by Joseph Smith believed they were doing so in obedience to Celestial Law as commanded by God, and so to protect individuals involved with obeying the

commandments was seen as righteous, even if practicing polygamy was in violation of the law in the state of Illinois, for as Peter said “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

Testimony of Plural Marriage: Kimberly Watson Smith

I think every woman has a hard time with this principle. You are not alone!!! What has really helped me is to read the stories of these women and how they could not have entered into this order without it being revealed to them by vision or by angels themselves. They were witnesses to divine revelation and had a glimpse into eternity. We don't have the same kind of understanding and knowledge they received so naturally it is repugnant to our sensibilities. And will be until we receive the same divine witness for ourselves.

We have also been poisoned against Celestial Plural marriage because we have only seen the satanic counterfeit. Warren Jeff's polygamy is not Celestial plural marriage. And when we look at it through that lens we rightfully reject it.

Keep in mind, We aren't asked to live today it for a reason. But these women were called upon to live Plural marriage and they bore that cross and made the necessary sacrifice so that the bloodlines of Israel could be re-established in this dispensation. That is why Eliza said that we couldn't be saved without out it. Members of the Church are legal heirs to the Priesthood because these Israelite bloodlines were restored through men and women who were of the pure bloodline of Israel and then entered into the plural marriage Covenant to establish these bloodlines through their posterity.

We should not be afraid to honor them for their sacrifice and look to them for wisdom and counsel because they, like Abraham, were asked to make a sacrifice to prove their faith. We aren't asked to make that same sacrifice.

What is happening today that has me concerned is that

a group of disgruntled members are claiming that these women were ignorant dupes and were victims of a conspiracy by Brigham Young.

People are taking advantages of people's vulnerabilities and seeking to convince them that the TRUE order of Celestial plural marriage was a mistake and it was wrong. This is a clever tactic to weaken people's testimony of the ordained leadership of Brigham Young and the priesthood succession in the Church.

Make no mistake. Polygamy denial leads to rejection of all Temple ordinances and that is why the adversary is working so hard to convince members not believe it was practiced in the early days of the Church.

We need to be careful that we don't dishonor the fathers and mothers of the Restoration and fight against the truths they lived. I think that is Eliza's point.

Testimony of Plural Marriage: Eliza Snow

The testimony of Eliza R Snow Smlth- plural wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith:

"I know that God could not save the human family without it. [Celestial Plural Marriage] He has revealed no more important principle for the salvation of man. No one can oppose this doctrine and keep the spirit of the Lord, when it was first taught the principle was not developed, but men went forward and felt they where fullfilling a command of God. Those who walked forward and honoured it, are noble woman, and will be honoured by angels & holy beings. Those who operate against it cannot come into the presence of God." - Relief Society Minutes and Records (1869–1973), vol. 1 (1869–1882), pp. 14–19, CHL (LR 7222 14).

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

Never does a woman have two eternal husband's, but in the case of Augusta Cobbs she left her first husband who rejected the Gospel to be married to Brigham but wasn't legally divorced so the Massachusetts court found them guilty of adultery as she was not legally divorced. A legal divorce was a lot harder to get back then.

Cannot serve 2 masters. This is why can't have plural husbands. Not 2 presiding authorities, but 1 at the head.

Some say "image how hard it would be to have to share your wife with another man." But why would I imagine that? I don't waste my time imagining things which God has not commanded. If you want a more useful parallel, you could consider the law of consecration. In this law, a man shares completely all the fruits of his labors, all his finances, etc. This is the trial for men.

A Vision Given to Mosiah Hancock - Full

(about 1855)

Some fuss about this saying it puts us in Gods presence, the celestial world, before coming to earth. Yep, we were with God, wherever that was. Elder Holland told us at the MTC that God loves us because he raised us from his knee.

Some fuss about this saying that it claims there were some neutrals in pre-mortality, but a closer look reveals that it only says that some initially didn't want to take a side, but later did so. Yes, all who are on earth did take the side of Christ. As Alma teaches, we were all equal in the beginning, and we started making choices from that beginning.

This was reprinted in a book called "Pre-Existance" by Odgen Kraut (free at ogdenkraut.com).

Here is Kraut's introduction and the full vision following: "One man's vision of the pre-existence is perhaps more revealing than all else written on the subject. The following vision was given to Mosiah Hancock, born in Kirtland, Ohio, in 1834. He knew the

Prophet Joseph Smith and lived a long and devoted life defending the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it had been revealed to him."

Here's the vision:

A Vision Given to Mosiah Hancock (about 1855):

When about twenty-one years of age, I was permitted by the power of God, to go into His presence and into my former abode. I saw the Eternal Father on His throne and His wives on His left side, all shining in glory; I saw the Savior and knew Him. It takes the power of the Holy Ghost to tell the difference between the Father and the Son, they look so much alike. Jesus said: "Mosiah, I have brought you here to show you how it was before you went to the earth." I had been to the earth; everything looked so natural and familiar. I seemed to have been a companion of the Savior and talked with Him like a friend. Again, He spoke to me and said: "Look and see man as he came forth." I looked in the direction indicated and saw an innumerable line of God's children extending further than I could see. They were arranged in pairs, male and female, and passed in front of the Eternal Father who named them; and they were clad in long white robes with girdles tied around the waists; each pair seemed to have been created mates. <One sentence placed here was left out because it was not readable.>

[138] When thus clothed, they were arranged in classes of about two hundred; the males sitting in front and the females behind them. They were taught in the arts and sciences, and everything necessary to make the heart happy. The teachers of the classes received the instruction they imparted from certain notable ones, who in turn got their directions from the Father and the Son. I thought I was one to overlook the classes; I also saw Joseph, Brigham, and many others engaged in this work of education. I thought as some became more efficient than others they were advanced from class to class. I thought my name was Mosiah, and the names of the other brethren there were the same as upon the earth. All at once there was a gathering of these spirits and the voice of the Great Eternal (for that is what we called God there) spoke: "Oh, ye my children," and His voice penetrated throughout space, so countless were His offspring. "We have an earth prepared for you, on which you can dwell and have a chance to come up,

thru obeying our Heavenly laws.”

I there heard the question asked: “Who will go down and set an example of humility and faithfulness to these my children, that they may be brought, thru obedience to our laws, back into our presence?”

I thought I saw one in the express image of the Father say, “Father, I will go down and set a pattern of humility and patience that your children, thru my example, may be brought back again.” How noble, I thought, He looked when He offered Himself so patient before the children of our Father.

I saw another, who seemed to be a very high military officer who arose and said: “I will go down to yonder earth and surely I will bring all your children back to you so none of them shall be lost.”

The plan of the first was accepted as being the only sure plan for an exaltation. The plan of the second was rejected with great kindness; but the second was not [139] satisfied; and while the first stood in great humility by the side of the Father, the second with many who stood in with him, went about among the Heavenly hosts to advocate the plan, that was put forth as the rights of the second. This one was Lucifer, a son of the morning, for many had been with the Father for countless ages, and learned their lessons well, and he had been no dull scholar. Finally Lucifer openly rebelled against the Father and the Son, and six other mighty ones who stood faithful with them and declared, “I will have it my way.” I saw the faithful ones gather around the Father and the Son, and Lucifer’s workers gathered around him, when one of the notable ones, who was called Michael, arose and said, “We will decide the contest.” It seemed that a platform was extended into space, upon which we could operate, by what power I could not tell. We who were faithful to the Father and the Son, had a white star upon us, and the others chose a red star; about one third of the males and females would not accept of either star, but withdrew from the conflict, the females taking the males by the arm, said, “Come, let us not take part with either side. Let us retire.” <This sentence was changed to clarify its meaning, although the meaning was not changed in any way.> (When they were cast out after the manner of spiritual warfare,) they had no power to return. When they were all cleared from the platform and Satan and his followers were all cast down, their female companions wept, and we all wept.

No females took part against the Father and the Son, but all took sides in their favor, except the neutral ones already mentioned. After the tears were dried from our eyes, the voice of the Great Eternal spoke again and said, “Hear, O ye my children;” His voice penetrating the immensity of space so that all could hear it; it is decreed by the Great Eternal that the females shall not follow their males in their banishment, but for every male that has kept his first estate and fought valiantly for the Father and the Son, there are two females. Again it is decreed that those males who have taken no part in this great conflict shall keep their females and a race of servants shall they be.”

[140] I then saw that the notable ones who had taken such an interest in the rights of the Father and the Son, were appointed to gather up those lone females whose companions had been cast down. They were again placed in classes, each man having two females in the ranks behind him. I there saw that they were again taught in their classes, which now contained about three hundred. I next saw Michael and his companion proceed a long way off, to people the earth where Lucifer and his followers had been cast. As time passed, other notable ones followed as they were appointed. During all this time the classes met frequently, being taught by instructors appointed. Each member knew his or her own place, and took it each time, and the best of order prevailed.

They were asked, first the males, and then the females behind them, “Will you obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ, when you go to that earth?” Some would answer, Yes, but not all. Some would be asked, Will you obey that law which placed the Gods on high? And in very few cases I would hear the females say, “I want my own mate.” Sometimes the question would be asked of a male, “Will you Obey that higher law? and he would answer, “I wish to enjoy myself with the females.” Sometimes when the question would be asked of the female, she would reply, “I wish to enjoy myself with the males.” Again the question would be asked of the males, “If you will not join the Church of Christ, what do you wish to be? He would sometimes say, “I wish to be a judge, or an officer of high rank among the people.” Then he would be asked, “Will you sustain the laws of God and also the rights of all mankind?” and the answer in every instance was,

“yes.”

I saw there that those who were proficient in their classes were advanced more rapidly until they became most perfect in those heavenly teachings, but some males, even there in Heaven would neglect their females and their classes and not meet with them. They would go off, arm in arm, as men now go, not having any desire for their duties. I never saw a female leave her place in the class assigned her by the Heavenly powers.

[141] I saw Abraham, when he came back from the earth, and many of the notable ones, when they came back to be crowned. I saw them step upon the platform of the Gods and receive their crowns, and enter into their exaltations. At last I saw the time when Joseph was to go forth, and the voice of the Great Eternal said, “Oh, my neglected daughters, gather around these my faithful servants who have been faithful in teaching you the principles of righteousness and of our kingdom, that others may come up and have the chance to be glorified.” I saw many of them gather around Joseph and form a ring with him and the Savior in the center. They made a covenant with him that they would meet him on the earth and help him establish that great work upon the earth. I saw many of them gather around Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, and many other notable ones, and around many who have not become so notable. They formed rings around each of them with Christ in the center each time, for He rehearsed to them the Covenant. They would take each other by the hand, in the circle, and bow their faces down to Him, in the center, and in the most solemn manner agree to meet them here, until every one of those neglected daughters was provided for; and they were filled with such joy that their songs made a paradise of the realm.

