

Setting the Stage
Polygamy in Mormonism
Fruits in the Vineyard

This book (The Secret Chamber) is written to all Latter-day Saints or former Saints, either in or out of the church. It is focused on the complex subject of polygamy and how Satan used it to wreak havoc on the fullness of the gospel of Christ early on in church history, resulting in what the Book of Mormon calls our “awful situation” today.

The purpose of the fullness of the gospel of Christ at the beginning of Joseph’s Restoration movement was to bring salvation to all those who would turn to Christ the LORD. He and the Father raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith for this purpose. Satan opposed the Restoration plan and used polygamy and Freemasonry early on to effectively stifle part of it, specifically the fullness portion of Christ’s precious gospel. It has led to our awful situation today.

Joseph’s primary mission was to bring forth more of God’s priceless word in scripture, and specifically in two key works; (1) the Book of Mormon, and (2) Joseph Smith’s inspired re-translation of the entire Bible. Together, God called them “**the fullness of my scriptures**” (see D&C 42:12, 15, 56-59). They were to go forth to world together, as one volume, along with the oracles or revelations contained in the Doctrine and Covenants. It was part of God’s work through the Prophet Joseph to bring forth the fullness of the doctrine, gospel, and church of Christ - to the blessed remnant of Jacob and of Lehi on this land, and to repentant Jews and Gentiles everywhere. Unfortunately, the publication of both works did not happen in Joseph’s lifetime. They didn’t go out together in one volume.

Polygamy and other distractions introduced by Satan early on - via a secret combination, stopped this portion of Joseph’s mission from being completed in his lifetime (see D&C 38:13 & 28). It eventually led to Joseph’s murder, and that of his brothers Hyrum and Samuel Smith in 1844. It wouldn’t be until 1867 that Joseph’s entire re-translation of the Bible would finally be published, and by Joseph Smith’s firstborn son, Joseph Smith III. He did so as the President of the RLDS church in Missouri. Unknown to most, Joseph Smith III, in collaboration with the U.S. Government in the late 19th century, helped eradicate the abomination of polygamy among the Saints in Utah Territory. He did so to clear his father’s name from this practice, and to help remove the curses which polygamy had brought upon the Brighamite Saints. This is part of the untold story you are about to be exposed to.

Consulting God’s word first and digging deeper into our history has resulted in my conclusion that the Prophet Joseph is innocent of polygamy. But even if he was not, the message of this book remains the same, one consistent with the Book of Mormon and other scripture. And that message is that polygamy is a whoredom that brings with it curses. Joseph’s name has been used to promote a narrative that is **not** true, all for the sake of **gain** (1 Ne. 22:23). It continues today. If Satan and evil and designing men can get you and others to believe that Joseph was a polygamist, and that he deceived Emma and many others to live it, then it is easy to throw him out and embrace Brigham Young and his ways. For most, however, the false narrative of Joseph’s polygamy *and* the clear practice of it by Brigham is a stumbling block that results in not only throwing Joseph out, the Book of Mormon he brought forth, *and* the church, but most importantly **Christ the LORD**. All can be flushed away. Darkness wins. This book has been created that all the Saints, for or against polygamy, might come to **the truth**, and **He** is Jesus the Christ. **He is the way, the truth, and the life** (John 14:6). **He** and His truth set us all free, regardless of what Joseph and Brigham did or did not do.

The **key** to find **truth** about polygamy in this deceiving world is to turn to God for it, in the **fullness** of His word. He has encouraged us to turn **first** to His written word in scripture (D&C 18:3), especially the Book of Mormon *along with* Joseph’s re-translation of the Bible. We are then to turn to God’s revealed word to us personally in **pure revelation**. We must pray fervently for clarity and truth from **the source** of all truth. Only with these two important witnesses together - can we overcome the lies, deception, and ignorance spread all around us - to find **light**. This is one of the first messages of the Book of Mormon. Lehi and Nephi his son found light at the Tree of Life, but only after they were first enveloped in darkness, led there by a **man dressed in white** (see 1 Nephi 8:5-11; 2 Ne. 7:10-11; Isa. 50:7-11). The light found was Jesus and His love. He then takes us to the Father (and later Mother). Lehi, Nephi, and others in the Book of Mormon tasted the sweet fruit of this Tree (God’s love) and worked hard to bring others to it too.

