

## Jacob's Polygamy Chiasmus

*in Jacob 2:23-33 – 4 pages*

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Lehi and his family left Jerusalem, traveling to a Promised Land west (today's "America"). It was God's will that Lehi escape the wickedness of Jerusalem that he and his family might raise up a righteous branch of the house of Israel on this land – away from the wickedness growing in power there. One of the many proofs that the Book of Mormon and the people in it are of Jewish heritage is the structure of the prophetic writings in the book. There are many such examples. One is the LORD's teachings through the Prophet Jacob in connection with polygamy. Note the centrally-focused "chiastic" structure of the 10 consecutive verses below - in Jacob chapter 2, verses 23-33. This "chiastic" or "center-focused" structure is visible below, focusing all attention on **the LORD's will** that His people in this special "Promised Land" "**keep my commandments**". Following the chiasm below is a breakdown of some of the key words in this important scripture, words like "wherefore" and "otherwise".

**they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.**

**I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem**

**And whoredoms are an abomination**

**saith the Lord of Hosts**

**Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments**

**saith the Lord of Hosts**

**And I will not suffer . . . the cries of the fair daughters of this people . . . shall come up unto me against the men of my people**

**I have led out of the land of Jerusalem**

**for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old**

### Jacob 2, verses 23-33

23 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.**

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

25 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.

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

27 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;

28 For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. **And whoredoms are an abomination** before me; thus **saith the Lord of Hosts.**

29 **Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments**, saith the Lord of Hosts, or accursed be the land for their sakes.

30 For if I will, **saith the Lord of Hosts**, raise up a seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things.

31 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.

32 **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.

33 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; **for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old**, saith the Lord of Hosts.

In chapter 1, Jacob stated, "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). Brigham Young was the “second king” or leader over the Saints after Joseph Smith’s murder. Few know that both men were actually anointed as “kings” over the people. King Noah is an excellent type for Brigham Young and his evil ways (see the first eight verses of Mosiah chapter 11).

**Jacob 2:22-35 & 3:1-12 - “Have Save It Be One Wife”,  
In connection with the Meaning of “Wherefore” and “Otherwise”**

**Jacob 2:**

- 22 And now I make an end of speaking unto you concerning this pride. And were it not that I must speak unto you concerning a **grosser crime**, my heart would rejoice exceedingly because of you.
- 23 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.
- 24 Behold, David and Solomon truly **had many wives and concubines**, which **thing** was abominable before me, saith the Lord.
  
- 25 Wherefore, (**for this cause**) 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.**
- 26 Wherefore, (**for this cause**) I the Lord God **will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.**
- 27 Wherefore, (**for this cause**) 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;**
- 28 For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And **whoredoms are an abomination** before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts.
- 29 Wherefore, (**for this cause**) this people shall keep **my commandments**, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes.
- 30 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**.
  
- 31 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.**
- 32 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.
- 33 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; for **they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old**, saith the Lord of Hosts.
- 34 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.
- 35 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. And because of the strictness of the word of God, which cometh down against you, many *hearts* died, pierced with deep wounds.

**Jacob 3:**

- 1 But behold, I, Jacob, would speak unto you that are *pure in heart*. 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 But, wo, wo, unto you that are **not pure in heart**, that are filthy this day before God; for 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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 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.**

- 6 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.
- 7 Behold, their husbands love their wives, and their wives love their husbands; and their husbands and their wives love their children; and their unbelief and their hatred towards you is because of the iniquity of their fathers; wherefore, how much better are you than they, in the sight of your great Creator?
- 8 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.
- 9 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 skins; neither shall ye revile against them because of their filthiness; but ye shall remember your own filthiness, and remember that their filthiness came because of their fathers.
- 10 Wherefore, ye shall remember your children, how that ye have grieved their hearts because of **the example that ye have set before them; 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.
- 11 O my brethren, hearken unto my words; arouse the faculties of your souls; shake yourselves that ye may awake from the slumber of death; 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.
- 12 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 the awful consequences of them.

**\*Wherefore**

D&C 38

- 31 And that ye might **escape the power of the enemy**, and be gathered unto me a righteous people, without spot and blameless—
- 32 **Wherefore, for this cause I gave unto you the commandment that ye should go to the Ohio;** and there I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be **endowed with power** from on high; [govin the **power of the Holy Ghost – by ME** - to help them discern between light and darkness, between truth and error, and thus **escape** the lies and deceptions of Satan].

\*Wherefore: Strong's Hebrew Concordance, word 3651: rightly so, for which cause (for this reason), hence, thus Ezekiel 20:

- 9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.
- 10 ¶ **Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.**
- 24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.
- 25 **Wherefore (for this reason) I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;**
- 27 ¶ Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.
- 28 For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.
- 29 Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.
- 30 **Wherefore (for this reason) say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?**

\*\***Otherwise** - another word link example:

1 Kings:

- 20 And **thou, my lord, O king**, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that **thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.**
- 21 **Otherwise** it shall come to pass, **when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers**, that **I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.**

**In other words:**

O King, tell all Israel who shall be the king after you. **Otherwise, if you do not tell them**, when you die, Solomon and I will be considered imposters.

**Hence: Jacob 2:30**

- 30 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.**

**In other words:**

For if I will raise up a righteous seed unto me, I will command my people that they should have only one wife and no concubines.

**Otherwise**, if I do not, **they will do these things** – the grosser whoredoms, taking many wives and concubines, like those of old.

· 23 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.

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

· 26 Wherefore, **(for this cause)** I the Lord God **will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old**.