At last the time came for me to go to the earth. The Savior came to me and said, “Mosiah, it is time for you to prepare to go. You have been faithful so long here, it is time for you to go, that you may return and be as we are.” As I beheld Him, I thought, “How is it that I am not as you are now?” For it seemed, that I knew nothing of the earth, of the changes a probation there would make in me. However, I said, “Who will go down to that earth, and be my father, and help me that I may be brought in the ways of truth and

righteousness?” A male by the name of Levi stepped forth, in the presence of the Son, and said, “I will go down to yonder earth, and by the help of the Great Eternal, I will try to do as well by you as you have done for me, for I am grateful to you for all your kindness [142] to me.” He returned to his place, being an instructor of a class. I was one among others who was appointed to instruct him and the other teachers of classes. A female came out of the class and bowing before the Savior and me, said, “I will go down and be your mother.”

In a short time the man disappeared and was immediately followed by the woman. I knew my departure was near at hand and I asked, “If on my return I could have the same position I then held.” Then the Savior said, “Yes, and greater, but you have to go down to the earth, and take a lowly position and be misunderstood by man, even your brethren and endure many hardships and set many examples of humility and patience, that you may return and enter the glory, even such as I have.”

He then added, “Your time is now come to take your mission to the earth,” and He laid His hands on my head, as He had done to others, and set me apart for that important mission. He again said to me, “I will see you safely thru until you return again.” I fully believe on that promise. <This sentence was changed to clarify its meaning, although the meaning was not changed in any way.> It seemed as though a way was opened before me, and I dived down toward the earth with the speed of lightening and awoke while sailing thru space. The end.

Is it Fair that More Women Chose God than Men?

The birthrate is 1:1 man to woman, but that’s not the faith rate. Not only are women more valient toward God here, but 1/3 fell to perdition, and they were men. This information is only had by revelation, and is recorded in the Mosiah Hancock journal.

God is fair, we all chose. It just so happens that more women chose than men. It’s like how men and women gravitate toward different things – women like nursing,

men like engineering, etc. There are gender differences! A feeling for Godly living is a more feminine trait, and that's no fault of Gods. It is what it is.

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).

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 reprovably 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 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.

Children of Joseph Smith's Plural Marriages

First if there weren't offspring from these plural wives of Joseph, that is statistically reasonable. A woman is only fertile at a certain time of month, and he wouldn't have been with them often due to his short lifespan, fleeing persecution, and so forth.

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.

Fanny Alger Reality & Why the Hancock's Were Involved

Why were the Hancock's involved, does it make sense? Can we believe Joseph sent Levi Hancock for her, to get the consent of her parents and her own consent?

What other evidence us there that all this took place?

Fanny Alger was the daughter of Clarissa Hancock, sister to Levi Hancock, so it was a family affair.

Joseph's involvement with Fanny Alger is substantiated by Oliver Cowdery's letter to his brother Warren.

It's also substantiated by Oliver Cowdery's excommunication trial in 1838. One of the charges against Oliver was that he was accusing Joseph Smith of adultery, which he does in that letter and no doubt also did publicly.

Abraham's Plural Marriages: Resolving Concerns (Ideas from Kimberly Smith & Others)

Some sources indicate that Abraham was such a righteous man, that the whole creation of the world was for his sake. Now we have all the faithful as being considered 'in the bosom of Abraham.' Why do people claim then that he is a wicked man? Here we will review common concerns about Abraham's plural marriages.

Kimberly Smith said of this:

If Abraham practiced polygamy in an evil way, why did God make him the father of the covenant? Why do we have to be adopted into Abraham's family to be saved and have exaltation? Why did God tell Joseph Smith he would receive the same blessings as Abraham only by doing the works of Abraham?

And the book of Jasher reveals a lot more about Hagar and Ismael.

Hagar became a mother of nations. She could not have obtained that blessing with any other man except for Abraham.

You assume that Hagar's line is not a covenant line but that isn't entirely true.

ALL of Abraham's lines are covenant lines. Ismael's lines receives blessings and inheritances that they are only entitled to because of their lineage.

The entire purpose of the a restoration is to re-establish the Abrahamic Covenant and Gather Israel. To claim that Abraham didn't know what he was doing in regards to polygamy is laughable. He walked and talked to God but God didn't tell him that what he was doing was an abomination ? That is faulty logic and those who call Abraham's works into question will have to account for their words one day before Abraham.

[End of Kim's comments.]

Insightful Q & A with another friend:

Q What about cruelty, like Abraham sending away Hagar and Ishmael to die?

A According to Jasher, Ishmael pulled his armed bow pointing it at Isaac.

The jealousy between the mothers had been passed to their children.

The danger was real, Jacob left the decision to Sarah, she sent them away to protect her son Isaac.

Abraham did not abandon Hagar, a guardian angel helped her. Her descendants changed the story so it painted the picture of a cruel father abandoning a mother and baby.

Ishmael was 14 yrs. older then Issac the real story is a 17 yr. old pointing an arrow at a 3 yr. old heir apparent.

Q Jacob hating Leah? Perhaps Leah was in for it from tricking Jacob into marrying her (she must have at least been aware of and complacent with the conspiracy)?

A The Hebrew word translated to "hates" carries the meaning (in the Hebrew language) ranging from "wants to kill" to "loves less"

"I HATE the way my car doesn't work." This does not mean I want to kill the car inventor.

Jacob did not hate his wife, she bore 6 children for him. He did love her less than Rachel.

Q Perhaps Hagar had a hostile/abusive attitude?

A She thought her son would receive all the blessings, until Sarah conceived in her old age.

Josephus Agrees, God Commanded Abraham's Plural Marriage

"Accordingly Sarai, at God's command, brought to his bed one of her hand-maidens, a woman of Egyptian descent, in order to obtain children by her." (Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 1:187)

This matches modern revelation:

"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." (D&C 132:34-35)

Plural Marriage Various Notes

Brigham called "the royal priesthood" as meaning plural marriage

The new and everlasting covenant of marriage was code word for plural marriage

The smooth hearings demonstrate that the church used to teach that plural marriage is essential but that it no longer teaches that

Apparently some of Heber Kimball's wives were quite poor.
Perhaps he fell on hard times perhaps, it will be counted to them for righteousness? Failing to provide is a serious sin, but surely some are not at fault due to extenuating circumstances.

Most of the saints ignored the manifesto. It was from government pressure, it wasn't seen as revelation from God. Woodruff even entered another plural marriage after issuing the manifesto while he wasn't on US

territory.

Brigham saw very young marriages like 11 or 12 and made a rule to not marry under 14 or something.

Joseph only talked plural to the anointed quorum
Brigham taught it more publicly

Marriage is hard for everyone, we should not pick hard day journal entries..

Many Sealings were for eternity only.

Many Sealings were just for linking the families.

What of some poverty from it? Typically consecration works well for large families, but also remember, it's harder for the rich man to enter heaven than the camel to pass through the eye of the needle.

Some say women suffer to share a husband, but the celestial view is it is a joy to have more women for even the women, they love to talk and live together, they rejoice to see their husbands kingdom grow via this doctrine.

Perhaps with the multitasking brain in the hereafter plural marriage won't be less time visiting your spouse so much.

Do we discriminate against a car by putting only one steering wheel in when there are four tires? Perhaps we should put four steering wheels in to make it equal? No the tires do their job just fine with one steering wheel. As Christ said the body of Christ should not envy but all the parts are equal and do their job. Or a less offensive analogy if you take offense at that: we have 1 nose but 2 eyes, and that's ok. We have 1 forehead, but 2 ears, etc.

I think romance can be owned in whatever God ordains, just like how we tell gays to learn to live being straight, that bring gay is not in the plan of salvation, it's just a trial.

....,

Yes Joseph denied polygamy publicly, his life depended on it.

Several disobedience the Bible says keep the laws of God over the laws of man We do believe in obeying the law patiently but we also believe in obeying the law of God over the law of man his person left to discern what to do

Several fundamentalist groups come from when the church had to go underground with polygamy some groups were told to go to a distant area and practice polygamy and that they would be brought back into the main area When government pressure went away but later the church decided no we're not going to have anything to do with that and you're no longer a member of the church if you're doing that this left some fundamentalist groups as you now call them high and dry

Brigham points out how those who refuse to live plural marriage are less healthy and age faster and are more depressed.

DC 132 was always understood as being about plural marriage only recently have apologists and public relations efforts being used to change it to mean some of it about monogamy and other about plural

Woman want their right to choose which husband to have

At one time Brigham had a policy that to be a bishop or higher you had to be a polygamist. The government knew this and therefore targeted polygamy as a means of targeting power in the church.

Without government persecution polygamy wouldn't have been nearly as hard, families could live closer together, could live more publicly, wouldn't be pushed into poverty, etc.

DC says obey the law which is constitutional. Suggests not supporting that which is not. But be careful in this. Be wise.

When women got the right to vote they expected this would cause polygamist women to vote against polygamy but that did not happen

If plural marriage was wrong Abraham would have been cursed instead Abraham was blessed

The parable of the 10 virgins they were all supposed to get married to the bridegroom that night

When a plural wife dies, the other wife will weep also, having loved her like her husband.

Yes there's about 1:1 men and women born, but not 1:1 righteous. Many are called few are chosen. More righteous women. But this is really a non issue because plural marriage is only applicable to a very small subset of the human race. Few there be that find it.

Seems Bible accounts of it were purged wherever possible... So they could make a case that "it happened a few times we must admit, but God didn't sanction it." Then we have Joseph the restorer who shows up and says yep it happened lots and God did in fact sanction it and those of fallen mindsets will never understand it.

Joseph's life was at stake, he had to deny it.

Perhaps Hagar consented, and was happy to do this. As well as Zilpah etc. handmaids perhaps volunteered or consent was needed.

If Abraham practiced polygamy in an evil way, why did God make him the father of the covenant? Why do we have to be adopted into Abraham's family to be saved and have exaltation? Why did God tell Joseph Smith he would receive the same blessings as Abraham only by doing the works of Abraham?

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The entire purpose of the restoration is to re-establish the Abrahamic Covenant and Gather Israel. To claim that Abraham didn't know what he was doing in regards to polygamy is laughable. He walked and talked to God but God didn't tell him that what he was doing was an abomination ? That is faulty logic and those who call Abraham's works into question will have to account for their words one day before Abraham.

The only reason plural marriage is right for anyone is: We go before the Lord with a willingness to do whatever He directs. If and when He guides us to do anything (By Him or By His word) it is correct. 132-example of Abraham offering his son. IF HF directs it it's right whether he be a prophet a patriarch or an elder.

Problems with Michelle Stone's "132 Problems" Lecture Series Against Plural Marriage

Responding to Michelle Stone's Anti Plural Marriage Lectures on her "132 Problems" Lecture series on YouTube.

I listened to this 29-lecture series and was shocked to hear such a bold take against the teachings of the church, and will here point out some key concerns to beware of if you're wondering about this series.

I know Michelle is a great person and I've enjoyed her homeschool advocacy lectures and she loves her family, but I feel she is off on this issue.

I will applaud Michelle in that we should never blindly obey. Some say if church leader tells you to walk off a cliff to do it and you'll go to heaven, but Brigham says those who can't think for themselves wouldn't be able to handle being a God. So she gets this point right, but she takes it way to far in that she throws out much of what the church teaches, and discredits the names of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and many other "noble and great" leaders of the kingdom of God from the beginning.