Re-introducing readers to this pathway is a primary goal in this book. It is thus focused on three related themes; (1) **polygamy**, (2) **idolatry**, and (3) **the doctrine of Christ**. Addressing them together brings understanding of why

things are they way they are, with so much lying, deception, and distraction, keeping us from partaking of **the Tree**. It was and is part of Satan's plan to destroy us by removing the fuller, saving portions of the doctrine and gospel of Christ. This work re-introduces readers to the important saving doctrines of Christ, revealing how they were modified or removed when Brigham Young, and the Saints following him, embraced spiritual wifery.

Throughout history, Satan and his followers have opposed God's saving mission. When they organize into a **secret combination**, there is control, coercion, and often murder, all to get and keep "gain" (1 Ne. 22:23). Eighty-three scriptures in the Book of Mormon address secret combinations. They provide understanding of our current situation today. For most men, "gain" is sex, power, money, the honors of men, and the things of the world. When secret combinations rise up among us, all those under their control then become part of an "**awful situation**." We as Saints are currently in such a predicament, though far too many are not fully aware of it. All are invited to "awake and arise."

The phrase – "awful situation" – is addressed two times in the Book of Mormon (Mosiah 2:40 & Ether 8:24). King Benjamin, a wise, holy man in the book, revealed that it is to be in an **unsaved, unrepentant** state, unable to receive God's light. This is especially troubling in our day, as the great harvest of souls addressed in scripture is nearly upon us (see D&C 45:2, 56:16; Jer. 17:11). Towards the end of the Book of Mormon, Moroni tells us why so many are in this **awful, unsaved** condition. It is because of another "awful situation," the **secret combinations surrounding us** (Ether 8:24). They keep us in ignorance purposely for their gain. It isn't just governments that do this (national, state, and city). Secret agendas are fully entrenched in our educational institutions, in the media and entertainment industries, in schools (lower and higher education), *and* in churches. This is the clear message of the Book of Mormon. The book has solutions for us too. As the word of God, it can be trusted. Scripture is thus the lens we will first turn to in each of the ensuing chapters. They reveal the remaining curses we have inherited from our early polygamy.

The Prophet Mormon said that **all churches** in our day would be polluted (Morm. 8:36), and that those in them would be **ashamed of Christ**. The LORD Himself said that we would **deny** Him (2 Ne. 28:32), **reject** Him (2 Ne. 1:10), and **forsake** Him (Jer. 2:13; 17:5-14). The Book of Mormon addresses **us** as Latter-day Saints. Too many have believed that the prophets in this book are speaking of others. Instead, we are the ones who have been commanded by Christ to read the book, and especially the revealing words of Isaiah found in it (via 21 Isaiah chapters) along with the Bible. God's word in it collectively addresses our day, our "**awful situation**." Early **polygamy**, and the **idolatry** tied to it (in church and leader worship), has replaced the LORD Jesus Christ as our light in too many instances.

The Israelites of the Bible forsook God from time to time, so too believers in the Book of Mormon. The Latter-day Saints of early church history did so too, as too many do today. It began in subtle form when the man Joseph Smith was raised up to be a light to the people as their "Prophet, Seer, and Revelator," rather than seeking after our Savior (see 3 Ne. 18:24). Idolatry (placing faith and trust in "flesh" - mortal leaders) took on an even stronger role among the Nauvoo Saints when half of them followed Brigham Young and the Twelve west, out of Nauvoo and into polygamy. It cursed the Saints for some sixty years in Utah Territory, until a government crackdown stopped this whoredom for most. The early curse of this form of idolatry, however, remains with us. It is an institutional practice, reinforced with mantras like "follow the prophet," indoctrinated into our primary children at a very young age. Another mantra reinforcing this idolatry states, "we cannot and will not lead you astray." Neither statement is found in scripture. Both take our focus off of the LORD Jesus. To receive light, truth, and real salvation, we must rely on Him as our ROCK.

