**Just One Wife**

God’s Word & Will

God said that in the mouth of two or three witnesses all truth is established (2 Cor. 13:1; D&C 6:28). The written word in scripture and pure revelation are our two best sources of truth with regard to polygamy. They do not contradict one another (TPJS p. 215), especially if we seek God’s will rather than our own. This chapter is divided into these two witnesses and relies on God’s holy word in scripture first to establish truth in the multiple wives doctrine. It was called “spiritual wifery” early on in Church history, a term used by the Cochranites of Saco Maine. Using scripture (Part I), in conjunction with pure revelation from God (Part II), we can best determine if the LORD sanctioned multiple wives in the Old Testament, in the Book of Mormon, at Nauvoo, and in Utah. As we turn to God first and seek His truth, rather than the teachings of men, surprisingly clear answers are given. The key is to let scripture say what it says, without interpretation based upon a personal agenda or desire. All idols within our heart, including the desire for or against polygamy - must be removed. Following our search of scripture to seek God’s perspective, we should then seek confirmation of our interpretation of the written word via sincere prayer. These two consistent and mutually supportive witnesses emerge when we seek God’s word and will, **not** our own.

A third witness is that of history. It is also useful, though often subject to biases, agendas, and modification. Most of the Saints consult the pro-polygamy Brighamite history put forth by the LDS Church, those that went west with Brigham Young. It is significant that one half of the Saints at Nauvoo did not follow him west nor embrace his “new order of things” in polygamy. Relatively few consult the anti-polygamy Josephite history, kept by those who stayed behind, including all of the Smith family. These two histories are diametrically opposed and reveal much.[[1]](#endnote-1)

**Part I: God’s Written Word in Scripture**

The condition of our heart, and the desires within it, determine whether we obtain God’s truth or something else. The desires held in the secret chambers of our hearts determine whether two people in the Church view the same scripture in unity or in opposing ways. These desires – idols in our heart - also determine where “revelation” originates; (1) from God, (2) from Satan and false spirits, or (3) from our own mind. All light and truth originates in God, not flawed men, including this author. Scripture informs us that the LORD Jesus is our rock and the fountain of “living waters” (a type for “pure revelation” from Him and our divine parents [Father and Mother] in scripture). Christ the LORD is also the light and life of the world. As we turn to Him for truth - by seeking His word and will, we can obtain the sweet, white fruit of the Tree of Life, rather than the corrupted fruit of men and the tree of knowledge. Written scripture represents God’s word to all. Pure revelation is His word to you, personally.

The problem is, too many men don’t want God’s truth, nor do they seek it. They want their own beliefs to be true and their own will to be done. It is part of pride, the first trait addressed to the polygamists in Jacob chapter 2. The humble seek Christ’s will, as He sought and seeks the Father’s will (Alma 42:7; Rom. 10:1-4; Mat. 6:33). Another problem is accepting truth once it is given, and doing so from God’s perspective and will, rather than ours. Too often the arm of flesh has biases based on an agenda. They originate in the idols we hold in the secret chambers of our own hearts. Our individual agendas are rooted in our own unique backgrounds, experiences, traditions, and beliefs, some of which are false. These are part of the iniquities passed down to us from “fathers, priests, and kings.” The prideful know more than God. The humble seek His will to remove tainted perspectives, known in scripture as “the idols of our heart” (Prov. 23:7, Isa. 66:2-4, Ezek. 14:1-11, 2 Thess. 2:10-12, James 4:3, Jacob 4:14, Alma 29:4 & Morm. 9:28).

Throughout many verses in the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and other scripture, polygamy is sin. It originates in the carnal desires of mainly men. In the foundational source of our faith - the Book of Mormon, the Prophet Jacob used five negative words or phrases to address it in an important order. He tells us that it came among men because of (1) “pride.” This led to the people committing (2) “a grosser crime,” one tied to (3) “wickedness.” God then referred to it as a (4) “whoredom” and (5) an “abomination” before His face (see Jacob chapters 2 & 3). Jacob later made it clear that God preserved their Lamanite brethren (though unbelievers) because there was love between husbands and wives and their children in non-polygamous relationships (Jacob 3:7). The corrupted Nephites were eventually wiped off this land, because of the secret combinations they embraced, and the whoredom of polygamy tied to it. Note that whoredoms and secret combinations are ranked with murder as the top three most wicked things in 3 Nephi 16:10.

In contrast to the many scriptures condemning the practice, there are only a handful used by pro-polygamists to support it. The most notable is the incorrect interpretation of four scriptures; Jacob 2:30, the Levirate law of Deuteronomy 25, Isaiah 4:1, and Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Each of them is refuted hereafter, using God’s word to determine His will. These scriptures, in combination with others, are often used by pro-polygamists to negate all others that speak out against the practice. Collectively, they reveal that polygamy, concubines, homosexuality, adultery, and other sexual sins are an abomination before the LORD. To understand what is being expressed in God’s word as a whole, we must seek His will rather than our own. Otherwise we will go off in many directions, following the idols of our own hearts, and the false revelations that can originate in them.

The Book of Mormon, together with the inspired Joseph Smith re-translation of the Bible is what the LORD called “the fullness of my scriptures” in D&C 42:12, 15, 56 and 59. Two notable things are given us in both books; (1) Greater clarity in what “the way of salvation” is – or how to be saved or redeemed of the LORD; And (2) The significant role of the evil one in stopping us from receiving salvation, and often because of secret combinations and their lies and actions. Clarity in these opposing things have been suppressed or removed from the Bible (see Moses 1:23; Luke 11:52; 1 Ne. 13:26-29, 32-40, 14:23). Evil and designing men removed many “plain and precious things” from the Bible. Salvation requires knowledge of both light and darkness. God said that we cannot be saved in ignorance (D&C 131:6). He added that all things are to be established by two or three witnesses (2 Cor. 13:1). For our purposes here, they are the JST Bible, the Book of Mormon, and God’s pure revelation to us. Relying on the arm of flesh for truth results in curses, according to 2 Nephi 4:34. They result in idolatry, ignorance, and deception.

Besides removing the simple and sacred truths of how to be saved in pure form, clear references to organized evil and darkness among us in secret combinations, have also been removed. The clearer JST version of Genesis in the Book of Moses, for example, reveals the deceptive tactics of Satan, especially in Moses chapter 5. There we learn that secret combinations placed among men significantly thwart God’s work in redeeming His children. The Book of Mormon negates this ignorance by providing a clear pathway to redemption in the teachings of Nephi, Abinadi, Alma, Mormon, and Moroni. Together, in the JST version of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, we see how polygamy, other sin, and murder, were put in place by secret combinations to destroy God’s great work - in bringing about “the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). Hereafter we will see that God did not require, command, nor condone the whoredom known as “spiritual wifery,” “polygamy,” or “plural marriage” among us, or other people in scripture. Instead, sexual sin has been a tool of the adversary to corrupt God’s saving work. It began at Kirtland among new converts, took root secretly at Nauvoo, and finally became an institutionalized practice in the Church in Utah, one required for exaltation. Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith may have been murdered to keep it in place.

The primary purpose of the Prophet Joseph Smith’s mission was to bring forth more of God’s precious word, to inform us of these two opposing forces. They represent God’s work to save us and Satan’s plan to destroy us. God said that relying on His written word in scripture keeps the gates of hell from prevailing against us. The following four scriptures address the importance of God’s word as a guide for us.

 “And whoso treasureth up my word, shall not be deceived” (JST Mat. 1:37).

 “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall

 make you free” (John 8:32).

 “Behold I give unto you a commandment, that you **rely upon the things which are written**; for in them are all

 things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock. Wherefore if you shall build up my church and

 my gospel, and my rock [rather than the teachings of men], the gates of hell shall **not** prevail against you” (early

 unchanged 1833 Book of Commandments, now D&C 18:3-6; see also JST Mat. 16:16-19 & 2 Ne. 4:32-35) .

 “For you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God [not man]. For the word of the

 Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ. And

 the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth everyman through the

 world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit. And every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh

 unto God, even the Father” (D&C 84:44-47; see also Mat. 4:4; 2 Ne. 32:1-6).

**Raising Up Righteous Seed**

God desires that his people become righteous, through repentance and the Atonement of Christ, that such might be blessed with His greatest gifts, including eternal life. He desires that men and women raise up their children, their righteous seed or posterity, on promised, covenant lands, where there is opportunity for peace, prosperity, and protection, and where His doctrine and His truth may be taught. The LORD’s definition of “righteous seed” can also be numerous “seed” as promised to Abram and Sarai. Polygamy, however, was not necessary for Abram and Sarai to have posterity “as numerous as the stars of heaven.” Scripture reveals that when this couple turned their hearts fully to God, as marked by the new names He gave them in “Abraham” and “Sarah,” they were then able to have this promise fulfilled. The LORD Jesus came to earth through their blessed bloodline, that all those on earth might be blessed in Christ’s redeeming work - His Atonement (see Abr. 2:11; 3 Ne. 20:25; 1 Ne. 15:18, 22:9; D&C 110:12). The LORD came through the birthright son Isaac, and his son Jacob, who was renamed Israel. He was not born in blood lineage of Sarai’s handmaid Hagar, the concubine of Abram, and their son Ishmael. Sadly, the whole world has reaped cursings, hatred, and war from the jealousy that was born of these two opposing bloodlines, that of Ishmael born of the concubine Hagar. This legacy was a great curse following the corruption of God’s law of marriage - of one man and one woman – in Abraham and Sarah (see D&C 42:22-23). They eventually escaped the iniquities of idolatry and polygamy prevalent in their surrounding culture!

The Book of Mormon condemns the practice of multiple wives using the law of witnesses (2 Cor. 13:1), three of them. There is (1) the bad example of the Nephites (Jacob ch. 2-3) as seen in King Noah and his priests (Mosiah 11:2-14; see also Hel. 2:12-13). Much earlier, on this same Promised Land, there was (2) the Jaredites (Ether 10:5). Both cultures were destroyed because they allowed secret combinations to rise up among then. Both also allowed polygamy and other sexual sin to flourish. A third later group, (3) is the wicked Gentiles of our day (including the Gentile Latter-day Saints). Multiple prophecies address another cleansing of this Promised Land (see Ether 2:7-12, 8:15-26; JST Mat. 21:51-56).

Note that polygamy was not used to raise up a large quantity of “righteous seed” in the following verses where the people multiplied quickly (2 Ne. 5:13, Jarom 1:8, Mos. 2:2, 9:9, 23:20, Alma 50:18, 62:48, Hel. 3:8, 11:20, 4 Ne. 1:10, 23). Instead, in the Book of Mormon, God said he brought Lehi and his family to this choice, Promised Land to raise up a “righteous branch” of Israel, the spiritual seed of God. We can become His seed when we are spiritually “born again” in Christ, becoming his sons and daughters (Mosiah 5), as He is the Father of our salvation through the Atonement (Ether 3:14, 4:12-15; Mos. 15:1-2, 15). Brigham Young’s polygamy was centered on physical seed, not the more important spiritual component addressed in much of scripture. In Lehi’s case, he and his blessed seed escaped to a new Promised Land, one free of the sins of David and Solomon and other wickedness in the old world (verses 25, 32; Jacob 3:4, 6; 3 Ne. 15:19-20). They were to separate themselves from evil of all kinds, including polygamy. Here they were to embrace the everlasting covenant or the fullness of the gospel of Christ and its truths. This “fullness” is about coming to Christ and being redeemed or saved through Him. Jacob~~,~~ spoke on behalf of the LORD saying, “thus saith the LORD” two times. He stated:

 “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 [of Egypt].

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

 brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the LORD: For there shall not any man among you have save it

 be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; For I, the LORD God, delight in the chastity of women. And

 whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the LORD of Hosts. Wherefore, this people shall keep my

 commandments, saith the LORD of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes” (Jacob 2:25-29 [5 verses]; see

 also 3 Ne. 15:19-20).

God separated Lehi and his family from this particular wickedness and others in Jerusalem (3 Ne. 15:19-20). He also addressed “the chastity of women,” saying “whoredoms are an abomination before me.” He added, “this people shall keep my commandments, or cursed be the land for their sakes.” Then in verse 30 we read:

 “For if I will, saith the LORD of Hosts raise up seed unto me [a righteous people] I will command my people

 [God is our King and Law Giver and He commands that we have one wife only, 2:27, 3:5-6]; otherwise they [the

 people] shall hearken unto these **things** [the many wives abomination, like David and Solomon]” (Jacob 2:30).

The added words in the brackets [ ] above provide great clarity to Jacob 2:30. The word “*thing*” or “*things”* is used four times in Jacob 2, and each time in connection with sin or negative things. It is found in verses 14, 23, 30 and 34. All these “*things*” are negative or sinful (see below).

1. **Pride**: in verses 22-30, Jacob did not want his people to “persist in these [prideful] things” (v. 14)

2. **Grosser Crime**: iniquity exists, scripture is not understood, and they seek to excuse themselves in this thing (v. 23)

3. **Abomination**: those things written of David & Solomon (many wives & concubines) are an abomination (v. 30)

4. **Bad Things**: “ye have done things which ye ought not to have done” (v. 34).

Jacob 2:30 is tied to a unique prophecy of the LORD in D&C 38:13 and 28 (1831) “And now I show you a mystery, a thing which is had in secret chambers, to bring to pass even your destruction in process of time, and ye knew it not:” D&C 38:28 And again, I say unto you that the enemy in the secret chamber seeketh your lives.” This was ~~one~~ apparently fulfilled ten years later at Nauvoo when a secret combination rose up there to practice spiritual wifery secretly. The LORD may have implied that it was the “*mystery*” or “*thing*” had in secret chambers to bring about the destruction of Joseph Smith, the Saints, and the church. Some believe it led to the murder of Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith. It is part of a “*mystery*” (secret), tied to great “*iniquit*y” (2 Thess. 2:7), in connection with “*mystery Babylon*” (or a secret combination, Rev. 17:5), involving “*the wresting of scriptures*” to justify polygamy (D&C 10:63-64; Jacob 2:23). There are 91 scriptures utilizing the word “*mystery.*” A total of 88 of them are positive (like “mysteries of godliness”), whereas only 3 are negative, those related to the “*secret things*” of Jacob 2:30 (see D&C 10:63-64; 2 Thess. 2:7; Rev. 17:5). Emma Smith said that, “it was se*cret things* which had cost Joseph and Hyrum their lives” (William Clayton journal, 15 August, 1844).

David and Solomon did “*things*” which were sinful. Today, many supporting polygamy “*wrest scripture,*” or “*understand not the scriptures*” (Jacob 2:23; D&C 10:63-64). Many *want* to believe the wording of Jacob 2:30 leaves the door open to practice polygamy (an “escape clause” if you will), whereas the context of the five scriptures immediately before and after it are clearly anti-polygamy, tied to this abomination in Jerusalem and the sorrow and mourning of God’s daughters there and among Jacob’s people. Too often verse 30 is twisted or “wrested” to excuse or justify polygamy. When we seek God’s will rather than our own, we see that this verse is about following God’s command. It references Lehi coming to this Promised Land to raise up his family in righteousness. They did so by separation from the wicked practices at Jerusalem (see 3 Ne. 3:15:19-20). The Israelites there practiced what God had forbidden: unlawful polygamy, divorce, and remarriage (see Mat. 19:3-9). This is further supported in Jacob chapter 3.

Most of Jacob 2 is about separation from evil, and specifically the multiple wives and concubines of men like King Noah, who came later (Mosiah 11). Verse 30 is not an escape clause from God’s law of marriage (D&C 42:22-23). The key for its correct interpretation or that of any scripture is, (1) context (surrounding verses), and (2) God’s intended will and instruction, not our “wresting” and justifying interpretation of it. To receive God’s truth and meaning, **we must first want it**. Those supporting polygamy, are looking for justification for it wherever they can, and because of this “idol in their heart,” they see Jacob 2:30 through their own filter (see Mosiah 2:11 & 13:11). All idolatry must be removed to receive God’s truth, His intended meaning. This is one reason there are so many Christian churches today. They come from differing interpretation of the same scriptures based on idols we support. Many use Jacob 2:30 as an opening for multiple wives, along with Section 132 of the D&C, along with the words of Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Orson Pratt.

Note the five descriptive words (in order) Jacob used to define the practice of polygamy in Jacob 2. They include, (1) “pride,” (2) “grosser crimes,” (3) “iniquity,” (4) “whoredoms,” and (4) “abominable.” They are associated with the Nephites in Jacob 2, along with two of Israel’s kings, David and Solomon, and their additional wives and concubines (the reason God did not condemn Abraham or Jacob for their additional wives in Jacob 2 is revealed hereafter). Jacob’s five condemning descriptions of sexual sin are contrasted with the words “righteous branch” (of the house of Israel or Jacob) in verse 25. Context and God’s will are two key features that must be taken into consideration.

Finally, in the last five verses of Jacob chapter 2, immediately following verse 30 (31-35), there are more strong words used by Jacob to condemn all sexual practices that go against God’s will. They include the following negative words and phrases; “sorrow, mourning of the daughters, wickedness, abominations of their husbands, cries of the fair daughters…against the men, lead away captive the daughters of my people, sore curse, destruction, commit whoredoms like them of old, great condemnation, 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 “many hearts died, pierced with deep wounds.”

Women and children suffer the most under the whoredom and abomination of polygamy. Christ came to this earth to relieve the pain, suffering, and oppression that wicked men put upon others. Turning to Him and His way is the only effective answer. Note the four points below that keep us in ignorance and darkness. They can lead to being deceived by crafty men who “lie in wait to deceive” – for the sake of “gain.” They are:

 (1) Pride, believing we are safe in our present situation

 (2) Practicing idolatry (looking to man first and foremost for light and direction, rather than God) and other sin,

 separating us from God

 (3) Not seeking and receiving the gift and power of the Holy Ghost in our lives, as a result of not seeking for and

 cleansing power of the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost (being born again in Christ).

 (4) Not knowing how to receive pure revelation from God, that we might discern truth from error among the

 diverse and often false teachings and doctrines of men, they whose hearts may be far from God

Receiving pure, undefiled revelation from God - the source of light - begins with removing ourselves from Babylon and its idolatry. As we leave behind our pride, which often keeps us believing we are correct in our false teachings and traditions, and then repent and come unto Christ – seeking His truth rather than our own, we can then be gifted or endowed with the power of the Holy Ghost as our “comforter” or guide. It comes after being born again in Christ. This is the promise given to all wise virgins, those who then have oil in their lamps. It aids us in correctly interpreting scripture. God said:

 “For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not

 been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day”

 (D&C 45:57).

Sadly, too many of the Saints “are deceived by the craftiness of men,” and thus inherit lesser kingdoms in the hereafter (see D&C 76:75). We can only receive the important endowment of the Holy Ghost if we remove the obstacles of pride and idolatry, and instead turn to God and cultivate a broken heart and a contrite spirit. With “the mighty change of heart” that comes from being redeemed of God in His fiery baptism of us, we then have no more desire to sin or do evil, but to seek the LORD’s will in all things.