Michelle advocates that D&C 132 on plural marriage as a higher law is not actually scripture or doctrine. She believes any plural marriage is evil and not of God.

It's disturbing how these lectures rely on the Bible and don't allow for modern revelation, which is what our church is all about. We know the Bible is corrupted and

doesn't have the fullness of the gospel. Please allow for Joseph to get revelation and information not contained in the bible. Joseph is the great dispensation head. He was prophecies of from the beginning of time to be a restorer of things which were lost. We have extensive evidence of Joseph being who started plural marriage in this dispensation.

It is claimed that Jacob 2 says those who use plural marriage in the US will be smitten, despite that same chapter saying it's allowed at times.

She says plural marriage was Brigham not Joseph, but overwhelming evidence shows Joseph was who started this. The RLDS Church tried to say it wasn't Joseph, but eventually had to give up on that narrative due to overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

She says Brigham was wrong in this but still a prophet, but if it is an evil comparable to adultery, which the same Book of Mormon says people would be thrust to hell for, why would God use a hell bound sinner to lead his holy church by revelation? Clearly God was ok with what they did. Prophets are God's "noble and great ones" who he made his leaders, and time and again, they practice plural marriage.

As for concubines yes that seems bad, but there's a right way and a wrong way to do it, and people could have opted for that role in pre-mortality, wanting to be near mighty ones to learn to emulate them. And the bible condemns masters who treat servants harshly. And yes the seed of Ishmael was covenant seed and blessed. And we don't have the whole story about why people treated others the way they did, for example, apocrypha says Ishmael almost killed baby Isaac, and we don't know how harshly Hagar may have been treating Abraham.

She equates Warren Jeffs polygamy with prophetic polygamy, when obviously Jeffs did a wicked version of polygamy. There are always bad guys to try and make Gods ways look bad, including Bible scribes who downplayed plural marriage when it didn't fit their tradition.

Michelle doesn't believe scriptures need to be literal.

She believes God never destroys, only creates, something obviously false as seen in all voles of scripture. He doesn't delight in destroying, but destroy

he will when he must. She isn't the first to claim that God only blesses and never curses, an obviously unscriptural claim.

She doesn't believe in the scriptural doctrine of patriarchal leadership, and sees temple changes along these lines as removals of wicked things rather than watering things down based on what people are able to hear, in accordance with the book of Alma.

She claims that the more wives and children someone has, the poorer outcomes will be. As a mother of 13, doesn't she know this isn't true? President Benson acknowledged that those with many siblings often grow up to be more sociable, more prone to sharing, and more well-rounded generally. It's the kids of small families who struggle the most. Kids of large families often have the most educated hearts, and that's what really matters. We also know many very learned people have come from large families.

She says "we don't need to put Israel on a pedestal". True, Israelites have sinned at times, but is this the spirit with which we treat our forefathers and the mighty prophets of old, those who have given so much to build God's kingdom? She criticizes prophet after prophet. For example about David she says, "No politician or corporate leader has anything on David" a "dirty old man". But David was authorized in most of his relations, he made a few mistakes, and repented as much as he could. I can think of plenty of modern characters who are involved in far deeper sexual sin than this.

She questions the Bible prophets' stance against the magicians.

She criticizes the law of Moses for cleanliness standards about menstruation and so forth, comparing them to a cartoon about those who have a meltdown whenever they contact something unclean. Is this joviality how we treat the law of God recorded in the sacred word of God?

She claims that nowhere in the Bible does God allow polygamy, and then reads the account in the Bible where the prophet Nathan tells David that the Lord gave him many wives, then Michelle says we are interpreting that wrong. Time and again, evidences for plural marriage being righteous are seen, and she comes

up with ways to re-interpret these things to fit her narrative.

The scripture clearly says Isaac is a similitude of Christ and she wants to say actually the ram is the similitude of Christ not Isaac.

She really wanted to imply Sarah was polyandrously married to Pharaoh and it was ambiguous whether it was consummated when the text clearly said it wasn't consummated, etc.

If Abraham was a good progressive in his marriage who didn't exercise dominion over Sarah at all according to the text, having slaves and practicing "sex slavery" means he was just being a "man of his time", as though being nice to his wife would make being a rapist not a terrible thing.

She appears to focus on leaders' weaknesses and is quick to assume the worst of their motives. It's an astonishing, blatant, and consistent theme in her lectures.

She has an interpretation of Lot's wife as a heroin rather than a tragic example. This shows she is willing to twist scriptures to fit her feminist narrative.

She suggests the church will be cursed and destroyed for polygamy even though we have not practiced it for so long. She will not be satisfied until the church rebukes the entire system as inherently evil. If anything, we will be smitten for NOT practicing it.

She mocks Brigham for prophesying that the intelligent of the earth would see polygamy as good, claims that this didn't happen, but doesn't she know this could be a prophecy to be fulfilled in a yet future time? This is the attitude of mocking those who wait for Christ and say "see? He hasn't come yet." Why is she so quick to question prophecies given by the Lord's anointed?

She claims the church suffered for doing wicked polygamy. Did Christ suffer because he was wicked? You can't equate all suffering with wickedness.

She claims the church has prospered since they stopped polygamy. This is wrong on many levels. When you stop fighting the devil, he stops fighting you. Who has stronger faith, us or the early saints? "Saints" these

days, you can't even talk to them about religion for 5 minutes before they're ready to turn tail and run.

Joseph and Brigham weren't perfect. Neither were ancient prophets. But this doesn't mean their practice of plural marriage was wrong. It also doesn't mean that plural marriage was wrong, and they just continued in major sin and yet were accepted of God. The fact is that they were commanded to and did live plural marriage, even if imperfectly in some of their methods or comments. They remain mighty men of God who we look up to in their lives and teachings.

Yes plural marriage can be a hard pill to swallow, but sometimes Christian life is hard. As President Nelson would say, it is myopic to worry about life and death when we have the gospel and are working to share it. We should see life as a mission in the hands of God more than a time to make sure things are the way we want them.

Michelle's lectures are very insistent that plural marriage is evil, and to the extent they practiced it so were the prophets, and so are the revelations which endorse it. I feel she is very out of line and is leading many astray by these teachings.

Michelle has asked me to note here that she believes those who practiced and believe in the doctrine of plural marriage were deceived by a wrong false tradition, but not necessarily evil. I will say it doesn't always come off that way in her lectures, but here I say this for her sake. I don't think the net outcome for either view is much different.

For additional study which specifically counter many of the claims she makes in her lectures:

Concubines and how they could be biblically justified:
<http://richardsonstudies.com/2022/08/25/the-historical-system-of-concubines-as-a-command-of-god-a-look-at-the-right-wrong-way/>

David's plural marriage:
<http://richardsonstudies.com/2022/08/25/davids-plural-marriage-comparing-jacob-2-and-dc-132/>

Abraham's plural marriage:
<http://richardsonstudies.com/2022/08/25/abrahams-plural-marriages-resolving-concerns/>

Angel with drawn sword who commanded plural marriage: <http://richardsonstudies.com/2022/08/25/the-angel-with-the-drawn-sword-legitimate-theologically-congruent/>

The Biblical System of Concubines as a Command of God: Context & Concerns

D&C 132 says sometimes concubines are ok. How can this be just?

We have to understand the context of concubines/servants outside of our culture's paradigm.

Most people think it's bad to have a servant (some call them slaves), yet I choose to be a servant of The Lord, and follow his every command.

The most effective armies are those who follow orders even when difficult or dangerous.

Many people in our society choose to be employed by someone, doing everything they say, because the employer takes good care of them, and it's a voluntary system.

It seems there is a right and a wrong way to do this, like anything else.

WRONG: A harem, only used for sex, doesn't contribute to family life, no offspring, at taxpayer expense, beatings and other poor treatment.

RIGHT: Authorized by priesthood authority, voluntary, treated as a family member, loved, contributing to family well-being, offspring from concubines learn to love the family organization, feel blessed in it, and chose to remain with it even as adults.

Perhaps these concubines could eventually be elevated to wife status, unless they liked where they were, the jobs they were doing. After all, not everyone wants to bare the full "weight" of glory, it's accompanying duties, etc. Some enjoy simple work more than complex work, etc. We shouldn't think everyone wants the same job.

Some get close enough to a leadership position that they realize they are thankful someone else carries the

weight that comes with the job.

Remember, wives work too, they're just more in the managing teaching and directing than the concubines.

The place for a concubine is outside the inheritance line. Other than that, they are as wives. And ideally they could advance if they wish at some point.

Marriages would unit nations/families. Where both have inheritance.

Children of concubines would be servants to the joint inheritance.

So servant status rather than full family status.

One of their purposes being to raise seed to the family kingdom to run things.

But they were treated with love and respect.

Sons of Zilpah & Bilpah still fathered their own tribes, but they did not receive the greater blessing. They still have an awesome posterity, even comparable to Benjamin's.

Let's say you and I each had a large family farm. And we wanted to unite our farms, our oldest children would marry and become joint heirs to the combined property.

If there were other children, that divided the inheritance then with would weaken instead of Strengthen.

So, we say our two heir apparent has the inheritance and everyone else serves them.

Many of God's children haven chosen be servants to Great and noble men in women in God's kingdom because they are just thankful to have a seat at the same table as them.

Imagine being a servant to Abraham as a child of a concubine. You get to be personally mentored by him and then learn to be like him.

Naturally this is not fully understood at this time (by me leastways). Perhaps this won't even be necessary eventually and was useful more in past than future.

But the fact remains that it has been commanded of God historically, and can be a compassionate and positive system for all involved.

We can logically conclude that the role of concubine is

inherently temporal, temporary. In the celestial kingdom (the only kingdom with sexual relations and increase), any concubine would be elevated to wife status if they were to come there.

When there are righteous patriarchs following God's law, it is not so difficult to see how some righteous servant institutions could be a blessing for all involved in some times and cultures.

In all of this talk of servanthood, we should remember that often and ideally, there was and is the opportunity to advance. Even in the gospel, we are the servants of God, but are promised with eventuall exaltation to the safe lifestyle that God Himself lives, if we chose that lifestyle.

Hyrum Smith's Anti-Polygamy Sermon Denounces Worldly Polygamy

What of Hyrum sayig that he would rather have the devil for a brother than a polygamist and that women who did this were fools and men who did this should have their noses ringed? Here's the sermon:

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minutes-and-discourses-6-9-april-1844-as-reported-by-thomas-bullock/33>

If you keep reading to the next page, he announces eternal marriage and says Joseph sealed him to both his living wife and had his living wife stand in proxy to seal his dead wife to him also.

Hyrum is using strong language at the April 1844 conference while in the same talk he said Joseph sealed him to both his living and dead wife for eternity. So he announced eternal polygamy, but strongly condemned earthly polygamy in the strongest language because they didn't want people messing around with that without authorization.

Jacob 2 As Lower Law, D&C 132 As Higher Law

Kim Smith commented on Jacob 2 as lower law, and dc132 as higher law:

Jacob Chapter 2 is literally the lesser law of monogamy given to a people who have committed whoredoms and are not worthy of a Celestial law let alone exaltation.

