

# WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF MORMON TEACH?

## Class 17



The Book of Mormon is NOT “Mormonism.”

Part 2

# What Does the Book of Mormon Teach

Class #17

May 23, 2021

Colbern Rd. Congregation

# Class Scriptures

## Video

### After All We Can Do...

### Jacob/Nephi's Plainness

### Whose Merits?

#### Jacob 2

Blessings on Lamanites, why?

The Mourning of the daughters

The Brother's Wife

Marriage in Eternity? WHY NOT?

Joseph/Hyrum on Salvation

JS Against Polygamy

Brigham Young Assumption of Power

- The Ground Shook, God was Near
- Joseph Didn't Tell you Everything

Brigham Young Equates 'Attaining Celestial' with

- Baptism for Dead
- 'Spiritual Wifery'
- Tithing
- 'Grades' of Glory

# Polygamists

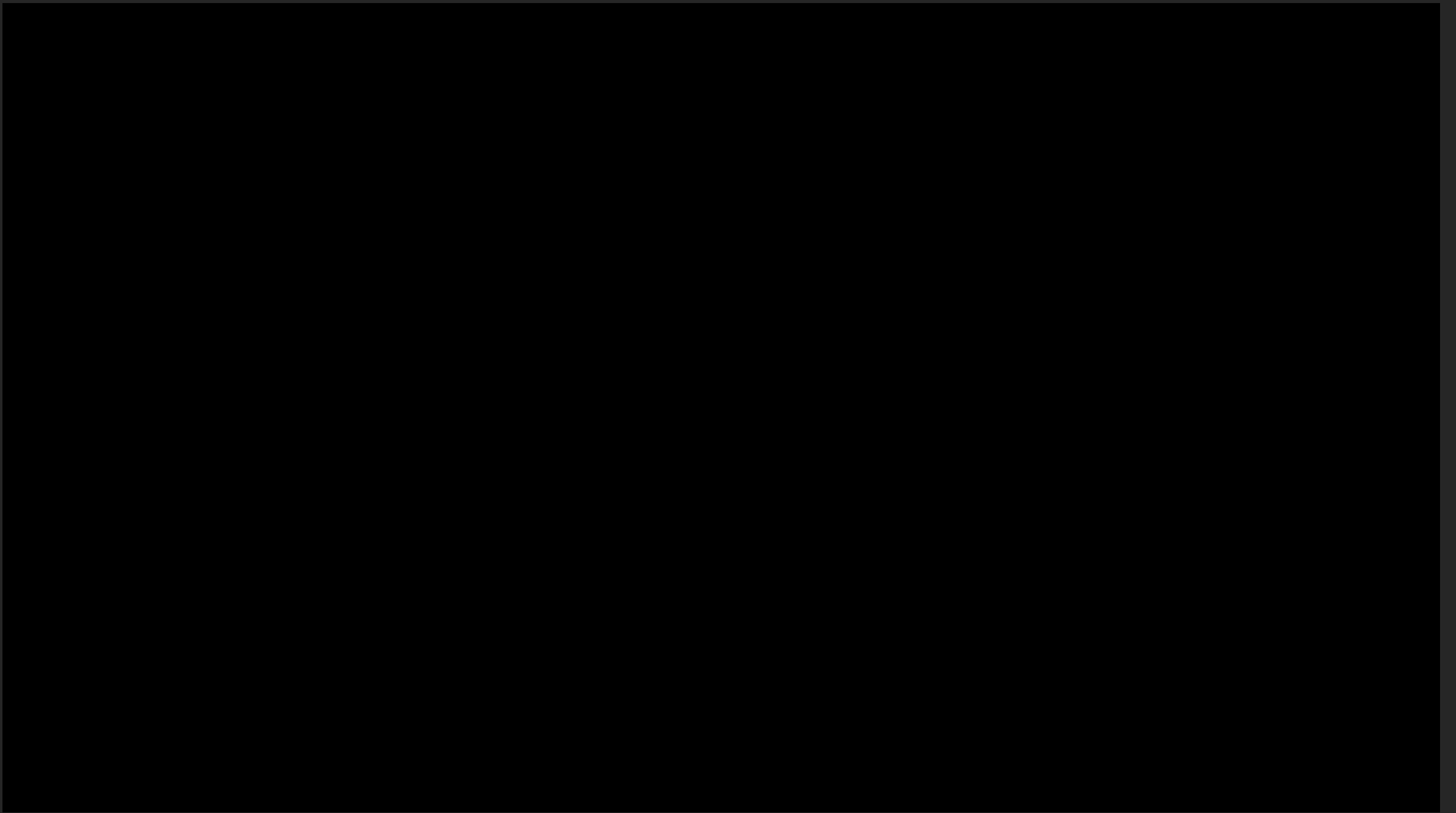
Parley Pratt

W. W. Phelps

King Follett Sermon 'Transcribers'

Brigham Young Plurality of Wives  
Sermon

Historical USA



# Video

- What happens?
- Street evangelist doesn't know context—neither do the LDS missionaries (or the world)
- Context an issue on both sides
- Will get a higher place
- What does it really say?
- His Merit
- “No it's not” is NOT a valid argument

# Salvation is on Whose Merits?

# The Merits of Christ...

## 2 Nephi 1:73

Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, That they may know that there is **no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits and mercy and grace of the Holy Messiah,**

## Alma 13:46

And since man had fallen, **he could not merit anything of himself;**  
But the sufferings and death of Christ atoneth for their sins through faith and repentance, etc.



# The Merits of Christ...

[Helaman 5:67](#) And if ye believe on His name, ye will repent of all your sins, that thereby ye may have remission of them through His merits.

[Moroni 6:5](#) ....relying alone upon the merits of Christ who was the author and the finisher of their faith.

[2 Nephi 13:28](#) Behold, I say unto you, Nay; For ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in Him, Relying wholly upon the merits of Him who is mighty to save.

# The Merits of Christ...

## [2 Nephi 7:42](#)

And remember, that after ye are reconciled unto God,  
That it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved;

## [Moroni 10:30](#)

‘And again, **if ye by the grace of God are perfect\* in Christ** and deny not His power,  
**Then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God** through the shedding of the blood of Christ, Which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

(The word ‘perfect’ in Hebrew means ‘Complete.’ Jeff Benner)

# The Living Words: Perfect

This article is an excerpt from Mr. Benner's book [\*The Living Words\*](#).

I begin this study with a comparison of two people, Jacob and Job.

*And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and **Jacob was a plain** man, dwelling in tents. Genesis 25:27 (KJV)*

*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was **Job; and that man was perfect and upright**, and one Job 1:1 (KJV)*

# The Living Words: Perfect

This article is an excerpt from Mr. Benner's book [\*The Living Words\*](#).

From these two verses, we could conclude that Jacob was plain, just an ordinary person, nothing special, but Job, on the other hand, was rather extraordinary as he was "perfect."

What you might find interesting is the word "**perfect**" in Job 1:1 is a translation of the Hebrew word  $\text{קָטָן}$  <sup>[H:8535]</sup> but so is the word "**plain**" in Genesis 25:27.

# The Living Words: Perfect

This article is an excerpt from Mr. Benner's book [\*The Living Words\*](#).

So why isn't Jacob considered "perfect" by the translations just as they did with Job?

This is another case of translators [relying on the Greek Septuagint](#) for their translation rather than the Hebrew text itself.

The Greek uses the word *amemptos* <sup>[G:273]</sup>, meaning "blameless," for Job and the word *haplous* <sup>[G:573]</sup>, meaning "simple," for Jacob.

# The Living Words: Perfect

This article is an excerpt from Mr. Benner's book [The Living Words](#).

The word  $\text{תָּמַם}$  *tam* [H:8535] can be best defined as "**mature in thought and action**" and is the parent root of the verb  $\text{תָּמַם}$  *tamam* [H:8552] **meaning to be whole, finished or completed.**

From this verb comes the word  $\text{תָּמִים}$  *tamiym* [H:8549].

# The Living Words: Perfect

This article is an excerpt from Mr. Benner's book [\*The Living Words\*](#).

***Thou shalt be perfect (tamiym) with the LORD thy God. Deuteronomy 18:13  
(KJV)***

*Can one be perfect?*

*From a Greek perspective, no, because everyone has his faults, but in Hebraic thought there is no concept of "perfect."*

*A better translation of the verse above is;*

***You will be complete (tamiym) with Yahweh your Elohiym***

# Jesus Wants to make us Whole-Complete-Perfect

**Enos 1:11** And many years passeth away before that He shall manifest Himself in the flesh; **Wherefore, go to it - thy faith hath made thee whole.** (i.e. Complete, Perfect)

**Moroni 8:9** Behold, I came into the world, not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; The **whole** need no physician, but they that are sick; Wherefore, **little children are whole**, for they are not capable of committing sin; Wherefore, the curse of Adam is taken from them in Me, that it hath no power over them; And the law of circumcision is done away in Me.'



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# These Scriptures become better understood... (if 'Perfect' = Whole, Complete)

## Moroni 10:29-30

Yea, come unto Christ and be **perfected** in Him

and deny yourselves of all ungodliness,

And if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and love God with all your might, mind and strength,

Then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ;

And if **by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ**, ye can in no wise deny the power of God.

And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ and deny not His power,

Then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God through the shedding of the blood of Christ.

Which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins,  
that ye become holy without spot.

So How do you become Perfect  
(i.e. whole/complete) in Christ?

Come in at the Gate

Walk in the Way

Being taught by His Word

Guided by His Spirit

Enduring all your days.

BUT...in LDS teachings....

The Savior's Merits apparently morphed into....

James Talmage

*The Celestial Glory is provided for those who merit the highest honors of heaven. In the revelation referred to, we read of them: (quotes dc 76 paragraph 5)*

*The Terrestrial Glory -- This, the next lowest degree, will be attained by many whose works do not merit the highest reward. (quotes DC 76:6)*

*The Telestial Glory -- They are thus not wholly rejected; their every merit will be respected (quotes DC 76:7)*

# Labored Diligently was what they were 'doing'

## 2 Nephi 11

43 For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children and also our brethren to believe in Christ and to be reconciled to God,

44 For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do

# But the following Context of Nephi's Words spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

43 For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children and also our brethren to believe in Christ and to be reconciled to God,

44 For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do.

45 And notwithstanding we believe in Christ, We keep the law of Moses and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ until the law shall be fulfilled,  
For, for this end was the law given;

# But the following Context of Nephi's Words spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

46 Wherefore, the law hath become dead unto us,  
And we are made alive in Christ because of our faith;

47 Yet we keep the law because of the commandments;

# But the following Context of Nephi's Words spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

48 And we talk of Christ, We rejoice in Christ, We preach of Christ, We prophesy of Christ,

And we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.

49 Wherefore, we speak concerning the law, that our children may know the deadness of the law;



# But the following Context of Nephi's Words spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

50 And they,

by knowing the deadness of the law,

may look forward unto **that life which is in Christ**

and know for what end the law was given;

51 And after that the law is fulfilled in Christ, that they need not harden their hearts against Him when the law had ought to be done away.

52 And now behold, my people, ye are a stiff-necked people; Wherefore, I have  
spoken plain unto you, that ye cannot misunderstand;

# But the following Context of Nephi's Words spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

53 And the words which I have spoken shall stand as a testimony against you, For they are sufficient to teach any man the right way;

But the following Context of Nephi's Words  
spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

54 For **the right way** is to believe in Christ and deny Him not.

For by denying Him ye also deny the prophets and the law.

55 And now behold, I say unto you that

**the right way** is to believe in Christ and deny Him not.

**And Christ is the Holy One of Israel.**

But the following Context of Nephi's Words  
spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

56 Wherefore, ye must

bow down before Him and worship Him

with all your might, mind and strength and your whole soul.

**And if ye do this, ye shall in no wise be cast out;**

# But the following Context of Nephi's Words spoke of 'Having to Keep the Law of Moses'

## 2 Nephi 11

57 And inasmuch as it shall be expedient,

**ye must keep the performances and ordinances of God until the law shall be fulfilled which was given unto Moses.**

58 And after that Christ shall have risen from the dead,

He shall show Himself unto you, my children and my beloved brethren,

**59 And the words which He shall speak unto you shall be the law which ye shall do.**

# Plainness

Jacob and Nephi's teaching all underscored by 'Plainness'

# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#1

## Jacob Speaks....

### 2 Nephi 6:96

Would I be **plain** unto you,

according to the **plainness** of the truth, if ye were freed from sin?