Too few understand this pathway, known in scripture simply as “the way” or “the way of salvation” of our God. Too few obtain and hold on to - the iron rod (God and His word in pure revelation), and thus they don’t arrive at the great Tree in this life. They then wander in strange paths, amidst mists of darkness, following men instead of God (see 1 Ne. 8:5-8). Many are persuaded to remain there by fear – fear of men pointing their fingers at them from the great and spacious building. Such fear men more than God. Such rely on “the arm of flesh” and are frequently deceived. Many believe this is exactly what happened in Nauvoo, with what was called “spiritual wifery” there. It was shepherds (perhaps Brigham Young and some of the Twelve) who led the sheep into this practice because they were lifted up as lights before the people, rather than the living God and His word and will. This kind of idolatry requires two types of participants; leaders who lift themselves up before the people, and unwise, trusting followers that cannot discern light from darkness. They need oil in their lamps.

**Polygamy Among the Early Patriarchs & Kings of the Bible**

When God’s will is sought, truth emerges. If we seek our own will (the idols in the heart), we seek justification to obtain them. God said we are judged by our works along with the desires of our heart (D&C 137:9). Many polygamists and men among the Saints today, seek to be part of this practice. They often use the following justifications for it.

 (1) The first justification for Latter-day Saint polygamy is normally the Old Testament Patriarchs, including the kings over Israel in Saul, David, Solomon, and others. Jacob 2 judges many of them harshly for it.

 (2) The second is typically our modified Latter-day Saint history, changed by Brigham Young and those sympathetic to the practice to promote a pro-polygamy stance. They claim it was Joseph Smith who first lived and taught the practice. This provided them justification to practice it. Many believe our current Brighamite history has proven to be manipulated and inaccurate. Relatively few know that there is also a Josephite history to refute it (endnote 1). The Josephites are made out to be the bad guys, the “apostates” who didn’t follow Brigham west.

 (3) The words of Church leaders that were polygamists (especially the six Presidents following Joseph Smith) provides a third justification. The most common of these include Presidents Brigham Young and John Taylor, and Apostle Orson Pratt.

 (4) Select scripture, rather than the whole body of scripture, is also used to justify the practice, especially Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Evidence provided hereafter suggests much of Section 132 was modified and written by Brigham Young.

 (5) Personal interpretation of select scripture, like Jacob 2:30, is also used to justify polygamy, while ignoring both context and the vast majority of other scripture that speaks out against it. Deception often comes because our desires, idols held in our hearts. This is the important, ignored message of each of the following important scriptures; Isaiah 66:2-4, Ezekiel 14:1-11, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, James 4:3, Jacob 4:14, Alma 29:4, and Mormon 9:28.

Did God command polygamy in specific situations? Was it practiced according to His will somewhere in scripture? Were any inspired “revelations” tied to its practice, and were they from God or a false source instead (one’s own mind or a false, deceiving spirit)? We must ask ourselves - **do we really want the truth**? Will I receive it if it is given?

A young Joseph Smith went to the woods to seek God’s wisdom as the result of reading James 1:5. Both James and the Prophet Joseph said that going to God is the best way to obtain truth. Seeking God’s will rather than our own will leads us to **His truth**. It really is that simple. God’s word and will is found throughout scripture. Too many don’t want it. As we will see hereafter, His consistent command is to have but one wife. The stories of polygamy and concubines in the Bible, along with more recent history, both feature significant negative consequences tied to having more than one wife, especially for women and children.

In the Bible we see how imperfect mortal men like Abram, Jacob, and David, men who once lived this lifestyle, eventually turned from it. They did so when their hearts were finally turned to God in complete submission. When this happened, when they were “born again” in Him, the LORD gave them new names. It was an important marker for their “mighty change of heart.” It was then that these men typically put away polygamy and their concubines. This is a significant truth overlooked by those who use the ancient patriarchs to justify their practices. While there was polygamy among some of them, it was also eliminated in most cases later on. We begin with Adam and Eve.

**Adam & Eve**

In the second chapter of the Bible, we read of God’s law of marriage. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24, see also Gen. 1:27 and Moses 3:24). God began the human family with the marriage of the one man Adam with one woman, not a harem of women. Things began to change with their son Cain, however. This is especially clear in the Joseph Smith re-translation of Genesis. We call it the Book of Moses. There, the influence of Satan is made very clear, a record removed from the Bible along with other “plain and precious things,” like the clear plan of salvation found in Moses 6:52, 57-68. Because of wickedness, Moses’ record of these things, “is not had among the children of men” (Moses 1:23). We read there of one of high station who was cast down to earth because of pride. God said, “And he became Satan, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice” (Moses. 4:4).

The first record of polygamy in the Bible is tied to Lamech, a third generation son from Cain, the first addressed in the book to willfully rebel against God, in a covenant or oath with Satan. He was also part of the first secret combination. Cain, his ancestor was the first to murder. It was Cain’s brother Abel, murdered for gain. Lamech married two wives. There may have also been homosexuality, with murder again (Genesis 4:23-24; Moses 5:51). He too “entered into a covenant with Satan, wherein he became Master Mahan” (a “destroyer,” v. 49), “master of that great secret which was administered unto Cain by Satan.” In Genesis (the first book of the Bible), God defines the true model of marriage. Satan twisted it, giving us a plurality of wives to appease man’s carnal nature. Because of man’s carnal nature, God has had to define marriage as one man and one woman again and again all throughout scripture. While D&C 42:22-23 and 49:16 conform with God’s instruction, D&C 132 does not.

Many believe homosexuality (an increasing evil in our day) is a part of a great secret combination spreading throughout our land today, perhaps part of initiation into it some secret combinations, along with murder. We read in Moses 5 that “every man” in this dark, secret combination in Lamech’s day, “knew his brother” (Moses 5:51). The same word “knew” is used four times in Moses 5 and 6 to coincide with sexual intercourse (see verses 2, 16, and 42 of Moses 5, along Moses 6:2). Polygamy, homosexuality, and murder are all tied to serving Satan in the book of Moses, along with fear-based secret blood-oaths or covenants made with him, where one “swears by the throat” or neck. God works by love and invitation, not by force and fear. Sinful things are often done in secret (see Moses 5, verses 44-47). The opposite is to love God, our fellow man, and thus to receive light. It is to obtain and practice charity, the pure love of Christ, after one turns to God fully and is “born again,” receiving “the mighty change of heart” (see Mosiah 4:2-3, 9-12; 5:2, 7-15; Alma 5:7, 12-14, 16-26, 49; 7:14-15; 36-3-27).

The JST translation of the Genesis account of Adam and Eve reveals many insights, primarily about the rise and spread of secret combinations among their later children, after they are redeemed of God. Prior to this, Moses chapter 1 begins with Satan trying to overpower Moses in verses 16-21. We learn that Satan has no glory and that he came to “deceive” Moses. This is important as it is Moses who is the source of the Genesis account of the creation and of the Adam and Eve story. In verse 23 of Moses chapter 1 we read:

 “And now of this thing [Moses interaction with Satan] Moses bore record; but because of wickedness it is not had

 among the children of men” (Moses 1:23).

In Moses 4 we learn that Satan is the father of all lies. He deceives men, leading those who will not hearken to God’s voice. He lied to Eve, telling her there was no penalty for partaking of the forbidden fruit (Moses 4:4, 10). Satan’s lies are tied to secrecy, blood oaths (made to Satan and other men), as part of a secret combination put in place to get gain and murder. It is especially clear in Moses chapter 5. The footnote of Moses 1:23 takes us to JST Luke 11:52.

 “Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge, *the fullness of the scriptures;* ye *enter* not in

 yourselves *into the kingdom;* and *those who* were entering in, ye hindered” (JST Luke 11:52-53).

Corruption of God’s written word in the Bible – in the removal of many “plain and precious things” - is addressed in these two verses (Moses 1:23 & JST Luke 11:52-53, and in 1 Ne. 13:). It is where (1) Satan’s dark and secret methods are revealed (Moses chapters 4 & 5), and (2) it is also where God’s great plan of salvation for his children is also revealed in its fullness (Moses chapters 5-8; see also Moses 1:39). They represent the doctrine of the two ways (as taught by Moses in Deut. 30:16-19); the choice between a fullness of light, or its total absence in darkness. Our choice leads to blessing or cursing. In Moses 5:44, we learn of the first polygamist in the Bible (he was also a murderer). His name was Lamech - the sixth generation from Adam. He “took unto himself two wives” (Moses. 5:44). Lamech slew Irad to keep a secret in place via a secret blood oath.

 “For Lamech having entered into a covenant with Satan, after the manner of Cain, wherein he became Master

 Mahan, master of that great **secret** which was administered unto Cain by Satan; and Irad, the son of Enoch,

 Having known their secret, began to reveal it unto the sons of Adam. Wherefore Lamech, being angry, slew him,

 not like unto Cain his brother Abel, for the sake of getting gain, but he slew him for the oath’s sake. For, from the

 days of Cain, there was a s**ecret combination**, and their works were in the dark, and they knew every man his

 brother ” (Moses 5:49-51).

The LORD then cursed Lamech and his house for their abominations. Lamech’s wives also rebelled against him.

 “And thus the works of darkness began to prevail among all the sons of men. And God cursed the earth with a

 sore curse, and was angry with the wicked, with all the sons of men whom he had made; For they would not

 hearken unto his voice, nor believe on his Only Begotten Son, even him whom he declared should come in the

 meridian of time, who was prepared from before the foundation of the world. And thus

 the Gospel began to be preached…”(Moses 5:55-58).

**Abraham & Sarah** (Abram & Sarai prior to conversion)

The destructive, on-going strife between Jews and Arabs today, including the hatred leading to terrorism and the Jewish Holocaust, can largely be traced to the jealousy that began with the concubine Hagar. Sarai brought her handmaid to Abram, because she was barren. It was her idea, not God’s. She desperately wanted children. Idolatry and polygamy (with concubines) were pervasive in their culture and the cultures of those around them. Sarai’s proposal thus represented a great temptation to Abram. Though Abram had escaped the idolatry of his father, he consented to the desires of his wife. Hagar then became a concubine to Abram, a surrogate mother. No scripture says that it was God’s plan, nor that of Abram, though he did submit to Sarai’s will, and perhaps without checking in with God first. Although the LORD promised Abram and Sarai children as numerous as the stars of heaven, or the sands of the seas, this would have come naturally. Polygamy was not necessary for it. The couple appears to have become impatient, taking this matter into their own hands, rather than waiting patiently upon the LORD and His miraculous power. Doubt may have entered into their minds too, as much time passed without the heir they so desperately desired. God doesn’t appear to have punished the couple in this thing. Though sorrow did come naturally in the ensuing strife between the two women first, and then their posterity.

After Ishmael was born, trouble between Sarai and Hagar grew. Sarai wanted Hagar banished from her presence. Ismael and Hagar were eventually forced to leave, according to Sarai’s wishes, which God supported (Gen. 21:8-21). In time, and because of these humbling circumstances, Sarai and Abram turned their hearts fully to God and His ways. Abram put away his bondwoman to walk after God and be perfect. To do the works of Abram is to put away idolatry and polygamy and murder (see Gal. 4:22-28). It is to become more like God (Brigham Young used this same phrase to justify his polygamy). God then gave Abram and Sarai new names, Abraham and Sarah. Both of them received an “h” in their names. The 5th letter of the Hebrew alphabet is tied to covenant making and life, which was made possible via the grace of God. Sarah then miraculously conceived Isaac. God had given the name for the child to the couple via the angel he sent. It was to be Isaac. He would become the birthright child of Abraham, not his firstborn son Ishmael through Hagar the concubine.

While Sarah was alive, Abraham appears to have not married another woman. We read of Sarah's death in Genesis 23:1-2. Two chapters later we read that Abraham married Keturah. He was thus not a polygamist, but he may have sinned in the extenuating circumstances involving the concubine Hagar, as it may have not been part of God’s will. Some claim Abram born false witness earlier, on two occasions, claiming Sarai was his sister. This was a command from God in Abram 2:24-25, designed to protect him, as husbands were sometimes killed by powerful rulers to obtain their beautiful wives. Sarai was very beautiful. She was born of Haran, the brother of Abram’s father. When Haran died, Abraham’s father Terah took Sarah as his own daughter. Thus Sarah was technically both Abraham’s niece and his step-sister. Two powerful men wanted Abraham’s beautiful “sister.” One of them was Pharaoh in Egypt. He took Sarah as a wife while she was barren (he did not kill Abraham). Was there intimacy between Sarah and the Pharaoh? Did God make Sarah barren to protect her from children through this foreign leader? Another king also took Sarah as wife for a time. Both times Sarah was returned, and both times these kings enriched Abraham with additional animals to make up for their acts, once it was found that Abraha, was her husband. Though Abraham was imperfect He consistently obeyed God. And through it all, Abraham had only one wife, first Sarah, then Keturah. When he put away Hagar, Sarah then became pregnant with Isaac.

Some suggest there may have been another concubine besides Hagar. In Genesis 25:6 we read that the sons of Abram’s concubines (plural) were also sent away. The Bible only tells us of Ishmael, however. An ancient book known as “the Austrian Chronicle” reveals that one additional concubine may have been named Susanna. Was this an inserted book to justify polygamy? In this book, Hagar and the sons of both concubines were sent away. Again in this book, the damage had been done. Hagar and her posterity never forgot. Ever since then, the whole world has been affected by the jealousy, hatred, and war between the posterity of Hagar and Sarah.

Why did God not condemn Abraham in Jacob 2? **Abraham did not initiate the practice**, though he did submit to his wife in it. Abraham did not desire more wives as did David and Solomon. He had one love, Sarah. It was Sarah’s idea to have surrogate children through Hagar. Though they may have lacked faith or been impatient, their desires were essentially good. As both Abraham hearkened to his wife in this thing, as did Adam in the Garden of Eden, both men had to live with the consequences of hearkening to their wives rather than to God. Neither seem to have consulted God. It was the woman who initiated this relationship, because she was barren. The desires of the heart of both were basically good. She then brought her concubine to her husband, a cultural tradition (not a law or command of God). Eve partook of the fruit as part of her temptation and choice, and brought this fruit to her husband. He partook, hearkening to Eve, and thus both paid a price. God did not condemn them, but they did suffer as a result of their choice. One of the curses was being cut off from God’s presence.

**Isaac & Rebekah**

Isaac is an important type for Christ. His father Abraham was tested to see if he would offer his precious son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. It was a supreme test, as Abraham saw the sacrifices of his father in connection with idolatry, and he was nearly offered up to false gods because of it. Fortunately Abraham passed this test. Isaac was also a righteous man. He was not a polygamist, nor does he appear to have had one or more concubines. Isaac had one love and one wife - Rebekah. Isaac also lived in one land, and had only one name, given him of God before he was born. An angel gave this name to his parents. Speaking to Abraham, the angel said, “your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, whom you shall call Isaac” (Gen. 17:19). This name means, “he shall laugh.” It reflects Abraham and Sarah’s reaction to the angel’s announcement that they would have a child in their advanced age (Gen. 17:17). Isaac observed the trouble that his parents endured because of the strife between Sarah and Hagar. And though Rebekah was barren for a time (like Isaac’s mother), Isaac trusted God to intervene. He did not take things into his own hands with Rebekah and her handmaid to have children (as did Sarah and Abraham). Instead, Isaac “pleaded with the Eternal on behalf of his wife” for a child (Gen. 25:21). God listened to Isaac and he and Rebekah soon become parents of the twins Esau and Jacob. The birthright blessing Isaac obtained was eventually passed on to Jacob and then to Joseph, one of his twelve sons. Note that in each case the birthright blessing was not given to the firstborn son (Ishmael, Esau, or Reuben respectively), but to a later, younger son.

Isaac’s loyalty and commitment to Rebekah were admirable, especially within a culture that encouraged men to take multiple wives or concubines to increase family size, and at nearly any cost. His character also remained consistent throughout his life. This may be one important reason why he served as a type for Christ, the one perfect man that was sacrificed that we all might live. In Abraham’s near sacrifice of Isaac, both men demonstrated their full submission to God (Gen. 22:7-8). Many believe Isaac demonstrated a willingness to be such a sacrifice too, a symbol of the future Lamb of God, who descended to this earth for the same purpose. Isaac’s wife Rebekah serves as a type for the church, the bride of Christ. Scripture tells us that she loved Isaac before she ever saw him, while far away in another land (Gen. 24).

**Jacob & Rachel**

Jacob’s name means “Supplanter.” Though it was God’s will that Jacob receive the birthright blessing instead of his older brother Esau, there was some deception involving both Isaac and his mother to see that it occurred. This deception was then returned to Jacob, as Leah was forced upon him by the deception of Laban his father in law. He supplanted Jacob's promised, beloved wife, Rachel, with his elder daughter Leah. According to God's marriage laws, Jacob could have rejected Leah and put her away as soon he discovered the deception, but he didn’t do so. He was merciful. God was also merciful. He did not condemn Jacob for this, and thus he is not mentioned in Jacob 2.

Jacob did not send away Leah, nor the children from her or the handmaids of Leah and Rachel. Though the Bible record is limited, we do know that Jacob lived with both wives, and had children by their handmaids, that then became concubines to him. This occurred because the wives had infertility issues, and like Abraham and Sarah, the cultural tradition was that because of the woman’s desire for children, she could have surrogate children through the concubine. David and Solomon abused this tradition, making it about their desires, not the desires of barren women to have children. At the start, there was competition between the women to provide children for Jacob. The concubines became part of this. Later there may have been a peaceful covenant relationship maintained between the sisters and the concubines. Anciently, this covenant required the surrogate mother (the concubine) to give her child to the wife because of her barrenness. Once again we read of no punishment by God upon Jacob and his wives and concubines, as he was deceived by Laban. **He did not initiate the relationship**. Note also, that there was no command from God to become part of it either. The deception of his father in-law and Jacob’s long years of service, were apparently punishment enough.

Like his grandfather Abraham, Jacob eventually turned his heart fully to God. His conversion occurred at Peniel in Genesis 32:24-30. There we read of the vision of Jacob’s ladder. It was at this time that Jacob put idolatry out of his house, fully submitting to the LORD (Gen. 35:2-4). We know God appeared to him there and changed his name to Israel. It reflects two things; (1) Jacob’s new, “mighty change of heart,” and (2) a new covenant relationship with God. The name “Israel” means “one who overcomes” or “prevails with God.” Because of his great faith, Jacob had parted the veil separating him from God. He prevailed in his “wrestle” with God. His later birthright son Joseph also “prevailed” with God (see JST Gen. 48:10). Following his “renewal,” God may have assisted Israel in living His higher law by taking his second wife Rachel home (Gen. 35:19). This left Jacob with Leah, his first wife. Though there was no command from God in taking the wives and concubines, once Jacob was fully converted to Him, he did not cast away those whom he cared for, nor the children of the wives and concubines he had grown to love. It appears that when Jacob went to Egypt, his wives and concubines were not with him. They may have died. Only Jacob’s descendants went with him.