I will just point out a few significant qualifiers from Jacob 2 that are often overlooked by Mormons who misapply Jacob's prohibition against polygamy to be universal:

In verse 27, we find that the restriction from practicing polygamy was actually limited in its application to the people present at this meeting where Jacob addresses them: "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." To apply this scripture beyond the intended scope is textually unsupported.

It was a commandment specific to this limited group of Nephites and was requisite for them to obey until it was rescinded (until God commanded otherwise).

Section 132 is a higher law.

The fulness of the patriarchal priesthood marriage is plural marriage BUT only authorized for men like Nephi Helaman's son, Moses, Abraham, Enoch, Joseph, etc. ones whom the Lord has given the power over the elements because of their faithfulness. But the second degree of the celestial kingdom is just the Holy ORDER of matrimony but offers no increase of numerous seed. That is what is represented by the marriage ceremony.

Those who claim that Joseph never preached plural marriage for those with the fulness of the priesthood, have not studied his true teachings and have chosen a plan other than Heavenly Father's.

Joseph Smith said: "The Saints are always directed by Revelation". The Doctrine and Covenants are revelations for THIS DISPENSATION. Section 132 is

for our generation just like Jacob 2 was for the Nephite people at that time. When Joseph Smith was faced with opposition from quotes in the Book of Mormon against polygamy, the Prophet responded "God has commanded us."

The Lord initially commanded monogamy. Doctrine and covenants section 42 states "Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else."

It took revelation from the Lord to do otherwise, as W. W. Phelps recalled being taught by the Prophet when he asked about plural marriage: "About three years after this [July 1831 revelation] was given, I asked brother Joseph, privately, how 'we,' that were mentioned in the revelation could take wives of the 'natives' as we were all married men? He replied instantly 'In the same manner that Abraham took Hagar and Keturah; and Jacob took Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah; by revelation — the saints of the Lord are always directed by revelation'."

After Joseph Smith taught William Law polygamy, Law retorted "there is a revelation [in the Doctrine and Covenants] just the contrary of this," to which Joseph replied, "that was given when the church was in its infancy, then it was all right to feed the people on milk, but now it is necessary to give them strong meat."

Plural marriage was not taught and practiced from the beginning of the Church, but "held in reserve until after the apostles and other leaders had dedicated their lives in the service of God. They preached the Gospel and built up the Church for years before the Lord through Joseph permitted them to enter into polygamy."

Jesus taught in parables to reveal truth to the righteous and conceal truth from the wicked.

Sounds like the Book of Mormon is still a concealed book for those who have hardened their hearts and rejected truth and light.

Polygamy practiced by lustful men is absolutely an abomination that is why it is restricted to only the most righteous .

And the seed of Enoch continued on this earth through polygamy. Jesus Christ traces his lineage through polygamy.

And because righteous men and women entered into the higher law of plural marriage the bloodlines of Israel were Re-established in this dispensation. It was part of the literally gathering of Israel.

For those NOT well versed in all of the scriptures I see how this is a hard doctrine for those of a weaker mind.

David's Plural Marriage: Comparing Jacob 2 and D&C 132

Why does Jacob 2 say David was bad, and Dc132 says David was good (except Uriah)?

The "bad"ness comes from marrying someone whom it was not directed by God.

Solomon had like 3,000 wives, it was not a righteous thing.

D&c says: "and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me."

And....

"he hath fallen from his exaltation, and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them (wives) out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord."

Doesn't seem to me it was saying he was "good."

Jacob 2:24

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

This deals with how they took unlawful women and for the wrong reasons.

Jacob 2:30 shows it's approved when for the right purposes:

"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."

Dc132 clarifies it was ok except for where it wasn't:

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.

.....

Speaking of Jacob Chap. 2. He was scolding those that chose to do those things out of lust.

But then he speaks to "the pure in heart" and tells them to follow what The Lord directs them to do. "O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God," you'll find it Jacob 3:2.

However.....

When the BofM was first published, the entire sermon was in chap. 2.

Dc132 was down by Jesus when the woman in adultery was taken and forgiven. 132 says forgiveness is that could be given once.

Plural Marriage Practice Withdrawn, Not Under Condemnation - Quotes

"The Lord gave to the Church the law of Enoch, as also the law of Celestial Marriage, but they were rejected, and were therefore withdrawn, thus relieving the Saints of the condemnation which would otherwise have followed their disobedience." — Joseph F. Smith (Diaries of Abraham Cannon 1889-1895 <20 April 1895> pages 648–649)

"Sister Smith bore a very strong testimony to the divinity of the principle of plural marriage. Pres. Smith

endorsed it. He said it was taken away from the people — like the law of consecration — because the saints rejected it, and neither would be restored until there is a people prepared to live them. Anyone should beware that casts slurs upon the birth of those born under this covenant. Also that men who will not appreciate their wives and children and provide for them will lose them.” — Joseph F. Smith (William H. Smart Diary, 28 July 1901)

For reasons beyond personal control, the principle is not currently authorized. It takes a people, and we aren't that people yet.

A friend shared this insight,

"These quotes (in favor of plural marriage) speak to our desires and willingness to obey and not to fight against a true principle being requisite to exaltation... It isn't my church it's Christs. It makes no sense to me to betray the keys and leave Christs church to "obey a principle" that couldn't be performed with keys outside Christs church. That wouldn't be valid. It would be spiritual wifery or polygamy or other such nonsense but it wouldn't be celestial plural marriage recognized by God. Leaving the keys under pretense of obeying a true principle is folly as far as I can tell. It makes zero sense. If Christ had to drink a bitter cup even he didn't want to drink, why are we better than him that we can evade it? The agency of others impacts us unfairly. That's part of life. And we have to depend upon the Lord to set things right in his own way and with his own timing. But until then I submit to the keys he has appointed and verified to me as valid, whether I totally understand his doings or not. I am no where near Jobs level that was called perfect and he didn't get an answer why. God owes us no explanations. We either trust him or we don't."

Plural Marriage Essential for God's Full Law – Quotes

'Now, where a man in this Church says, "I don't want but one wife, I will live my religion with one," he will perhaps be saved in the celestial kingdom; but when he gets there he will not find himself in possession of any

wife at all. He has had a talent that he has hid up. He will come forward and say, "Here is that which thou gavest me, I have not wasted it, and here is the one talent," and he will not enjoy it, but it will be taken and given to those who have improved the talents they received, and he will find himself without any wife, and he will remain single forever and ever. But if the woman is determined not to enter into a plural-marriage, that woman when she comes forth will have the privilege of living in single blessedness through all eternity. ' — Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 16:166

"Now I want to prophesy a little. It is not very often that I prophesy, though I was commanded to do so, when I was a boy. D&C 34:10 I want to prophesy that all men and women who oppose the revelation which God has given in relation to polygamy will find themselves in darkness; the Spirit of God will withdraw from them from the very moment of their opposition to that principle, until they will finally go down to hell and be damned, if they do not repent. That is just as true as it is that all the nations and kingdoms of the earth, when they hear this Gospel which God has restored in these last days, will be damned if they do not receive it; for the Lord has said so." Discourse by Elder Orson Pratt, delivered at the Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Wednesday, October 7, 1874.
Reported By: David W. Evans.

Plural Marriage & Consecration: Twin Trials of Faith for Women & Men

For the women the sometimes hard thing is plural marriage. They give all they have to building their husbands kingdom, and are glad when another wife can help build their husbands kingsom all the more.

Each woman is blessed beyond measure by the company of sister wives, an endless posterity, and belonging to a the righteous kingdom of their husband.

..

For the men the sometimes hard thing is consecration. They give all they have to building God's kingdom, and are happy to give to the poor rather than accumulating personal wealth, including keeping the doors open to many children joining their fold.

Each man is blessed beyond measure by the company of his wives, by neverending posterity, and a kingdom with no end.

The Angel with the Drawn Sword: Legitimate & Theologically Congruent

Is the angel drawn sword account a good source? Does it violate agency, coercing Joseph, threatening death?

It's not without precedent that God commanded someone to obey or be destroyed. DC 19? Says if Harris doesn't mortgage his farm to find book of Mormon he will be destroyed.

The church knows this is a good source and includes the account in the gospel topics essays.

Is there scriptural precedent for God killing someone who doesn't obey him or threatening such?

Balam and donkey. Moses slaying those who worshipped idols, and slaying Canaanites. The guy who lied to Peter about use of church funds was killed, etc...

So the vital question is does God destroy? Yes, God does destroy. Death is always in God's hands, he owns us as he created us, it's within his rights to give or take life. God sent his son to die. Noah's flood. Many accounts of those who broke covenants being rewarded with the death penalty.

We should not be deceived with the idea that God can never be stern, can never give lasting / meaningful consequences. That "all you need is love." In reality, and God is reality, there is tough love, too. Leaving this out makes love into something weak, and not really love at all.

Joseph CHOSE to enter into covenants to obey God at all hazard, and the never of God was letting him know that if Joseph didn't live up to that covenant he made if

his own free will and choice, he would be destroyed. Joseph knew God, and knew this message was from God. The messenger was reminding Joseph of the covenants Joseph had made, and that breaking those covenants would bring dire consequences. God has placed so much trust in Joseph to be the restorer of the dispensation of the fullness of times, being slain was only the beginning of his problems if he were to turn his back on God at this point. It would have been a denial of the Holy Ghost, and there would be no repentance for him in this world or the next.

You'd think these advocates of the idea that "we are all unique" would pick up on the idea that some people need to be dealt with differently than others. Some require more stern treatment than others, and that's within the scope of perfect love and compassion. God works to bring to pass righteousness, and this doesn't always look the same.

Mosiah Hancock Journals: A Vision of Pre-Mortality, Explains Why Plural Marriage

He has this vision dream of pre-mortality:

No females took the side of Lucifer in pre-mortality (so all of the 1/3 who fell were men).

For every valiant male there are 2 females, as the female companions of those who had fallen were now in need of a male companion.

(Note – this is interesting, perhaps we were paired up there.)

Those who were neutral were to become a race of servants but could keep their females.

(This is controversial. I'm just reporting what Hancock said.)

The faithful had a white star upon them. The unfaithful had a red star upon them.

These journals are available at the Old Pioneer Press in Santaquin UT.

Here is the vision as recorded in the Pre-Existence book by Ogden Kraut, available free at OgdenKraut.com:

This was reprinted in a book called "Pre-Existence" by Ogden Kraut (free at ogdenkraut.com). Here is Kraut's introduction and the full vision following: "One man's vision of the pre-existence is perhaps more revealing than all else written on the subject. The following vision was given to Mosiah Hancock, born in Kirtland, Ohio, in 1834. He knew the Prophet Joseph Smith and lived a long and devoted life defending the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it had been revealed to him."