### .....And Explains Salvation in Jesus

- Everlasting Life or
- Everlasting Death

# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#2

## Nephi Speaks....

### 2 Nephi 11:11

But behold, I proceed with mine own prophecy, **according to my plainness, in the which I know that no man can err.**

### .....And Explains

- The Restoration of Israel



# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#3

## Nephi Speaks....

### 2 Nephi 11:112

And He doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men;

### .....And Explains Salvation in Jesus

- The Sealed Book—Words of Nephites
- How we will be judged by these words
- Restoration of Jews and Gentiles to Jesus

# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#4

## Nephi Speaks....

### 2 Nephi 13:3

Wherefore, the things which I have written sufficeth me, save it be a few words which I must **speak concerning the doctrine of Christ**;  
**Wherefore, I shall speak unto you plainly, according to the plainness of my prophesying,**

.....And Explains Salvation in Jesus and

- Coming in the Gate through Baptism

# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#5

## Nephi Speaks....

### 2 Nephi 13:3-4

Wherefore, the things which I have written sufficeth me, save it be a few words which I must speak **concerning the doctrine of Christ**; Wherefore, I shall speak unto you plainly, according to the plainness of my prophesying, For my soul delighteth in plainness.

For after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men.

## .....And Explains Salvation in Jesus and

- Walking in the Way

# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#6

## Nephi Speaks....

**2 Nephi 14:9** ....And I am left to mourn because of the unbelief and the wickedness and the ignorance and the stiff-neckedness of men, For they will not search knowledge, nor understand great knowledge when it is given unto them **in plainness, even as plain as word can be.**

**2 Nephi 15:6** And it speaketh harsh against sin, **according to the plainness of the truth;** Wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written, save he shall be of the spirit of the devil.

**2 Nephi 15:7** I glory in **plainness**, I glory in truth, I glory in my Jesus, for He hath redeemed my soul from hell.

## .....And Explains Salvation in Jesus and

- **Enduring to the End**

# Plain Speech of Jacob and Nephi...#7

## Jacob Speaks....

### Jacob 2:12

Wherefore, I must tell you the truth, **according to the plainness of the word of God**

.....And then Explains the dangers of Pride and

- the Whoredoms of Polygamy....

# The (blank) Righteous

# The (blank) Righteous

[3 Nephi 4:41](#) "O all ye that are spared because ye were **more righteous** than they!

Will ye not now return unto Me and repent of your sins and be converted, that I may heal you?

# The (blank) Righteous when Jesus Visits the Nephites

## 3 Nephi 4:66

And it was the more righteous part of the people which were saved,

And it was they which

received the prophets and stoned them not,

And it was they which

had not shed the blood of the saints **which were spared**;



# Behold I Make ALL THINGS NEW

## 3 Nephi 5:92

Old **things** are done away  
and **all things have become new.**

Therefore, I would that ye should be perfect  
even as I or your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

# Evidenced in their Laws....Even their Covenant

## 3 Nephi 5:92

Old **things** are done away  
and **all things have become new.**

Therefore, I would that ye should be perfect  
even as I or your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

# Evidenced in their Laws....Even their Covenant

## [3 Nephi 3:69](#) (PRE-JESUS ARRIVAL)

Therefore, there were ordained of Nephi men unto this ministry, that all such as should come unto them should be baptized with water,

And this as a witness and a testimony before God and unto the people that they had repented and received a remission of their sins;

# Evidenced in their Laws....Even their Covenant

## 3 Nephi 9:12

And it came to pass that **Nephi went down into the water and was baptized,**

**(NEPHI WAS BAPTIZED ANEW. AND EVERYONE ELSE.  
WHY? BECAUSE GOD MADE ALL THINGS NEW. HE SPOKE IT.**

**EVERYONE CAME INTO THE NEW COVENANT.  
Who would not (have wanted) to be Baptized?**

# At Millennium...We Hear these words...

## [Ether 6:9](#)

And there shall be a **new heaven and a new earth;**

And they shall be like unto the old,  
save the old have passed away and

**all things have become new.**

([DC 28:6c](#) for all old things shall pass away, and all things shall become new,  
even the heaven and the earth, and all the fullness thereof, both men and  
beasts, the fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea;

[DC 63:13c](#) yea, and blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth,  
**when the Lord shall come, and old things shall pass away,**  
**and all things become new.)**

# Jacob 2

9 Wherefore, it burdeneth my soul that I should be constrained, because of the strict commandment which I have received from God, to admonish you according to your crimes, to enlarge the wounds of those which are already wounded, instead of consoling and healing their wounds;

# Jacob 2

10 And those which have not been wounded, instead of feasting upon the pleasing word of God, have daggers placed to pierce their souls and wound their delicate minds;

# Jacob 2

11 But notwithstanding the greatness of the task, I must do according to the strict commands of God and tell you concerning your wickedness and abominations in the presence of the pure in heart and the broken heart and under the glance of the piercing eye of the Almighty God;



# Jacob 2

12 Wherefore, I must tell you the truth, according to the plainness of the word of God.

13 For behold, as I inquired of the Lord, thus came the word unto me, saying: Jacob, get thou up into the temple on the morrow and declare the word which I shall give thee unto this people.

# Jacob 2

14 And now behold, my brethren, this is the word which I declare unto you: That many of you have begun to search for gold and for silver and all manner of precious ores in the which this land, which is a Land of Promise unto you and to your seed, doth abound most plentifully;

# Jacob 2

15 And the hand of providence hath smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches;

# Jacob 2

16 And because that some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren, Ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts and wear stiff necks and high heads, because of the costliness of your apparel, And persecute your brethren, because that ye suppose that ye are better than they.

# Jacob 2

17 And now my brethren, do ye suppose that God justifieth you in this thing? Behold, I say unto you, Nay;

18 But He condemneth you; And if ye persist in these things, His judgments must speedily come unto you.

# Jacob 2

19 O that He would show you that He can pierce you and with one glance of His eye He can smite you to the dust.

20 O that He would rid you from this iniquity and abomination.

# Jacob 2

21 And O that ye would listen unto the word of His commands and let not this pride of your hearts destroy your souls.

# Jacob 2

22 Think of your brethren like unto yourselves and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you;

23 But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God;



# Jacob 2

24 And after that ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches - if ye seek them, And ye will seek them for the intent to do good: to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted.

# Jacob 2

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

# Jacob 2

26 Do ye not suppose that such things are abominable unto Him who created all flesh?

27 And the one being is as precious in His sight as the other;

# Jacob 2

28 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.

29 And now I make an end of speaking unto you concerning this pride;

# Jacob 2

30 And were it not that I must speak unto you concerning a grosser crime, my heart would rejoice exceedingly because of you;

31 But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes;

# Jacob 2

32 For behold, thus saith the Lord: This people beginneth 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.

# Jacob 2

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

# Jacob 2

34 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;

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



# Jacob 2

36 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, delighteth in the chastity of women,

# Jacob 2

37 And whoredoms are abominations before Me.  
Thus saith the Lord of Hosts.

38 Wherefore, this people shall keep My  
commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed  
be the land for their sakes;

# Jacob 2

39 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.

# Jacob 2

40 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

41 And I will not suffer, saith the Lord of Hosts, that the cries of the fair daughters of this people which I have led out of the Land of Jerusalem shall come up unto Me against the men of My people, saith the Lord of Hosts;

# Jacob 2

42 For they shall not lead away captive the daughters of My people because of their tenderness, save I shall visit them with a sore curse, even unto destruction,

43 For they shall not commit whoredoms like unto they of old, saith the Lord of Hosts.

# Jacob 2

44 And now behold, my brethren, ye know that these commandments were given to our father Lehi; Wherefore, ye have known them before; And ye have come unto great condemnation, for ye have done these things which ye ought not to have done.

# Jacob 2

45 Behold, ye have done greater iniquity than the Lamanites, our brethren;

46 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 ascendeth up to God against you;



# Jacob 2

47 And because of the strictness of the word of God which cometh down against you, many hearts died, pierced with deep wounds.

48 But behold, I, Jacob, would speak unto you that are pure in heart:

# Jacob 2

49 Look unto God with firmness of mind and pray unto Him with exceeding faith, And He will console you in your afflictions, And He will plead your cause and send down justice upon those who seek your destruction;

# Jacob 2

50 O all ye that are pure in heart, Lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God and feast upon His love, for ye may if your minds are firm forever.

51 But wo, wo unto you that are not pure in heart, that are filthy this day before God. For except ye shall repent, the land is cursed for your sakes;

# Jacob 2

52 And the Lamanites which are not filthy like unto you - nevertheless, they are cursed with a sore cursing - shall scourge you even unto destruction;

# Jacob 2

53 And the time speedily cometh that except ye repent, they shall possess the land of your inheritance; And the Lord God will lead away the righteous out from among you.

# Jacob 2

54 Behold, the Lamanites, your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursings which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you,

# Jacob 2

55 For they have not forgotten the commandments of the Lord which were given unto our father that they should have save it were one wife.  
And concubines they should have none.

And there should not be whoredoms committed  
among them;

# Jacob 2

56 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 2

57 Behold, their husbands love their wives and their wives love their husbands, And their husbands and their wives love their children;

# Jacob 2

58 And their unbelief and their hatred toward you is because of the iniquity of their fathers; Wherefore, how much better are you than they in the sight of your great Creator?

# Jacob 2

59 O my brethren, I fear that unless ye shall repent of your sins, that their skins will be whiter than yours when ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God.

# Jacob 2

60 Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you which is the word of God, That ye revile no more against them because of the darkness of their skin, Neither shall ye revile against them because of their filthiness,

# Jacob 2

61 But ye shall remember your own filthiness and remember that their filthiness came because of their fathers;

62 Wherefore, ye shall remember your children, how that ye have grieved their hearts because of the example that ye have set before them,

# Jacob 2

63 And also remember that ye may, because of your filthiness, bring your children unto destruction and their sins be heaped upon your heads at the last day.

# Jacob 2

64 O my brethren, hearken unto my words. Arouse the faculties of your souls. Shake yourselves, that ye may awake from the slumber of death;

65 And loose yourselves from the pains of hell, that ye may not become angels to the devil, to be cast into that lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

# Jacob 2

66 And now I, Jacob, spake many more things unto the people of Nephi, warning them against fornication and lasciviousness and every kind of sin, telling them of the awful consequences of them;



# Levirate marriage

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levirate\\_marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levirate_marriage)

The term *levirate* is derived from the Latin *levir*, meaning "husband's brother". (Not to be confused with "LEVITE")

Judaism[[edit](#)]

Main articles: [Yibbum](#),

In the [Hebrew Bible](#), a form of levirate marriage, called [yibbum](#), is mentioned in [Deuteronomy 25:5–10](#), under which the brother of a man who dies without children is permitted and encouraged to marry the widow. Either of the parties may refuse to go through with the marriage, but both must go through a ceremony, known as [halizah](#), involving a symbolic act of renunciation of a *yibbum* marriage.

Sexual relations with one's brother's wife are otherwise forbidden by [Leviticus 18](#) and [Leviticus 20](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

Jewish custom has seen a gradual decline of *yibbum* in favor of *halizah*, to the point where in most contemporary Jewish communities, and in Israel by mandate of the [Chief Rabbinate](#), *yibbum* is prohibited.

[Return](#)

# Marry the Brother's Wife

## Genesis 38:8

And Judah said unto Onan,  
Go in unto thy **brother's** wife, and **marry** her,  
and **raise up seed to thy brother.**

# Marry the Brother's Wife

## Deuteronomy 25:5

If brethren dwell together

and one of them die, and have no child,

**the wife of the dead shall not marry without  
unto a stranger:**

**her husband's brother shall go in unto her**

**and take her to him to wife,**

and **perform the duty of an**

**husband's brother unto her.**

## Pulpit Commentary

Verse 24. - **Moses said.** They quote the substance of the law of the levirate (i.e. the brother-in-law) in [Deuteronomy 25:5, 6](#), by which it was enacted that if a married man died without a son, his brother or the next of kin should marry the widow, and the firstborn son of this union should be regarded and registered as the son of the deceased.