**Joseph and Asenath**

In the Prophet Joseph Smith’s patriarchal blessing, he is told that he is a literal descendant of four covenant “fathers”; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (of Egypt). Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, was a valiant, visionary son (second youngest), and the birthright son of Jacob. He was given a coat or robe of many marks (symbols) to signify this birthright. His brothers were jealous of his gifts and his father’s love for him and sold him into Egyptian slavery. In Genesis we learn that while working as a slave in Potiphar’s house, He resisted the sexual advances of Potiphar’s wife and was thrown into prison because of her false accusation of him. Later after rising to second in command under Pharaoh, he met the adopted daughter of an Egyptian priest at Heliopolis, also called Potiphar. She was not an Egyptian, but of the blood of Israel (or Jacob) too, through his only daughter Dinah (her mother was Leah).

Dinah became involved with Shechem, a non-Israelite prince and had a child through this union named Asenath. Because the child was illegitimate, she was sold into Egypt, ending up in the home of the Egyptian priest at Heliopolis. He and his wife were apparently childless. Note that both Asenath and Joseph were sold and taken to Egypt. This this is how the LORD preserved the bloodline - He brought Asenath to Joseph. She was a unique beauty in all of Egypt, called “the Jewel of the Nile.” After meeting and falling in love with Joseph, she gladly accepted his God, the God of her ancestry and was greatly blessed. Before her wedding to Joseph, she was covered with bees and then honey. According to one author, “the bees were a symbol of His anointing her as the mother of many nations and an elect woman of God. She was in the image of Sarah, the wife of Abraham. When Asenath gave birth to the twins, Ephraim and Manasseh, Ephraim had red-brown hair, and Manasseh, dark black-brown hair. By her loins would the earth be blessed in spreading the Gospel like the bees spread out to gather pollen and bring it back to the hive” (see Anonymous, <https://purerevelations.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/temporal-dispensations-051017-1.pdf> - pps. 99-108; http://www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/lds/meridian/2000/puzzle\_ans.html and Hugh Nibley, Abraham in Egypt, Deseret Book, pps. 625-38).

Many of the Saints are descendants of Joseph of Egypt and his only wife Asenath through their twins Manasseh and Ephraim. Lehi and his posterity on this land are thought to descend through the lineage of Manasseh, the older firstborn son. Lehi pronounced the blessings of Joseph of Egypt on his youngest, sixth son, also named Joseph in 2 Nephi chapter 3. These promises will soon be fulfilled with another Joseph, soon to rise up (see The Remnant Awakens). These promises are tied to our day and us (see Gen. 37; JST Gen. 48-50; Deut. 33, and 2 Ne. 3).

**David & Bathsheba**

Early on, the popular warrior-king David had several wives, like King Saul before him. There is no record of fertility issues with the first wives. It was a cultural tradition for a powerful, prideful king to satisfy his desires, as this is what kings in the surrounding, idolatrous cultures did. David followed this pattern and paid a price for it. After his great sin in taking Bathsheba, and having her husband killed by putting him on the frontlines of battle, David repented. He too turned his heart fully to God. He then put away his multiple wives. Nevertheless, the consequences of his actions remained. Unlike Abraham and Jacob, there was condemnation and punishment from God for David’s actions (adultery and murder), in addition to natural consequences resulting from them. We read in 2 Samuel 12:9-12:

 “Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken

 the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.”

David also went against God’s law relative to Israel’s leaders in Deuteronomy 17:17, “Neither shall he multiply wives to himself!” There was a heavy price to pay for what David did in both of these instances, and a legacy left. According to Emma Smith, her husband Joseph stated:

 “David was not raised from the dead when the righteous came forth at the time of Christ’s resurrection, because

 he put Uriah to death, and the crimes of polygamy and murder always go together” (Saints Herald, 48:184).

Joseph Smith’s statement may have also been a prophecy of how he [Joseph Smith] would die – from murder, along with his brothers Hyrum and Samuel, all because of “spiritual wifery” at Nauvoo. The same pattern of sexual sin followed by murder is first presented to us in the fifth chapter of Moses, where murder is employed to “get gain” (see Moses 5:31). The “gain” in this chapter begins with Cain’s desire for Abel’s flocks. Later we see that the “things of the world, including polygamy, became additional reasons for murder.

King David “despised” God by taking Bathsheba (already married) as an additional wife, and by having her innocent husband killed in battle. Therefore the sword was never to depart from his house or family thereafter. It was a curse. At that time David’s house consisted of additional wives and the children from them. In the next verse we read, “Thus saith the Eternal, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house.” God added, “and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun [openly].” David’s own son Absalom actually did this, lying with his father’s former wives (2 Samuel 16:21-22). It was a great sin, a whoredom for both men.

Later David repented. “And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Eternal” (I Samuel 12:13). We read his private prayer of repentance to God in Psalm 51, the prayer of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. David then turned from both polygamy and from his concubines! We read in 2 Samuel 12:9-12, “And Nathan said unto David, The Eternal also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.” Sadly, there was a three-fold price to pay for David’s sin. It included; (1) Continual war (or the sword) in David’s house; (2) The taking of the son born of his adultery (2 Sam. 12:13); Joseph Smith informs us of the third curse; (3) “Although David was a King he never did obtain the spirit & power of Elijah & the Fullness of the Priesthood, & the priesthood that he received & the throne & kingdom of David is to be taken from him & given to another by the name of David in the last days, raised up out of his lineage” (Joseph Smith, TPJS, p. 339). The scriptural record is clear. In the end, David put away his ten concubines.

 “And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left

 to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the

 day of their death, living in widowhood” (2 Sam. 20:3).

David then went “fully after the Eternal” (1 Kings 11:6). He became “a man after God’s own heart.” David was left with Bathsheba as his only legitimate wife. Many scholars believe Michal (an earlier wife who didn’t like “his dancing before the LORD”) may have died by this time (2 Sam. 6:23). Like Jacob, God had cleared the way for Bathsheba to become David’s single, legal wife. In these things we see that God was merciful and just. He also had laws and commandments that were to be kept. Thus, God is both merciful and just.

David’s son, Solomon did the opposite of his father. He started out righteously, relying on God and His will. Then, “when Solomon was old,” he acquired a record number of women in his harem (multiplying wives unto himself). Solomon’s many wives and concubines turned away his heart from God, and sadly, to their idols. “Solomon did evil in the sight of the Eternal” (1 Kings 11:6). There was polygamy and concubines in the leadership of ancient Israel once again. The resulting idolatry was especially offensive to God. It led to the nation of Israel being broken up, divided, and scattered. Idolatry, polygamy, and murder in Latter-day Saint history at Nauvoo led to a scattering of the Saints too, and in at least seven directions.

**God’s Definition of Marriage in Scripture**

Unlike the Book of Mormon, the D&C, and Joseph’s re-translation of Genesis, the Old Testament can be a little ‘gray’ in regard to polygamy. Though God may not have punished Abram, Jacob, and David early on for their additional wives or concubines in the Old Testament, there are no sanctioning statements from Him for it there either. The limited statements condemning it, suggests that it may have been tolerated there in rare cases, or that scripture was changed. We do know that David, Solomon, and other kings in Israel were not to multiply wives unto themselves, and yet they did (see Deut. 17:14, 17). God condemns their actions very clearly in the Book of Mormon, a book that has had much less editing (see Jacob 2 and 3). Equally clear is God’s definition of Marriage in all of scripture. It features one wife (see Gen. 2:24; Ex. 20:17; Moses 3:24; Mat. 19:5; Eph. 5:31; D&C 42:22-23, 49:15-17). Negative examples of multiple wives or concubines have an asterisk\* hereafter, whereas examples of divorce feature two asterisks.\*\*

*Genesis 2:24* “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” See also Moses 3:24.

*[Exodus 20:17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Exodus%2020.17%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)* The 10th Commandmentstates, “You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife [singular].

*[Deuteronomy 17:17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deuteronomy%2017.17%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)* God forbade the leaders of Israel to have many wives. He said, “When thou art come unto the land which the Eternal thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me. . . . Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away” (Deut. 17:14, 17). It is spoken of as “this law” in verses 18 and 19.

*2 Samuel 13* Sibling rivalries resulted from the sons of David’s different wives (see also 1 Kings 2).

*Malachi 2:14* “… the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously; yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant” (see discussion on Tithing, chap. 6 in connection with the priests of Israel being unfaithful to God and their wives in polygamy).

*[1 Kings 11:1–3](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Kings%2011.1%E2%80%933%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)* Solomon’s excessive number of wives led him into idolatry.

*Matthew 19:5* “For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.”

*Mark 10:7* “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife.”

*Ephesians 5:31* “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

*[1 Timothy 3:2](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Timothy%203.2%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)* In this verses, polygamy is forbidden among church elders (leaders). Paul wrote: “each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband” ([1 Cor. 7:2](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Corinthians%207.2%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)). “A bishop [elder, overseer, preacher, minister] must be blameless, the husband of one wife” (I Tim. 3:2)…Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife…” (v. 12).

*\*Jacob 2:22-35* These verses use strong language to condemn polygamy. The Nephites had (1) “pride” (Jacob 2:20, 22), were committing (2) a “grosser crime” (than that of the Lamanites, v. 22), were (3) becoming “wicked” (v. 1:15) in (4) their practice of “whoredoms” (v. 2:23). It was (5) a great “abomination” before the LORD (v. 2:24). Verses 25 and 30 provide the reason for Lehi and family to depart Jerusalem, that a “righteous branch” of the house of Israel (through Joseph) might be established on this land. It was accomplished via their physical separation from the evil there. God’s command in Jacob chapters 2:21, 27, 29 and 34, and 3:5-6 is:

 “…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.”

*\*Jacob 3:5-6* The LORD through Jacob stated that the Lamanites were more righteous than the Nephites for they, “have not forgotten the commandment of the LORD, which was given unto our father [Lehi] – that they should have save it were one wife, and concubines they should have not, and there should not be whoredoms committed among them. And now this commandment they observe to keep; wherefore, because of this observance, in keeping this commandment, the LORD God will not destroy them; and one day they shall become a blessed people.

D&C 42:22-24  “Thou shalt [love](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/42?lang=eng) thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt [cleave](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/42?lang=eng) unto her and none else. And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out. Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out” (1831). Significantly, Section 42 is called “**the law**” in this and other sections of the D&C. Section 42 is where we find the higher law of real **love**, as in both “the law of consecration” and the law of “monogamy.”

*D&C 49:15-17* “And again, verily I say unto you, that whoso [forbiddeth](http://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/49.15?lang=eng) to marry is not ordained of God, for [marriage](http://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/49.15?lang=eng) is ordained of God unto man. Wherefore, it is lawful that he should have one [wife](http://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/49.15?lang=eng), and they twain shall be [one](http://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/49.15?lang=eng) flesh, and all this that the [earth](http://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/49.15?lang=eng) might answer the end of its creation” (1831). Creation is not possible in homosexual relationships.

*D&C 63:12–16* “I, the Lord, am not pleased ... I gave commandments and many have turned away from my commandments and have not kept them. There were among you adulterers and adulteresses; some of whom have turned away from you, and others remain with you.... And verily I say unto you, as I have said before, He that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith” (1831).

*D&C 101* (1935 canonized edition, removed by Brigham Young in 1876) “…as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: we declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again” (1833).

***\*Kingly Corruption***

Though there were good kings in the Book of Mormon, including King Benjamin, Mosiah, and Lamoni, the Bible features many kings who oppressed the people they were to serve. In addition to heavy taxes, their sins and iniquities were often passed down to the people. King David and Solomon of the Bible and King Noah and Riplakish of the Book of Mormon reveal how kings influenced their people negatively. Murder was sometimes used to protect what they valued, including their multiple wives. The kings and their wives were supported by high taxes upon the people.

*King David*

\*Jacob 1:15  “…the people of Nephi…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, see also Deut. 17:14, 17).

*\*Jacob 2:23-24* “…they [the Nephites, those later at Nauvoo, and some today] understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.”

Emma Smith stated, “Joseph said David was not raised from the dead when the righteous came forth at the time of Christ’s resurrection, because he put Uriah to death, and the crimes of polygamy and murder always go together” (Saints Herald, 48: 184). Joseph’s statement has proven to be prophetic of why he, Hyrum, and Samuel were murdered. Three examples tying polygamy to murder include; (1) King David and Uriah, (2) King Noah and Abinadi; And (3) Nauvoo polygamy and the three Smith brothers.

\**Mosiah 11:2* In the book of Mosiah, Abinadi addressed the wickedness of king Noah and how it was affecting his people. He stated, “ For behold, he [king Noah] did not keep the commandments of God, but he did walk after the desires of his own **heart**. And he had many wives and concubines. And he did cause his people to commit sin, and do that which was abominable in the sight of the LORD. Yea, and they did commit whoredoms and all manner of wickedness.”

 Wicked kings cause their people to sin (Mos. 29:17) and they are very difficult to dethrone (Mos. 29:21). We must not look to men, kings and other leaders for truth, but only God (see 2 Ne. 4:34; Psalm 118:8; Jer. 2:13), otherwise we practice idolatry, which then often leads to sexual perversion. Such was the plight of ancient Israel repeatedly. Baal worship is a good example (endnote 2). The Prophet Abinadi was murdered (burned alive at the stake) for preaching against the sins (including sexual sins) of King Noah and his priests.

*\*Mosiah 13:11* Speaking to Noah and his wicked priests, Abinadi said, “And now I read unto you the remainder of the commandments of God, for I perceive that they are not written in your **hearts**; I perceive that ye have studied and taught iniquity the most part of your lives.” The word iniquity in scripture is very often tied to moral or sexual sins, those that are premediated and worthy of punishment.

\**Ether 10:5, 7 & 11* Like the kings of Israel and surrounding cultures, the kings in the book of Ether committed sin via many “wives and concubines” (v. 5), and “he [Riplakish] did afflict the people with his whoredoms and abominations” along with heavy taxes. So also the king Morianton. He “did do justice unto the people, but not unto himself because of his many whoredoms; wherefore he was cut off from the presence of the LORD.” Some believe King Riplakish, Morianton, and Noah are types for Brigham Young in early Church history. Mosiah 11 serves as a very good point of comparison between King Noah and Pres. Young, especially the first 8 verses.

*D&C 1:3* “And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops and their secret acts shall be revealed” (D&C 1:3). Those in a “carnal state…are in the bonds of iniquity” (Alma 41:11). This prophecy is being fulfilled in our day, as the sexual sins of those in government, in Hollywood, and in churches are being revealed via satellite technology to viewers throughout the world.

\*\**Matthew 19:3* “Divorcing” and “putting her away” are often confused in the Bible. The lone reason for a lawful divorce is adultery. Some are simply put away or separated. We read in Matthew, **“The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away** [the Greek word apoluo is used here, meaning G630 - divorce]**his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”**

The Israelites in the city Jerusalem practiced what God had forbidden: unlawful polygamy, divorce, and remarriage. On this, Jesus said, “Moses [not God] because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away [divorce] his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery” (Mat. 19:8-9). There are many clarifying examples of lawful separation versus divorce in scripture. See <http://www.christianpoly.org/divorce.php> On this useful webpage we read, “Divorce” and “Put or send away” are not the same thing. A man who wanted to divorce his wife had to do two things. He had to write her a bill of divorcement and then send her away or put her away (Deut. 24:1-4, Mark 10:4). A man who found that his wife had been unfaithful to him did not write her a bill of divorcement as she and the other man were stoned. Malachi and Matthew chapter five were all about men who were putting or sending away their wives without just cause. Men were sending away their wives without writing a bill of divorcement even though their wives were not guilty of adultery. God hates the putting away (without divorce) because it always involves sin. In one case the sin of the wife for being unfaithful and in the other the sin of the husband for putting his wife away without just cause or a bill of divorcement. The act of putting away a wife without a bill of divorcement is equivalent to separation only. The man and woman are still married if she was not guilty of adultery.”

**Mixing Religion with Sexual Sin**

God said that we would deny Him (2 Ne. 28:32), reject Him (2 Ne. 1:10), and forsake Him (Jer. 2:13), along with the power of the Holy Ghost (2 Ne. 28:26, 31). Twisting His words in scripture is another way of rejecting Him. One of the most common ways we diminish Him is idolatry. In the Old Testament we see the frequent worship of Baal among the Israelites (endnote 2). It is a good example of the relationship of five things, one following after another; (1) pride, (2) idolatry, (3) sexual sin, (4) a secret combination rising up to protect it, and then (5) murder. This five-fold path of darkness has occurred repeatedly throughout history. Not only did it include worshipping a false god or lord of this world, but it also involved sexual perversion, complete with child sacrifice (the innocent blood of a firstborn child was offered up to Baal).[[2]](#endnote-2) It remains a huge evil infesting our world today too. The great Prophet Elijah stood alone as the LORD’s servant in putting this great sin away in ancient Israel, destroying Baal worship and the 450 priests who kept it in place (1 Kings 16-19). Like Brigham Young, it came among the people because of its leaders (King Ahab and Queen Jezebel). This couple replaced the living God with a false one - Baal. The people followed the King, who was heavily influenced by his wicked wife.

In America today, nearly 60 million abortions have been performed “legally” since the Supreme Court passed Roe versus Wade in 1973. It is a form of child sacrifice, strengthening dark forces in our day via the innocent blood of children, and often in connection with sexual sin. In Utah, there is an average of 3,200 abortions a year, a number that is growing. Note the following two scriptures, one ancient, one modern. Both address idolatry and the use of religion – and God’s name - to justify sexual sin. Polygamy under Brigham Young did the same thing. He later made polygamy a requirement for exaltation. The phrase “spiritual wifery” – used by the Chochranites of Saco Maine, describe this abominable mix of religion with sexual sin, an iniquity passed down to us from our fathers, priests, and kings. Note the following verses written to the Saints at Ephesus, a city known for its idolatry. Some of the believers there were following a man name Nicolas into idolatry and into his sexual sin. God said to these early Christians:

 “I know thy works…how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are

 apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars…Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast

 left thy first love [love of God]. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first

 works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate…But I have a few things

 against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam [Baal worship], who taught Balac to

 cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate” (Rev. 2:4-6, 14-15).