Satan's introduction of the whoredom of polygamy early on in Mormonism has had a significant negative impact upon the Saints. Chief among many addressed hereafter, is our ignorance of the pathway to Salvation. It is an "**awful situation**" to remain in sin, darkness, and ignorance when salvation and significant progression thereafter is possible (see Mosiah 2:36-41). Because of pride, many Saints believe they already have salvation through their works and are thus not seeking the LORD and His salvation. I know, for I was in this **awful situation** for much of my life. I was deceived. For far too many, ordinances completed in the temple, and years of service in the church, are assumed indicators of at least some level of salvation. Wise virgins like Alma in the Book of Mormon eventually came to realize that their works were dead works, and that Christ the LORD was and is the only one providing us **redemption** on a personal, individual basis. Alma discovered this while listening to Abinadi. He shared his powerful witness of the living God. Alma then wisely left his sins and King Noah's court to seek and receive this salvation. He cried out to God for mercy (like Lehi in 1 Nephi 8:5-11) and then was made new in **Him**. This message repeats throughout the book that God has given us through Joseph the Prophet.

There are a number of key scriptures in the Book of Mormon that reveal its primary focus is two things: (1) **salvation** through Christ the LORD and how to receive it, and its polar opposite (2) the **secret combinations** that rise up among men to stop it. Those reading it are invited to “**awake and arise.**” Before we can receive salvation and arise into our LORD’s holy presence, we must first awaken to the “awful situation” we find ourselves in (our unsaved status). Much of this is a direct result of the curses upon us that arose from decades of polygamy in our early history.

As part of Joseph Smith’s important mission, God had him bring forth the Book of Mormon first, because it clearly presents these two key messages to us. Both are desperately needed today. Both were corrupted to some degree in the Bible. Again, the first is, (1) the clear pattern of “**how to be saved or redeemed**” of God. And the second is, (2) the clear pattern of how Satan continually inhibits “the way of salvation” by **corrupting God’s fullness of truth from within**, and often via **secret combinations** (organized evil). Polygamy was a significant part of Satan’s plan to pollute the church in our early history, as we will see hereafter. It is thus a primary focus of this work. It also reveals the reasons for our present state. This work shines light into the darkness to fully expose it hereafter. Be open and prayerful, for many of these truths will be unfamiliar, even shocking. In the end, however, the truth sets us free.

In the four Book of Mormon events listed below, note that each of them features an individual or group escaping sin and corruption. Note that each situation is **marked by sexual immorality** (including polygamy), as part of a **secret combination** put in place by leaders for this and other forms of “gain.” Each of them resulted in an awful situation, where the wise needed to (1) awaken to it first; (2) they are then encouraged to turn to **the LORD** in repentance; And in the end, (3) they departed from their predicament, their awful situation. For ancient Israel, they left Egypt and Babylon. Modern Israel today must do so *spiritually* first. Our salvation is at stake. We the modern Saints are the fifth group presented below, and are in the same awful situation addressed throughout scripture. We too are being tested and encouraged to grow via experience. We must be “wise” virgins and choose between two ways to awake and arise.

1. Lehi was committed to the LORD and had a vision of impending judgment on the city of Jerusalem. He took his family and departed wicked Jerusalem, as its leaders were oppressing the people with high taxes and practicing **whoredoms**, like those of David and Solomon of old (see Jacob 2:25). Lehi and Nephi turned their hearts fully to God and were preserved, taken to this new Promised Land, to raise up righteous seed or a branch of the house of Israel here, while the great city Jerusalem was destroyed.

2. Alma was a priest in King Noah’s court of priests (the king replaced righteous priests with his own). They enjoyed the chief seats, living off the people with high taxes in order to support their lavish lifestyle, including **many wives** and concubines (Mosiah 11:1-8). Alma repented, leaving the King’s court after hearing Abinadi’s stirring testimony of Christ. He turned to God, then sought to awaken others to their **unsaved** condition. They came together in the wilderness, where they were free to pursue the LORD and His pure truths.

3. The *once* enlightened and believing Nephites allowed outside influences to corrupt them. They embraced both **secret combinations** and the **whoredom** of polygamy, whereas their enemy (the unbelieving Lamanites) loved the single wife each had, and their children. Jacob tells us that God allowed the Lamanites to destroy the entire Nephite civilization because of their *two great sins*. The LORD preserved a *remnant* of these people on this land **because** they did not embrace **either** of these sins. The book is written to *them*, and to Jews and Gentiles (see the Title Page).