A Vision Given to Mosiah Hancock (about 1855)

When about twenty-one years of age, I was permitted by the power of God, to go into His presence and into my former abode. I saw the Eternal Father on His throne and His wives on His left side, all shining in glory; I saw the Savior and knew Him. It takes the power of the Holy Ghost to tell the difference between the Father and the Son, they look so much alike. Jesus said: "Mosiah, I have brought you here to show you how it was before you went to the earth." I had been to the earth; everything looked so natural and familiar. I seemed to have been a companion of the Savior and talked with Him like a friend. Again, He spoke to me and said: "Look and see man as he came forth." I looked in the direction indicated and saw an innumerable line of God's children extending further than I could see. They were arranged in pairs, male and female, and passed in front of the Eternal Father who named them; and they were clad in long white robes with girdles tied around the waists; each pair seemed to have been created mates. <One sentence placed here was left out because it was not readable.>

[138] When thus clothed, they were arranged in classes

of about two hundred; the males sitting in front and the females behind them. They were taught in the arts and sciences, and everything necessary to make the heart happy. The teachers of the classes received the instruction they imparted from certain notable ones, who in turn got their directions from the Father and the Son. I thought I was one to overlook the classes; I also saw Joseph, Brigham, and many others engaged in this work of education. I thought as some became more efficient than others they were advanced from class to class. I thought my name was Mosiah, and the names of the other brethren there were the same as upon the earth. All at once there was a gathering of these spirits and the voice of the Great Eternal (for that is what we called God there) spoke: "Oh, ye my children," and His voice penetrated throughout space, so countless were His offspring. "We have an earth prepared for you, on which you can dwell and have a chance to come up, thru obeying our Heavenly laws."

I there heard the question asked: "Who will go down and set an example of humility and faithfulness to these my children, that they may be brought, thru obedience to our laws, back into our presence?"

I thought I saw one in the express image of the Father say, "Father, I will go down and set a pattern of humility and patience that your children, thru my example, may be brought back again." How noble, I thought, He looked when He offered Himself so patient before the children of our Father.

I saw another, who seemed to be a very high military officer who arose and said: "I will go down to yonder earth and surely I will bring all your children back to you so none of them shall be lost."

The plan of the first was accepted as being the only sure plan for an exaltation. The plan of the second was rejected with great kindness; but the second was not [139] satisfied; and while the first stood in great humility by the side of the Father, the second with many who stood in with him, went about among the Heavenly hosts to advocate the plan, that was put forth as the rights of the second. This one was Lucifer, a son of the morning, for many had been with the Father for countless ages, and learned their lessons well, and he had been no dull scholar. Finally Lucifer openly rebelled against the Father and the Son, and six other mighty ones who stood faithful with them and declared, "I will have it my way." I saw the faithful ones gather

around the Father and the Son, and Lucifer's workers gathered around him, when one of the notable ones, who was called Michael, arose and said, "We will decide the contest." It seemed that a platform was extended into space, upon which we could operate, by what power I could not tell. We who were faithful to the Father and the Son, had a white star upon us, and the others chose a red star; about one third of the males and females would not accept of either star, but withdrew from the conflict, the females taking the males by the arm, said, "Come, let us not take part with either side. Let us retire." <This sentence was changed to clarify its meaning, although the meaning was not changed in any way.> (When they were cast out after the manner of spiritual warfare,) they had no power to return. When they were all cleared from the platform and Satan and his followers were all cast down, their female companions wept, and we all wept.

No females took part against the Father and the Son, but all took sides in their favor, except the neutral ones already mentioned. After the tears were dried from our eyes, the voice of the Great Eternal spoke again and said, "Hear, O ye my children;" His voice penetrating the immensity of space so that all could hear it; it is decreed by the Great Eternal that the females shall not follow their males in their banishment, but for every male that has kept his first estate and fought valiantly for the Father and the Son, there are two females. Again it is decreed that those males who have taken no part in this great conflict shall keep their females and a race of servants shall they be."

[140] I then saw that the notable ones who had taken such an interest in the rights of the Father and the Son, were appointed to gather up those lone females whose companions had been cast down. They were again placed in classes, each man having two females in the ranks behind him. I there saw that they were again taught in their classes, which now contained about three hundred. I next saw Michael and his companion proceed a long way off, to people the earth where Lucifer and his followers had been cast. As time passed, other notable ones followed as they were appointed. During all this time the classes met frequently, being taught by instructors appointed. Each member knew his or her own place, and took it each time, and the best of order prevailed.

They were asked, first the males, and then the females behind them, "Will you obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ, when you go to that earth?" Some would answer, Yes, but not all. Some would be asked, Will you obey that law which placed the Gods on high? And in very few cases I would hear the females say, "I want my own mate." Sometimes the question would be asked of a male, "Will you Obey that higher law? and he would answer, "I wish to enjoy myself with the females." Sometimes when the question would be asked of the female, she would reply, "I wish to enjoy myself with the males." Again the question would be asked of the males, "If you will not join the Church of Christ, what do you wish to be? He would sometimes say, "I wish to be a judge, or an officer of high rank among the people." Then he would be asked, "Will you sustain the laws of God and also the rights of all mankind?" and the answer in every instance was, "yes."

I saw there that those who were proficient in their classes were advanced more rapidly until they became most perfect in those heavenly teachings, but some males, even there in Heaven would neglect their females and their classes and not meet with them. They would go off, arm in arm, as men now go, not having any desire for their duties. I never saw a female leave her place in the class assigned her by the Heavenly powers.

[141] I saw Abraham, when he came back from the earth, and many of the notable ones, when they came back to be crowned. I saw them step upon the platform of the Gods and receive their crowns, and enter into their exaltations. At last I saw the time when Joseph was to go forth, and the voice of the Great Eternal said, "Oh, my neglected daughters, gather around these my faithful servants who have been faithful in teaching you the principles of righteousness and of our kingdom, that others may come up and have the chance to be glorified." I saw many of them gather around Joseph and form a ring with him and the Savior in the center. They made a covenant with him that they would meet him on the earth and help him establish that great work upon the earth. I saw many of them gather around Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, and many other notable ones, and around many who have not become so notable. They formed rings around each of them with Christ in the center each time, for He

rehearsed to them the Covenant. They would take each other by the hand, in the circle, and bow their faces down to Him, in the center, and in the most solemn manner agree to meet them here, until every one of those neglected daughters was provided for; and they were filled with such joy that their songs made a paradise of the realm.

At last the time came for me to go to the earth. The Savior came to me and said, "Mosiah, it is time for you to prepare to go. You have been faithful so long here, it is time for you to go, that you may return and be as we are." As I beheld Him, I thought, "How is it that I am not as you are now?" For it seemed, that I knew nothing of the earth, of the changes a probation there would make in me. However, I said, "Who will go down to that earth, and be my father, and help me that I may be brought in the ways of truth and righteousness?" A male by the name of Levi stepped forth, in the presence of the Son, and said, "I will go down to yonder earth, and by the help of the Great Eternal, I will try to do as well by you as you have done for me, for I am grateful to you for all your kindness [142] to me." He returned to his place, being an instructor of a class. I was one among others who was appointed to instruct him and the other teachers of classes. A female came out of the class and bowing before the Savior and me, said, "I will go down and be your mother."

In a short time the man disappeared and was immediately followed by the woman. I knew my departure was near at hand and I asked, "If on my return I could have the same position I then held." Then the Savior said, "Yes, and greater, but you have to go down to the earth, and take a lowly position and be misunderstood by man, even your brethren and endure many hardships and set many examples of humility and patience, that you may return and enter the glory, even such as I have."

He then added, "Your time is now come to take your mission to the earth," and He laid His hands on my head, as He had done to others, and set me apart for that important mission. He again said to me, "I will see you safely thru until you return again." I fully believe on that promise. <This sentence was changed to clarify its meaning, although the meaning was not changed in any way.> It seemed as though a way was opened before me, and I dived down toward the earth with the

speed of lightening and awoke while sailing thru space. The end.

Plural Marriage - Patriarchal order

The father gives away his daughter. The man received the woman. The woman is given to the man. This isn't about unrighteous dominion, this is about who is responsible for them. It's the priesthood line. It is like how Christ is over man. Everyone has someone over them. The woman is over the child. It's different duties, not meaning one is less important, children and women often imitate heaven better than men.

"He shall rule over thee" says Genesis.

But is this to be done with kindness? Yes, there is no other way.

Warning to Not Deny Plural Marriage Doctrine - Heber C Kimball

"I speak of plurality of wives as one of the most holy principles that God ever revealed to man, and all those who exercise an influence against it, unto whom it is taught, man or woman will be damned, and they and all who will be influenced by them, will suffer the buffetings of Satan in the flesh. You might as well deny "Mormonism," and turn away from it, as to oppose the plurality of wives. The revelations which Joseph Smith has given to this people were given to him by Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world; and this people cannot be blessed if they lightly esteem any of them For this purpose did He give the revelation on plurality of wives, as sacred a revelation as was ever given to any people, and fraught with greater blessings to us than we can possibly conceive of, if we do not abuse our privileges and commit sin. This doctrine is a holy and pure principle, in which the power of God for the regeneration of mankind is made manifest . . .

If any of you will deny the plurality of wives and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned. "

Plural Marriage: Joseph was a Restorer

Joseph restored the Bible (Old Testament)

There are some laws that were fulfilled in the meridian of time with the Savior's mission.

You ask why then didn't he restore all of the old testament?

From 1830 to 1844.

14 years. What have you implemented in the last 14 year?

You've read those same verses "to the latest generation"

Various Plural Marriage Study Notes

Cleave unto her and none else there are two explanations for this one it was given before they're ready to receive the law of plural marriage too it pertains to Fidelity in marriage which can include multiple people but cannot include anyone except to whom you're authorized in marriage

Paul lists about every sin but not polygamy

The man is the head there cannot be two heads

Wilford woodruff:

"And I say again, woe unto that nation or house or people who seek to hinder my people from obeying the Patriarchal law of Abraham, which leadeth to Celestial Glory, which has been revealed unto my Saints through the mouth of my servant Joseph, for whosoever doeth these things shall be damned, saith the Lord of Hosts, and shall be broken up and wasted away from under heaven by the judgments which I have sent forth, and which shall not return unto me void."

John Taylor:

"Question: Is the law of Celestial Marriage a law given to this nation or to the world? Answer: No, in no other sense than as the Gospel is given, and in accordance with the laws thereof. So far as it is made known unto them as the gospel is made known unto them and is a part of the New and Everlasting Covenant. And it is only those who receive the Gospel that are able to, or capable of, entering into this Covenant. * * *

This law [plural marriage] is a celestial law and pertains to a Celestial Kingdom. It is a new and everlasting covenant, and appertains to thrones, principalities, powers, dominions, and eternal increase in the Celestial Kingdom of God." (June 25 & 26, 1882)

how do you reconcile it's discontinuance? The way I see it, the greater portion of the word is withdrawn when the people can't handle it. For example, in one place Paul says repent and be baptized. In another, he just says repent and be converted. To that latter group, baptism wasn't even an option. The best plan for them was to get ready for hell by beginning the repentance process ASAP.

DC 132 verse 41 in certain circumstances by the holy anointing a woman already married can be given to another man:

"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."

Generally priesthood divorce isn't acceptable but there are exceptions.

Dc132:39 David sinned only in Uriah case.

1 Kings 15:5 says the same, David good except the Uriah case:

"Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite."