The Nicolaitans were early Christians who claimed that Nicolas had received a revelation from God to participate in unlawful sexual practices (see Irenaeus, Epiphanius, Hippolytus). He was one of the first seven deacons of the early New Testament Christian Church (Acts 6:5). The Nicolaitans followed Nicolas into “unrestrained indulgences” or “love feasts” in two cities known for their idolatry, Ephesus and Pergamom. These religious rites involving sex, were also called “Balaam’s error” (see Jude 4-16; 2 Peter 2:2-21). Jude addressed the 200 fallen angels, whose sins with mortal women resulted in a race of giants that the great flood was meant to remove. The “Nicolaitan rites” involved feasting on unclean things sacrificed to idols, followed by committing fornication as part of a religious rite. The later Cochranites of Saco Maine utilized a similar mix of religion (with foot washing) followed by sexual sin. Early converts among the Cochranites were brought back to Kirtland Ohio as early as 1832.

This New Testament Christian perversion or “reproach” upon the Church was a relative of Greek and Roman temple cults, those involving temple prostitutes. They are related to the Dionysian mysteries. The Nicolaitans brought great reproach to the title “Christian” after the death of Christ, so too the Brighamite practice of polygamy upon the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In Acts 27:22 we read, “For as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against.” The Apostle Paul spoke of the reproach of Christ Himself in Hebrews 11:26 and 13:13. The LORD addressed the reproach and persecution that His disciples would have to bear for His name partly because of this idolatrous sect. In 2 Peter 2:1-2, Peter prophesied that damnable heresies would be brought into the Christian church (including the Saints); “and many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” Mormons today suffer persecution, mainly because of a similar reproach.

The word “reproach” is also found in the original D&C Section 101 (now removed), in connection with the words “adultery” and “fornication,” which had begun to enter into the Church in 1832. The stain of polygamy brought reproach upon the early Latter-day Saints because of the same mix of religion with sexual sin! Joseph Smith’s name was then used falsely by many to justify this practice, adding credibility to the deviant behavior of men like Dr. John Bennett in Nauvoo. He was a physician, former Mayor, and assistant to Joseph Smith in the Presidency. Bennett tried to seduce a number of women, offering them abortions if needed (a modern tie to ancient child sacrifice). Bennett falsely claimed that Joseph Smith taught spiritual wifery, that he [Bennett] might justify his seductions. Confronted later in public by Joseph about this, Bennett then denied that Joseph taught such things and sought his forgiveness. Note the LORD’s warnings and call to repentance to future Bishop Newel K. Whitney in D&C 117, below. Whitney is chastised for his connection to the secret abominations of the Nicolaitane band in 1838.

 “Let my servant Newel K. Whitney be ashamed of the Nicolaitane band and of all their **secret abominations**,

 and of all his littleness of soul before me, saith the Lord, and come up to the land of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and be a

 bishop unto my people, saith the Lord, not in name but in deed, saith the Lord” (D&C 117:11).

This revelation was given to Joseph Smith at Far West on July 8 of 1838, the year that the secret enforcers known as “the Danites” were put together within the Church. Their coercion methods would stir up a lot of trouble for the Saints too, and then be used at Nauvoo to keep spiritual wifery secret and in place. It is believed that Whitney later become part of this secret combination in Nauvoo. It was called “the secret chamber” by some in it (D&C 38:11, 28, see endnote 1). Whitney was a Freemason before joining the church, along with Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and others. He was part of the Meridian Orb Lodge #10 in Plainesville, Lake County, Ohio. A total of 1,492 men would join this all male brotherhood in five Masonic lodges in the Nauvoo area. They made blood-oaths to one another to protect their secret rites and other acts (in the Danite band, in Freemasonry, and in the new temple endowment). The Prophet Joseph Smith made only one statement about Masonry, saying, “The secret of Masonry is to keep a secret” (Joseph Smith Journal, Sunday Oct. 15, 1843). Could there be any more offensive thing to God than to combine religious worship with fornication and other secret things, and even worse, the sacrifice of innocent children to false gods in connection with it? Note the ancient to modern timeline below, bringing “reproach” to the Saints. The combined pride, idolatry, sexual sin (whoredoms), secret combinations, and murder (child sacrifice) were an abomination that cut the people off from God (for at least 3 - 4 generations). Scripture says promised covenant lands (east and west) are swept clean of such things.

1. Lamech loved Satan more than God multiple wives, every man knew his brother, murder, cut off

2. Baal worship (false “Lord”) with Asherah cult of fertility - ritual sex, firstborn child sacrificed to Baal, cut off

3. Temple Prostitutes (Venus, Aphrodite) sexual sin in connection with religious worship, cut off

4. The Nicolaitans feast of unclean food with ritual sex thereafter, cut off

5. Muslim tradition supposed devotion to God in connection with multiple wives, cut off

6. Early Mormon tradition supposed devotion to God, multiple wives (req. for exaltation), cut off

7. Satanic Ritual Abuse /Abortion worship of a false Lord (not *The* LORD), the god of this world, cut off

**Six Scriptures Used to Support Polygamy**

Many scriptures speak plainly against polygamy and other sexual sin. Some among us claim the following sixsets of scripture make allowance for it; (1) 1 Kings 15:5, (2) 4th Nephi 1:11, (3) Isaiah 4:1, (4) Jacob 2:30, (5) Genesis 38, and (6) D&C 132. Only one of them features taking a single second wife *lawfully* (#5, but not *many* wives). It is called the Levirate Law, part of “the lesser law” of Moses (D&C 42 features “the higher law” of consecration and monogamy). Too many men in the Church today want to practice Brigham Young’s version of spiritual wifery, that they too might have many wives in the future – like David or Solomon. Scripture has no justification anywhere for polygamy with multiples wives! It was and is an abomination (see Jacob 2 & 3). Abraham hearkened to his wife as did Adam. Both men had to live with the consequences. Abraham’s wife was barren and brought her concubine to her husband. Abram consented. Eve partook of the fruit as part of temptation and choice. She brought this fruit to her husband. Like Nicholas, Brigham Young said he received a “revelation” supporting the practice of polygamy in 1874 (30 years after Joseph’s death). He said he received it on his mission in England (1839-40, addressed hereafter).

**1. 1 Kings 15:5** *– One Major Sin?*This verse states, “Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.” A number of other scriptures counteract this statement. David was a mortal, imperfect man. He sinned with his many wives and concubines, according to Deuteronomy 17:14, 17, and especially Jacob 2:23-24. We know that David later repented, putting away his ten concubines once he turned his heart fully to God (see 2 Sam. 20:3). Because we do not have a record of David receiving a command of the LORD to take extra wives, we must rely on Jacob 2 and 3 for greatest understanding of his story.

**2. Isaiah 4:1** - *Removing Spiritual Reproach* This scripture states, “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.” For many people, Isaiah 4:1 has a lower, first level of meaning that addresses the needs of women and children after war has depleted the male population (addressed below). The extreme, extenuating circumstances appear to have caused the women there to request or accept polygamy as a necessary alternative, if they were to have children, overcoming the reproach of being childless, and have male companionship (though perhaps severely limited). Note, however, that there is no evidence that God approves it, nor does He condemn it. We only read that it occurred in this verse, that the seven women “take hold of one man.” We also do not read of the righteousness or wickedness of the people involved.

There is another higher (spiritual) meaning for Isaiah 4:1, based on marriage symbolism throughout the Bible. The ultimate reproach for women (the bride – symbolic of the Christian church, women and men) to be taken away, is not infertility, but the reproach of sin. Christ, the Bridegroom - the one man in Isaiah 4:1 - can do that for each of us if we come to Him in love, and with broken heart and contrite spirit. The seven women of Isaiah 4:1 are thought to represent seven churches addressed in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Each of them wanted to be called by the name of Christ, to be His bride, and could do so if their shame or “reproach” (because of sin) was removed. Like all the prideful (the first negative quality mentioned in Jacob’s denouncement of polygamy in the Book of Mormon), they arrogantly wanted to do things their own way, keeping some sin, because of the idols they maintained in their hearts. They wanted to feed themselves their own bread, instead of being fed on the bread of Christ. They want to clothe themselves in their own apparel, instead of being clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Isaiah 4:1 is thus tied to seven arrogant or prideful churches (the number 7 being a “fullness” or being “complete”) in the last-days that all wish to be the bride of Christ. They want to practice their own religion for selfish motives, but want to have the LORD’s salvation too. They want to be called “Christian” or be called by His Name, yet they want to do things their own way, to stay in the sins they enjoy, but be saved too. Such want to have it both ways. Those who will be the Bride of Christ cannot be lukewarm, nor cold. They must be on fire for him and His will and ways (see Rev. 3:15-17), as exemplified by the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. It occurs as we turn our hearts wholly to God, in complete submission. Once again, polygamy – as an idol in the heart, influences many to believe that this scripture is about future polygamy among the Saints because of depopulation of men following war. It is self-centered.

In Mosiah 21:17 we read about “a great number of women, more than there was of men; therefore King Limhi commanded that every man should impart to the support of the widows and their children, that they might not perish with hunger; and this they did because of the greatness of their number that had been slain.” King Limhi did not command the men to take the women as additional wives, but only to impart to them in charity.

**3.Jacob 2:30***– Separation from Babylon*  The Prophet Joseph said, “I told the brethren that the [Book of Mormon](http://www.mormon.org/beliefs/book-of-mormon) was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book” (History of the Church, 4:461). Why then do we ignore it and the covenant it represents? Such rebellion lead to our condemnation in D&C 84:57. A careful review of word usage in Jacob chapters 2 and 3 is revealing. Jacob is an important prophet in the Book of Mormon. Speaking of himself and his older brother Nephi, he said that they “had many revelations, and the spirit of much prophecy; wherefore, we knew of Christ and his kingdom . . .” Both men had been to heaven, becoming sure witnesses of Jesus Christ and His reality. Both “labored diligently” thereafter among their people that they “might persuade them to come unto Christ, and partake of the goodness of God, that they might enter into his rest” (Jacob 1:6-7), which is the glory of His personal presence (D&C 84:24). This is the whole reason for the Book of Mormon, that we might partake of His redemption, His love and gifts, and come to know Him as they did.

Jacob made it clear that the Lamanites, though they were unbelievers, were preserved of God on this land, and would be until our day, for one simple reason; **they kept the commandment to have but one wife** and they loved them and their families, whereas the Nephites, supposed believers in God, had turned their hearts from God in favor of additional wives (without God’s command) and allowed secret combinations to come upon them. They were thus destroyed (see Jacob 3:4-9). Lehi and his family were brought to this land that a righteous branch of the house of Israel might be preserved here, without the stain of polygamy as practiced in Jerusalem and elsewhere (Jacob 2:24-26; 1 Ne. 7:1). Following these verses we have the most misinterpreted scripture in the Book of Mormon (v. 30). It provides justification or an “excuse” for some to take additional wives, that they might “raise up seed unto me” (along with Genesis 38:8). Interpreting verse 30 wrongly negates the rest of Jacob’s words, and most other scripture, in those who “seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms” (verses 23-24)!

 “For if I will, saith the LORD of Hosts raise up seed unto me [a righteous people] I will command my people

 [God is our King and Law Giver and He commands that we have one wife only, 2:27, 3:5-6]; otherwise they [the

 people] shall hearken unto these **things** [the many wives abomination, like David and Solomon]” (Jacob 2:30).

If we love the LORD, we will honor His command and will in all things. Again, the primary problem is often idolatry. We have idols in our hearts and we trust in ourselves and other men more than God. Truth only comes in seeking God and His will! Many polygamists justify their practices, saying God commanded them to take more wives. Nicholas of the Nicolaitans and Brigham Young both claimed they had a revelation encouraging them to begin new, alternative sexual practices that were mixed with religion (Lorenzo Snow [as an Apostle] and John Taylor [as President] also claimed to have had revelations supporting polygamy, both are addressed hereafter). The secret chambers of our hearts are where our idols are held. They manifest into actions. False revelations can originate with this idolatry (see Jer. 23:16; Ezek. 13:2 & Lam. 2:14). To receive pure revelation from God, there must be real humility and complete submission to God. Without a sincere desire to seek His superior wisdom and will, and be obedient to it, we can go off in many directions. Our faith, trust, and love is to be placed in God, not centered upon our own will or that of leaders that lift themselves up as our light). The following important “idols of the heart” scriptures provide many insights; Proverbs 23:7, Isaiah 66:2-4, Ezekiel 14:1-11, 2 Thessalonians. 2:10-12, James 4:3, Jacob 4:14, Alma 29:4, and Mormon 9:28.

Joseph received a revelation from God explaining how he could also receive false revelation - from deceiving spirits or his own mind. God said to Him, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer; “Some revelations are of God: some revelations are of men: and some revelations are of the devil.” According to Whitmer, “When a man enquires of the Lord concerning a matter, if he is deceived by his own carnal desires, and is in error, he will receive an answer according to his erring heart, but it will not be a revelation from the Lord” (quote of Joseph Smith in, David Whitmer, An Address to All Believers in Christ, p. 31).

We are to become the seed of the Righteous, a special name-title for Jesus Christ – the Father of our salvation (see Moses 7:45 & 47). This is the message of King Benjamin to his people in Mosiah chapters 1-5. When we are spiritually born again in Christ, we become His sons and daughters. We then take upon us His name. We are redeemed by Him as He alone performed the Atonement on our behalf. The LORD talks about us being His seed in this regard in Isaiah 53:10, Mosiah 14:10-14, and 15:10-12. In Mosiah 14:10 (Isaiah’s words in 53:10), the Prophet Abinadi stated, “When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin **he shall see his seed**.” The children of the LORD Jesus Christ are those who believe in Him and live His gospel. They are given power to become his sons and his daughters, and are thus adopted into His family through Abraham, the father of the faithful. Abinadi stated:

 “Behold I say unto you that whosoever has heard the words of the prophets, yea, all the holy prophets who have

 prophesied concerning the coming of the LORD—I say unto you, that all those who have hearkened unto their

 words, and believed that the LORD would redeem his people, and have looked forward to that day for a

 remission of their sins, I say unto you, that these are his seed, or they are the heirs of the kingdom of God. For

 these are they whose sins he has borne; these are they for whom he has died, to redeem them from their

 transgressions. And now, are they not his seed? Yea, and are not the prophets, every one that has opened his

 mouth to prophesy, that has not fallen into transgression, I mean all the holy prophets ever since the world

 began? I say unto you that they are his seed. And these are they who have published peace, who have brought

 good tidings of good, who have published salvation; and said unto Zion: The God reigneth!” (Mos. 15:10-14).

Overall, the context of Jacob 2:30 is not about having many children via polygamy, but about Lehi and His family separating themselves from the sins of Babylon (like polygamy), that they might become a righteous branch of the house of Israel on this special Promised Land. They, like all of us are to be born again in Christ Jesus, becoming **His seed** – His sons and daughters. This scripture ignores other statements by Jacob in chapters 2 and 3, and other scriptures elsewhere. Joseph Smith spoke out against polygamy. He has no known children by polygamous wives. His lack of more children via polygamy goes against one primary justification for it, according to Young and others - “to raise up seed” or have many children in it. Young favored polygamy. He had 57 children via 16 of his 55 wives.

*Other Notable Spiritual “Seed” Scriptures*

 “In thy seed [Abraham, through Christ] shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed” (Abr. 2:11; 3 Ne. 20:25

 & 1 Ne. 15:18; 22:9; D&C 110:12

 “Thy seed also had been as the sand” (1 Ne. 20:19; Isa. 48:19).

 Like Abraham, Joseph Smith’s seed was to be a blessing to many (D&C 124:58)

 This land is consecrated to the seed of Lehi (2 Ne. 10:19)

 The remnant seed of Jacob shall be gathered in – in the last-days (3 Ne. 5:23-24)

 Those renewed in Christ become the seed of Abraham, father of the faithful (D&C 84:34)

 The children and seed of Abraham must be led out of the bondage of sin by power (D&C 103:17)

 Those who keep God’s law have a continuation of the seeds forever (D&C 132:19)

God’s love and our love of Him keeps us in “the way.” The first four of the Ten Commandments are tied to idolatry. Commandment #1 states, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Ex. 20:3-6).

We read of the promise of a curse to come upon this land, polluting it, and upon the Saints, to “the third and fourth generation” in D&C 124:46-50 (see also Jacob 3:3-4), if we did not honor God in this and other commandments. One of these “other commandments” was to complete the Nauvoo House in the timeframe God had given them. If they did not do this, the LORD said, “ye shall be rejected as a church with your dead” (D&C 124:31-32). Note Psalm 78 in this regard. It is the LORD’s desire that we might set our, “hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God” (Psalm 78:7-8).

To hearken to “the word of the LORD” or God’s command, is to receive and understand scripture and His commandments to individuals personally in pure revelation. In Jacob 2:21, 29 and 34, and 3:5-6, the Nephites sought, “to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.” God’s commandment throughout scripture is to have one wife only (see v. 27).

**4. 4th Nephi 1:10-11** – *The Levirate Law in the Book of Mormon?* Some believe verses 10 and 100 of 4th Nephi hint of plural wives in the Book of Mormon. “And now, behold, it came to pass that the people of Nephi did wax strong, and did multiply exceedingly fast, and became an exceedingly fair and delightsome people. And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the LORD had made unto them” (4 Ne. 1:10-11). Those favoring polygamy claim the phrases “given in marriage” and “multiply exceedingly fast” both point to lawful polygamy. In 4 Nephi 3 we read that the people were living the higher Law of Consecration, thus some pro-polygamists associate the higher law of love in “consecration” with what they believe is a higher law of marriage. This is false reasoning. D&C 42, called “the law” (see the Preface) featured two “higher laws,” the “law of consecration” and the “law of monogamy.” Only the Levirate Law portion of the “lesser” Mosiac Law allowed for a second wife, in a rare exception. They were not to multiply wives to themselves (Deut. 17:17).

Once again, the correct interpretation of any verse of scripture requires (1) context (surrounding scriptures), and (2) seeking and obtaining God’s will and meaning, not our own based upon idols in our heart. Ambiguity should encourage us to seek clarification from God via pure revelation. This goes for two other Book of Mormon scriptures that some force into being associated with polygamy. They are 1 Nephi 5:1 and the use of “my mother” there, in connection with 1 Nephi 18:17-18, in connection with Lehi’s two youngest sons, Jacob and Joseph. Pro-polygamists claim they were born of a different mother. They believe Nephi’s use of the word “my mother” in Nephi 5:1, and “their children” and “their mother” in verses 17 and 19 hint at plural marriage for father Lehi. Nephi’s use of the phrase “my father” in verse 17 for Lehi appears to negate this interpretation. Why would Jacob, as one of these sons, speak out against another wife for his father Lehi in Jacob 2 and 3, if he had taken Ishmael’s wife in a Levirate arrangement? She already had children, and thus there was no reason to “raise up seed” to her dead husband, as in the Levirate law of Genesis 38 (below).