4. God also brought the Brother of Jared and his people to this special land to escape the evil at the Tower of Babel. Like Jerusalem, **idolatry** and **whoredoms** were also rampant. In time, the same old plans of the evil one surfaced here, those tied to getting gain and using secret blood-oaths and murder to maintain it. This secret combination pattern is repeatedly used to topple kingdoms and start new ones, that sex, power, and money might be maintained by those in control. Eighty-three scriptures address this in the Book of Mormon.

5. Modern awakening Latter-day Saints are once again leaving *spiritual* Egypt and Babylon **to find the LORD** and escape darkness, corruption, and increasing sexual sin all around us. They are the “wise virgins” invited to be with Him in the Bridal Chamber. You and I must make difficult choices as we awake to this awful situation spoken of in the book, discovering **our** need for salvation, as secret combinations increase around us, keeping far too many from **truth**. And that truth is that we need to know God, receiving salvation and Him personally, and His other gifts.

Seeking Truth

Hereafter this book will present much that may be uncomfortable and unsettling. I have done my best to insure that it is truthful, but as in all things, you would be wise to consult God at every turn. He is the fountain of living waters. The LORD Jesus is also our primary source light as the father of our salvation (3 Nephi 18:24). His word tells us that truth is a dividing, powerful sword, forcing us one way or the other (Matt. 10:34). Do you want truth? Will you receive it? Many are happy to remain in ignorance, yet God has said that **we cannot be saved in ignorance** (D&C 131:6). In each chapter that follows, God's holy word in scripture is consulted first for **His** light and direction. The works of men in books, papers, and websites are then used for their added support. The *sources* chosen are very important. Too many of them have been corrupted by an agenda. Whether pro or anti-polygamy in their focus, each provides "evidence" that Joseph Smith had many wives or just one. Their opposing viewpoints quote many sources to support their claims, but rarely the fullness of God's word in scripture. The truth about polygamy can be a confusing mess, often full of lies and deception. The best place to start is always **God's written word**. I put my faith and trust in God, as did Nephi and Jeremiah (2 Ne. 4:34, 28:31; Jer. 17:5). The results are profound and revealing, and are backed up by the most trustworthy historical sources. The final word, however, is God's confirmation in **pure revelation** via prayer. It too is not consulted enough. Too few have learned to receive "pure" revelation – from God. Scripture tells us that in the mouth of these two or three witnesses, **all truth** is established (2 Cor. 13:1). Scripture and "pure" revelation are our two most important witnesses! Our corrupted history is a distant third.

For us to receive "pure" revelation, we must be clean, via heartfelt, sincere repentance and have an open, believing, and receptive heart. This **requires us to be free of our own biases**, called "**idols**" in scripture. We as Latter-day Saints often hold many **idols in our hearts**, based on what our leaders and our Mormon culture have given us. These biases are called "**iniquities**" in scripture – passed down to us from "fathers, priests, and kings." They become part of our belief and tradition and have a profound affect upon our ability to **receive truth** in new, more accurate ideas.

WHO we believe determines What we believe.

Truth is obtained from the purest, uncorrupted sources. Because of the **iniquity** of **idolatry**, the Saints are conditioned to accept the narrative of "the arm of flesh" (mortal leaders) rather than God - in most all things, including polygamy. Sadly, this is one of the poorest sources of truth we have regarding this topic, primarily because of changes made to official church history, journals, and other sources, by those controlling this history immediately following Joseph Smith's murder. In ensuing chapters, we will see that **seven sources** of information for us (chap. 2) were modified to reflect a pro-polygamy stance, first under the direction of Brigham Young (chap. 2). Following the murder of the Smith brothers, a division arose among the Saints as to who should be their new leader. It was the succession crisis of 1844 (chap. 4). The most prominent dividing line for the Saints at Nauvoo at that time was **who to believe**. One's choice led them into two primary groups, those calling themselves "Brighamites" or "Josephites."