Gideon had 72 children God was obviously pleased with this man and blessed him to be a mighty leader in the kingdom of God

Let me give up things for the kingdom we're promised 100 fold children houses wives brothers sisters father's mothers the wives and children comes through plural marriage but so do the brothers sisters and parents because it's additional marriage brings more parents and siblings

New testament never condemns plural marriage. It's putting away wives, not taking wives, that Jesus condemns.

1 wife bishop could be about men with larger families than that not being called to the time consuming job of being a bishop, so they can have more family time.

1 wife bishop could mean at least 1, so they show they know how to govern social dynamics.

Levirate law is very common.

Mark Twain said to Brigham Young the only scripture "I can find against plural marriage is no man shall have two masters" Brigham thought this was funny

Feminists complain of having less choice here. But the men are also under law: they must take to wife for time only the wives of his brothers and nearest kin who die. Is it hard for him to let them go after time? Perhaps, but God will recompense them on the joy of the eternal relationships, and they remain brother and sister. It is a service for the deceased, and the deceased is eternally grateful. Surely some relation continues by the man who raised the child and the child, like Joseph who raised Jesus. We know a wife of Joseph had her time husband sealed as one of their children, he wasn't interested in eternal marriage, and allowed the eternal sealing to Joseph, and such was ordained in premortality.

Joshua Erickson commented on one of my articles, addressing the idea that some have seen issues in plural marriage on the family level, agreeing that possible issues doesn't mean we end the whole thing: "I am the first to admit that the scriptures have many examples negative situations involving plural marriage,

but how many positive examples do we have of monogamy? Eve tempts Adam to disobey, and they end up raising the world's first murderer.

The scriptures don't have hardly anything good to say about people, about husbands, about wives, nor about siblings. Siblings are always fighting and even murdering each other. It is wrong therefore to conclude that the scriptures teach that parents should only have one child (so as to avoid the scriptural precedence for rivalry and violence)."

Kevin Kraut talks about this: Rabbis in Jesus' day were to marry more than 1 wife. It wasn't until about 1000AD with Rabbi Gershim that was changed. Jesus was put to death not just for his teachings but for his plural marriage also (note: another parallel of Joseph Smith).

Joseph lied about practicing plural marriage God told him too. This is biblical. God told Abraham to lie about Sarah not being his wife.

The marriage Sealings weren't just adoptions, those adoption Sealings were kept in a different book.

Brigham and Lorenzo Snow both got impressions about plural marriage before it being introduced to them by Joseph.

Adam Lived Plural Marriage: DC132 says it was done from the beginning of creation. So Adam was a polygamist.

A plural marriage can thrive at its best when sanctioned by priesthood authority which will allow the Holy Ghost to more fully work in that situation

There is of course a potential danger for the father not to be very involved in his wives and children's lives and to not openly show affection in fear of appearing not fair toward one wife or another or one child or another it's very important that children don't just have a dad but that the dad is highly involved in their lives as well as being highly involved in the women's lives.

Yes the birth rate is one to one but the faith rate is not. Historically there are many more faithful women than we have any record of. The women have always been guarded as sacred.

If plural marriage multiple women to one man was so evil it would have been legal by now it would be a part of the LGBT and all of that. But it's not and it never will be because the devil does not want it to be.

The great sin of the Bible where God refuses to even talk to you anymore is when you stop taking care of the widow and fatherless and plural marriage is a way of doing that magnificently.

New age experts who speak of the ascended masters admit that in heaven even they have seen there are many more women than men.

Some say DC 132 is not legitimate but even much earlier than that you have Joseph Smith telling people to marry the lamanites these were married men he was telling to go Mary lamanites and Nephites.

Scriptures speak of the sun as mail which giveth his light to them meaning the moon earth and stars Those are all female

Isaiah 3 and 4 the proud women's men are slain in war, the women are desolate, the law becomes polygamy, the women to take their reproach must Mary a polygamist. Their reproach isn't just childlessness, it's that they aren't living the law of God. When God's people refuse polygamy, they see the judgements of God.

McConkie said obviously the holy practice of plural marriage will return in the millennium in Zion.

The RLDS church tried to deny Joseph's polygamy and held out a while but eventually gave up and said yes the evidence is overwhelming he did that.

Joseph and Brigham weren't perfect. But this doesn't mean their practice of plural marriage was wrong. It also doesn't mean that plural marriage was wrong, and they just continued in major sin and yet we're accepted of God. Yes they were commanded to and did live plural marriage, even if imperfectly in some of their methods or comments. They remain mighty men of God who we look up to in their lives and teachings.

To their credit, church manuas today say plural marriage was in fact what we did historically, and that it is used wherever God says to raise seed. It is different

however from the teaching of plural marriage as the exalted state. But I can see why they wouldn't teach that in a generation where it's not operative.

Another evidence for Joseph practicing pro marriage is that so many left the church on this issue Sidney rigdon William law etc

The Bible is not a perfect translation where it says a bishop must be the husband of one wife that could be translated differently such as the husband must be married to a wife he needs to be able to show that he can handle a relationship not someone who is single so you see this is not outlaw the law of plural marriage.

Plural taught by Joseph debate notes

Mark Tynsmeier and Jacob Vidrine on the affirmative that yes, Joseph Smith taught the doctrine of plural marriage. These are notes supporting that.

Beware that the hosts of this debate, "Hemlock Knots", are openly hostile against Brigham Young. They claim to show balanced source data without agenda, but this is not so. I don't suggest studying at their website/groups, but Jacob and Mark do go there and defends the prophets.

<https://youtu.be/dm5aUNxzGk0>

We know DC 132 was authentic because many affidavits etc. people at the time it was given recorded and testified about the contents thereof as approving polygamy for this life and the life to come And these statements have extremely similar language as 132.

The family of Joseph not just the followers of Brigham a test to the fact that Emma burned a copy of the revelation on plural marriage

If 132 was not endorsing with me they could have gone ahead and made it public to disprove those who were verifying that it was teaching such a doctor

??? What of the statement of Hyrum Smith that he would rather have the devil for a brother than a polygamist and that women who did this were fools and men who did this should have their noses ringed? They had to cover up the practice.

??? What of 132 being a few pages but a later version being 8 pages? Joseph could reveal more if he wanted. Also there's evidence that this 8 page thing was an entirely different document, not claiming to be the same revelation.

Section 20 and section 107 both had earlier shorter versions.

But the Sarah and Whitney Revelation was that long and it was shown to this man by Newell Whitney so this two page versus eight page thing they were completely different revelations! This is concerning Whitehead.

There's also another fellow and this guy could have only been shown half of the revelation it was also a much later account he could have not recalled how long it was.

There are various documents various copies of the original document and those who claim there was a forgery changing the meaning of 132 it's by some random person rather than the supposed conspirators were available to do it

Many people knew the Revelation on plural marriage and stood up for it and testified of it who had first-hand experience it's not feasible or plausible that so many would completely misinterpret this to have the opposite meaning

Emily partridge Lorenzo Snow Brigham Young they all had premonitions about the doctrine of plural marriage before it was officially taught them by Joseph. Brigham also had Revelation about baptism for the Dead on a mission in Britain and Joseph instituted this before Brigham even returned.

Brigham said those in higher priesthood power and authority can take the wife of someone with lesser priesthood.

William Clayton journals were authentic.

Paul says in 1st Timothy 5:10 the woman wash the feet of the elders to receive support of the church

Foot washings are a New testament practice if we have a problem with that we have a problem with Jesus whose feet were washed by a strange prostitute

There is a group who connects foot washing with sex but there's no evidence of this being the case in these recorded incidences

People who are involved in different things keep different notebooks in different places this does not mean they are invalid sources if it appears to jump around

and some of the parts that are striked out or blacked out as to where this happens this is mess represented by some people and there is an account of some flirtation or desire which was inappropriate which could have been blacked out but we cannot say more happened than this

James Whitehead saying that William Clayton was fired as Joseph's secretary is not credible. Clayton continues to be involved with documents.

The Joseph Smith papers project is finishing a few things and then they're going to release the William Clayton journals

Joseph called William Clayton his best friend

Temple ceremonies and plural marriage were secret doctrines Joseph Smith taught

William wrote about marrying Joseph to women in code

This is a Nauvoo secret practice

William had 2 sets of journals even before becoming employed by Joseph

James Whitehead repeatedly contradicts.

William Clayton journal they say perhaps it was forged to be made in Brigham's time, but this is just a pie in the sky claim

Did the brothers talk about their plural marriages know it was kept secret It was written in shorthand on code when they were taught these things or even a marriage performed they would simply write in the journal that they were instructed on priesthood etc yet we have many other sources making it very obvious that this is what was taking place

It says in one place so the man who gave his daughter in marriage but it doesn't list the name of the man this is to protect the identity of Joseph there's another place where it speaks of a marriage and just list the last name Smith

"Heard a sermon from Hyrum Smith my husband was also in attendance" at this time this lady's publicly known husband was on a mission and she writes shortly thereafter of his return therefrom

Many contemporary statements of people before the time of Brigham's presidency made it obvious that the sealings were plural marriage sealings

No women were sealed to Joseph in Nauvoo. If it was just adoption and not marriage, this would be most strange.

There's extensive evidence which matches up on numerous fronts numerous overlapping accounts in favor of Joseph practicing and teaching polygamy

Those who claim plural marriage wasn't done by Joseph just say "oh the Brighamites lied". They group everyone together.

DC 132 verse 41 in certain circumstances by the holy anointing a woman already married can be given to another man:

"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."

Generally priesthood divorce isn't acceptable but there are exceptions.

Dc132:39 David sinned only in Uriah case.

1 Kings 15:5 David good except Uriah:

"Because David did that which was right in the eyes of

the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite."

Joseph was restoring much in the Nauvoo era. Secret temple anointings and endowments. The law of sacrifice to return. A theocratic government like the time of Moses.

Some of this is above book of Mormon teachings, Joseph isn't afraid to do that. Example book of Mormon says no more animal sacrifice. So the supposed Jacob 2 contradiction shows that Joseph is revealing higher truth and doctrine than book of Mormon doctrine.

Some claim DC 132 sounds different than other scripture but we know from Brigham that Revelation is given according to the ability of the people to receive. we have the Old testament which sounds different than the New testament. and in the Old testament we have many instances where people's lives are in jeopardy just as is the case in 132. There are also other places in DC that people's lives are in Jeopardy such as Martin Harris being required to fund The Book of Mormon or his life was at stake.

Joseph said a man is not to have more than one wife unless the Lord ordains otherwise. Joseph did not want missionaries preaching these mysteries preaching plural marriage preaching things which weren't in the scriptures. (The purpose of missions is basic gospel gathering).

Emma was called to be an elect lady and she did many great things but that doesn't mean she didn't have issues serious issues, or that she chose to remain elect. We all have agency. Many are called, few are chosen.

Joseph said Emma is wonderful, how would I not be willing to go to hell for such a woman. Brigham took this out of context and spoke of Joseph needing to go to hell to get her.