**5. Genesis 38***– The* *Levirate Law* Genesis 38 gives us the Levirate law. Some suggest it is the only legal and lawful way in scripture – within God’s lesser Mosiac law – for a man to have an additional wife (one). It encouraged a widowed woman to marry the brother of her dead husband that they might raise up seed to his dead brother. It was centered on preserving the widow’s dead husband’s “**name** in Israel,” via a firstborn son given him by his brother In Deuteronomy 6:25, we read, **“**And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that **his name be not put out of Israel**.” A man could refuse to take his brother’s widow as a second wife, but he was penalized for it (see verses 7-10). Those believing this law was inspired of God suggest it wasn’t about the man, but about the woman and her desire for children, all in connection with “raising up seed” unto the one who had died. Though the Levirate Law was not the whoredom of multiple wives and concubines practiced by many kings in the ancient world, it may have been another way of justifying polygamy, an open door to it by ungodly men with poor motives. The higher law of marriage remains one man with one woman. We should pray to know if the Levirate law was of God or a part of changed scripture. The Prophet Jacob said:

 “For Behold, thus saith the Lord; This people [the Nephites] begin to wax in *iniquity*: **they understand not the**

 **scriptures**, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms concerning David and Solomon”

 (Jacob 2:23).

Because men, anciently and today “**understand not the scriptures**,” they find ways to twist them to justify their own lustful desires (D&C 10:63:64; 2 Thess. 2:7; Rev. 17:5). Jacob 2:30 is one such verse for many pro-polygamists. Some do not or will not “see” what the words say. The Levirate law may be another example. Unholy intent (idols in the heart) cover the truth like a veil, so that some believe a lie. Did marrying a dead brother’s wife and raising up children for him come from God? The term Levirate is derivative of the Latin word levir, meaning “husband's brother.” Some excuse this practice believing that it was a way to care for the widow, allowing her to have children through the dead husband’s brother. Couldn’t she find a husband on her own? Why does a dead husband need children? It should be noted women had few rights in the ancient world, and thus, without a husband, a woman’s plight as a widow was of great concern, especially if she had children to care for (see Mosiah 21:17). In verses 8 through 10 of Genesis 38, we read of Onan, one of Judah’s sons. He was to;

 “Go in unto thy brother’s wife [the brother was now dead], and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. And

 Onan knew that the seed [children] should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother’s

 wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. And the thing which he did

 displeased the LORD; wherefore he slew him also” (see v. 7).

This is one of three known scriptures where the phrase “raising up seed” is tied to having physical children, rather than becoming a spiritual son or daughter of Christ. Note also that the LORD “slew him” for doing this. This is a very harsh punishment. Additional scriptures tied to the Levirate Law are found in Deut. 21:15-17, 25:5-10; Lev. 18:17; Ruth 4:7; Mat. 22:23-30; Mark 12:19-25; And Luke 16:17. Some say Jacob 2:30 has potential Levirate connections as the Nephites were living the Mosaic Law on this land.

**Part II: Pure Revelation**

Brigham Young and the Church today claim that Section 132 of the D&C is a revelation (supporting polygamy) given to Joseph Smith on July 12 of 1843. Brigham Young and the Church first made this claim publically in 1852, eight years after Joseph’s murder. This “revelation” was published in the Deseret News in August of 1852. Later in 1874, he would change this story. Before addressing this sixth document (now part of our canon of “scripture”), we should first review God’s words relative to receiving *pure* revelation.

God said He wants us to rely on **His** **word** to keep the gates of hell from prevailing against us (see D&C 18:3-6). His word is available in writing (scripture) and in pure revelation. Because, “all have not *faith*” (the faith necessary to receive God’s revelation), many “seek…words of wisdom…out of the best books…” (D&C 88:118). Too many turn from both types of God’s “word” and instead turn to scholars or Church leaders. God’s word says that trusting in “the arm of flesh” leads to curses (see 2 Ne. 4:34 & 28:30-31). In Christ’s day they were the Rabbis. Faith and trust in God is needed to receive pure revelation from Him. The Prophet Joseph taught, “The best way to obtain truth and wisdom is not to ask it from books, but to go to God in prayer, and obtain divine teaching” (TPJS p. 191). “It is the privilege of the children of God to come to God and get revelation.” (Words of Joseph Smith, p. 13). Joseph added, “Salvation cannot come without revelation. It is in vain for anyone to minister without it” (WJS, p. 10). “If we have any claim on our Heavenly Father for anything, it is for knowledge . . . Reading the experience of others, or the revelation given to them, can never give us a comprehensive view of our condition and true relation to God . . . Could you gaze into heaven five minutes [visions], you would know more than you would by reading all that ever was written on the subject” (TPJS p. 324). In summary, God said, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask **of God**, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” Learning to receive pure revelation means having experience with false revelation too. It is part of being mortal. Joseph Smith had to learn this way, and we do too.

According to David Whitmer, He, Joseph and Oliver Cowdery were present when Joseph received a revelation from God about going to Toronto Canada to sell the copyright to the Book of Mormon. The trip was a great failure. Joseph inquired of the LORD about it. He found that the prior revelation was a false one. They had been deceived. God’s pure revelation to Joseph read, “Some revelations are of God: some revelations are of men: and some revelations are of the devil.” Whitmer added that, “When a man enquires of the Lord concerning a matter, if he is deceived by his own carnal desires, and is in error, he will receive an answer according to his erring heart, but it will not be a revelation from the Lord. This was a lesson for our benefit and we should have profited by it in future more than we did” (Joseph Smith’s words quoted by David Whitmer, An Address to All Believers in Christ, p. 30 - p. 31).

**Deception** - *because of the Desires of our Heart*

As stated above, according to Joseph’s revelation, all of us can receive revelation from one of three sources, based on the desires of our heart; (1) the Lord, (2) Satan and false spirits, or (3) our own voice or mind. All men can be deceived, especially when we ask without humility, without seeking God’s purer will for us. We must seek His will and the truth of all things, not our own desires or we can be deceived by the idols held in the deepest chambers of our heart. We read in Proverbs 23:7, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” James stated, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask *amiss*, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:3; Morm. 9:28). The phrase “lusts of the flesh” is not tied to just sexual perversion here, but our own heartfelt desires or lusts in our mortal tabernacle. Some can be good, but not necessarily in line with God’s will for us. If we want pure revelation from God, we must be willing to receive His will and fully submit to it.

Like Joseph, all of us have to learn line upon line. Whitmer added, “When a prophet, or any other man, prays to God and asks wisdom concerning a matter, his conscience will reveal an answer to him just according to the desires of his heart. If his desires are in any way carnal, he being deceived, an answer will be revealed to him accordingly*;* and he will think it is the revealed will of God.” This is the “strong delusion” addressed in seven scriptures (2 Thess. 2:10-12, Isa. 66:2-4, Ezek. 14:1-11, James 4:3, Jacob 4:14, Alma 29:4 & Morm. 9:28). He added, “It is Satan who deceives the man, but God permits it because of the wicked desires of the man, and it is right and justice in God's wisdom to permit the persistent transgressor to be led off and deceived by a delusive false doctrine*”* (see David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, <http://www.utlm.org/onlinebooks/address1.htm> (pps. 42-43).

Paul, in 2 Thess. 2:11, stated: “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” Why would God allow this? Verses 10 and 12 give the reason why; “because they received not the love ofthe truth.” ... because they “believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” – in their carnal desires. In Isaiah 66:2-4, the Lord said that the people, “have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations*,* I will also choose their delusions*.*” Note also Ezekiel 14:1-11, especially verses 3-6. There we read, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his **idols in his heart,** and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.” Finally, note Alma 29. “God…granteth unto men according to their desire, whether it be unto death or unto life; yea, I know that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable, **according to their wills**, whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction” (Alma 29:4, see also Jacob 4:14).

Let us now look at D&C 132, a supposed revelation to Joseph Smith.

**6. D&C 132** *- Modified Revelation* What we now call Section 132 appears to be a composite construction of both Brigham Young and Joseph Smith. It represents Brigham Young’s “coming out” document, produced to justify his version of spiritual wifery among the Saints in the early 1840’s in Nauvoo, one he and many in the Twelve had been practicing secretly since the early 1840’s. It was used to cement polygamy as an official Church doctrine. President Young used the word “justify” in the very first verse of D&C 132 to “excuse” polygamy at the time.

 “Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know

 and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and

 Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—“

 (D&C 132:1).

Nowhere does the LORD justify anyone in scripture practicing polygamy the way Brigham, David, or Solomon did! It is Brigham Young that is trying to justifiy his version of spiritual wifery using his own words to counteract what the LORD through the Prophet Jacob said in Jacob chapter 2, verse 23. It reads:

 “This people [the Nephites and then the early Saints] 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.”

D&C 132 is thought to be a fabrication for the following five reasons. They are addressed in greater detail hereafter.

 1. No original version of this revelation exists. The “original” is said to have been conveniently “burned.”

 2. It was never approved via a vote of priesthood quorums and the general membership of the Church (D&C 26:2),

 yet it ended up as part of our canon of “scripture” in 1876 as D&C 132. In the same year (1876), another

 canonized scripture (D&C 101) was taken out of the D&C by the act of Brigham Young alone (32 years after

 Joseph Smith’s murder).

 3. Portions of the “revelation” go against God’s word in other scripture, creating confusion. It is thus full of

 doctrinal errors. There are also no other witnesses in scripture corroborating the polygamy doctrine expressed in

 it (the Book of Mormon directly opposes it).

 4. It was not published by Joseph Smith in his lifetime, but was decades later when he could not refute it.

 5. Language research reveals that it is written in a least two voices, one of which is clearly Brigham Young. His word

 usage reveals fear, coercion, and force typical of his other writings, not the words of Joseph nor the LORD.

Twenty-four years after publishing Joseph’s supposed “revelation” in the Deseret News, Young later put it into the 1876 version of the Doctrine and Covenants, calling it Section D&C 132 (he died a year later). In this same year (1876) he then removed older Section 101 (which was anti-polygamy). Both actions were done without a vote of a single priesthood quorum or the vote of the Church. God said “all things” were to be done by common consent and by much prayer and fasting (see D&C 26:2). Brigham Young, Orson Pratt, and Joseph F. Smith all claimed that Oliver Cowdery, author of Section 101, was secretly a polygamist. Like Joseph, He could not defend himself against this false charge. Both men were dead. Section 101 was not a revelation given Oliver, but a statement he penned, approved and voted on by the whole Church; a statement to be included in our canon of scripture to fight perception that the Saints were secretly practicing polygamy (some were at the time, 1835). It was originally called the “Article on Marriage,” and was part of Joseph’s early effort to fight polygamy. Section 101 featured God’s higher law of marriage (see D&C 42:22-23). It **remains** with God’s higher “law of consecration” in Section 42 of the D&C. The Preface calls this Section – “The Law.” Both laws are about **real love**. Brigham Young saw to it that Section 101 was removed, while Section 132 was included in the D&C, both of them without any vote from priesthood holders or the general membership of the Church. When questioned about this unlawful action in The Temple Lot Case, President Wilford Woodruff, a witness for the Church there, stated, “I do not know why it was done. It was done by the authority of whoever presided over the Church, I suppose. Brigham Young was the President then.”[[3]](#endnote-3)

Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants appears to be a composite construction, given us by two men; an unpublished collection of potential “revelations” given to Joseph Smith (mostly likely at different times), mixed with Brigham Young’s additions years later, all to support polygamy. Portions of it are consistent with God’s word elsewhere (like verses 22-25), while others portions of it contradict scripture. Young’s additions are not doctrinal (addressed hereafter) and violate God’s own law of two or more witnesses for all things (2 Cor. 13:1). As presented hereafter in a scholarly language analysis of Section 132, some of its wording is a clear reflection of two different authors, including Brigham Young. His words reflect the state of his heart at that time. He wanted polygamy to be fully entrenched among the Saints. Joseph’s potential portion of this “revelation” may have originated during his re-translation of the Bible between 1830 and 1834. Hyrum Smith apparently told, “the Nauvoo City Council that the 1843 revelation pertains to ancient polygamy, not to modern times” (Quinn, Mormorn Heirarchy, p. 645). We do not know today what this reference revealed, but surely it was consistent with God’s other words, or confusion results.

Joseph knew the doctrine of the Book of Mormon did not support polygamy. Jacob 2 reveals that David and Solomon were not justified in their practice of polygamy (see Jacob 2:22-26), as Jacob’s people were “excusing themselves” because of “the things that were written.” This may be the primary reason we have these statements in the Book of Mormon – to help us discern today the truth of this practice and other things among us today. If Joseph enquired of the LORD inappropriately about polygamy (desiring it – an idol in his heart), while re-translating portions of the Old Testament dealing with the additional wives of Abraham, David, Solomon, and others, the carnal desires of his heart could have led him into receiving a false revelation (from his own mind or from Satan or false spirits). God warned Joseph about carnal idols in his heart (D&C 3:4). It could have led to a desire that a revelation be received supporting or justifying it. He would then be asking “amiss” or not according to God’s will, but his own will. We know that Joseph, Oliver, and David Whitmer all experienced receiving a false revelation together in early Church history. This important experience teaches us that all mortals, including leaders like Joseph Smith, are susceptible to deception. As addressed later in this work (regarding the angel and the sword story), discernment of truth and darkness is a key tool we must all learn to exercise. Some believe such a deception explains why Joseph’s portion of the “revelation” was never published or brought before the Church to be canonized. Others in the Brighamite camp suggest the Saints weren’t ready for this higher law.

As stated earlier, Nicholas of the early Christian Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:4-6; D&C 117:11) justified his practice of sexual sin by stating that he had received a revelation from God to support it. Later we will see that Brigham Young, Lorenzo Snow, and John Taylor (all polygamists) claimed they too received revelations supporting polygamy (see Jer. 23:16; Ezek. 13:2 & Lam. 2:14). I believe they were given by a deceiving spirit, then used to justify the mix of religion with sexual sin. This abomination may have cut them off from heaven and pure sources of truth. We are cut off from God when there is *lust* after another (D&C 42:22-23; 63:13-16), when there is desire for *power* over others (D&C 121:34-35), and they seek *money* from the people (Mosiah 18:24-26). Both the Nicolaitans and the early Mormons caused “reproach” to come upon their version of the Christian church, but at different points in time. Satan provided false revelations to corrupt the things of God in New Testament times and in early Church history. The LORD warned Joseph Smith about following “the dictates of his own will and carnal desires” in D&C 3 (1828), verses 1-9. This section references the loss of the 116 pages of the early Book of Mormon manuscript tied to Lehi. God said that Joseph, like all mortals, could fall:

 “And behold, how oft you have transgressed the commandments and the laws of God, and have gone on in the

 persuasions of men. For, behold, you should not have **feared man more than God**. Although men set at naught

 the counsels of God, and **despise his words**—Yet you should have been faithful; and he would have extended

 his arm and supported you against all the fiery darts of the adversary; and he would have been with you in every

 time of trouble. Behold, thou art Joseph, and thou wast chosen to do the work of the Lord, but because of

 transgression, if thou art not aware thou wilt fall.”

This warning does not imply that Joseph had a false revelation on polygamy, but it is a remote possibility. Following the murder of the Smith brothers, Young modified whatever was given to Joseph Smith in his early “revelation” (in the 8 years between 1844 and the time the revelation was first published in the Deseret News in 1852). Young’s vocabulary, writing style, and doctrinal focus, were all a part of his reconstructed portion of 132. This is clearly evident in the research of researcher Enid DeBarthe, addressed hereafter.

**A Fabricated Document**

Section 132 stands alone as the only LDS scripture clearly rejecting various portions of the doctrine and gospel of Christ. The following six reasons reveal the D&C 132 is a fabrication. They are addressed in detail hereafter.

 1. No Original Manuscript for D&C 132 Exists We have only a “copy” of the D&C 132 “revelation,” and it was made by an avowed polygamist, Joseph Kingsbury. Corroborating testimony for the existence of an original is supplied only by other polygamists like William Clayton and Brigham Young. Various references to the original, if there was one, imply that it was much shorter in length than D&C 132.

 2. *It Was* *Not Voted on to be Included into our Canon of Scripture* Young put Section 132 *into* our scripture in 1876 without a Church vote of priesthood quorums or Church members. In the same year he removed anti-polygamy Section 101, that was voted on by priesthood quorums and the whole Church. Leaders put Section 101 into the D&C to counteract the rise of sexual sins into the Church. It coincided with the influx of Cochranite converts to Kirtland in the early 1830’s. It and other new Sections necessitated that the “Article on Marriage” be placed in the new 1835 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants. It helped convince members and non-members that Mormons were Christian people and were not to engage in abominations like adultery and polygamy. Leaders in 1835 presented this new Section to a general assembly of the church on August 17 of that year. It was canonized as scripture and remained there for 41 years until 1876, when original Section 101 was taken out by Brigham Young. Verse 4 of it acknowledges that the church had been “reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy.” We should remember that the word “reproach” was tied to the early Christians in the New Testament church who followed Nicholas and his false revelation into sinful sexual practices. He mixed religion with sex among his followers. Section 101 was a declaration of the beliefs and doctrine held by the whole Church. It was not a revelation. It was written by Oliver Cowdery and approved in a vote by the church on August 17, 1835. Verse 4 (1835 edition) reads:

 “Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been **reproached** with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: we declare

 that we believe, that **one man should have one wife**; and one woman, but one husband, except in case of death,

 when either is at liberty to marry again.”

 According to Apostle Orson Hyde, Joseph taught, “There is a way by which all revelations purporting to be from God through any man can be tested. Brother Joseph gave us the plan. Says he, ‘When all the quorums are assembled and organized in order, let the revelation be presented to the quorums. If it pass[es] one let it go to another. And if it pass[es] that [one], to another, and so on until it has passed all the quorums. And if it pass[es] the whole without running against a snag, you may know it is of God…Brother Joseph said, ‘Let no revelation go to the people until it has been tested here’” (Times and Seasons, vol. 5, no. 17, 15 Sept. 1844, pps. 649–50). As stated earlier, Pres. Wilford Woodruff testified for the Church in The Temple Lot Case, addressing how the Church put Joseph’s supposed “revelation” into the D&C without a vote of the whole Church. In it Pres. Woodruff, stated, “I do not know why it was done. It was done by the authority of whoever presided over the Church, I suppose. Brigham Young was the President then” (see endnote 3).

 3. There Are No Corroborating Witnesses for its False Doctrine God gave us the law of witnesses to prove and support His doctrine~~,~~ that make up His gospel and church. It states that, “in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established” (2 Cor. 13:1). There are no other scriptural witnesses of Brigham Young’s celestial marriage and its multiple wives doctrine in the Bible, Book of Mormon, or other scripture. D&C 132 stands alone as the sole foundation of celestial marriage in current LDS theology. The foundational book of our faith condemns the practice of polygamy (see Jacob 2 & 3; Mos. 11:2), as does God’s higher law as given us in D&C 42:22-23 and 49:16. God’s word in scripture tells us that a house divided against itself cannot stand (Mat. 12:22-28).