By 1846, the dividing line eventually led to their support of or rejection of **polygamy**. Early on the support and practice of it by leaders was *bidden* from the followers. It became more prominent among church leaders between 1844 and 46, after Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith were murdered. It was in the valleys of Utah Territory where Brigham Young finally let "**the cat out of the bag**" in 1852, informing the Saints that polygamy (and polyandry) had been practiced secretly in Nauvoo since the early 1840's (this is confirmed today by Church leadership). Half the Saints there rejected Brigham Young's leadership, his polygamy, and other new doctrines he began introducing to the people. These included not only polygamy, but Young's blood atonement doctrine, the Adam-God theory, the law of adoption, and other false doctrines, some in connection with a modified form of the temple endowment. The Josephites who remained behind wanted to stay true to Joseph Smith's early teachings and to the pure doctrines of Christ in the Book of Mormon. In time both groups latter lost focus on God and His will and became corrupted by the things of the world. It was and is a repeat of the apostasy – restoration cycle of scripture, occurring over and over again. What was needed then and today is a surer foundation, and that **Rock** is Christ the LORD. He is "**the way**." I choose to believe **Him** and trust **His word** first and foremost. With it there is clarity and hope rather than confusion.

Polygamy was practiced secretly in Nauvoo early on by a select few leaders until the three Smith brothers were murdered. Polygamy then exploded among the people at Nauvoo. Eight years later in Salt Lake (1852) the doctrine of "plurality of wives" was announced to the world as a **new tenet** or **doctrine** of the faith, part of Brigham's "**new order of things**." Thirteen different names would eventually be tied to this **whoredom**, many of them used to hide it from those around them *and* especially the Federal Government (p. 191). These deceptive names and the false

justification tied to the practice - that Joseph Smith originated the practice - reflect the same old perversions of the Bible and the Book of Mormon. It is an unholy mix of religion with sex. The practice was later given the more acceptable title of “celestial” marriage. The Cochranites north of Boston called it “**spiritual wifery.**” **Lies** leading to **deception** promoted the practice and maintained it. Satan is the father of all such lies (Moses 4:4).

Because of the division among the Nauvoo Saints early on, there are two sets of history to consult when researching polygamy. One reflects the modified, pro-polygamy stance of the Brighamite Saints that followed Brigham Young west to the Rocky Mountains. This is the one put forth by leadership of the LDS church today. The other history is that of the Josephites who refused to except Brigham Young as a leader, his polygamy, and other teachings. Once again, **who we believe determines what we believe.** Too many of the Brighamite Saints are unfamiliar with the other half of our history, the Josephite history, that of **the Smith family.** Their voices have been suppressed. Many have held the assumption that the Josephites left behind are not trustworthy, or that they are an “apostate” group that rejected Brigham Young and the church. This too is a lie, part of a labeling technique used to diminish, demean, discredit, downplay, or ignore *the opposing viewpoint*, as it most likely adds significant light to the story. The Josephite story **is** significant. It features **Joseph Smith’s unmodified words**, and those of **the Smith family** generally. They have been underutilized and ignored by the Brighamite Saints. Hereafter, three primary sources are consulted for the polygamy information in this book which follows. It is a fascinating, enlightening journey.

1. **God** God’s written word in *scripture* is consulted first. We must be careful to let it say what it says without bias or filtration. We must then consult His direct word via *pure revelation*, obtained by seeking **His will** and the **truth**, regardless of the resulting ramifications. This requires us to remove all **idols in our heart**, all assumptions, etc. The scriptures may include some sources that have been ignored (the full JST Bible), and some in the LDS canon of scripture that have been modified (Jacob 3:5), added to (D&C 132, or removed from it - the old D&C 101) by men, **without a vote** of priesthood quorums and church membership (see D&C 26:2; Mosiah 29:26; Alma 29:4; 1 Sam. 8:7). This is how our single pro-polygamy work (D&C 132) became part of our scripture.
2. **The Smith Family** The most truthful, unbiased sources relative to LDS polygamy originate in **the Smith family**, not in third party witnesses, produced decades *after* the fact, and by those with an *agenda*. We can use the unfiltered, unmodified words of their own mouths, not questionable witnesses who claim Joseph said one thing, while actually saying another. Hereafter we will consult the Prophet Joseph Smith Jr. and his brothers Hyrum, Samuel, and William Smith, and his sister Katharine Smith, along with Joseph’s mother Lucy Mack Smith, his wife Emma Smith, and Joseph’s firstborn son, Joseph Smith III. The words of **the Smith’s** have been underutilized by the Brighamite Saints out west, as they are **anti-polygamy** and are thus unpopular among the pro-polygamy groups today, led by the Utah LDS church and its leaders, of which I have been a member since age 8. I am a Brighamite by tradition, but a Josephite in belief. I have a leg in each camp and have come to understand both positions. Most importantly, I value God and the truth He gives. I let both sides have their say and then compare it to **God’s word** in scripture. This helps in forming questions to take to the LORD for His confirmation, the pattern of all wise ones in scripture. Joseph read James 1:5-6 and prayed. I recommend it.
3. **Unmodified Sources of History** One must be very careful with the pro-polygamy history of the LDS church, as official LDS church sources have been modified to reflect the stance of Brigham Young early on (chap. 2). They are often questionable. This is the evaluation of some early, **official LDS Church historians** familiar with our early documents. Sadly, the less biased, unmodified sources on this subject are typically those obtained from non-LDS Church sources, those who separated from Brigham Young in Nauvoo. Like the Smith family, most of them claim Joseph Smith was innocent of polygamy, and that he was **framed** as its originator to **justify** its practice among the early Brighamite Saints, those fully committed to this whoredom early on.