Joseph said some of the women were his wives before coming to this earth that's why they were sealed to him even when already married

Joseph told William law DC101 about one wife was when the church was young being fed on milk now it's time for strong meat (the plural marriage doctrine)

Jacob 2 speaks against polygamy Orson Pratt commented on this that there was too small of a population for the practice at that time

Amulek references having multiple women in Book of Mormon.

The Return of Legal Polygamy from A Must Unlikely Source?

Recently a court ordered that a homosexual trio was allowed the same legal marriage protection as a couple of 2. Of course legalized “gay” marriage is an abomination to the Lord, but perhaps this will bring about a most unexpected outcome. If they allow plural relations for one group, they should allow plural marriage for traditional polygamists.

Naturally we still only do this when priesthood authority turns the keys for it, but this advancement is most interesting.

[NYC Judge Rules Polyamorous Unions Get Same Legal Protections as 2-Person Union \(vladtv.com\)](http://vladtv.com)

Joel Skousen World Affairs Brief 11.18.22 On Plural Marriage Rights, And The Failure Compromise That Christians Just Bought Into With The Gay Rights Bill In The Senate

(Notice how they’re specifically denying plural marriage rights while allowing homosexual marriage rights, Joel does well at pointing out the hypocrisy.)

REPUBLICANS COMPROMISE TO PASS GAY MARRIAGE BILL IN SENATE

As usual, controversial bills are given euphemistic titles that hide their real agenda. This one was called the “Respect for Marriage Act” but it was really only the “respect for GAY marriage act.” In the Senate on Wednesday 12 Republicans joined all the Democrats to invoke cloture (cut off debate) and allow the bill to be

voted on. This overcame any possible filibuster, and subsequently the bill passed.

It had been rejected previously over concerns of religious liberty. Churches didn’t want to be forced to perform gay marriages. So RINO Republicans like Susan Collins and Roy Blunt crafted a compromise to get the Christian churches on board, and the church leaders bought it hook line and sinker. But it’s a trap.

President Biden celebrated the Senate passing the first hurdle by saying “Americans should have the right to marry the person they love.” But the compromise amendment in the bill also carved out an exclusion for polygamous marriages requiring that they continue to be banned. What about those people’s love?

I’m not a fan of having more than one wife, but this is completely hypocritical from a constitutional point of view. If the Left truly believes that everyone should have the right to marry whom they love, as applied to gays, it should also apply to polygamous and other marriages, which at least fulfill one of the purposes of marriage: to have and take care of their own children—which homosexuality cannot produce.

In fact, as I’ve said before, that is the ONLY reason government has any right to be concerned with marriage—to ensure that the rights of children are protected from neglect, abuse or abandonment. Otherwise, marriage is an important legal and spiritual commitment to one’s spouse if sanctioned and blessed by God, who has specifically condemned homosexuality.

In my view, gays have the right to engage in any private relationship they wish, unhealthy and unproductive of children as they be, as long as it fully consensual. But they should not have the legislated right to force others to recognize those living arrangements as a “marriage,” with all the benefits approved for proper marriage, which might include federal tax breaks and the right to impose on public education their brand of lifestyle.

As far as any non-conventional marriage relationships and the right of legislative recognition, polygamy is more deserving than gay marriage from a demographic point view. Western society is suffering from a dramatic falling birthrate with older people now dying off more quickly than children are being born—in large part because of abortion and homosexuality.

Of course, there are bad examples of moral conduct in all forms of marriage, but with a few high profile exceptions that make all the news, most polygamous families out West are conservative, God fearing, and mostly home schooled. Like the Amish in the Midwest and East, these families generally produces a higher caliber of citizen, free from social media ills and most peer pressure addictions that affect public schooled teens.

Polygamous marriages have a higher birthrate than most Americans and even have a higher fidelity rate than monogamous marriages, which all too often ends with one or more extra-marital affairs that don't take care of offspring. That's one reason why the abortion rate is so high in this country which is a great offense to God.

I only mention this as a matter of fairness, not out of condoning the practice. Plural marriages are growing in number because it is rarely prosecuted anymore. Authorities are rightly fearful that if you bring up a legal case against them and compare it to 2015 Obergefell case, the courts are going to have to say it is constitutionally allowed as a matter of free choice among consenting adults.

Most of the Republicans who came on board to this latest gay marriage bill did so because of the questionable amendments that were made to lure them in. As the liberal Christianity Today site said (which backs the bill too because of this amendment),

Section 6(b) of RMA recognizes that religious nonprofits and their personnel have a statutory right to decline any involvement with a marriage solemnization or celebration—including a same-sex one. This federal right would preempt any state or local law to the

contrary. It means clergy can refuse to officiate a gay wedding. A church can decline to be the venue for these unions. A Christian college can deny use of its chapel for the same reason, and a Christian summer camp can refuse use of its lake and nearby pavilion, as well.

But this only gives protection to corporate Churches, YMCAs and camps that have non-profit status—not any individual. That's the trap. Christian fellowships which rightly refuses 501c3 status, won't be protected—like Chuck Baldwin's fellowship in Montana. And neither will individual Christians be protected. This is a real sellout by mainstream Churches against individual rights.

This section of the act only deals with nonprofits and therefore doesn't address ongoing litigation over for-profit Christian wedding vendors—photographers, bakers, florists, dressmakers, [renters of apartments or rooms] and others [where profit is not an issue]. However, RMA doesn't harm wedding vendors. It's simply silent and leaves the matter for resolution in the courts.

Really? Let me tell you: Silence of the law on a fundamental right is harmful and dangerous when we're dealing with a plethora of activist leftist judges on State courts today who enforced non-discrimination laws. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, announced he would support the bill after his church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or "Mormon"), said it would back the legislation if it includes an amendment to strengthen religious liberties.

This harkens back to the compromise the LDS Church made with anti-discrimination laws in Utah and Arizona—that prohibited private discrimination as long as the law carved out an exception for the LDS Church in the name of "religious liberty," as if religious liberty was different for the Church than its members!

All church leaders of any denomination who buy into this compromise will someday realize it will pave the way for more anti-discrimination laws that ban all

individuals, including Christians from choosing not to do business with gays or any other minority group they do not approve of. And eventually even church's non-profit status will be denied based on practicing the exception granted by this bill despite the language in the bill (which can always change as morals deteriorate and hatred of Christian principles grows).

It's getting to the point when even verbal disapproval of any group is no longer protected as free speech. Churches may not have to perform gay marriages for now but their members will have their individual property and associative rights severely infringe upon by this compromise.

The 12 "foolish virgin" Republicans who voted for this are: Roy Blunt (MO), Richard Burr (NC),

Shelley Moore Capito (WV), Susan Collins (ME), Cynthia Lummis (WY), Rob Portman (OH),

Mitt Romney (UT), Dan Sullivan (AK), Thom Tillis (NC), Joni Ernst (IA), Todd Young (IN),

Lisa Murkowski (AK)

[Polygamy and Same-Sex Marriage by David L. Chambers University of Michigan Law School \(Link to Full Text\)](#)

In today's climate of letting consenting adults, it is quite a bazaar that there is persistence against legalizing plural marriage. Consider this article:

<https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1087&context=articles>

[Defending Historical Young Marriages](#)

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.

Gandhi and his wife were married at 13. There are many other examples.

Remember: When a strong societal support exists, this is a possibility. It is not a possibility today, nor do I advocate it in any way, I only point out that our culture isn't the way it's always been, and isn't the only possible way.

And consider this: why are we so concerned about a young woman age 14 marrying Joseph when Joseph himself was only 14 when God Himself appeared to him? This is evidence that people of that age can be mature enough for serious business.

[10 Grievous Errors We've Seen by Those Practicing Plural Marriage](#)

Just because celestial plural marriage is an eternal principle doesn't mean people don't mess it up sometimes. Some have had pure hearts and charity, others have gone off in strange and corrupt practices. Others still have perhaps done stupid things, however well meaning.

There have been some things that are clearly overreach, uncalled for, even abusive, in the name of celestial plural marriage. The bulk of these were practiced by polygamist families post-1890-manifesto, to my knowledge.

Here are some summaries of bogus things that have happened:

1. A leader taking a man's wife and giving her to another man.

Brigham spoke of a valiant man receiving the wife of an valiant man, I don't think this was applied well by many. It seems that the principle is that ONLY for wickedness would a man lose his wife, not for righteousness of someone else.

2. A leader telling someone who they can and can't marry.

Who to marry should be a personal choice, not made by leaders. Some say that Brigham did this, I don't know.

3. Having kids lie about who their parents are to protect them.

Kids should not have to lie about the faith of their family. If a family wants to live plural marriage, they need to face the consequences of it.

4. Men not allowing their wives to see their families after they join his family.

This is just weird and uncalled for. It's not like the families these women came from were evil people.

5. Marrying large age gaps.

I understand trying to marry a woman of childbearing years, but this can get easily out of hand. I don't fault Joseph, he had his reasons and I trust those were inspired, he was God's prophet, but there have been

other cases of an apparently similar nature but which were obviously not right.

6. Marrying an excessive number of women.

It should not be thought that exaltation is purely a numbers game. Human life is never purely a numbers game, though God is obviously interested in large families as happy families, this should not be taken to extremes.

We don't question Joseph and Brigham, prophets of God, and marriages they were inspired to perform. But we should not think it typical for men to have many wives.

7. Marrying someone in a leadership position being seen as better than marrying an average faithful member.

Leadership positions aren't meant to be everywhere, especially in a small organization. Sure as the operation grows, saged members can be used for leadership, but this can get out of hand with everyone wanting to marry only an Apostle.

8. Giving one wife more affection and attention than others.

People tell really quick, especially the children, and they need to see their own mother cherished, which communicates that they themselves are cherished too.

9. Not spending time with the children.

Sure there are many, but every child needs a father to be involved in his or her life.

It is true that siblings entertain each other, and the world doesn't understand this, but this does not excuse the need for a present father in a child's life.

10. Marriages without Courting.

This isn't nearly as serious as some of these issues, but appears to be an unusually common phenomenon. By

without courting I don't mean a few weeks of courting, I mean NO courting, like walking up to a stranger and telling them you have revelation to marry them. Particularly those with supposed authority positions doing this can be a cheap shot. I seriously doubt the Lord has His servants do this. We do have Rachel at the well, but it seems that's a very rare thing, and even that had a little explaining with it. Sure, a person can have inspiration to pursue someone toward marriage upon first meeting them, and even have premonitions in dreams etc. about a person they don't know who may become their spouse. But a person has the most success when they court a while and get permission from the parents before proposing a marriage. Even the most well-intending faithful person can struggle in a marriage when they haven't got to know the person first. Yes, any two faithful to Christ can be compatible, but marriage is hard enough, one should take measures to have some amount of assurance before marriage. It is true that an honest person needs minimal introduction and has nothing to hide, but this doesn't mean no acquaintance must be made. There are the occasional case of faithful people meeting and engaging a week or two later, but typically this is not recommended. This is basic social advice. There usually isn't need for quite such a hurry as a month could afford, so why risk it?

On Fundamentalist Sects and Leaders

As I've made clear, I do not believe plural marriage is authorized today, and I believe The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is God's Church on the earth today, and that only when that organization authorizes us should we endeavor to live the law of celestial plural marriage.