This was a law not peculiar to the Hebrews, but prevalent from immemorial times among many ancient peoples, e.g. Persians, Egyptians, and found in force among some nations in modern times, as Arabians, Druses, Cireassians, etc. It seems not to have been enforced in any case, but to have been left to the good will of the survivor, who might escape the obligation by submitting to a certain social obloquy ([Deuteronomy 25:7-10](#)). **The motive of the regulation was the maintenance of a family and the non-alienation of property.**

Many authorities assert that the law did not apply in the case of a man who left daughters ([Numbers 27:8](#)), but only in that of a childless widow. Later rabbinism limited the obligation to a betrothed woman, not yet actually married. But whatever may have been the limitations allowed in these days, the question of the Sadducees took its stand on the old legal basis, and endeavoured to draw therefrom a ridiculous inference. **Shall marry;** ἐπιγαμβρεύσει. The verb, found in the Septuagint, is used properly signifying "to take a woman to wife as the husband's kinsman" (γαμβρός), and generally, "to contract affinity by marriage." **Raise up seed.** The firstborn son of such a marriage was the legal heir of the deceased brother, and bore his name. The natural and the legal paternities are seen in the genealogies of our Lord, and occasion some difficulties in adjustment.

The Point was Raising up Seed in that specific relation only. Not adultery.

When did Nephi write these words?  
Notice the same wording??

**Jacob 2:39**

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.

**This statement was in keeping with the Laws of the  
Old Testament. In the OLD TESTAMENT, IT WAS  
ALREADY PART OF THE COMMANDMENT.**

# But Jesus Says ‘I Make ALL THINGS NEW’

**3 Nephi 5:92** Old things are done away and all things have become new, Therefore, I would that ye should be perfect even as I or your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

**3 Nephi 7:3** And it came to pass that when Jesus had said these words, He perceived that there were some among them which marveled and wondered what He would concerning the law of Moses, **For they understood not the saying that old things had passed away and that all things had become new;**

# But Jesus Says ‘I Make ALL THINGS NEW’

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# But Jesus Says 'I Make ALL THINGS NEW' The Mosaic Law was/is OVER.

[3 Nephi 7:4-6](#) And He saith unto them: "Marvel not that I said unto you that old things had passed away and that all things had become new -

5 "Behold, I say unto you that the law is fulfilled that was given unto Moses;

6 Behold, I Am He that gave the law, And I Am He which covenanted with My people Israel; Therefore, the law in Me is fulfilled, For I have come to fulfill the law, Therefore, it hath an end.

# The Nations who Have These Words...

[2 Nephi 11:42](#) And the **nations** which shall possess them shall be **judged** of them, according to the words which are written;

# The Nations who Have These Words... Will be JUDGED BY THE WORDS NEPHITES WROTE.

40 Wherefore, for this cause hath the Lord God promised unto me that these things which I write shall be kept and preserved and handed down unto my seed from generation to generation: That the promise may be fulfilled unto Joseph that his seed should never perish as long as the earth should stand.

41 Wherefore, these things shall go from generation to generation as long as the earth shall stand; And they shall go according to the will and pleasure of God;

**42 And the nations which shall possess them shall be judged of them, according to the words which are written;**

**43 For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children and also our brethren to believe in Christ and to be reconciled to God,**

# Why Nephi's Plates were smaller, more specific?

**The Nations who have them will be judged by them.**

**Who?**

**Israel, Remnant of Israel**

**Gentiles.**

**AND YES....MORMONS.**

# Why Nephi's Plates were smaller, more specific?

**ALL THE WORDS WOULD BE PASSED DOWN TO OUR GENERATION.**

**NO SHRED OF MOSAIC LAW SURVIVES.**

**OTHERWISE PEOPLE OF OUR DAY WOULD BE ARGUING ABOUT SACRIFICING LAMBS ON YOM KIPPUR.**

# Marriage in Eternity?

## Matthew 22:23-25

The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Saying,

Master, Moses said, If a man die having no children,

**his brother shall marry his wife,  
and raise up seed unto his brother.**

# Marriage in Eternity?

## Matthew 22:23-25

25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

27 And last of all the woman died also.

# Marriage in Eternity?

28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

29 Jesus answered and said unto them,  
Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures,  
nor the power of God.

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry,  
nor are given in marriage,  
but are as the angels of God in heaven.



# Marriage in Eternity?

So What is the Point?

**MARRIAGE IS A TYPE AND SHADOW FOR THIS LIFE TO POINT TO THE 'MARRIAGE' OF JESUS AND THE CHURCH.**

**ONE BRIDE, ONE GROOM. ONE MARRIAGE.**

**LAW OF MOSES—TO POINT TO THE SACRIFICE OF THE CREATOR. WHEN IT WAS DONE, IT WAS DONE.**

# What did Joseph Smith Teach of Salvation?

Times and Seasons Vol. 3 Chapter 12 Page 752

752 God has set for man to enter into his Kingdom.

Those who seek to enter in any other way will seek in vain; and God will not receive them, neither will the angels acknowledge their works as accepted; for they have not obeyed the ordinances, nor attended to the signs which God ordained for the salvation of man, to prepare him for; and give him a title to a celestial glory;

and God has decreed that all who will not obey his voice shall not escape the damnation of hell.

--Joseph Smith

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=744&frmR1=V2&SubmitID=submit>

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# What did Hyrum Smith Teach of Salvation?

Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 6 Page 474

And as to the celestial glory, all will enter in that kingdom that obey the gospel, and continue in faith in the Lord unto the end of his days. **Now, therefore, I say unto you, you must cease preaching your miraculous things, and let the mysteries alone until by and by.**

Preach faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; repentance and baptism for the remission of sins; the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost: teaching the necessity of strict obedience unto these principles; reasoning out of the scriptures; proving them unto the people.

Cease your schisms and divisions, and your contentions. Humble yourselves as in dust and ashes, lest God should make you an ensample of his wrath unto the surrounding world. Amen.

In the bonds of the everlasting covenant,

I am

Your obedient servant,

HYRUM SMITH.

# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

The religion of heaven teaches us to give every man and every woman their due, that rightly belongs to them. And he that walks up to his privilege and duty, he has honor and glory, and shall never be removed out of his place.

**I have shown other brethren and sisters that Brother Joseph did not tell them all things at once, consequently you may expect to hear and see many things you never thought of before.**

One thing is that we have taken down the wooden fount that was built up by the instructions of Brother Joseph. This has been a great wonder to some, and says one of the stone-cutters the other day, "I wonder why Joseph did not tell us the fount should be built of stone."

# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

SPEECH Delivered by President B. Young, in the City of Joseph, April 6th 1845.

Times and Seasons Vol. 6 Chapter 12 Page 953

Last Sunday I proposed to the Saints, to speak to day on the subject of the baptism for the dead in connection with other items, that the Saints may be satisfied-that all doubt and darkness may be removed with regard to certain principles of the doctrine of redemption.

We are building a house at present unto the Lord in the which we expect to attend to the fulfillment of this doctrine: **you all believe that this is a doctrine revealed by God to his servant Joseph.** Admitting this to be the fact, that he has revealed through him a plan by which we may bring to life the dead, and bless them with a great and glorious exaltation in the presence of the Almighty with ourselves; still we want to know how to do these things right; to do them in a manner that shall be acceptable to the Almighty, if otherwise he will say unto us at the last day, "ye have not known me right, because of your slothfulness and your wickedness depart from me for I know you not."

O ye Latter-day Saints! I don't want one of you to be caught in that snare, but that you may do things right and **thus be enabled to make your calling and election sure. I might say the plan of salvation is perfect of itself-it is a system that can save, redeem, honor and glorify all who are willing to apply themselves to it according to the pattern-it is a plan of salvation to all men both male and female;**

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# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

SPEECH Delivered by President B. Young, in the City of Joseph, April 6th 1845.

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...it has been handed down, and known from the days of Adam, and those who will open their eyes to see, their ears to hear, and their hearts to understand, they will acknowledge at once that it is a perfect system;

but those whose eyes, ears and hearts are shut up by incorrect tradition and prejudice, they acknowledge by their lives, by their practices, by their walk an conversation, and by their actions in general, that they do not understand it, yet they plead the atonement, and say we believe the atonement is sufficient for all-only believe and he will save you;

yet at the same time the bible, reason, common sense and every other righteous principle positively testifies that there must be means made use of to put you in possession of the blessings of the atonement, as well as any other blessing.

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# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

SPEECH Delivered by President B. Young, in the City of Joseph, April 6th 1845.

Times and Seasons Vol. 6 Chapter 12 Page 953

*(then he sneaks in baptism for the dead)*

I believe the plan of salvation is compatible, and may be understood and the inhabitants of the world who will come to God can be made acquainted with all the ordinances and blessings by which they may know how to save themselves and their friends, as we know how to build a house, or as the mechanic knows how to make any piece of mechanism; but mechanism is not to be compared with the perfection of the machine of salvation or with the beauty of the plan of redemption: it is the most perfect system of any other creature under heaven.

# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

SPEECH Delivered by President B. Young, in the City of Joseph, April 6th 1845.

Times and Seasons Vol. 6 Chapter 12 Page 953

Consequently I would say to this vast congregation of Saints, when we enter into the Temple of God to receive our washings, our anointings, our endowments and baptisms for the saving of ourselves, and for the saving of our dead: that you never will see a man go forth to be baptized for a woman, nor a woman for a man.

If your minds should be in any dubiety with regard to this, call to mind a principle already advanced, that when an infinite being gives a law to his finite creatures, he has to descend to the capacity of those who receive his law, when the doctrine of baptism for the dead was first given, this church was in its infancy, and was not capable of receiving all the knowledge of God in its highest degree; this you all believe.

I would keep this one thing in your minds, and that is, that there is none, no not one of the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, that ever received the fullness of the celestial law at the first of the Lord's commencing to reveal it unto them.



# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

SPEECH Delivered by President B. Young, in the City of Joseph, April 6th 1845.

Times and Seasons Vol. 6 Chapter 12 Page 955

Joseph in his life time did not receive every thing connected with the doctrine of redemption, but he has left the key with those who understand how to obtain and teach to this great people all that is necessary for their salvation **and exaltation in the celestial kingdom of our God**.

We have got to learn how to be faithful with the few things, you know the promise is, if we are faithful in a few things we shall be made rulers over many things. If we improve upon the small things, greater will be given unto us.

# Brigham Young—Baptism for the Dead

SPEECH Delivered by President B. Young, in the City of Joseph, April 6th 1845.

Times and Seasons Vol. 6 Chapter 12 Page 955

...Brethren and sisters, for the sake of your dead and for the sake of yourselves, be faithful and have no feelings in your hearts against one another, but learn to suffer wrong rather than do wrong, and by so doing we will outstrip all our enemies and conquer the evil one, **for know ye not that there is Zion? know ye not that the millennium has commenced? We have had Zion upon the earth this fourteen years.** Peace reigns among this people which is Zion. Union and true charity dwells with this people: this is the most orderly and peaceable people upon the face of the whole earth. Well, this is Zion, and it is increasing and spreading wider and wider, and this principle of Zion, which is peace, will stretch all over the earth; that is the millennium.

957 principles, will continue to spread and spread and will rule the nations of the earth, and who is there that can stop its progress? None, but it will roll until there is no room for the evil; then he will be bound and shut up. The principles of the kingdom of God will prevail, from city to city, from nation to nation, until the devil shall be bound and there is no place for him. They killed the prophet Joseph for fear he would spread this principle but it will go and fill the whole earth; this is true and will come to pass as the Lord lives. Amen.

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

To the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Nauvoo and all the world ... GREETING.

Beloved Brethren:-Forasmuch as the saints **have been called to suffer deep affliction and persecution, and also to mourn the loss of our Prophet and also our patriarch,**

who have suffered a cruel martyrdom for the testimony of Jesus,

having voluntarily yielded themselves to cruel murderers who had sworn to take their lives,

**and thus like good shepherds have laid down their lives for the sheep.**

**Therefore it becomes necessary for us to address you at this time on several important subjects.**

**Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618**

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

...You are now without a prophet present with you in the flesh to guide you; but you are not without apostles, who hold the keys of power to seal on earth that which shall be sealed in heaven, and to preside over all the affairs of the church in all the world;

being still under the direction of the same God, and being dictated by the same spirit, having the same manifestations of the Holy Ghost to dictate all the affairs of the church in all the world,

to build the kingdom upon the foundation that the prophet Joseph has laid, who still holds the keys of this last dispensation,

and will hold them to all eternity, as a king and priest unto the most high God, ministering in heaven, on earth, or among the spirits of the departed dead, as seemeth good to him who sent him.

Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

...Let no man presume for a moment that his place will be filled by another; for, remember he stands in his own place, and always will; and **the twelve apostles of this dispensation stand in their own place and always will, both in time and in eternity, to minister, preside and regulate the affairs of the whole church.**

**Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618**

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

On the subject of the gathering, let it be distinctly understood that the City of Nauvoo and the temple of our Lord are to continue to be built up according to the pattern which has been commenced, and which has progressed with such rapidity thus far.

The city must be built and supported by the gathering of those who have capital, and are willing to lay it out for the erection of every branch of industry and manufacture, which is necessary for the employment and support of the poor, or of those who depend wholly on their labor; while farmers who have capital must come on and purchase farms in the adjoining country, and improve and cultivate the same

**Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618**

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

In this way all may enjoy plenty, and our infant city may grow and flourish, and be strengthened an hundred fold; and unless this is done, it is impossible for the gathering to progress, because those who have no other dependence cannot live together without industry and employment.

Therefore, let capitalists hasten here; and they may be assured we have nerves, sinews, fingers, skill and ingenuity sufficient in our midst to carry on all the necessary branches of industry.

**The Temple must be completed by a regular system of tithing, according to the commandments of the Lord which he has given as a law unto this church, by the mouth of his servant Joseph.**

Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

Therefore, as soon as the twelve have proceeded to a full and complete organization of the branches abroad, let every member proceed immediately to tithe himself or herself, a tenth of all their property and money, and pay it into the hands of the Twelve; or into the hands of such Bishops as have been, or shall be appointed by them to receive the same, for the building of the Temple or the support of the priesthood, according to the scriptures, and the revelations of God;

and then let them continue to pay a tenth of their income from that time forth, for this is a law unto the church as much binding on their conscience as any other law or ordinance.

**Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618**

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Send Your Tithing

## AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE.

...The gospel in its fulness [fullness] and purity, must now roll forth through every neighborhood of this wide-spread country, and to all the world; and millions will awake to its truths and obey its precepts; and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

You may expect to hear from us again.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,

President of the Twelve.

Nauvoo, August , 1844

**Source: Times and Seasons Vol. 5 Chapter 15 Page: 618**

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Context\\_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Context_History.php?ID=1568&R1=V2)

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# Brigham Young—Spiritual Wife System

I would now call your attention to some of the saying of the apostle Paul. I hope you will not stumble at them. Paul says, "nevertheless, neither is the man without the woman. neither the woman without the man, in the Lord, for as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the women, but all things of God." The same Apostle also says, "The woman is the glory of the man." **Now brethren, these are Paul's sayings, not Joseph Smith's spiritual wife system sayings.**

(slides in truth with lies).

**And I would say, as no man can be perfect without the woman, so no woman can be perfect without a man to lead her, I tell you the truth as it is in the bosom of eternity; and I say so to every man upon the face of the earth; if he wishes to be saved he cannot be saved without a woman by his side. This is spiritual wifeism, that is, the doctrine of spiritual wives.**

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1905&frmR1=V2&SubmitID=submit>

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# Brigham Young—Spiritual Wife System

...Lest these my sisters should think I give power into the hands of their husbands to abuse them, I would say there is no man has right to govern his wife and family unless he does it after the order of the church of Christ, **unless he does it upon this principle he need not expect to receive a celestial glory.**

He that does not govern as Jesus governs his church, breaks his bonds and solemn obligations to his family.

Now ye elders of Israel will you go and beat your wives? will you neglect and abuse them? You may ask, is that anything about being baptised [baptized] for the dead, or the laws of the celestial kingdom?

(Tithing, polygamy, all hallmarks of Utah Mormonism, all tied to CELESTIAL, their making of an order of salvation)

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<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1905&frmR1=V2&SubmitID=submit>

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# Brigham Young—Grades of Glories

Every man lives for himself. Adam was made to open the ways of the world, and for dressing the garden. Noah was born to save the seed of every thing, when the earth was washed of its wickedness by the flood; and the Son of God came into the world to redeem it from the fall. But except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. This eternal truth settles the question of all men's religion.

A man may be saved, after the judgment, in the Terrestrial kingdom, or in the Telestial kingdom, but he can never see the Celestial kingdom of God, without being born of the water and the Spirit.

He may receive a glory like unto the moon, or a star, but he can never come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels;

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<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1606&frmR1=V2&SubmitID=submit>

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# Nauvoo Temple...

Burns Down, then Tornado takes out remaining



**TEMPLE FOR SALE.**  
**T**HE undersigned Trustees of the Latter Day Saints propose to sell the Temple on very low terms, if an early application is made. The Temple is admirably designed for Literary or Religious purposes.  
Address the undersigned Trustees,  
ALMON W. BABBITT,  
JOSEPH L. HEYWOOD,  
JOHN S. FULLMER.  
Nauvoo, May 15, 1846.—7H.

# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

## **D&C 76:98**

And the glory of the telestial is one, even as the glory of the stars is one, for as one star differs from another star in glory even so differs one from another in glory in the telestial world.

**Brigham Young**

# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

## Brigham Young

- These words set forth the fact to which Jesus referred when he said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." How many I am not prepared to say; but here are three distinctly spoken of: the celestial, the highest; the terrestrial, the next below it; and the telestial, the third. (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.391)
- We read in the Bible that there is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. In the book of Doctrine and Covenants, these glories are called telestial, terrestrial and celestial, which is the highest. These are worlds, different departments, or mansions, in our Father's house. (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.382)
- **How many kingdoms there are has not been told to us; they are innumerable.** (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.382)
- How many glories and kingdoms will there be in eternity? You will see the same variety in eternity as you see in the world. (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.382)



# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

## **Brigham Young**

This is the plan of salvation.

Jesus will never cease his work until all are brought up to the enjoyment of a kingdom in the mansions of his Father,

where there are many kingdoms and many glories, to suit the works and faithfulness of all men that have lived on the earth.

Some will obey the celestial law and receive of its glory, some will abide the terrestrial and some the telestial, and others will receive no glory. (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.56)

# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

## **John Taylor**

God is interested in the whole of the human family. He cannot take them all into the celestial kingdom, for they are not all prepared to go there, and you cannot prepare them and He cannot, because they have to be governed by certain laws and certain principles and certain feelings, and if they are not governed by these and will not be governed by a celestial law, they are not prepared for a celestial glory.

There are some that may be governed by a terrestrial law, and may be prepared for a terrestrial glory, but not for a celestial glory. Still, they are God's children, and He is doing the best by them He can. (*Journal of Discourses*, 24:194-195)

# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

## **James Talmage**

- We hold that there is a wide difference between salvation and exaltation; that there are infinite gradations beyond the grave as there are here, and as there were in the state preceding this. (The Story and Philosophy of "Mormonism," p.131)

## **John A. Widtsoe**

These gradations in salvation may be innumerable, since all members of the human family are different. The many gradations are however reduced to three classes:

- (1) the celestial, the highest, as of the sun in glory;
- (2) the terrestrial, the next, as of the moon;
- (3) the telestial, the lowest, as of the stars. (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, p.199)

# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

Bruce R. McConkie

**Rewards granted individuals in eternity will vary between and within kingdoms.**

Only those who are sealed in the new and everlasting covenant of marriage and who thereafter keep the terms and conditions of that covenant will attain the highest of three heavens within the celestial kingdom. (D. & C. 131:1-4.)

Inhabitants of the telestial kingdom will differ in glory among themselves "as one star differs from another star in glory." (D. & C. 76:98; 1 Cor. 15:41.)

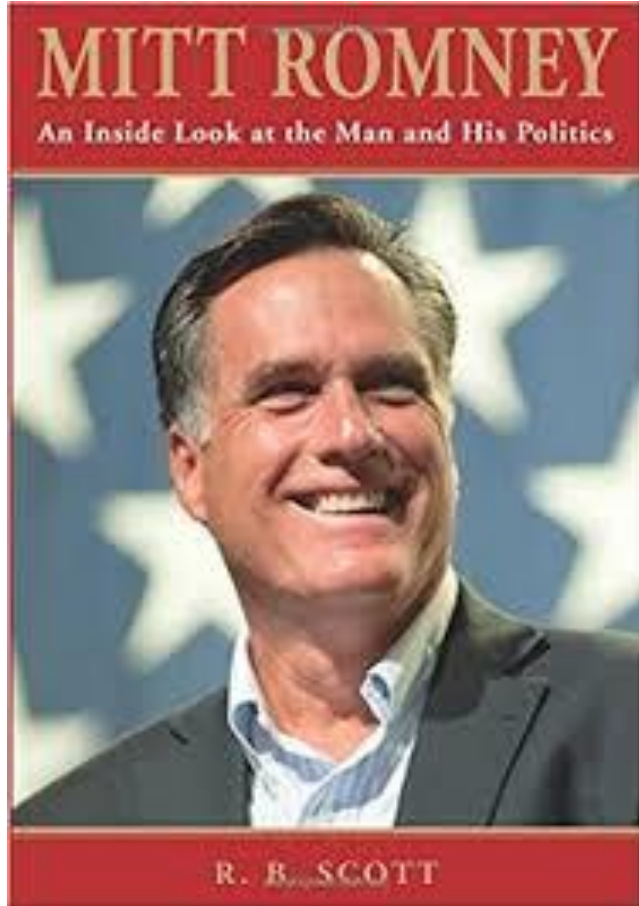
Similar variations will exist among inheritors of the terrestrial kingdom. (D. & C. 76:71-79.) [*Mormon Doctrine*, p.420]

# Grades of Glory Promoted by Polygamists...

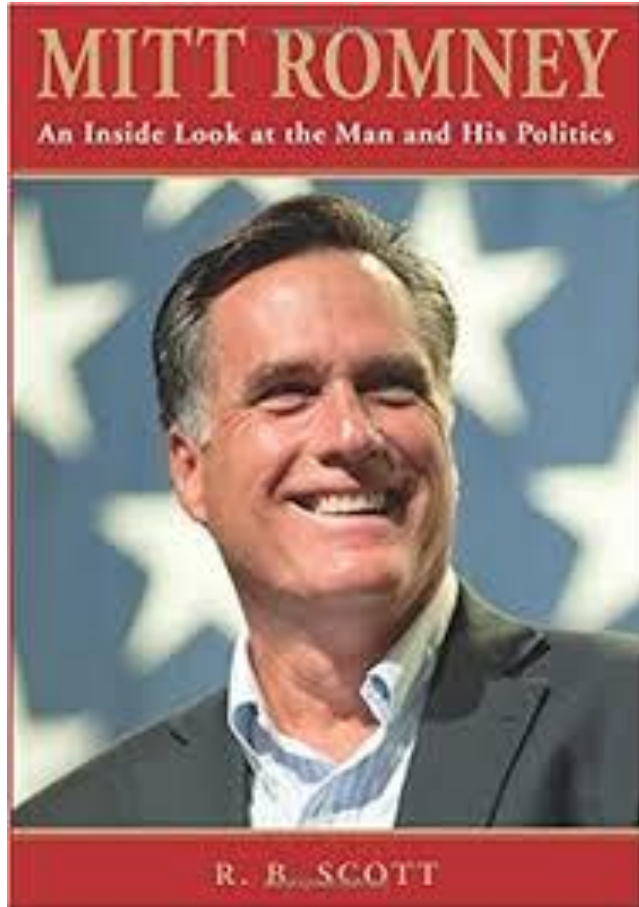
## **Neal A. Maxwell**

Though differing dramatically in degree, the end results of the atonement of Jesus Christ include everlasting life in the telestial kingdom, which is still a kingdom of glory. Better still will be the terrestrial kingdom; and, of course, the most prized of all, the celestial kingdom. (*But for a Small Moment*, p.116)

What do these men have in common??



What do these men have in common??