 There are at least four false doctrines taught in D&C 132 in connection with, (1) the promotion of polygamy as a new doctrine, one replacing God’s law of monogamy in D&C 42:22-23; (2) Brigham’s “new and everlasting covenant of [plural] marriage” (verses 6 & 19) replaces God’s “everlasting covenant”, which is the fulness of His gospel (D&C 1:15, 22:1, 45:9, 49:9, 66:2, 76:101, 133:57). This “fullness” begins with the two baptisms and the gifting of the Holy Ghost (D&C 6:15; 33:11-15; 39:6); (3) D&C 132 promotes the new doctrine of “exaltation” in connection with polygamy. There is no second witness for this anywhere in scripture. The word “exaltation” can only be found in one other place in the D&C, for example, in connection with lifting up of Zion (see D&C 124:9), and it does not address entering the highest level of the celestial kingdom. Brigham Young made polygamy essential for his version of exaltation.

 Sealing Power D&C 132 claims that only one man on earth at the time has the sealing power (v. 7), while the LORD stated that both Joseph and Hyrum Smith held this same power (D&C 124:124). Section 132 also suggests that the Holy Spirit of Promise (in connection with the sealing power) is dispensed by a man holding proper priesthood authority. This contradicts other scriptures that teach that the Holy Spirit of Promise is sent forth from the Father (D&C 76:53) and also the Son (D&C 88:3), to bind on earth and in heaven.

 Various Errors D&C 132 has many errors in it revealing that it was constructed by a weak man with an agenda. Verse 3, for example addresses Isaac as being justified in his polygamy even though he was married to one wife only, Rebekah. In verse 3 we read, “for all those who have this [polygamous] law revealed unto them must obey the same.” Those who don’t are damned. There are plenty of those who did not abide this law, including Isaac, Joseph of Egypt, Joseph Smith Senior, and many others. Are they then “damned”?

 Verses 34-35 address scripture inaccurately, saying, “God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife.” God did not command Sarah to take Hagar to wife. It was Sarah who wanted Abraham to take Hagar, and it was Abraham that followed her suggestion, by not trusting in LORD’s miraculous power and His timing. Both were in error. There is no record of Abraham praying about this decision, or he being commanded by God to do so. Note also that Joseph Smith did not make any substantive changes regarding these verses in the inspired re-translation of this Genesis story.

 Note also the confusing doctrine of verse 61 of D&C 132, that if a woman is “vowed to no other man, then is he justified” in taking her as another wife. Of Brigham’s first three wives, two remained married to other men. Today the Chruch claims Joseph was sealed or married to other married women. Both men thus violated this law.

 4. Not Published in Joseph’s Lifetime Joseph Smith did not publish this material as canonized scripture in his lifetime. This would normally mean it was of questionable value. In April of 1844, two months prior to his murder, Hyrum said that we must not accept any doctrine that is contrary to scripture. “If any man writes to you, or preaches to you, doctrines contrary to the Bible, the Book of Mormon, or the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, set him down as an imposter” (Times and Seasons, Vol. 5, p. 490). One of Sidney Rigdon’s primary responsibilities as given to him by the LORD in Section 35:23 was to “call on the holy prophets [scripture] to prove his [Joseph’s] words, as they shall be given him.” Sidney Rigdon fought “spiritual wifery” in Nauvoo and was excommunicated for it by Brigham Young. It should be noted that more revelations were given to him than any other person besides Joseph Smith.

 In addition, God said that only Joseph could receive revelation for the Church. Apostle Brigham Young’s revelation promoting polygamy was said to be given him during his English mission in 1839-40. Joseph was not murdered until four years later in 1844. God said, “But, behold, verily, verily, I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., for he receiveth them even as Moses” (D&C 28:2). Brigham did not reveal it until 1874, however (an escape clause).

 5. Brigham Young Wrote Much of D&C 132 There is strong evidence suggesting Brigham Young authored much of Section 132, as his writing style is clearly evident in it (see below). Note especially the threats against Emma Smith in D&C 132 (v. 54). She is also referred to as a “handmaid” (or female servant) in this same verse. Young considered Emma an enemy. He trashed her in various public venues, including a very public general conference address, whereas God referred to Emma as “my daughter” (D&C 25:1).

**DeBarthe’s Language Analysis**

Though the document we call D&C 132 has some truths in it, perhaps provided by the Prophet Joseph Smith, it also has many additions, most likely from Brigham Young, as the later portions of D&C 132 use language, phraseology, and words inconsistent with Joseph Smith, words and intent that are clearly those of Brigham Young.

Enid S. DeBarthe carefully scrutinized Section 132 in her Master’s Thesis completed at Northern Illinois University in 1969. It is very revealing. DeBarthe’s research concentrated on specific word usage, like “anointed,” “espouse,” “exaltation,” “eternal lives,” “damned,” and “destroy” in Section 132, versus curious absence of more common words in scripture like “repent.” These words are believed to be those of Brigham Young, not Joseph Smith or the LORD. The rare word exaltation, for example, was associated with polygamy by Young. Under his leadership, polygamy became a requirement for what he called “exaltation,” or to be part of the Celestial Kingdom of God. This doctrine is embraced by many Fundamentalist Mormons today. Young stated:

 “Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned”

 (Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 266).

He added:

 “The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy” (Journal of

 Discourses, vol. 11, p. 269).

DeBarthe also addressed other unique phrases found in Section 132, like, “must,” “stay herself,” or “accounted unto him for righteousness,” phrases that are believed to have originated in Brigham Young. She also studied sentence structure characteristics, including nouns, verbs, dependent clauses, etc. DeBarthe also researched how the language of Section 132 made use of prepositional phrases, “neologisms, pleonasms, and tautologies.” She examined total words per sentence and finally style, particularly the writing style of Joseph Smith versus that of Brigham Young.

The result is very telling. Barthe’s research clearly points to Section 132 being consistent with the unique language of Brigham Young, via a comparison of his writings and that of others, especially the Prophet Joseph Smith (including revelations given to Joseph). She reveals that Joseph’s writing style was and is “affirming,” calling men “to repentance and inviting them to seek righteousness and truth.” Young, on the other hand, has a style involving force, insistence and coercion, and that laws must be obeyed (this is consistent with his use of former Danites as enforcers in Nauvoo and Salt Lake City, men like Hosea Stout and hitman Bill Hickman, and the coercive techniques used by his “deacons” upon suspected “dissenters,” including intimidation by “the whitling and whistling brigade,” and “anointings” using human excrement from “aunt peggy’s privy closet”). Young made extensive use of “idoms,” “redundancies,” and “valedictory” phrases that clearly brand the concepts of Section 132 to him. Some would call it “strongman” tactics. Young’s language reflects his own strong, coercive will, not that of God or Joseph.

In addition to contradictory doctrine, Section 132 also features threats of destruction against Emma (vs. 54, 63-65), threats that she must conform to the practice. These are inconsistent with God’s love and His desire that we have agency or choice. The threats are consistent with Brigham Young. He disliked Emma and spoke evil of her in his various remarks. This led to years of animosity among many of the Saints towards this noble woman. In his 1866, October General Conference address, Young offered up a rebuke of her and a lie, stating that Emma attempted to murder Joseph, and that he (Joseph) said she was “the most wicked woman on this earth.” Young castigated the harmless widow of the Prophet Joseph Smith, stating:

 “To my certain knowledge, Emma Smith is one of the damnedest liars I know of on this earth; yet there is no

 good thing I would refuse to do for her, if she would only be a righteous woman; but she will continue in her

 wickedness. Not six months before the death of Joseph, he called his wife Emma into a secret council, and there

 there he told her the truth, and called upon her to deny it if she could. He told her that the judgments of God

 would come upon her forthwith if she did not repent. He told her of the time she undertook to poison him, and

 he told her that she was a child of hell, and literally the most wicked woman on this earth, that there was not one

 more wicked than she” (6-8 Oct., 1866, 36th Semi-Annual Conference, Bowery, G. S. L. City. [Deseret News

 Weekly 15:364, 10/10/66, p 4-5 and 15:372, 10/17/66, p 4-5; MS 28:764, 774).

The murdered Prophet Joseph was not present to refute Section 132 - or any other modifications that have now become part of our history. Though the early portions of D&C 132 have ties to some scripture, the later portions of Section 132 are often dark and confusing. Some verses clearly go against other scripture, especially the founding document of our faith – the Book of Mormon - and the words of the LORD and Jacob there. This sets up confusion. Section 132 provides a reason for splinter groups “to do their own thing.” As noted earlier, Section 132 begins with a false question in verse 1, which contradicts what the LORD had already revealed in the Book of Mormon. It states:

 “Verily, thus saith the LORD unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to

 know and understand wherein I, the LORD, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses,

 David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and

 concubines” (D&C 132:1).

The LORD already revealed that David and Solomon were not justified in their practice of polygamy in Jacob 2:22-26, when he spoke of Jacob’s people “excusing themselves” because of “the things that were written” (see below). Brigham’s verse 1 question at the start of D&C 132 is a blatant rejection of God’s inspired teachings in the Book of Mormon. In it he sought to excuse himself and others among the Twelve in secretly practicing what was called “spiritual wifery” early on at Nauvoo, beginning in 1841. God does not contradict Himself. He said, “And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:25). Note also Jacob 1:15.

 “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).

 “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. But the word of God burdens me

 because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the LORD: This people begin to wax in iniquity; they

 understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the

 things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many

 wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the LORD. Wherefore, thus saith the

 LORD, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up

 unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph. Wherefore, I the LORD God will not suffer that

 this people shall do like unto them of old” (Jacob 2:22-26).

**Section 132 is Removed from the D&C for a Time**

In 1930, James E. Talmage, a senior member of the Twelve at the time, authored a book for the church entitled, “Latter-day Revelation.” This work was characterized as containing, “Sections and parts of Sections from the Doctrine and Covenants, the sections comprising scriptures of general enduring value…”. Its purpose, in the words of Talmage, was, “to make the strictly doctrinal parts of the Doctrine and Covenants of easy access and reduce its bulk.” Portions of many Sections of the Doctrine and Covenants were thus removed, as they were tied to specific individuals and various points in time that were not tied to foundational doctrines. We read in the book’s introduction, “This little book contains selected Sections and parts of Sections from the Doctrine and Covenants, the selections comprising Scriptures of general and enduring value, given as the Word of the LORD through the First Elder and Prophet in the present dispensation, which is verily the “Dispensation of the Fullness of Times.” The most noteworthy of these non-doctrinal omissions, was all of Sections 132 and 136, both believed to originate in Brigham Young. Those remaining, at least in part, include, Sections 1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27, 29, 38, 42, 43, 45, 46, 50, 56, 58, 59, 63, 64, 65, 68, 76, 84, 87, 88, 89, 93, 98, 101, 107, 110, 119, 121, 124, 130, 131, 133 and 134.

Fundamentalist Mormons were outraged with the removal of 132 at this time, “accusing the [LDS] church of changing the scriptures” (at least the ones they used to justify their practice of polygamy). In response, President Heber J. Grant (an early polygamist himself) ordered the work immediately “withdrawn” from sale and the remaining copies “shredded to avoid further conflict with the fundamentalists.” (see Newell G. Bringhurst, “Section 132: Contents and Legacy” in The Persistence of Polygamy, John Whitmer Books, 2010, pps. 83-84).

Brigham Young went to great lengths to “justify” the practice of polygamy (see verses 1 & 59-60). Section 132 is just one of many efforts by him to do so. One official LDS church narrative is that Section 132 was a revelation given to Joseph Smith on July 12, 1843. As we will see later on, Young’s own statements refute this. In 1874, for example, he stated that he had a pro-polygamy vision or revelation while on his mission to England, and that Joseph had said nothing to him about the practice prior to this point in time (1839-41). Young said:

 “While we [Brigham & ten of the Twelve Apostles] were in England, (in 1839 and 40) I think, the LORD

 manifested to me by vision and his Spirit, things [concerning “spiritual wifery’] that I did not then understand.

 I never opened my mouth to any one concerning them, until I returned to Nauvoo; Joseph had never mentioned

 this; there had never been a thought of it in the Church that I ever knew anything about at that time, but I had

 this for myself, and I kept it to myself. And when I returned home, and Joseph revealed those things to me then I

 understood the reflections that were upon my mind while in England. But this was not until after I had told him

 what I understood— this was in 1841” (Brigham Young, Deseret News, July 1, 1874).

Other than this statement, we have no other description of Young’s vision or revelation on polygamy. His own statements reveal that it preceded the supposed one he said was given Joseph Smith, and by three to four years. Emma Smith also repeatedly and consistently refuted the stories of both Brigham Young and Willard Richards surrounding what we now call D&C 132. She had nothing to hide and knew Joseph better than any man on the earth. It is important to not God’s own words. He said that only Joseph was to revelation for the Church (see D&C 28:2).

**Four Additional Justifications Used for Polygamy**

 **1. Patriarchal Order - A Higher Law** Some believe early polygamy in the LDS Church was part of a secret “higher order” of priesthood among the Apostles first, and then later lay members in Utah. This may go hand in hand with pride and special excuses or justification. Names for those possessing this secret priesthood, include those in “the holy order,” “the Quorum of the Anointed,” and those part of “the ancient order of things.” They originally taught (justifying their actions) that Joseph Smith was part of this ancient order, as practiced by the Old Testament Patriarchs. Later on they justified departing from Joseph’s teachings, as lies were introduced saying that he was a fallen prophet. Pride placed them in higher standing, as select chosen ones that were privileged to live a higher way.

 **2. Justifications, Exceptions, Excuses & Contradictions** We are on earth for many reasons. One is to learn to discern light from darkness. Sometimes it is a subtle difference. Many Latter-day Saints justify breaking a commandment, like God’s law to have one wife only (see 2 Ne. 28:8-9), because the LORD appears to have killed others in Bible, a favorite reason for atheists to not believe in God. Nephi’s killing of Laban in the Book of Mormon is often cited by pro-polygamists as a good example of why the Saints can be monogamists most of the time, while polygamists in other special circumstances (like a higher law or special circumstance). This “justification” or “escape clause” must be addressed on two levels; (1) Was taking Laban’s life by Nephi a command from God, (A) Nephi’s own justification, or (B) a directive from a false spirit? (see 1 Ne. 4:10-18); And (2) Does God make exceptions in His law and actions, like the sixth commandment to not kill or better yet “murder” (the correct “Hebrew” translation is “murder” not “kill,” as “killing without cause” is “murder”)?

 (1) Did a False Spirit Direct Nephi? Some suggest Nephi’s lament in 2 Nephi 4, verses 17-35 is tied to his sorrow for taking his uncle Laban’s life (see verses 17-18 & 27-29). Nephi said it was “the Spirit” telling him that he “should kill Laban” (1 Ne. 4:10). Could it have been a false spirit, as there may have been another alternative to get the plates, had Nephi rejected this initial answer to his inquiry. Perhaps there was another, better way had he asked. Did he want revenge? Was this an idol in his heart? Was he deceived via “the Spirit” he spoke of, like Joseph’s Toronto Canada revelation?

 (2) God Took Life – Can Man? It is true that God has taken wickedness and people from the earth to protect the righteous. Many examples are given us in scripture. Four are notable; (1) the Flood, (2) the first Passover in Egypt, (3) the cleansing of the land of Canaan, and (4) Sodom and Gomorrah.

 The flood removed filth from the earth, as those not on the Ark had become corrupted, continually planning evil upon one another. The Earth was also crying out to be cleansed by her Creator. Note that the LORD, the Earth, and Enoch were all crying because of the destruction that then ensued (see Moses 7:48). The destructive flood was necessary for at least three accounts; (A) because polluted blood and DNA came into Adam and Eve’s posterity via the fallen angels who had come to Earth and taken human wives, etc. This is an overlooked reason with others for why God directed Joshua and the Israelites to destroy many peoples in Canaan - the Promised Land. It had to purified from this blood, and from (B) the great evils that were spreading throughout the Earth, including Canaan. It featured idolatry, gross sexual abominations, and child sacrifice among the various cultures on this special land given Abraham and his posterity. Some of it originated and was spread by the Nephilim, the race of “giants” in the land that resulted from the mating of the fallen angels and mortal women. A third reason for “justice” was (C) to protect the innocent in the land of Canaan.

 Besides the Flood and cleansing Canaan, many of the “firstborn” were killed at Passover in Egypt too, to free the Israelites after 400 years of slavery. It was a last resort there, after some ten plagues were first sent to motivate Pharoah to release the Israelites. Sodom and Gomorrah is another good example. In His exchange with Abraham, God indicated that He would spare many to save the righteous. He demonstrated this principle by saving righteous people from both Sodom and Jericho prior to their destruction.

 God’s Wisdom versus Man’s Wisdom It was a “just” cause for God to take life in these four examples. Only the LORD had the necessary knowledge and experience, justice and mercy, and intelligence and love – as God – to carry it out. Men, even good men like young Nephi (who took Laban’s life to get the brass plates of Laban) do not have God’s combination of qualities. We cannot compare the “arm of flesh” with God to justify our actions in breaking God’s commandments, like murder or taking extra wives.

 Secondly, God did not indiscriminately “murder” people in the Bible. The commandment, “Thou shalt not kill” in the King James version of our Bible is too general. The Hebrew translation addresses “murder” not killing. “Murder” is premeditated and unjustified. Although God ordered the extermination of entire wicked cities in Canaan, He did so in righteous judgment on a people whose corruption had led to extreme wickedness, including sexual perversion and child sacrifice. The innocent had no other way to be protected.

 The Justification of Nephi and Laban Pro-polygamists often cite Nephi’s killing of Laban as an exception or justification for polygamy, where God’s laws are suspended in rare cases. Nephi’s statement in verse 13 of 1 Nephi 4 provides one form of “justification” for killing Laban. Nephi said “the Spirit” said to him, “The Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief” (1 Ne. 4:13). Many prospective converts stop reading the Book of Mormon after these two verses – verses given us by what Nephi said was “the spirit.” Was “the spirit” God, Satan or a false spirit, or Nephi’s own mind? If it was God, there I trust in Him that there was just case for it, as God’s knows all things.

 Some believe Nephi’s first statement was from a potential “false spirit.” It provides great justification for holy war today. The second statement by Nephi would serve as good justification for the inquisition. Today, most any judge would sentence Nephi to lengthy prison time or even death for murder and robbery (he took the gold plates). Laban was a sinner, yes, but were his sins worthy of death? The answer is yes if God made the decision. It may not be if Nephi made this decision without consulting God, or if he had an idol in his heart like revenge. Might there have been other alternatives for Nephi? Perhaps Nephi had to learn to discern light from darkness through experience, just as Joseph Smith did, and just as we must. It is part of coming to earth and experiencing mortality. Perhaps this is the reason for Nephi’s lament in 1 Nephi 4.