The Important Message for Us in the Book of Mormon

In D&C 84, the Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood, the LORD informed the Saints that we remain under condemnation for not understanding *and* implementing the teachings of the Book of Mormon, and specifically its pathway to salvation – in the “fullness” of Christ’s gospel. The condemnation is given us in verses 50 and 51, where God states boldly that those who do **not repent** and **come unto Him** are under “**the bondage of sin.**” To overcome this, we have been given “the everlasting covenant” or the “**fullness**” of the gospel of Christ (D&C 66:2). It is to obey God’s will (see endnote 31). It is to embrace the pathway God lays out for us to receive a fullness of salvation **from Him**. Throughout scripture and in our early history, we see men modifying God’s ways, adding things

they desire (like polygamy). They then lift themselves up as **lights** before the people (priestcraft) for the sake of **gain**. The Book of Mormon was given that we might recognize this corrupt pattern. That book contains “the new covenant.” In it we are reminded to “**repent and remember**” the original covenant in verse 57. There, God states:

“And your minds in times past have been darkened because of *unbelief*, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received—Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all. And they shall remain under this condemnation until they **repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon** and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to **do** according to that **which I have written**—That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father’s kingdom; otherwise there remaineth a scourge and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion” (D&C 84:54-57).

This scripture was given early on in **1832**. We have reaped portions of this scourge and judgment because of early choices. Fortunately there is always hope in Christ. Ten scriptures presented hereafter summarize the entire Book of Mormon message – and many in association with the polygamy of early Mormonism. In them and others we find that the Book of Mormon presents two primary messages; (1) **God’s plan of salvation**, offered to us via His love - in an invitation, and (2) **Satan’s secretive plan to stop it**, typically in association with secret combinations that oppress us and keep us ignorant of God’s saving ways, all **for the sake of gain**. Clear knowledge of these two polar opposites represent “**the plain and precious things**” *edited out* of the Bible by evil and designing men. God thus raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith to *restore* these truths to us in the Book of Mormon *and* the Joseph Smith re-translation of the Bible. Both of these messages are tied to our **awful situation** today, that many remain unredeemed (Mosiah 2:36-41), because of the secret combinations that keep us ignorant of both things - for the sake of **their gain** (Ether 8:24).

The rise of polygamy among us, within a secret combination, is the subject of God’s revelation in D&C 38:13 and 28. Few are aware of it. God called it “**the secret chamber**” there (chap. 3). It was put in place fully within the church at Nauvoo and led to the murder of three Smith brothers, that polygamy might be embraced. It is awful to **not** be fully aware of “**the way**” of salvation of our God, addressed most clearly in the Book of Mormon (chap. 7). In this inspired, merciful plan, we have opportunity to choose between **two ways**; one of God and one of men and Satan. The latter hides the truth in **secrecy**, seeking to control us for gain. The former is tied to God’s love for us and features His simple, five-word invitation to receive salvation from **Him** directly, by rejecting corrupt ones that want control, the honors of men, and our money. **Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life** (John 14:6). He repeatedly invites us to receive Him and His best gifts. He repeatedly says, “**repent and come unto me.**” It is a very efficient, five-word summary of His love, available to those who embrace His doctrine, His gospel, and His church (see D&C 10:67, 1828). Many simply call it - “**the doctrine of Christ.**” Satan used polygamy and other things to corrupt it.