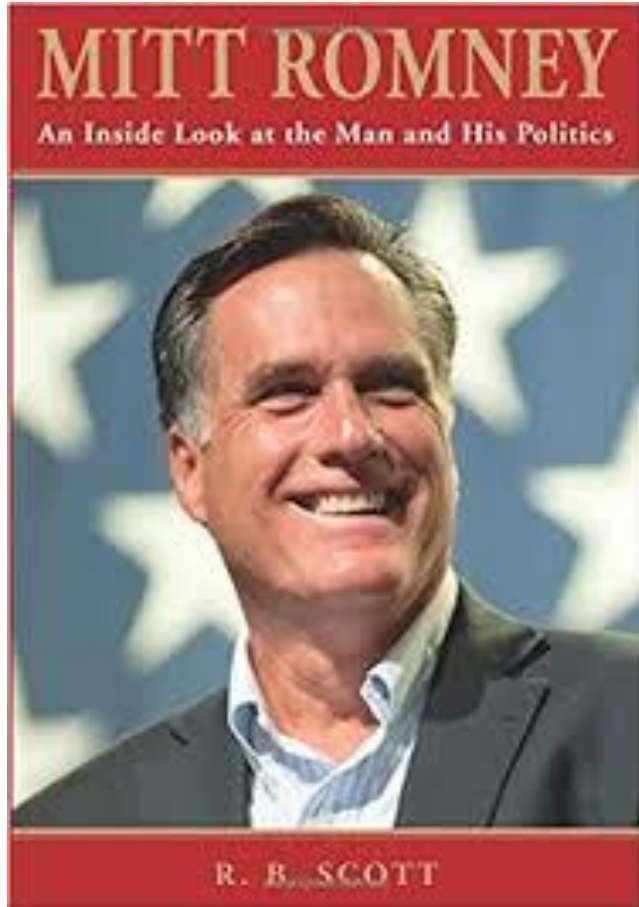


Mitt Romney



John Huntsman [Return](#)

What do these men have in common??  
Both Great Grandsons of Parley P. Pratt



Mitt Romney



John Huntsman [Return](#)



# Parley P. Pratt

## (Re)Wrote Articles of Faith

Articles 1–4

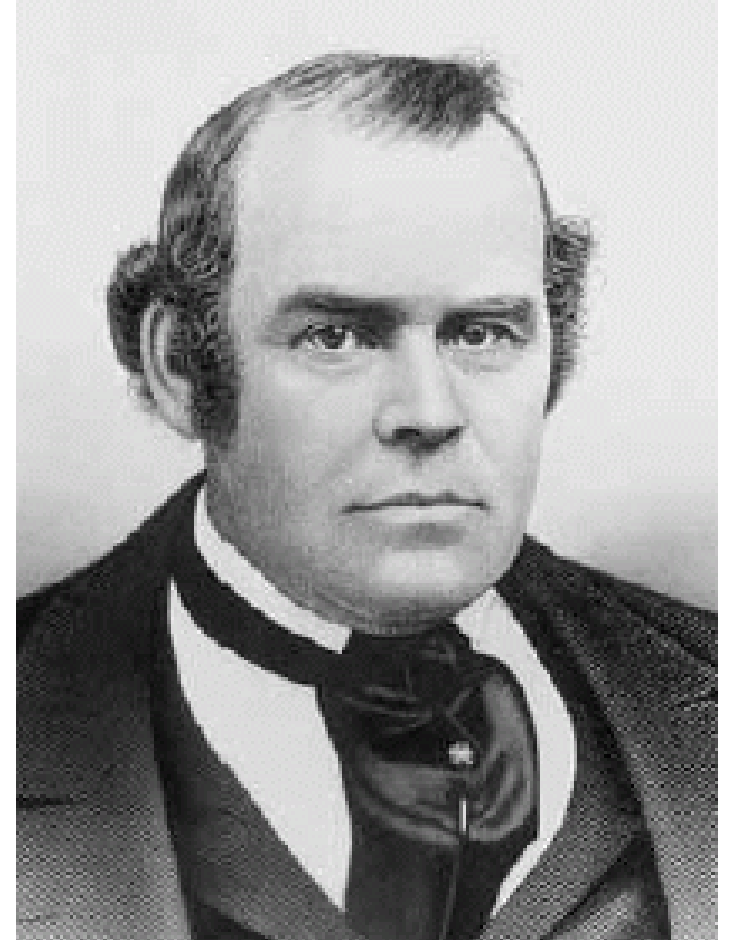
Articles one through four read as follows (Modified from Sidney Rigdon's Original):

**We believe in God**, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

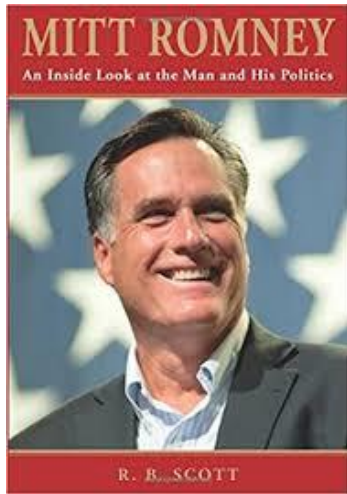
**We believe that men will be punished for their own sins**, and not for Adam's transgression.

**We believe that through the Atonement of Christ**, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

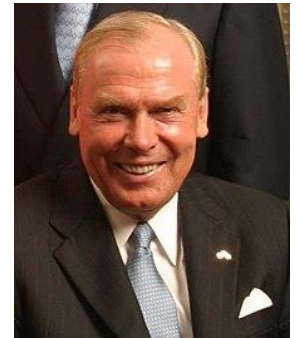
We believe that these ordinances are: 1st [, **Faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ; 2d **Repentance**; 3d **Baptism** by immersion for the remission of sins; 4th **Laying on of hands** for the gift of the Holy Ghost.....



# Both Great Grandsons of Parley P. Pratt

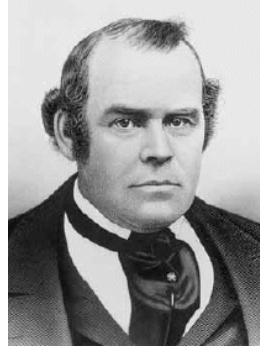


Mitt Romney



John Huntsman  
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# Both Great Grandsons of Parley P. Pratt

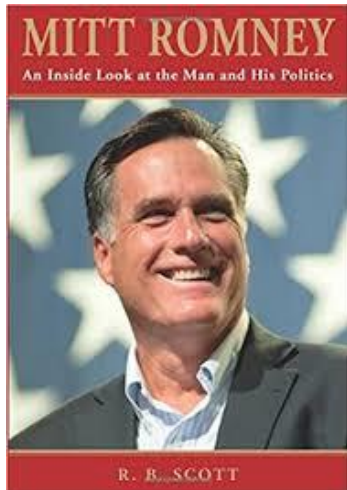


Pratt (one man) Had:  
12 wives,  
30 children,  
266 grandchildren

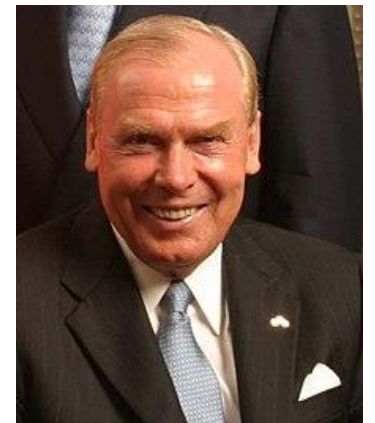
...

In 2011  
30,000-50,000  
Living Descendants

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parley\\_P.\\_Pratt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parley_P._Pratt)

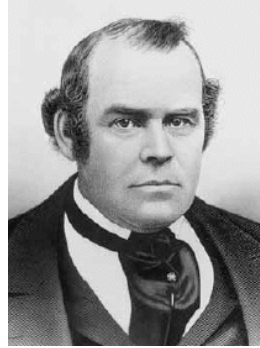


Mitt Romney



John Huntsman

# Pratt's Marriages...



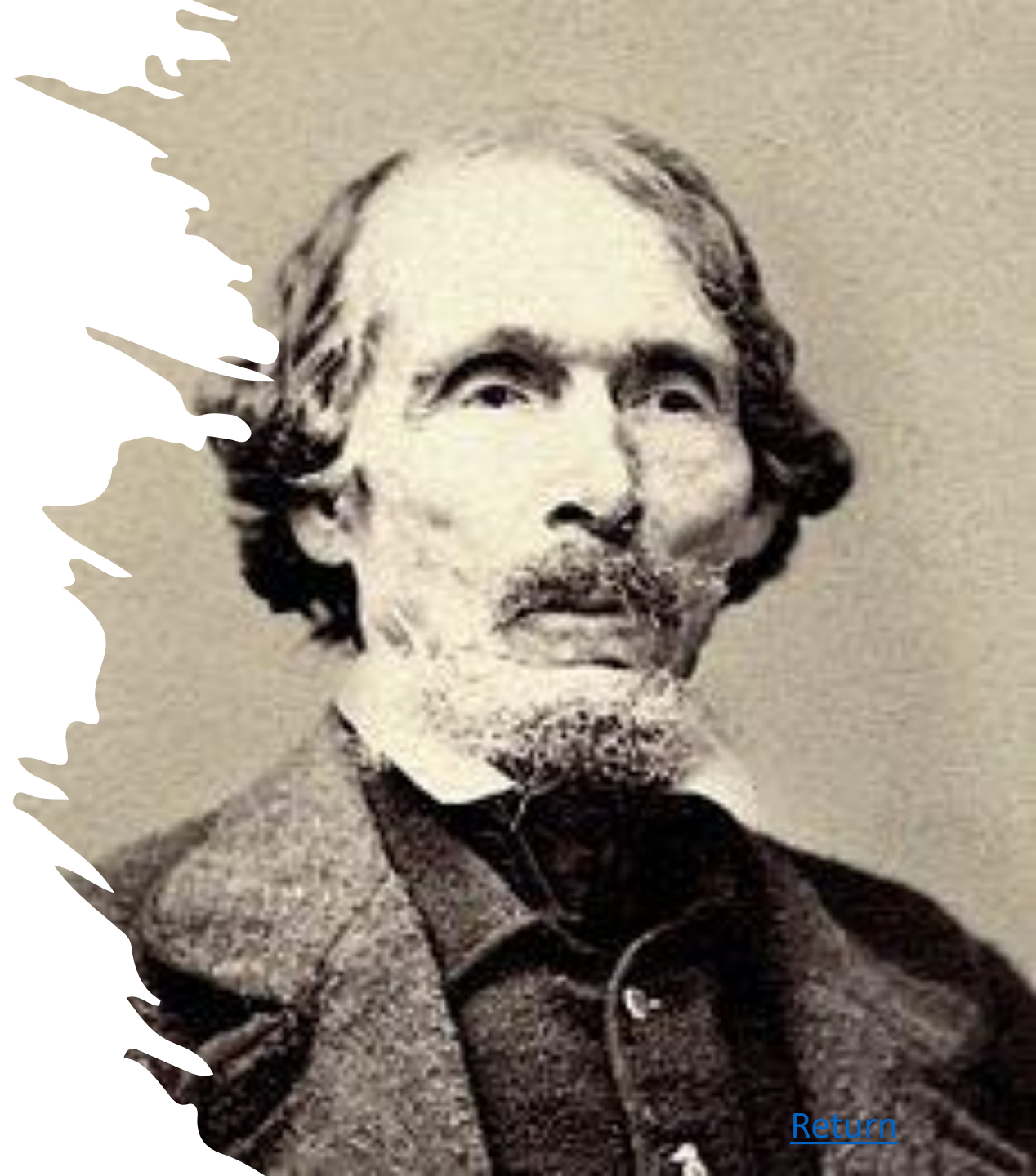
Some of his wives...note when married...

- Elizabeth Brotherton (1815–1897). Married Pratt on **July 24, 1844**.
- Mary Wood (1818–1898). Married Pratt on **September 9, 1844**.
- Sarah Houston (1822–1886). Married Pratt on **October 15, 1844**.
- Hannahette Snively (1812–1898). Married Pratt on **November 2, 1844**.
- Belinda Marden (1820–1894). Married Pratt on **November 20, 1844**.