 *Summary* Throughout this work on polygamy the word “justify” continually surfaces in connection with exceptions and contradictions by pro-polygamists. Lying because of “higher things” (polygamy) became part of early Church practices in Utah. Ten different deceptive “code words” or statements were tied to polygamy in Utah, as published in an 1886 issue of the Deseret News.[[4]](#endnote-4) Pride leads many to believe their actions can be an exception to God’s law. Pro-polygamists, citing Nephi’s experience with Laban, say God is the great law-giver, and that He can change the rules anytime He wants. If, in His wisdom, a previous law needs to be broken in order to fulfill a “higher law,” then He can authorize it for the greater good. This is is exactly what the polygamists did later on at Nauvoo. Such has become commonplace in Mormon culture today. There are many exceptions, contradictions, excuses, and justifications.

 The Nauvoo polygamists cited their “secret” or “greater priesthood” (the Patriarchal priesthood of the ancient Patriarchs in the Old Testament), without knowing their full story. That is why it has been given in the early part of this work. Their pride and their higher “priesthood” justified them in taking as many wives as they wanted. Where did they get this idea?

 One English LDS elder and author, a Mr. Samuel Downes, reprinted an ancient Greek Manuscript, entitled, *The Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs, the Sons of Jacob* in 1843. It may have had a strong influence upon some Apostles serving in England, such as Lorenzo Snow. It presented Jacob's plural marriage and concubines as godly. Some 100 copies of this book were sold in the Church’s Millennial Star office in Liverpool England. A short review of it was published in The Millennial Star 4 (Oct. 1843, 96). Downes dedicated his reprint to an LDS Patriarch in Manchester England. Sold in an official Church outlet, this book may have been especially influential upon some the Twelve serving in England. Some may have shown real interest in spiritual wifery in connection with the “patriarchal order,” which was a code phrase for the ancient patriarchs of the Old Testament, those with multiple wives and concubines. In the following statement, Downes revealed that he showed the book to some of the Apostles. Apparently, some may have urged him to publish it. The book’s preface states, “Beloved Brother, In sending forth unto the nations of the world the following pages, in a form whereby the humblest of our Brethren may possess themselves of it, I shall not know how truly thankful to feel to Almighty God, if, upon a perusal of its contents, it may meet with that approbation which it is the wish of your humble brother it should do.... **Having shewn it to many of my brethren, and it having met with their approbation**, **they are wishful to possess themselves of it also**. **I now at their solicitation for the church**, and for mankind in general, **send it forth** unto the world; and my heart's desire to God is, that the sublime truths contained in it may cause the hearts of the saints to rejoice and the wicked to see . . . Art thou a Bishop, a Minister? Look upon Jacob, O ye parents, peruse the twelve **godly fathers** in time and order. Learn of him and his to pray aright” (Preface to The Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs, the Sons of Jacob).

 In referring to this book, Editor Thomas Ward of the Millennial Star in Liverpool, stated, “We have received a hundred copies of a reprint of a translation from an ancient Greek manuscript, entitled *The Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs, the Sons of Jacob*. We have to remark that this publication is not at all connected with the Church of Latter-day Saints, but merely printed by a brother, elder Samuel Downes, as a relic of antiquity, containing **many portions of truth**, and as a generalcuriosity”(The Latter-Day Saints' Millennial Star 4 [October 1843]: 96). Both Brigham Young (in 1874) and Lorenzo Snow (in 1899) testified that they had polygamous manifestations while serving in England. The Apostles were idolized by many of their converts, increasing the potential for inappropriate relationships. Elder Edwin Stafford (a Seventy serving with the Twelve in England and Nauvoo) testified in a letter to a friend that he believed Brigham Young was practicing spiritual wifery in both cities.[[5]](#endnote-5)

 We read in Jacob 2 that polygamy is an abomination, a whoredom, a grievous sin according to Jacob 2, and yet their justification was that it was necessary for them to raise up righteous “physical” seed. Jacob clearly said that the polygamous practices of the David and Solomon were abominable, yet on the other hand, Brigham Young’s Section 132 justifies the works of David and Solomon in the very first verse, the only sin being David’s putting Uriah on the front lines in war. Pride leads to deception, delusion, and sin. It goes hand in hand with today’s exceptions, justifications, and contradictions. God is not the author of confusion. Satan is.

 Our LORD gave us the constitution (D&C 101) and the second amendment with the right to keep and bear arms as a defense against tyrants and evil people, but only as a temporary measure until we develop the greater faith necessary to let Him fight our battles. We must turn to God and love and trust Him. He said, “And I, the Lord, would fight their battles, and their children’s battles, and their children’s children, until they had avenged themselves on all their enemies, to the third and fourth generation” (D&C 98:37). Note one more scripture. “And so great was the faith of Enoch, that he led the people of God, and their enemies came to battle against them; and hespake the word of the Lord, and the earth trembled, and the mountains fled, even according to his command; and the rivers of water were turned out of their course; and the roar of the lions was heard out of the wilderness; and all nations feared greatly, so powerful was the word of Enoch, and so great was the power of the language which God had given him” (Moses 7:13).

 God’s laws involve love – and great wisdom and mercy, in addition to justice. God’s laws are absolute for men. We cannot pick and choose among them. Nephi may have been commanded by God to slay Laban, or Nephi may have received a false directive. What matters is that we obey all the commandments, including God’s higher law of monogamy (coming with God’s higher law of love in the “law of consecration” in D&C 42). (Mor. 8:18). Mormon said, “he changeth not; if so he would cease to be God” (Morm. 9:19, see also Mor. 8:12; Alma 42:13). There is no “variableness” in God, “neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). God “is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity” Jesus said, “For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations, neither dothhe will that man should shed blood, but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man” (Ether 8:19).

 **3. A Test** In addition to D&C 132, some today claim that polygamy was used by the LORD as a test for Joseph Smith and others, as Joseph taught against the practice, just as Abraham abhorred and spoke out against human sacrifice, having nearly experienced sacrifice himself at the hands of his father and others. Joseph loved Emma and to take additional wives would have been a test for him. Joseph was also fully aware of the Book of Mormon teachings against additional wives in Jacob 2 and 3. Thus the “test” narrative makes some sense with Joseph, but not so much with Brigham, Heber, and other later polygamists.

 **4. Create Spirit Bodies** Another justification attributed to Brigham Young is his claim that additional wives for God was and is needed to create the many spirit bodies that come to earth to inherit another type of “body” made of flesh. Countering this is two things. First, months before his murder, Joseph Smith taught (in the King Follett Discourse) that intelligences are co-equal with God. They are not created by God, but have co-existed with Him since the very beginning. The spirit bodies housing our intelligence may have been drawn to God and His companion, and thus become His “spirit” sons and daughters through choices we made in pre-mortality, rather than the traditional creation process of the body here. This may be comparable to how we become the sons and daughter of the LORD Jesus here, by choosing to accept His atonement on our behalf.

**Additional Pro-Polygamy Revelations**

In addition to (A) the 1852 publication of Joseph Smith’s supposed pro-polygamy “revelation” in the Deseret News, which later became D&C 132 in 1876, there are four other “revelations” in the Church tied to polygamy. They are (B) Brigham Young’s announcement in 1874 that he received a pro-polygamy “revelation” while serving a mission as an Apostle in England in 1839-40; (C) John Taylor’s private and so-called pro-polygamy “revelation” in 1886; (D) Lorenzo Snow’s 1889 statement that he too had a potential pro-polygamy revelation during his English mission in the 1840’s; And (E) various statements and affidavits in 1887 putting forth the story that an angel with a sword threatened Joseph Smith to take up the practice of polygamy or be destroyed. What unties all five of these “revelations” is that, they are each put forth by a pro-polygamist; each came forth years or decades after Joseph’s death, when he cannot defend himself (they are “non-contemporary” historical sources – not as credible); they are not consistent with patterns in scripture; And, they have other unique “holes.”

**A. 1852** */ Brigham Young’s Announcement that Joseph Smith had a “Revelation” on Polygamy - today’s D&C 132*

**B. 1874** */ Brigham Young’s Pro-polygamy Revelation & More* According to President Brigham Young, he received a pro-polygamy revelation as an Apostle while doing missionary work in England sometime between 1839-40. He did not speak of it until 1874, some thirty-four years later. He did so in connection with “letting the cat out of the bag” (to use his own words) in two other announcements; that many of the Twelve were practicing polygamy secretly at Nauvoo in the early 1840s, and that Joseph’s pro-polygamy “revelation” was actually earlier than the July 12, 1843 date he originally gave the Saints in 1852 (when it was published in the Deseret News). Some researchers believe he made these three announcements to protect polygamy (in a changing narrative), but also to protect his friend Heber C. Kimball. Information may have been coming out about the Apostles practicing polygamy earlier than 1843, including news that Heber’s second wife (his first polygamous wife) was brought back from England by him following his mission in 1841. This was prior to Joseph’s “revelation” in 1843. The Church today confirms that there were secret “plural marriages” going on in Nauvoo in the early 1840’s. In the three 1874 announcements, Brigham Young changed part of the polygamy story. Young now claimed that Joseph got his pro-polygamy “revelation” much earlier in the early 1830’s, and that the 1843 date was simply the year William Clayton recorded this revelation. This earlier date for Joseph’s “revelation” provided justification for the Apostles polygamy prior to 1843 (and Joseph’s revelation) and Heber’s new additional wife (all behind Joseph’s back). Brigham Young’s “revelation” statement is provided below. There is no specific date tied to it, and the actual words of the “revelation” have never been published. Young stated:

 “While we [Brigham & ten of the Twelve Apostles] were in England, (in 1839 and 40) I think, the LORD

 manifested to me by vision and his Spirit, things [concerning “spiritual wifery’] that I did not then understand.

 I never opened my mouth to any one concerning them, until I returned to Nauvoo; **Joseph had never**

 **mentioned this; there had never been a thought of it in the Church that I ever knew anything about at**

 **that time**, but I had this for myself, and I kept it to myself. And when I returned home, and Joseph revealed

 those things to me [a lie] then I understood the reflections that were upon my mind while in England. But this

 (communication with Joseph on the subject) was not until after I had told him what I understood— this was in

 1841” (Brigham Young, Deseret News, July 1, 1874).

**C. 1886** */ John Taylor’s Pro-Polygamy Revelation* Mormon fundamentalists (polygamists) use President John Taylor’s private “revelation” to bolster their pro-polygamy beliefs, while the LDS Church has repudiated it. It purports to have been given him in 1886, while Taylor was President of the Church. He did not reveal it anywhere publically. His son said he found it in his father’s papers in 1887, the year of Taylor’s death. Note the apparent words of the LORD to Taylor below.

 “My son John, you have asked me concerning the New and Everlasting Covenant how far it is binding upon my

 people. Thus saith the Lord: All commandments that I give must be obeyed by those calling themselves by my

 name unless they are revoked by me or by my authority, and how can I revoke an everlasting covenant, for I the

 Lord am everlasting and my everlasting covenants cannot be abrogated nor done away with, but they stand

 forever. Have I not given my word in great plainness on this subject? Yet have not great numbers of my people

 been negligent in the observance of my law and the keeping of my commandments, and yet have I borne with

 them these many years; and this because of their weakness—because of the perilous times, and furthermore, it is

 more pleasing to me that men should use their free agency in regard to these matters. Nevertheless, I the Lord do

 not change and my word and my covenants and my law do not, and as I have heretofore said by my servant

 Joseph: All those who would enter into my glory must and shall obey my law. And have I not commanded men

 that if they were Abraham’s seed and would enter into my glory, they must do the works of Abraham. I have not

 revoked this law, nor will I, for it is everlasting, and those who will enter into my glory must obey the conditions

 thereof; even so, Amen” (given Sept. 27, 1886).

The works of Abraham are those tied to “righteousness,” not polygamy. He sent Hagar away as God commanded. Taylor’s “revelation” supports “the everlasting covenant” made to Abraham and his seed. God’s everlasting covenant is the fullness of the doctrine and gospel of Christ (see D&C 22:1, then 6:15; 33:11-15, 39:6). Those placing their faith, trust, and love in Christ, rather than in men and their churches, participate in two baptisms (one physical [by men on earth with water] and one spiritual [by the God of heaven with fire or His Spirit]). Such become part of His church and receive the gift and power of the Holy Ghost to guide them to the Tree of Life. Brigham changed the meaning of God’s “everlasting covenant” to the “new and everlasting covenant” of plural marriage, rather than two baptisms. The LORD provides the second baptism.

**D. 1887** */ The Angel with the Sword Story*

In May of 1887, decades after Joseph’s murder, pro-polygamists came forward with claims that the Prophet Joseph said an angel came to him three times, commanding him to take additional wives. This story was part of sixteen pages of affidavits and testimonies published by the Church (43 years after his murder) – that have now become Joseph Smith’s history. Some of the affidavits promote the false belief that polygamy was introduced into the Church by the angel’s three visits to Joseph in the early 1830s (much like how the Book of Mormon came to be). The story claims that Joseph refused to obey the angel until the LORD sent him with a sword, threatening to “destroy” Joseph if he did not take additional wives. The assertion that the LORD sent an angel to force Joseph to obey His pro-polygamy message, directly opposes God’s higher way of invitation, persuasion, and choice, in connection with love (see D&C 121:37). It is Satan and his servants that use force, fear, and coercion. This false narrative also opposes Joseph’s own constant, public fight against polygamy. On the one hand we have Joseph’s first-hand, contemporary published testimonies, given while he was yet alive, all of them revealing that he was clearly against the practice. And opposing them we have the later 1887 affidavits and other doctored historical records of the Church, all produced by pro-polygamists, manufactured decades after Joseph’s murder. He can no longer defend himself. The angel story doesn’t align with God’s pattern of choice. And while alive, Joseph never spoke of this angel with a sword story. It is another lie using his name to *justify* polygamy, and years after his death – and by pro-polygamists.

According to Lorenzo Snow’s false affidavit, Joseph Said, “unless he [Joseph] moved forward and established plural marriage, his Priesthood would be taken from him and he should be destroyed!” Lorenzo’s sister Eiza R. Snow said, “This testimony he not only bore to my brother, but also to others—a testimony that cannot be gainsayed” (Eliza R. Snow statement from her brother Lorenzo Snow, see Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow [1884], pps. 69–70). Lorenzo Snow’s affidavit was produced in 1887, forty-three years after Joseph Smith’s murder (so too the affidavits of Joseph Bates Noble and Benjamin F. Johnson). Their agenda was polygamy.

**E. 1899** */ Lorenzo Snow’s Pro-Polygamy Revelation* Like Brigham, Lorenzo Snow said he had a pro-polygamy “revelation” while serving as a missionary in England too (though later in the mid-1840’s). He stated:

 “There is no man that lives that had a more perfect knowledge of the principle of plural marriage, its holiness and

 divinity, than what I had. It was revealed to me before the Prophet Joseph Smith explained it to me. I had been

 on a mission to England between two and three years, and before I left England I was perfectly satisfied in regard

 to something connected with plural marriage” (Lorenzo Snow, Deseret Semi-Weekly News, June 6, 1899).

Like Young, Snow did not ~~give~~ provide the specific words of the “revelation,” nor a specific date for it. Neither were they Church Presidents at the time they received their “revelation.” And both men made their “revelation” announcements decades after Joseph was murdered. In addition, they were also in England, living away from both Joseph and their wives. When any person has an idol in their heart (like polygamy), God may allow them to received false spirits and false revelation, even to their condemnation. Paul spoke of this saying:

 “…because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send

 them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth,

 but had pleasure in *unrighteousness*” (2 Thess. 2:10-12, bold & italics added).

Were Young, Taylor, and Snow sincere in their desire to practice something that they believed was of God? Or did they receive “strong delusion” (2 Thess. 2:10-12) because of their support for polygamy – an idol in their hearts? Did it then lead them and the Saints who looked to them for leadership - into “damnable heresies” (see 2 Peter 2:1)? All three men were polygamists and Masons. All three eventually sat in the chief seat over the Church, paid for their service via the tithing of the people, to support them and their many wives (55 for Young, 16 for Taylor, 9 for snow).

**Joseph’s Printed Warnings about False Revelations & Spirits**

The Prophet Joseph warned the Saints repeatedly about false revelations that contradict existing true revelations and scripture. False spirits often mix truth with lies and flattery, making us feel good, and feeding our pride. False spirits know our desires. As an early editor of the Times and Seasons, Joseph published an article entitled, “Try the Spirits.” In it he warned the Saints against mistaking false angels of Satan for true angels from God. He feared that the Saints were being deceived into believing false revelations through them, as he, too, had been deceived on some occasions. Joseph’s article on “Try the Spirits” was so important that it filled over five and one-half pages of this issue of the Times and Seasons (see also D&C 129). According to Joseph, should any statement delivered by an angel *contradict a former true revelation from God*, that message is from a false spirit or from Satan. God’s house is a house of order, not confusion. The Prophet Joseph Smith wrote:

 “There have also been ministering angels in the church which were of satan appearing as an angel of light:—

 A sister in the State of New York had a vision who said it was told her that if she would go to a certain place in

 the woods an angel would appear to her — she went at the appointed time and saw a glorious personage

 descending arrayed in white...he commenced and told her to fear God and said that her husband was called to do

 great things, but that he must not go more than one hundred miles from home or he would not return; whereas

 God had called him to go to the ends of the earth; and he has since been more than one thousand miles from

 home, and is yet alive. Many true things were spoken by this personage and many things that were false.—How it

 may be asked was this known to be a bad angel?...by his contradicting a former revelation (Times & Seasons 3 [Apr.

 1, 1842], p. 747).

The Apostle Paul and Peter both have warned us against receiving the false teachings of false spirits. Truth is established when it is consistent with other scripture (D&C 132 is not).

 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach **any other gospel** unto you than that which we have preached

 unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8–9, bold added).

 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who

 privily shall bring in **damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them…Having eyes full of adultery,

 and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices;

 cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following *the way of Balaam* the son of

 Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:2, 14-15, bold added).

“The way of Balaam” or “Balaam’s error” in other scriptures is associated with false revelation tied to sexual sin, as with the Nicolaitans. Once again, Brigham took his modified spiritual wives doctrine in D&C 132 and made it part of the “new and everlasting covenant” of plural marriage, one that now takes precedence over God’s “everlasting covenant” as found in the Book of Mormon, the Bible, and the Doctrine and Covenants (see D&C 22:1, then 6:15; 33:11-15, 39:6). The real “everlasting covenant” has nothing to do with polygamy, but everything to do with Salvation in Christ the LORD. He is rejected in Brigham’s “new order of things” (see D&C 132, verses 4, 6, 19, 26, 27, 41 & 42). This is one of the reasons we are under condemnation in D&C 84, for rejecting, “the new covenant, even [that “fullness of the gospel of Christ” found in] the Book of Mormon” (see vs. 55 & 57). We cannot be saved in ignorance (D&C 131:6).