In the early chapters of the Book of Mormon, Lehi and Nephi were both shown a vision of the Tree of Life. It was a representation of the love of God and the pathway to the Tree where we can taste of its sweet, white fruit. Few get on this straight and narrow path. Most remain in the comfort of the great and spacious building (man’s religion), primarily because it is **easier** to follow men rather than work to **know God**. Church leaders tell us, “we cannot and will not lead you astray.” This results in idolatry and ignorance of **the salvation that is only obtained from God** - personally. We must cry out **to Him for salvation** as Alma did, not follow men. A type is given us in 1 Ne. 8:5-11, where a “**man**” dressed in a white robe invited Lehi to **follow him**. Lehi did so and was led into a dark and dreary wasteland (see 2 Ne. 7:10-11; Isa. 50:7-11). Lehi *cried out to God* in the darkness and was then **delivered by Him!**

“And it came to pass that I saw a **man**, and he was dressed in a *white robe*; and he came and stood before me. And it came to pass that he spake unto me, and *bade me follow him*. And it came to pass that *as I followed him* I beheld myself that I was in a dark and dreary waste. And after I had traveled for the space of many hours *in darkness*, I began to pray unto the Lord that he would have mercy on me, according to the multitude of his tender mercies” (1 Ne. 8:5-8).

Later in his own vision, Lehi’s son Nephi addressed our choice between the two ways - **men or God**, stating:

“Behold **there are save two churches only**; the one is **the church of the Lamb of God**, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth **not** to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth...and she had dominion over all

the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people...I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were **few**, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore” (1 Ne. 14:10-13).

Too many remain in the great and spacious building. **Pride** is the number one reason, a sin among those in it. **Pride** leads to other sins, keeping many thinking they are already saved as God’s special people. They thus do not seek for more, including real salvation from **God**, rather than men and their churches, **all** of which are **polluted** (Morm. 8:36).

“ye do walk in the **pride** of your hearts...and all manner of iniquities; and **your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted** because of the pride of your hearts. For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted. O ye pollutions, ye hypocrites, ye teachers, who sell yourselves for that which will canker, **why have ye polluted the holy church of God? Why are ye ashamed to take upon you the name of Christ...?**” (Morm. 8:36-38).

Once again, the primary purpose of secret combinations, leading to our “**awful situation**,” is **gain**. It is hidden to keep us paying for it all. And as a result, we are given milk (little doctrine and distracting “dead works”), rather than saving meat. We are then left ignorant, **unredeemed** of God. Such are deceived, believing “all is well.”

“For the time speedily shall come that all churches which are built up to [1] get **gain**, and all those who are built up to [2] get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to [3] become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek [4] the lusts of the flesh and [5] the things of the world, and [6] to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who [7] belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they are those who must be brought low in the dust; they are those who must be consumed as stubble; and this is according to the words of **the prophet**” [who is the **Holy One of Israel**, v. 21] (1 Ne. 22:23).

Like the kings of the Bible, and the world in general, the kings in the book of Ether in the Book of Mormon sought for “**gain**” in power, money, and many wives and concubines. They turned to “the old plans,” the **secret blood-oaths** of the evil one in Moses 5:29-31, along with murder, and placed burdens upon the people to get and keep this gain (see Ether 8:13-16, 21-26; 9:26; 10:33; Hel. 6:16-41). This Book of Mormon **pattern** was present with King Noah and King Riplakish, the latter “did afflict the people with his whoredoms and abominations” along with heavy taxes. So also his son King Morianton, and, “because of his many **whoredoms**...he was **cut off from the presence of the LORD**.” Kings Akish, Riplakish, and Morianton in Ether 8-9, and King Noah of Mosaiah 11 are given us as **types** or **patterns** for why Joseph and Hyrum were murdered at Nauvoo. Wicked leaders seek power and many wives in their kingdoms. Such are **cut off** from God. They oppress others, murdering those in power to get and keep their “gain.”