When Did Joseph Smith Die?? June 27, 1844

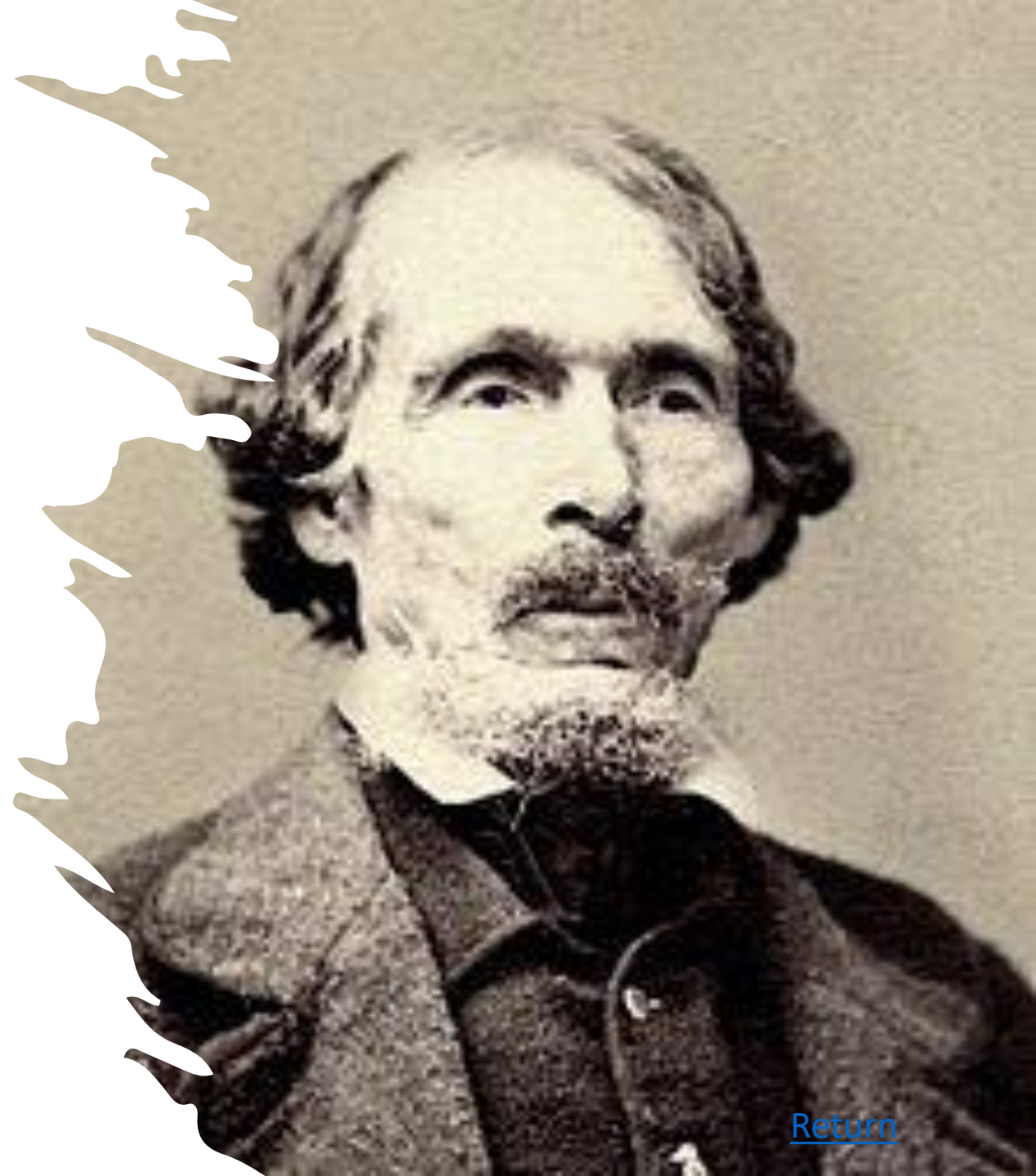
# W. W. Phelps...

Writer, known especially for favorite hymn of saints: 'The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning'



## W. W. Phelps...

During the succession crisis in 1844, **Phelps** sided with Brigham Young and the Quorum of the Twelve. He was **excommunicated** for the third time on December 9, 1847, for entering into an unauthorized polygamous marriage, but was rebaptized two days later.



# W. W. Phelps writes in Times and Seasons...

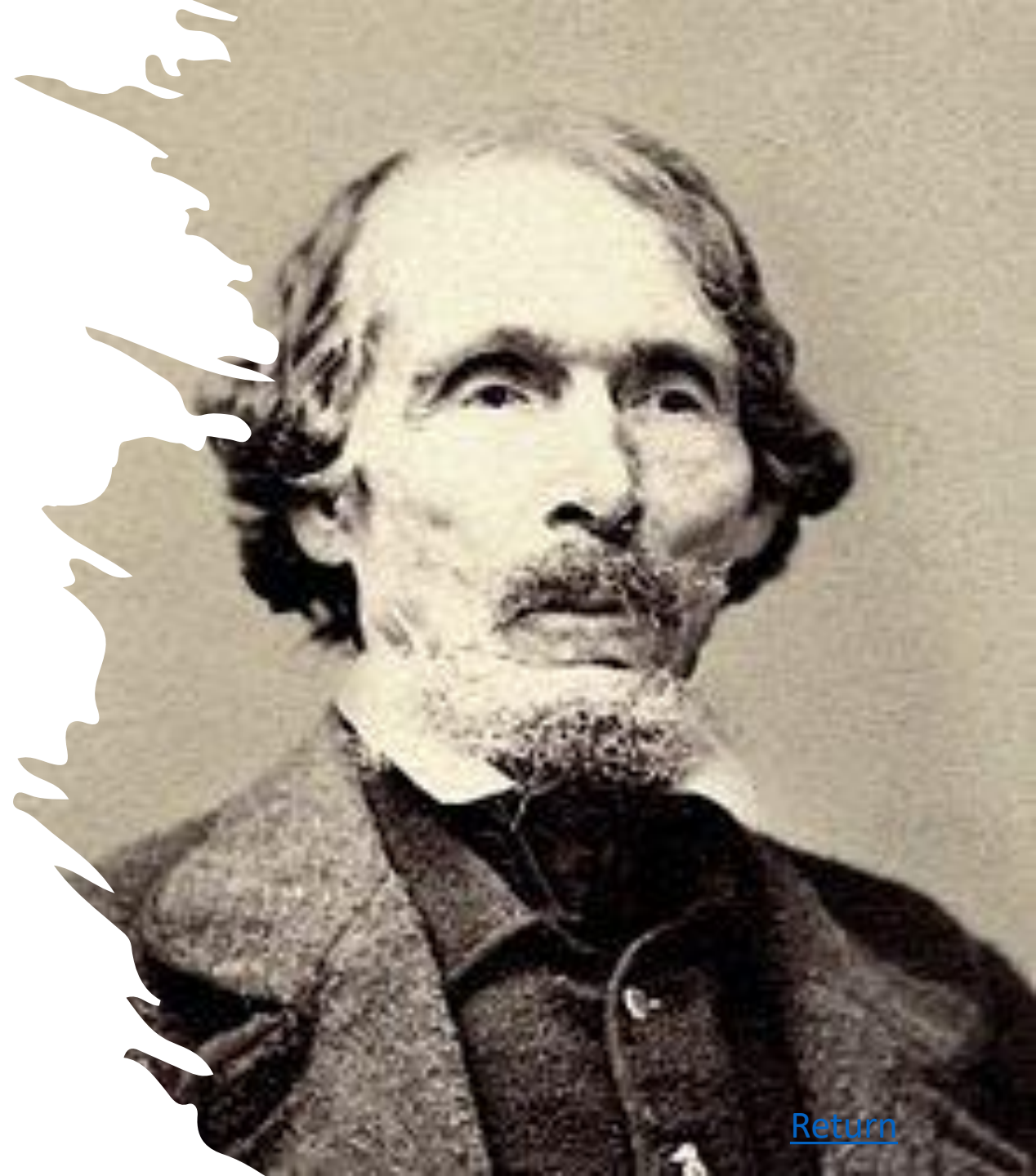
[Vol 5, Chpt 24, Page: 761](#)

I cannot leave the subject, however, till I bring in the "Twelve."

They were known from before the foundation of the world, and are thus noticed in the prophecy of Zenos, in the Book of Mormon;

I mean in that masterly parable of the "olive tree:"

All men, acquainted with revelation and the spirit of God, have agreed that the "servant" spoken of in that parable, was Joseph Smith, and when the Lord commanded him "to go to and call other servants," and "they did go to it with their mights,"-as the whole has been backed up by revelations in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, it would require more than "mortal" to prove that allusion to the "servants," meant anybody but the "Twelve."



# W. W. Phelps writes in Times and Seasons...

[Vol 5, Chpt 24, Page: 761](#) (continued)

## I know the Twelve, and they know me.-

Their names are **Brigham Young**, the lion of the Lord; **Heber C. Kimball**, the herald of grace;

**Parley P. Pratt**, the archer of paradise;

**Orson Hyde**, the olive branch of Israel;

**Willard Richards**, the keeper of the rolls:

**John Taylor**, the champion of right;

**William Smith**, the entablature of truth;

**Orson Pratt**, the gauge of philosophy;

**John E. Page**, the sun dial;

and **Lyman Wight**, the wild ram of the mountain.

And they are good men; the best the Lord can find; they do the will of God, and the saints know it

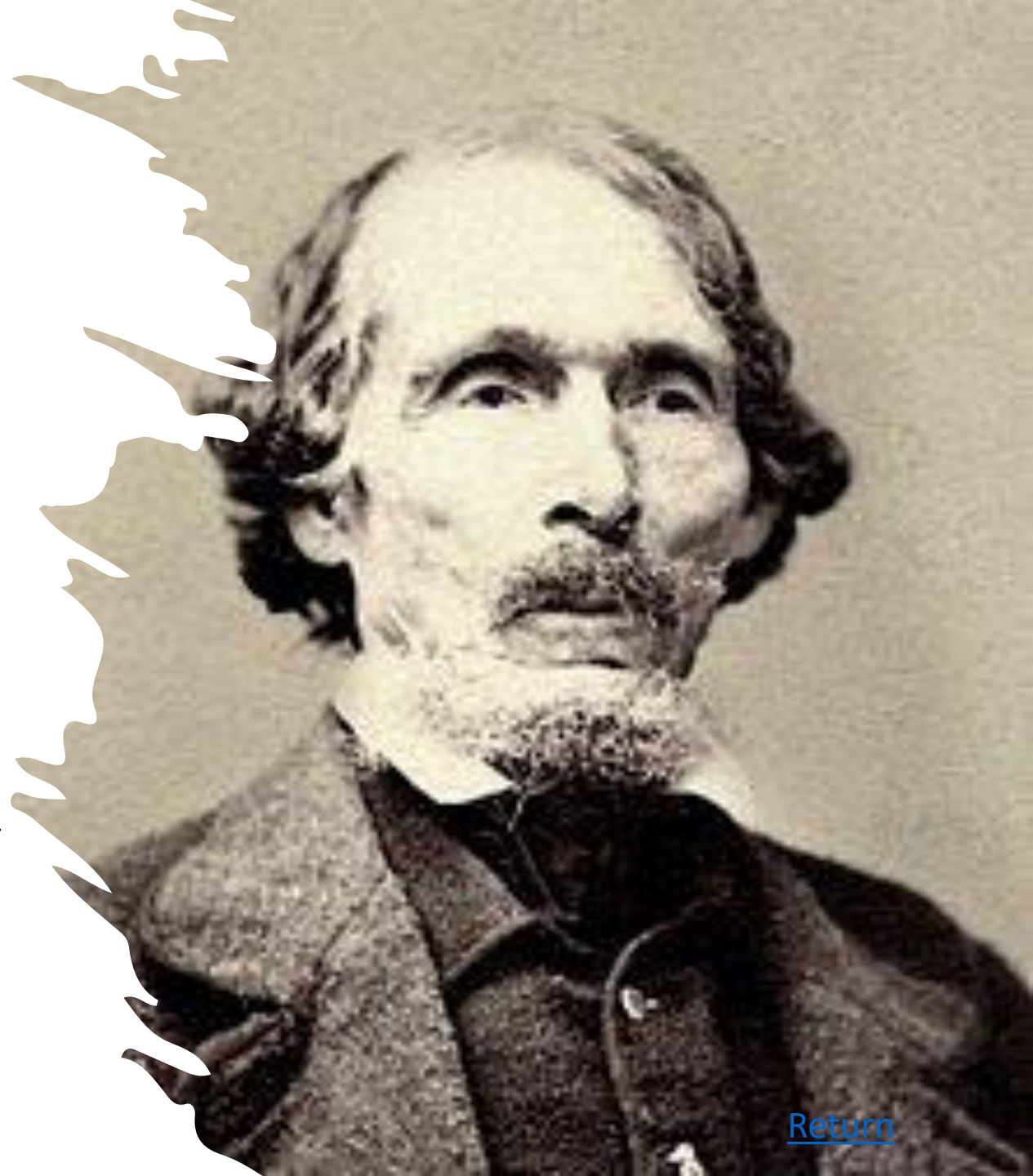
W. W. PHELPS

To ELDER WM. SMITH.