I will endeavor here to put down a few notes on what I know (to the best of my knowledge) about the sects of fundamentalist latter-day saints who practice plural marriage to this day. I do not advise joining them, the principle reason being that I do not believe they have authority to perform these marriages.

Fundamentalist groups all have one complaint or another against the mother church, but I say stay in it and wait it out, and avoid false doctrines taught by those teaching things other than what the church does, and allow for minor imperfections in church members and leadership.

Here are a few items on the fundamentalist sects and leaders:

Rulen Allred

Started AUB

Doesn't approve of child marriages.

Arrested at times.

Was a naturopathic doctor.

Was known to be modest honest and kind.

Claimed authority from seeing Christ when challenged by one of his sons.

His first marriage with several children ended when he became obsessed with the doctrine of polygamy and left the church.

Ervil LeBaron

Sent his wives to assassinate his competitor Rulan

Allred. Also killed one of his daughters.

Abusive use of blood atonement doctrine to assassinate many.

In prison.

Warren Jeffs

The famous pedophile criminal.

Church called FLDS

In prison.

The Story of Polygamy: Fiction & Fact by Max Anderson - Book Notes (Debunks Authority Claims etc. of Those Claiming We Can Still Practice Plural Marriage)

J. Max Anderson, The Polygamy Story: Fiction and Fact

[The Polygamy Story: Fiction and Fact, by J. Max Anderson - Introduction - SHIELDS \(shields-research.org\)](http://ThePolygamyStory:FictionandFact,byJ.MaxAnderson-Introduction-SHIELDS(shields-research.org))

(the above link is to free full text of the book)

Woodruff wrote the manifesto alone, only a few edits were made by his counselors. The manifesto was in Wilford Woodruff's own hand and Charles Penrose

denies writing it. The other counselors in the first presidency and apostles did not sign the manifesto because they explained woodruff has the keys, he's the one man with them and he is using them. The spirit of God influenced the apostles to support woodruff in the manifesto.

Refers to many journals which lack reference of supposed events.

Why would there need to be two people in the angelic visitation, the appearance of Joseph Smith would be enough, if needed at all, so why would Jesus also come?

Accounts vary as to how many people witnessed what was going on in the room during the all night meeting.

In the record of someone supposedly seeing the light in the room for the all night meeting, it does not say anything about what the people said, even though he could supposedly hear them all enough to place them in a room, and it's not that hard to hear through a wooden door, yet he reported nothing about the content of the conversation.

Lorin Wooley is not mentioned in the records as being a guard of John Taylor, though he claims to have done so for an extended period of time. Lorin Wooley time and again proves to be untrustworthy.

The day where they with supposedly 13 hours of meetings after the all-night visitation, this was a day filled with regular business as recorded in multiple journals. President Taylor was 78 years old and in poor health, yet supposedly he had all day meetings Sunday and then all night meetings and then the next day he had 13 hours of straight meetings.

Compare this to how Joseph Smith did not have the strength to work the next day when Joseph was visited all night by Moroni.

They said that John Taylor's face shone like the sun but when Joseph Smith had great manifestation the shining face is more of a and bright; the brightness like the sun is reserved for the celestial beings.

Note- Moses did have to veil his face. This may occur after meeting God.

George Earl supposedly at the 8hr meeting, repeatedly denies such a meeting existed.

There is no 1886 Revelation in the church archives.

The day of the supposed 1886 revelation, the diary of John Taylor says nothing of it.

The Lord does not revoke eternal laws but he can and has revoked principles when it is not expedient for the church to practice them.

Supposedly John Taylor Rose off of the floor and said half the church would apostatize over plural marriage; however this statement is troublesome, he probably did not say it; for starters no one rejected when woodruff proposed the manifesto to discontinue plural marriage, so John Taylor should have said 100% would apostatize if that was the case (not just 50%); another problem is that only 2% were living plural marriage at the time, so why would 50% apotheosize?

Brigham said "When Joseph is resurrected, you may find the linen that enshrouded his body, but you will not find his body in the grave, no more than the disciples found the body of Jesus when they looked where it was lain."

In 1929 reorganized LDS Church disinterred Joseph and Hyrum they were still there not resurrected, so Joseph Smith could not have shaken hands of Lorin Wooley and others.

Oliver county was excommunicated for entering into plural marriage without authorization and Hyrum Smith was threatened lose his soul along with all those he sealed to him without authorization if he did such. Entering plural marriage and preaching plural marriage were very strictly governed, you couldn't just do it on your own.

As I recall this book refutes the claim that there was a season of 50 years or so where ordinations of priesthood conferral were not done correctly because even from the earliest days of the church it was done various ways.

The church president holds the keys of the priesthood, it is not two separate offices. The president of the church is a shortened form of the proper title being the president of the high priesthood of the church. There are not two presidencies one of church one of priesthood as fundamentalists claim.

President John Taylor denied plural marriage recommends which people requested and explained that the church was entering into a new era. This was 1887, and the Woodruff manifesto of 1890 was a continuance of that. The saints were valiant, their test had passed, they were released from the requirement. They lived God's laws despite persecution. They now would

submit to the laws of the land.

Lorenzo Snow said plural marriage is removed until the Lord restores it.

Lorenzo Snow said keeping a plural wife secret cannot be done, and that plural marriages must be authorized by him and that he had not authorized any plural marriages as president.

Supposedly some unnamed messenger from Lorenzo Snow gave Joseph Musser permission to enter a plural marriage. But church messengers are supposed to be recognized and sustained by the body of the church. It was claimed that John Wooley had the sealing keys, yet Joseph Musser claims permission from a messenger from Lorenzo Snow, which Lorenzo snow denies.

For a time plural marriages were performed outside of the United States where it was not illegal, but in 1904 Joseph F Smith put a stop to all of it around the world.

Of the supposed five who were ordained by John Taylor to keep doing plural marriage, we have only what Lorin Wooley wrote about it, and he only came out with this information after the other four were dead, and after he had been excommunicated from the church. He came out with this 5 years after his ex communication which is 43 years after the supposed event.

The law of witnesses was not fulfilled in the case of Lorin Wooley, compare this to Oliver Cowdery being witness to Joseph Smith ordinations.

The claim was made by Lorin Wooley that he was supposed to forget then remember,, however this is an extremely scandalous claim that appears to be an excuse for why he didn't bring these things up earlier.

Daniel R Bateman's daughter reported that he said that he was going to vote against the manifesto at the conference where it would be presented but when he went to that conference a power came over him and raised his hand to sustain it and he felt peace; nevertheless he later went against the manifesto.

John Wooley confessed to Joseph F Smith president of the church that John Taylor in fact did not ordain him or others to carry on plural marriage, and that he had lied to others about this.

Lorin Wooley claimed to be an undercover agent for the government, it was shown that he was not, and he failed to have children through plural marriage which was the whole point of the movement he started; we also see Daniel Bateman failing in these regards. Lorin was excommunicated for being a pernicious liar, also

lying that he was ordained an apostle at age 13 by Brigham, though Brigham wasn't anywhere near at the time of the supposed ordination.

Lorin Wooley had dreams of grandiose authority.

Orson Pratt said "The devil can adapt himself to the belief of any person. If you believed in plurality he would make you think it was all right. If he could get you to swallow down one or two great lies that would affect your destruction, and which you would preach and destroy many others. He would not mind how many truths you might believe."

Heber C Kimball said "I will give you a key which brother Joseph Smith used to give in Nauvoo. He said, that the very step of apostasy commenced with losing confidence in the leaders of this Church and kingdom, and that whenever you discerned that spirit, you might know that it would lead the possessor of it on the road to apostasy."

Joseph Smith said "It is an eternal principle, that has existed with God from all eternity: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly, that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives."

Joseph Smith: Abraham Guided by the Lord in All He Did

"Abraham was guided in all his family affairs by the Lord; was conversed with by angels, and by the Lord; was told where to go, and when to stop; and prospered exceedingly in all that he put his hand unto; it was because he and his family obeyed the counsel of the Lord." — Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith <15 July 1842> pages 251–252)

My Advice When it Comes to Teaching Plural Marriage

The “Fair Latter-day Saint” website skirts around the issues and tries to make D&C 132 about marriage in general rather than plural marriage. Clever, but not in keeping with the original intent of the revelation as is obvious by the context of the revelation itself.

We should just leave plural marriage at the fact that it was something prophets taught, it’s not currently something we do, the end. But some over-zealous advocates try to make it seem like plural marriage is this terrible thing, and that doesn’t respect the prophets who taught it. The most respectful approach to past and present prophets and policies is to say it was taught in the past, we don’t know much about it, we don’t do it these days, then end. If a person wants to repeat what prophets have taught about it being a higher law, well, they’re just repeating the prophets. If a person wants to keep hushed about it, that’s not a bad path either. It really is a higher way, and that’s why Jesus taught in parables – most aren’t ready for higher truths. But if a person wants to go around bad-mouthing plural marriage, I find that highly spiritually dangerous. No one will be forced to live plural marriage in heaven, but there will be polygamists in heaven, and we’re going to be very uncomfortable there if we keep bad mouthing it here.

Why does Jacob 2 say it’s only what God says so, and monogamy is typical? Because that’s how it is! Exaltation in the highest isn’t typical. The Book of Mormon’s purpose is a basic missionary tract, it’s purpose isn’t to teach every detail of heaven. That wasn’t and isn’t it’s audience. It’s quite like the New Testament in that way. We only live that law when God says to. What’s so complicated about that? Often society is on a more basic plain, and even the more righteous among them are not required to live higher laws because it’s not what the plain the church is operating on, and that’s fine. The great time of exaltation will be the millennium. Elder McConkie also speaks of this glorious practice to return.

-J. Max Anderson, The Polygamy Story: Fiction and Fact <http://www.shields-research.org/Books...> This book does well at dismantling fundamentalist claims for authority to practice plural marriage.

-Fundamentalist Documents

<https://mormonpolygamydocuments.org/fundamentalist-documents/>

-Book Celestial or Plural Marriage: the Mormon marriage system by Musser

-Book "More than One" on plural marriage as a higher law, essential in preserving Israel etc., by Whelan, an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

-Free book by Orson Pratt defending plural marriage called “Celestial Marriage:

http://ogdenkraut.com/?page_id=341

-Book Plural Marriage in the Bible: he makes many great points, see ogdenkraut.com. Also there is a book “Jesus Was Married”. Ogdenkraut.com See also his Marriage Covenant book.

-All Ogden Kraut books are on YouTube on the “Ogden Kraut Books” channel. Ogden’s son Kevin carries on the spirit of his father wherein he wishes for all to have access to these as possible. (Note: I do not endorse all of the writings of Ogden Kraut particularly due to his faulty claims on priesthood and authority.)

-“Dateonomics” Article from “Speaking of Polygamy”, on More Women Than Men in the Church, etc. <https://speakingofpolygamy.com/2018/02/25/dateonomics/>

This article is from Charlotte Erickson’s blog on plural marriage. She and her contributors make a lot of good points. They actively practice plural marriage which I do not recommend, and some of her posts speak of their leaving the church, which I do not endorse.

Resources on Plural Marriage