The false affidavits tied to the angel and sword story are in direct conflict with Joseph’s warning concerning discernment of spirits. Nothing published during Joseph’s lifetime supports this lie. It should be noted that Lorenzo Snow’s family was related to the Youngs, the Nobles, and the Beamans by way of polygamy! Lorenzo's sister, Eliza R. Snow, became one of Brigham Young's plural wives later on. Young was also married to Louisa Beaman (Joseph Bates Noble's sister-in-law). Lorenzo's brother, Erastus Snow, was married to Artemesia Beaman, who was Louisa Seaman's sister, and Joseph Bates Noble had married Mary Adeline Beaman, who was also a sister to Louisa and Artemesia (see Boyack, A Nobleman in Israel, 21). All of them were deeply involved in polygamy. The angel story justified their polygamy. As stated earlier, “justify” is a word Brigham inserted into the very first verse of D&C 132, along with verses 59 and 60. The LORD said David and Solomon were not justified in their multiple wives. They sought “*to excuse themselves* in committing whoredoms.” He said this was “*abominable* before me” (Jacob 2:23-24). Note the justification used by the Church today on one official website. It puts forth the current false narrative that Joseph prayed about what David and Solomon were doing, and that this prayer resulted in “divine instruction.”

 “In 1831, Church founder Joseph Smith made a prayerful inquiry about the ancient Old Testament practice of

 plural marriage. This resulted in the divine instruction to reinstitute the practice as a religious principle”

 (https://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/polygamy).

The Prophet Joseph Smith is not here to defend himself against modern accusations. There is no statement by Joseph Smith stating that he approached the LORD in prayer on the subject of plural marriage. This and other modern fabrications continue to prop up the current narrative. The official LDS Church narrative today (given us by Brigham Young and those that followed him to Utah) claims that the Prophet Joseph was a polygamist, a polyandrist, and perhaps a pedophile, and that he started these practices in the Church. This narrative also claims that Emma Smith was not aware of many of Joseph’s wives, perhaps 40 total. If Joseph practiced polygamy in this fashion, then he was also a liar, a cheat, and a fraud. I don’t believe it. The first-hand contemporary statements of Joseph, Emma, Hyrum, and others claim the opposite. The Prophet Joseph also bore fruit meet for the Father’s kingdom (D&C 84:58). His spiritual fruits were vast and real.

Who do we believe? This choice determines what we believe. I choose to believe the Prophet Joseph Smith, that he was innocent and that he never had any wife but Emma. More importantly, I choose to believe God and His word in scripture *and* in pure revelation. Seek His truth. Remove all the idols in your heart *and* then ask God about Joseph Smith or Brigham Young. Ask about polygamy. Is it of God? The truth will set you free.

“And whoso treasureth up my word, shall not be deceived.”

*JST Mat. 1:37*

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

*John 8:32*

**End Notes**

1. *Two Histories* Two primary histories are presented us, that of those following Brigham Young west, and that of those rejecting Brigham Young and his new “order of things” (polygamy, modified doctrines, etc.). Official LDS Church websites and publications present the “Brighamite” perspective - that the Prophet Joseph Smith introduced polygamy, polyandry, and more into the LDS Church as official doctrine, one that was necessary (later on under Brigham Young) to receive exaltation.

 The other history is that of “Josephites.” It claims that Joseph Smith was innocent of polygamy (as he, his wife, and other Smith’s have stated, in their versions of the Smith history), and that Brigham Young and select members of the Twelve secretly practiced polygamy behind the scenes in Nauvoo, and in the summer of 1844 found it necessary to remove Joseph and Hyrum from power, as they were fighting against the practice right up until their murder. It is only natural that the average Latter-day Saint would ignore this second source of history, as it has been labeled “apostate.” For this and other reasons, too many of the Saints have not given it a look, and then prayed about it. It can be very eye opening. Sources which provide this information include the following:

 1. Book: *The Exoneration of Emma, Joseph, and Hyrum*, by Ronald Meldon Kerran, Part One / Focuses on faulty, modified sources, and “the

 secret chamber” in Nauvoo.

 2. Book: *The Secret Chamber: Spiritual Wifery & the Doctrine of Christ,* by Anonymous / Focus on what scripture has to say about polygamy and

 about real salvation, while also addressing the secret chamber

 3. Website: *Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy*, <https://restorationbookstore.org/jsfp-index.htm> / Provides excellent sources documenting Joseph

 Smith’s innocence, a wealth of information

 4. Paper: *Joseph Smith’s Monogamy* http://anonymousbishop.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/JosephSmithsMonogamy1.pdf

 5.Paper: *A Bibliography on Joseph Smith II: The Mormon Prophet-Leader*, Enid Stubbart DeBarthe, Master’s Thesis, N. Illinois Univ., 1969

 6. Website:  *An Evaluation of D&C 132* <https://onewhoiswatching.wordpress.com/2009/09/01/analysis-of-section-132/>

*Brigham Young’s Rise to Power*

 1.Podcast: *The Apostolic Coup d’état:* *How The Twelve Apostles, In a Breathtaking Power Grab, Assumed Absolute and Complete Control of the*

 *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

 Part I [htp://puremormonism.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2017-10-22T14:52:00-07:00&max-results=1](http://puremormonism.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2017-10-22T14:52:00-07:00&max-results=1)

 Part II <http://puremormonism.blogspot.com/2017/10/brigham-youngs-hostile-takeover.html>

 2. Paper: *The Temple Lot Case* http://restorationbookstore.org/blog/TLCtestimonies.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. *Baal Worship: Idolatry, Sexual Sin & Murder*  Jesus is the God of real love. Idolatry replaces Him with other gods who do not display love. Idolatry often leads to sexual sin and murder, as it did among the Israelites of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and among the Saints at Nauvoo.Baal worship remains alive and well among us today too. Baal was one of the most insidious false gods in the Bible. Child sacrifices were made to him. There have been some 60 million abortions since Roe versus Wade was instituted in 1973 (see <http://www.numberofabortions.com/>), 3,200 in Utah in 2017. Innocent children are not just (1) killed in abortions and (2) in Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA), they are also used (3) for sex, and (4) for money as their body parts bring lots of cash on the black market. Children are part of a huge black market business, and the wars that western countries are involved in, tens of thousands of refugee children. Some 18,000 Syrian children have been taken into Turkish camps where their organs are harvested and sold (see https://youtu.be/uy0bF-PFpFI).

 The innocent blood of children has a potential fifth purpose, (5) to provide light or energy to those in darkness, those without it. This may be the primary reason for SRA upon children. It may sustain them. Perhaps this is one reason why evil men have gathered as many women around them as possible in polygamy. Women, like children, are often more innocent and pure. They may provide light or energy to those without it. Brigham Young had 55 wives, Heber C. Kimball 43, Willard Richards 11, and John Taylor 16. They were the top four leaders of the secret chamber at Nauvoo.

 Oversight of our civil leaders, who install the laws of our land over us, should have been a priority for our Christian leaders. Yet because churches receive “gain” via tax-exempt 501c3 status (a form of bribery) from the Federal government, too many leaders of churches have remained silent, including our own. This allows government leaders to weaken and remove moral laws, like taking prayer out of public schools, making gay and lesbian marriage the law of the land, and more, all without a fight from God’s supposed representatives.

 Sexual sin with murder has been running rampant ever since – the hallmark of Baal worship and secret combinations generally. Fortunately, many in leadership in our government today in the east, and those in the entertainment industry west, are being exposed like never before under Pres. Trump’s leadership. The current watchmen on the tower (Christian church leaders) have been silent for too long. Scripture suggests that many of those leading Christian churches today will be exposed and replaced (see Isaiah 22:15-25 and JST Matthew 21:35-56), as God has said He will clean His own “house” first (D&C 112:24-26). In the chart below, note the consistent date of June 26 (or near it) for most of the Supreme Court decisions below, all tied to sexual sin – and modern-day Baal worship. It isn’t America that will be cleansed as much as those who were to care for her, the watchmen in high places of governance – both civil and ecclesiastical. Over the last 50 years we have seen dark forces at work in our legislative bodies, consistent with a specific date, June 26; a date that supports darkness. In Jewish tradition, June 26th is the 9th of Av which has ties to ominous events (cite one of your papers that discusses this date)

 The U.S. Supreme Court re-defined marriage for all 50 states on June 26 of 2015.

 The U.S. Supreme Court overturned The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) on June 26 of 2013.

 The U.S. Supreme Court invalidated sodomy laws for all 50 states on June 26 of 2003.

 Pres. Barak Hussein Obama declared June of 2009 "Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Pride month", doing so on

 June 1 of 2009. It was put in place by executive order.

 Leaders of the LDS Church read the Proclamation of the Family 2 times on Sept. 23rd of 1995 as a warning.

 This was Rosh Hashanah that year, the civil New Year’s Day of the king (the 1st day of the 7th month anciently). This

 day is tied to repentance within the 40 days of Teshuvah (return & repent), and the coming of the King – in judgment

 upon His kingdom. Rosh Hashanah is the day the Bridegroom comes to get and marry His Bride, doing so at

 midnight, when trumpeting is heard, or when the “cry” goes forth to “Awake and Arise - for the Bridegroom cometh.”

 The U.S. Supreme Court banned prayer from public school on June 25 of 1962.

 *Walls of Morality Breached* June 26 is the 9th of Tammuz on the Hebrew Calendar (in their 4th month). Tammuz was a Babylonian God, said to be the reincarnation of Nimrod, enemy to God (the Jews were held captive in Babylon for a time and took portions of their calendar from them, including the name of the 4th month). Baal religion is a form of Satan worship which began with Nimrod. Nimrod means, “he rebelled” or literally, “he returned to Baal” or Satan. The people of Babylon built the Tower of Babel, which was a tower to their god Baal (Gen. 10:8-12, 11:2). On the 9th of Tammuz (or June 26) in 423 BCE, king Nebuchadnezzar's army breached the walls of Jerusalem, entering the Holy City Jerusalem. Eight days later on the 17th day of Tammuz, the Temple services were disrupted and the daily sacrificial offerings were discontinued. Finally, one month later, Solomon's Temple was destroyed on the9th of Av (Av is the 5th month). The Jews were then exiled to Babylon for 70 years. As a result, this day became a day of fasting and mourning. Upon return to their homeland, the second temple was later built (that of Zerubabbel). Some 500 years later Jerusalem fell again, this time on the 17th of Tammuz, just prior to destruction of the Herod’s Temple (again on the 9th of Av).

 It is clear that Satan and the secret combinations of our day are aware of this ancient date, somehow coordinating advances on this day for gay rights and the legalization of other sexual perversion. The day of June 26th is thus associated with the breaching of the protective walls of the ancient Holy City and her temple! It is the result of idolatry, of Israel forsaking God and breaking their covenants with Him. It resulted in the loss of their covenant lands, homes, and possessions, and their freedom, many losing their lives. It was followed by 70 years of captivity in Babylon. This represented a 10-fold time punishment for not honoring the Sabbatical Year of Release every 7th year - when the land was to rest, when slaves were to be set free, and when all debt forgiven. It is tied to Christ’s mission of redemption, and where oppression was released. It is where all who are humble and repentant are granted a release from sin, death, and hell (“hell” being separation from God).

 Polygamy may be a form of Baal worship among the Saints, and appears to have been a tool of the adversary to attack the LDS church early on. It was conceived in chambers of hidden darkness (see D&C 38:13 & 28). See <http://www.lorendavis.com/news_articles_Baal_Satanism.html>, and the paper, The Abomination of Desolation. We must be vigilant and check what is taught against the word of God in scripture and pure revelation. We must not blindly follow any man. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. *The Temple Lot Case* This court case was about ownership of the land that Joseph Smith dedicated for the New Jerusalem Temple near Independence Missouri. The doctrine of the churches involved in The Temple Lot Case became the basis for the final outcome of land ownership, and specifically the doctrine of polygamy. What follows are snippets from the court case to keep the length down, while reporting the major points of the case.

 Both parties to the suit (The RLDS Church versus the Church of Christ Temple Lot Church, with lawyers supplied to the later by the Utah LDS Church, 60 F, 950) claimed to be the rightful owners of the property as the legitimate successor to “the primitive Church” (the Church first organized by Joseph Smith in 1830). With the issue thus framed, the Court was forced to determine what constituted Church doctrine prior to the martyrdom of Joseph Smith Jr. and then determine which Church more closely followed that doctrine. The outcome of the case was determined by one doctrine—polygamy, and whether it was part of Joseph’s “primitive” or early Church in 1830.

 Loosely, this was the central issue of the case. It became the duty of the Court to determine if this doctrine had been practiced by the primitive Church (the early restoration days of Joseph Smith). If it had not, the Court had to then determine which of the parties initiated the practice (of polygamy) thereby terminating their rights as successor to the primitive Church.

 The first question one must ask is how did a purported “revelation” become doctrine in the primitive Church? Joseph Smith III (son of Joseph and Emma Smith), plaintiff’s witness and president of the RLDS Church, testified that when the purported revelation was received by the primitive Church it had to pass each of the following by unanimous vote: 1. the First Presidency, 2. the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and 3. the Quorum of the Seventies. If each of the previous branches (equal in power to another) unanimously approved the revelation as being “of God,” then the revelation was passed on to the body of the Church for the member vote. If a majority of the membership approved the revelation, it was then canonized as a law of the Church and published in the Doctrine and Covenants (Abstract 50). Joseph Smith III, president of the RLDS Church, and William Blair, editor of the RLDS newsletter The Herald, both testified that this method was used by the RLDS Church (Abstract 109).

 In contrast, defense witness Lorenzo Snow, LDS president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, stated “the entire authority of the Church rested upon the Twelve. Brigham Young (President of the Twelve at the time of Joseph Smith Jr.’s martyrdom) was made President of the Church afterwards” (Abstract 323). William Blair, plaintiff’s witness, stated the LDS Church had materially changed the functioning of the First Presidency by making it subservient to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (Abstract 111, see D&C 107 for the “four equal quorums” direction by the LORD).

 Next, one must determine if the purported revelation concerning polygamy went through the procedures outlined above. As mentioned earlier, the Court’s determination of responsibility was critical to the outcome of the trial. As such, the vast majority of the testimony in the case dealt with polygamy. In retrospect, it seems the LDS Church hurt its image in the eyes of the Court by the constant, unwavering espousal of the doctrine of polygamy and their accusation that the doctrine was practiced by the late Joseph Smith Jr. as early as 1842 (two years before his martyrdom). These claims were refuted in several ways. The defendants, through their chief witness Wilford Woodruff (president of the LDS Church), alleged that Joseph Smith Jr. taught polygamy as early as 1842 (Abstract 302). However, John C. Bennett was excommunicated from the primitive Church in October 1842 [for this practice]. The official church newspaper, the Time and Seasons (John Taylor as Editor), ran an article, dated 1 October 1842, that stated: “We, the undersigned members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the primitive church) and residents of the city of Nauvoo, person and families, do hereby certify and declare that we know of no other rule or system of marriage then the one published from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants [of 1835 (specifically Section 101, which provided for monogamous marriage), and we give this certificate to show that Dr. J. C. Bennett’s “secret wife system” is a creation of his own make as we know of no such society in this place nor ever did. This proclamation was signed by the Quorum of Twelve, including Wilford Woodruff (Abstract 303).

 It appears that Brigham Young (of the LDS Church in Utah) “revealed” the revelation of polygamy at the General Conference of the LDS Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1852 (Abstract 322). Supposedly, the revelation was given to Joseph Smith Jr. on 12 July 1843, almost eleven months before his death. In addition, the “revelation” had not been brought before any Quorum of the Church, or membership of the Church for approval during Joseph Smith Jr.’s life. Its first presentation to the public occurred at the LDS Conference in 1852. Thus, this did not follow the law of the primitive Church. Another oddity concerning the “revelation” of polygamy included the manner of becoming the law of the LDS Church. As previously mentioned, before a purported revelation may become law it must first pass the three leadership Quorums and then be presented to the general membership for the approval/disapproval of the revelation (Abstract 322).

 Despite there having been **no** proper vote on the polygamous revelation, the LDS Church deleted Section 101 from their Doctrine and Covenants in 1876 and in lieu thereof inserted the “revelation” on polygamy. When questioned about this event, Wilford Woodruff, president of the LDS Church, stated: “I do not know why it was done. It was done by the authority of whoever presided over the Church, I suppose. Brigham Young was the President then” [Abstract 309].

 *Conclusion*  As with other political trials, the trial of The Temple Lot Case did not settle what was intended, that is, settle the title dispute to the Temple Lot. Instead, the bottom line was that status quo would be maintained. It is somewhat ironic that the parties to the suit, through a convoluted course of action, got exactly what they wanted. The RLDS Church was declared the true successor to the primitive Church (based on points of doctrine [polygamy] and practice of the same) and the Church of Christ [Temple Lot] was awarded the property that was coveted by all factions of the primitive Church. The LDS Church, for its part, received another chance to do legal battle with the RLDS Church (in 1880, the title to the Kirtland Temple, located in Ohio, was awarded to the RLDS Church by the Court of Common Pleas, Lake County, Ohio.) Despite the efforts for full adjudication, the war of words still continues among those involved in the suit.” See 1 Ne. 14:10, 22:23.

 See <http://restorationbookstore.org/blog/TLCtestimonies.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. *Deceptiv****e Code Words for Spiritual Wifery* Deception and lies have been part of the practice of polygamy since the very beginning. Lying helped keep those practicing it out of legal trouble in Utah.**An 1886 issue of the Deseret News(42 years after Joseph’s death) listed ten code words or statements (#’s 3-12) that were considered useful in lying about it to protect its secret practice. Those accused of practicing what was first called (1) “spiritual wifery” at Nauvoo, or Brigham’s (2) “new order of things,” denied that it was occurring via lying, or by parsing their words using the following phrases. They include: (3) “plural marriage,” (4)*“*celestial marriage, (5)plurality of wives, (6) the order of the priesthood*,* (7)eternal marriage, (8)the divine order of marriage*,* (9)Holy order of marriage, (10) living up to your privileges, (11) “a different view of things,” and (12) the New and Everlasting Covenant.” All of these phrases (especially title number 12), were tied to what was considered a higher form of marriage, practiced by the select few who were part of a “secret priesthood” (and the things of the temple), supposedly put in place by God. “Polygamy” on the other hand was seen as a doctrine of men and the devil. Because some of the Saints believed their accusers did not frame their allegations using precisely the right terms, they felt justified in their lying. Some believed it was more important to live the higher law and to be loyal to the church and its leaders, than to expose the truth to outsiders. This allowed lying to become a standard “justifying” practice to protect “sacred things.” Loyalty to the Church and its leaders - via deception - thus trumped honesty, a practice continuing today (see Linda King Newell and Valeen Tippets Avery, Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith,p. 113). See also B. Carmon Hardy, Solemn Covenant: The Mormon Polygamous Passage, University of Illinois Press, 1992, p. 365. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. See https://restorationbookstore.org/articles/nopoligamy/jsfp-vol1/chp4.htm [↑](#endnote-ref-5)