TIMES AND SEASONS.

CITY OF NAUVOO,

JANUARY 1, 1845.



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# King Follett discourse

The **King Follett discourse**, or **King Follett sermon**, was an address delivered in March 1844, [Nauvoo, Illinois](#), by [Joseph Smith](#),

A full, verbatim account of the speech does not exist, but notes exist, taken contemporaneously, by [Thomas Bullock](#) (using a type of personal shorthand), [William Clayton](#) (writing in longhand), and [Willard Richards](#) (taking "minute"-style notes of major elements of the speech).<sup>[3]</sup> [Wilford Woodruff](#) also took extensive contemporaneous notes and transferred the notes to his journal with editorializations, but his original notes were not preserved.<sup>[3]</sup> One author (Searle) estimates that the surviving notes of the sermon contain roughly 30% of the words of the actual address, but that together, they are likely nearly topically complete.<sup>[4]</sup>

A version reconstructed (by Bullock) from the Bullock and Clayton records was published in the church paper [Times and Seasons](#) of August 15, 1844.

# The Four 'Transcribers'

Sermon somehow was not published until AUGUST 1844, (2 months after JS Death) although sermon was preaced 3 month before his death.

**Thomas Bullock** In 1846 he married Lucy Clayton, the sister of [William Clayton](#), another prominent clerk in the church. In 1852, Bullock married his third wife, Betsy Prudence Howard.

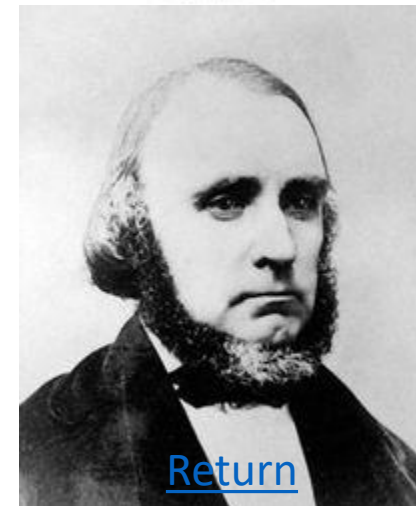
Was was an occasional clerk to [Brigham Young](#) and the [Quorum of the Twelve Apostles](#).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Bullock\\_\(Mormon\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Bullock_(Mormon))



**William Clayton** accepted plural marriage as a religious principle and ultimately married nine wives and fathered 42 children. Three of his wives later left him.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Clayton\\_\(Mormon\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Clayton_(Mormon))



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# The Four 'Transcribers'

Sermon somehow was not published until AUGUST 1844, (2 months after JS Death) although sermon was preaced 3 month before his death.

## Willard Richards

**Richards was called as Second Counselor to Brigham Young** in the First Presidency on December 27, 1847 in [Council Bluffs, Iowa](#).

Richards was a close confidant of Joseph Smith, and became a practitioner of [polygamy](#). There is indication that his **first plural wife was twenty-six year old [Marinda Nancy Johnson Hyde](#)**, sometime between December 1841 and February 1842, **who was already married to [Orson Hyde](#)** (Orson Hyde was away on a mission at the time).<sup>[17][21]</sup> Richards returned to Richmond and retrieved his wife, arriving back in Nauvoo on November 21, 1842.<sup>[19]</sup>

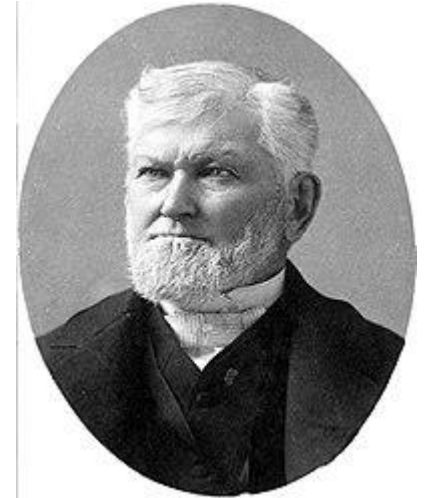
On 18 January 1843, **Richards married sisters [sixteen year old Sarah Longstroth](#) and [fourteen year old Nanny Longstroth](#)**, officiated by Joseph Smith.<sup>[22][17]</sup>

Willard and Jennetta were sealed on May 29, 1843, among the first couples to be sealed.<sup>[23]</sup>



# The Four ‘Transcribers’

Sermon somehow was not published until AUGUST 1844, (2 months after JS Death) although sermon was preached 3 month before his death.



## Wilford Woodruff—Later Becomes President of UTAH Church

His wives:

- Phebe Whittemore Carter (March 8, 1807 – November 10, 1885), m. April 13, 1837
- Mary Ann Jackson, (Feb 18, 1818 – October 25, 1894) m. April 15, 1846 or August 2, 1846 (divorced on May 11, 1848 but later resealed; probably in 1878)<sup>[13][14]</sup>
- Sarah Elinor Brown, (Aug 22, 1827 – December 25, 1915) m. August 2, 1846 (divorced after 3 weeks)<sup>[15]</sup>
- Mary Caroline Barton, (Jan 12, 1829 – August 10, 1910) m. August 2, 1846 (divorced after 3 weeks)<sup>[15][nb 2]</sup>
- Mary Meek Giles Webster (Sep 6, 1802 – October 3, 1852) m. March 28, 1852 (died soon after sealing)<sup>[17]</sup>
- Emma Smith (March 1, 1838 – March 4, 1912) m. March 13, 1853<sup>[18]</sup>
- Sarah Brown (Jan 1, 1834 – May 9, 1909), m. March 13, 1853<sup>[18]</sup>
- Sarah Delight Stocking (Jul 26, 1838 – May 28, 1906) m. July 31, 1857<sup>[18]</sup>
- Eudora Young (daughter of B. Young) (May 12, 1852 – October 21, 1921) m. March 10, 1877 (later divorced)<sup>[19]</sup>

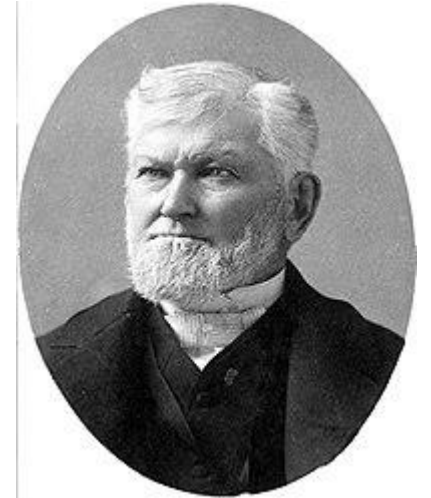
**Woodruff's wives bore him a total of 34 children**

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# The Four 'Transcribers'

Sermon somehow was not published until AUGUST 1844, (2 months after JS Death) although sermon was preached 3 months before his death.

## Wilford Woodruff—Later Becomes President of UTAH Church



After Brigham Young's death in **August 1877**, John Taylor became the new president of the church and Woodruff became president of the Twelve Apostles.

Woodruff chaired the committee to separate Brigham Young's personal property from church property, **finding that Brigham Young owed the church almost \$700,000 in real-estate and other expenses.**<sup>[98]</sup>

After the death of [John Taylor](#) in July 1887, Woodruff assumed leadership of the church as the [senior member](#) of the [Quorum of the Twelve Apostles](#).

# Joseph Smith Against Polygamy

RLDS Church History Vol 2, Chpt 32, Page: 733

[http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell\\_Results\\_History.php?R1=V1&SearchString=overthrow&B1=Search+Now](http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/Shell_Results_History.php?R1=V1&SearchString=overthrow&B1=Search+Now)

The testimony of William Marks, then President of the Nauvoo Stake, **indicates that Joseph Smith continued in his opposition to polygamy up to a few days before his death,** though some members of the church were guilty of the crime. It shows further that Joseph realized that to save the church from destruction such parties must be expelled from the church.

A few days after this occurrence I met with Brother Joseph. He said that he wanted to converse with me on the affairs of the church, and we retired by ourselves. I will give his words verbatim, for they are indelibly stamped upon my mind. **He said he had desired for a long time to have a talk with me on the subject of polygamy. He said it eventually would prove the overthrow of the church,** and we should soon be obliged to leave the United States, unless it could be speedily put down. He was satisfied that it was a cursed doctrine, and that there must be every exertion made to put it down. He said that he would go before the Congregation and proclaim against it, and I must go into the High Council,

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# Melchisedek and Aaronic Herald 1849-1850

<http://latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100116.pdf>

## **Melchisedek** And Aaronic Herald

Published from 1849 to 1850 by Isaac Sheen (also spelled Melchisedic & Melchisedeck)

1 document(s)



[Melchisedek And Aaronic Herald, vol. 1, 1849-50 \(PDF\)](#)

1849 (PDF), 32 page(s)

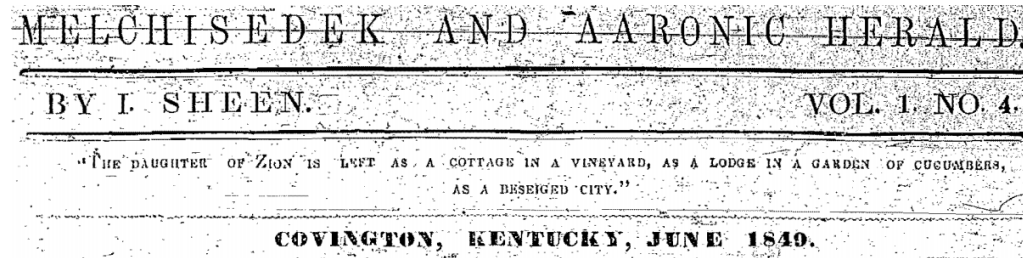
[Isaac Sheen](#)

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# Melchisedek and Aaronic Herald 1849-1850

<http://latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100116.pdf>



## A Prophecy of Joseph.

At one time the Prophet Joseph while preaching upon the stand to the church in Nauvoo, turned to the Twelve who sat behind him on the stand and said, "many of you," (not a few) "brethren after my decease will go away and deny the faith, and for the penalty of your apostacy your bones shall lie bleaching upon the wilderness of the western prairies," and many other words he spoke concerning the apostacy of the church and grievous wolves that would enter in to destroy the flock. We recollect also of reading Joseph's views on the subject of going to the wilderness; in reply to the

<http://www.connellodonovan.com/herald.pdf>

A Prophecy of Joseph. At one time the Prophet Joseph while preaching upon the stand to the church in Nauvoo, turned to the Twelve who sat behind him on the stand and said, "many of you," (not a few) "brethren after my decease will go away and deny the faith, and for the penalty of your apostacy your bones shall lie bleaching upon the wilderness of the western prairies," and many other words he spoke concerning the apostacy of the church and grievous wolves that would enter in to destroy the flock.

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# Brigham Young Statements All Previous Marriages were Illegitimate

Starting in 1847, members of the church sealed their relatives to a family member or friend who held the priesthood, since Brigham Young said that all marriages before the restoration were illegitimate.<sup>[120]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilford\\_Woodruff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilford_Woodruff)

# Brigham Young Rise to Power

## The Ground Shook....'God was Near'...

284 ...I was reminded of one circumstance that occurred, which I omitted in my discourse. **Men, women, and children came running together where we were, and asked us what was the matter. They said that their houses shook, and the ground trembled, and they did not know but that there was an earthquake.**

We told them that there was nothing the matter-not to be alarmed; the Lord was only whispering to us a little, and that he was probably not very far off.

(Testimony of Orson Hyde)

We felt no shaking of the earth or of the house, but were filled with the exceeding power and goodness of God.] We knew and realized that we had the testimony of God with us. On the sixth day of April following, at our Annual Conference, held in the Log Tabernacle at Kaneshville, the propriety of choosing a man to preside over the church was investigated.

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1741&frmR1=V1&SubmitID=submit>

# Brigham Young Rise to Power

## The Ground Shook....'God was Near'...

284 ...In a very few minutes it was agreed to, and Brigham Young was chosen to fill that place without a dissenting voice, the people not knowing that there had been any revelation touching the matter.

They ignorantly seconded the voice of the Lord from on high in his appointment. (Voice from the stand: 'That is Vox Dei, vox populi.') Yes, the voice of God was the voice of the people. Brigham went right ahead, silently, to do the work of the Lord, and to feed his sheep, and take care of them like a faithful shepherd, leaving all vain aspirants to quarrel and contend about lineal descent, right, power, and authority."-

Journal of Discourses, vol. 8, pp. 233, 234.

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1741&frmR1=V1&SubmitID=submit>

# Brigham Young Rise to Power

## The Ground Shook....'God was Near'...

The evidence further shows that as early as December 5, 1847, the Twelve had taken steps to have Mr. Young "step forward." So if such manifestation was received in February, 1848, it was not the cause that prompted the elevation of Elder Young.

Mr. Edward W. Tullidge:-

"Here the author, for the first time, must come personally into his history as a witness to testify in this grave affair; for the testament thus made by Apostle Orson Hyde is too solemn a matter to be passed over with indifference as to whether it was true or false. Nineteen years have come

86 and gone since its utterance, yet no other apostle's voice to this day has dared, in public, to confirm or deny what the president of their quorum proclaimed in their name to the 'saints of God in the last days and to all people. 1 It is the historian's duty now to speak and declare the truth.

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1741&frmR1=V1&SubmitID=submit>

# Brigham Young Rise to Power

## The Ground Shook....'God was Near'...

"Before leaving England, and while filling the office of Managing Editor of the Latter Day Saints' Millennial Star, I resolved to write and publish the history of the Prophet Joseph.

Hence as soon as I arrived in Salt Lake City, in 1861, I sought labor on the personal journals of Wilford Woodruff and George A. Smith, boldly and frankly telling these two official historians that I should write and publish the history of the church, for the Lord had called me to this work.

For this I needed their private journals and professional employment on **Wilford Woodruff's history**. Wilford gave me employment and trusted me with the wonderful journals of his own ministry and the latter day work.

For eighteen months I daily labored on those journals, transforming them into a regular 'Autobiography of Wilford Woodruff.' I had come to the close of the year 1847, recording the very minutes of the Quorum of the Twelve, of those identical Grand Councils in which the choosing of the First Presidency was broached, and in which the Twelve did actually, by all the forms of motion and vote, set up the First Presidency, in the persons of Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Willard Richards.

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<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1741&frmR1=V1&SubmitID=submit>

# Brigham Young Rise to Power

## The Ground Shook....'God was Near'...

"Here, in your journals, sir, is the detailed record of those times.

This is the very council of the Twelve in which President Young and his counselors were elected by your quorum. Orson Hyde bore false witness in the name of the Lord. The voice of God was not heard in any of these councils, saying, 'Let my servant Brigham step forth and receive the full power of the presiding priesthood of my church and kingdom.'" Men, women, and children, did not come running to the house where you were holding council, saying their houses shook and the ground trembled. Neither did you apostles tell the people not to be alarmed; "the Lord was only whispering to us a little, and that probably he was not far off." There is nothing of all this in Wilford Woodruff's journals, not a word, not a trace anywhere, for I have carefully examined. You know, Wilford, it is impossible that this should have occurred in your presence and not to be found in your journals. It is a solemn falsehood in the name of the Lord. There is the proof, Wilford-your journal!'

"'Edward,' he answered, with a deep blush on his honest face, 'It was not true!'

<http://www.restoredgospel.com/History/ReadPage.asp?ID=1741&frmR1=V1&SubmitID=submit>

# Brigham Young Rise to Power

## Joseph Didn't Tell You Everything...

I have shown other brethren and sisters that Brother Joseph did not tell them all things at once, consequently you may expect to hear and see many things you never thought of before. ...

Brethren and sisters, for the sake of your dead and for the sake of yourselves, be faithful and have no feelings in your hearts against one another, but learn to suffer wrong rather than do wrong, and by so doing we will outstrip all our enemies and conquer the evil one, for know ye not that there is Zion? know ye not that the millennium has commenced? We have had Zion upon the earth this fourteen years. Peace reigns among this people which is Zion. Union and true charity dwells with this people: this is the most orderly and peaceable people upon the face of the whole earth. Well, this is Zion, and it is increasing and spreading wider and wider, and this principle of Zion, which is peace, will stretch all over the earth; that is the millennium.



# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

I have a few words to say concerning one item of doctrine, that I seldom think of mentioning before a public congregation;

I refer to the doctrine pertaining to **raising up a royal Priesthood to the name of Israel's God, for which purpose the revelation was given to Joseph, concerning the right of faithful Elders, in taking to themselves more than one wife.**

I frequently hear from others that this doctrine is laughed at and ridiculed; I heard yesterday of its being laughed out of doors, even jeered and sneered out of a Bishop's house.

JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES

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# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

I am not personally cognizant of anyone jeering at and deriding this doctrine; still, I hear that there are some few who are opposed to it. Once in a while sentiments reach my ears which sound very curious and strange, and when I hear them, I do really wish that some were possessed of better sense;

**I will, therefore, tell you a few things that you should know.**

**God never introduced the Patriarchal order of marriage with a view to please man in his carnal desires, nor to punish females for anything which they had done; but He introduced it for the express purpose of raising up to His name a royal Priesthood, a peculiar people.**

**Do we not see the benefit of it? Yes, we have lived long enough to realize its advantages.**

JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES

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# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

Suppose that I had had the privilege of having only one wife, I should have had only three sons, for those are all that my first wife bore, whereas, I now have buried five sons, and have thirteen living.

It is obvious that I could not have been blessed with such a family, if I had been restricted to one wife, but, by the introduction of this law, I can be the instrument in preparing tabernacles for those spirits which have to come in this dispensation.

**Under this law, I and my brethren are preparing tabernacles for those spirits which have been preserved to enter into bodies of honor, and be taught the pure principles of life and salvation, and those tabernacles will grow up and become mighty in the kingdom of our God.**

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

The Lord has instituted this plan for a holy purpose, and not with a design to afflict or distress the people; hence, an important and imperative duty is placed upon all holy men and women, and the reward will follow, for it is said, that the children will add to our honor and glory.

It hurts my feelings when I see good men, men who love correct principles and cling to the counsels of the Church, who have lived near to God for years and have always been faithful, with not a child to bear up their names to future generations, and I grieve to reflect that their names must go into the grave with them.

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

**It would please me to see good men and women have families; I would like to have righteous men take more wives and raise up holy children.**

**Some say, “I would do so, but brother Joseph and brother Brigham have never told me to do it.”**

**This law was never given of the Lord for any but his faithful children; it is not for the ungodly at all;**

**No man has a right to a wife, or wives, unless he honors his Priesthood and magnifies his calling before God.**

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

I foresaw, when Joseph first made known this doctrine, that it would be a trial, and a source of great care and anxiety to the brethren, and what of that?

We are to gird up our loins and fulfill this, just as we would any other duty. **(High wind and clouds of dust prevented speaking for several seconds.)**

It has been strenuously urged by many, that this doctrine was introduced through lust, but that is a gross misrepresentation. **(A thick cloud of dust prevented speaking for about two minutes.)**

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

This revelation, which God gave to Joseph, was for the express purpose of providing a channel for the organization of tabernacles, for those spirits to occupy who have been reserved to come forth in the kingdom of God, and that they might not be obliged to take tabernacles out of the kingdom of God.

We are commanded to overcome all our lustful desires, also our pride, selfishness, and every evil propensity that pertains to the flesh, to keep the commandments of God, and all the commandments pertaining to the holy Priesthood.



# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

It is important that we get a victory over our earthly passions, and learn to live by the law of God.

I am aware that care and other duties are greatly increased, by the law which I am remarking upon; this I know by experience, yet though it adds to our care and labor, we should say, “Not my will, but thine, O Lord, be done.”

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

As far as my acquaintance extends, the brethren who have entered into this order, with a pure heart, have enjoyed full as much worldly prosperity as they did before the Prophet Joseph revealed this holy law and order to the Latter-day Saints.

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

The Lord intended that our family cares should be greater;

He knew they would be, yet He is able to bless us in proportion.

I know quite a number of men in this Church who will not take any more women, because they do not wish to take care of them; a contracted spirit causes that feeling. I have also known some in my past life, who have said, that they did not desire to have their wives bear any children, and some even take measures to prevent it; there are a few such persons in this Church.

When I see a man in this Church with those feelings, and hear him say, "I do not wish to enlarge my family, because it will bring care upon me," I conclude that he has more or less of the old sectarian leaven about him, and that he does not understand the glory of the celestial kingdom.

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

This should be the view taken of this matter, by the whole of this people, and, when a man or woman sees that this principle should be introduced among the Latter-day Saints, they should cease their murmurings.

**It is not through lust that men and women are to practice this doctrine, but it is to be observed upon righteous principles;** and, if men and women would pay attention to those instructions, I would promise, in the name of the Lord, that you would never find them lustful in their dispositions, and you might watch them as closely as you pleased.

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

**Plurality of wives is not designed to afflict you nor me, but is purposed for our exaltation in the kingdoms of God.**

If any man had asked me what was my choice when Joseph revealed that doctrine, provided that it would not diminish my glory, I would have said, “Let me have but one wife;” not because it is not a great comfort to me to have children, but if I have not children, I know them not.

**Some of these my brethren know what my feelings were at the time Joseph revealed the doctrine; I was not desirous of shrinking from any duty, nor of failing in the least to do as I was commanded, but it was the first time in my life that I had desired the grave, and I could hardly get over it for a long time**

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

And when I saw a funeral, I felt to envy the corpse its situation, and to regret that I was not in the coffin, knowing the toil and labor that my body would have to undergo; and I have had to examine myself, from that day to this, and watch my faith, and carefully meditate, lest I should be found desiring the grave more than I ought to do.

You will probably wonder at this, and that such should have been my feelings upon this point, but they were even so.

**Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned; and I will go still further and say, take this revelation, or any other revelation that the Lord has given, and deny it in your feelings, and I promise that you will be damned.**

# Brigham Young, Provo, July 14, 1855

## Plurality of Wives (Sermon)

**But the Saints who live their religion will be exalted,** for they never will deny any revelation which the Lord has given or may give, though, when there is a doctrine coming to them which they cannot comprehend fully, they may be found saying,

**“The Lord sendeth this unto me, and I pray that He will save and preserve me from denying anything which proceedeth from Him, and give me patience to wait until I can understand it for myself.”**

# Historical Unravelling of Polygamy

The doubts raised by church members were nothing compared with the vitriol unleashed by non-Mormons when the doctrine of polygamy became publicly known.

It was denounced, along with slavery, as a "twin relic of barbarism" by the Republican Party in 1856 -- not an accidental linkage because opponents considered plural marriage a form of white slavery that degraded women.

Polygamy also drew the attention -- and criticism -- of numerous novelists, even figuring in the first Sherlock Holmes adventure.

**In 1862, the Morrill Act criminalized plural marriage, though President Abraham Lincoln declined to enforce its provisions. In his words, Mormons were like a log "too hard to split, too wet to burn, and too heavy to move." And with the Civil War raging, Lincoln had more pressing issues.**



# Circa 1887 Edmunds Tucker Act— (Picture from Official Priesthood Meeting)



# Unraveling of Official Polygamy by LDS

John Taylor, who succeeded Young as church president, died in 1887, while on the run from federal authorities.

Before he died, however, he made it very clear that he believed that the Saints must not give up the practice of polygamy. Today, fundamentalists who continue to practice polygamy call themselves Mormons and cite President Taylor's position on this matter to justify their current practice -- though official church policy bans plural marriage and excommunicates its practitioners.

# Wilford Woodruff--The Manifesto

For the Mormon mainstream, the 1887 Edmunds-Tucker Act proved the final straw. The U.S. Congress renewed its attack on polygamy by disincorporating the church and seizing its assets.

In 1890, church president Wilford Woodruff, fearful that the continuation of the practice of plural marriage would lead to the destruction of all Mormon temples, announced an end to official support for polygamy.

His "Manifesto" was reinforced by a 1904 decree threatening polygamists with excommunication; in response, the government returned church property, pardoned polygamists, and admitted Utah to the Union in 1896.

The Manifesto, though never described as a revelation, has remained the official church position for more than 100 years.