Seeing our day, the Father commanded the Son Jesus to address similar sins among the Saints of our day, those at Kirtland, Nauvoo, and Salt Lake. The ten sins He lists below are very revealing. Most of the Saints have **not** considered that they **refer to us** - past and present, as we will see in ensuing chapters. In God’s wisdom, these sins are listed for us **five times** as a clear **witness** in (1) 3 Ne. 16:10, (2) 3 Ne. 21:19, (3) 3 Ne. 30:2, (4) Book of Commandments 4:5-6, and (5) D&C 123:12-13. In His mercy and love, God also shows us **how** to escape them in the last verse of 3 Nephi, in verse 2 of chapter 30. The message of all five scriptures is that following God leads us to light, whereas following men leads us to **lies, deception, and their curses** (2 Ne. 4:34, 28:31; Jer. 17:5).

“And thus commandeth the Father that I [Jesus] should say unto **you**: At that day when the Gentiles [us] shall sin against *my gospel*, and shall **reject the fulness of my gospel**, and shall be lifted up in the **pride** of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of [1] **lyings**, and of [2] **deceits**, and of **mischiefs**, and all manner of **hypocrisy**, and **murders**, and **priestcrafts**, and **whoredoms, secret abominations**; and if they shall do all those things, and shall **reject the fulness of my gospel**, behold, saith the Father, I will bring **the fulness of my gospel** from among them. And then will I remember **my covenant** which I have made unto **my people**, O house of Israel, and I will bring **my gospel** unto them” (3 Ne. 16:10-11).

Who are “**my people**”? And what is it that the LORD calls “**my doctrine**,” “**my gospel**” and its “**fulness**”?

“**Turn**, all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways; and **repent** of your evil doings, of your [1] **lyings** and [2] **deceivings**, and of your *whoredoms*, and of your *secret abominations*, and your *idolatries*, and of your *murders*, and your

priestcrafts, and your *envyings*, and your *strifes*, and from all your *wickedness* and *abominations*, and **come unto me**, and be baptized in **my name**, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with **the Holy Ghost**, that ye may be numbered with **my people** who are of the house of Israel” (3 Nephi 30:2).

Our sins as Saints are provided in a 3-part listing *below*. Note especially that our LORD lists **lies** #1 and **deception** #2 at the start of all 3 lists (and 2 others, see pages 88-89). This is significant! Third Nephi 16:10 tells us that **we** will reject the “**the fullness**” of Christ’s gospel, whereas 3 Nephi 30:2 tells us **what** this “**fullness**” is. And note too that the 3rd sin listed in God’s “top 10” listing in 30:2 - is (3) “**whoredoms**.” Polygamy and polyandry (as part of “**spiritual wifery**”) were secretly practiced among select leaders in early church history until “the cat was let out of the bag” publically in Utah in 1852. Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith (the 3 murdered) were not among those practicing these things. They preached against them. To hide, protect, and maintain this sexual part of their “gain,” 3 sins were practiced repeatedly, those listed in 3 Nephi 30:2. They are (1) **lying**, (2) **deception**, and (3) **whoredoms**.

3 Nephi 16:10 (our Gentile sins)	3 Nephi 21:14-21 (our Gentile sins)	3 Nephi 30:2 (our Gentile sins)
we will reject the fullness of the gospel and be lifted up in pride	wo unto the Gentiles except they repent ...And it shall come to pass that	Hearken of ye Gentiles, turn all ye Gentiles from your wicked ways; and repent - of
and be filled with lyings (#1) and deceits (#2) and mischiefs and all manner of hypocrisy and murders and priestcrafts and whoredoms and secret abominations	all lyings (#1) and deceivings (#2) and envyings and strifes and priestcrafts and whoredoms shall be done away	all lyings (#1) and deceivings (#2) and whoredoms and secret abominations and idolatries and murders and priestcrafts and envyings and strifes and all wickedness & abominations
the fullness is taken from the Gentiles and then given to the house of Israel	For it shall come to pass, saith the Father ...whosoever will not repent and come unto my Beloved Son , them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel	and instead come unto me and be baptized and be filled with [fire &] the Holy Ghost (this is the fullness , chap. 7)

Note also our LORD’s mercy in 3 Nephi 30:2. He reminds us of the forgotten “*fuller*” pathway to His salvation in the same verse, telling us to “**turn**” or “**repent**” from these “evil doings” and “**come unto me**.” We do this by being *physically* “**baptized unto repentance**” and in **His name**, that we might receive a second *spiritual* baptism by God Himself, one of **fire**, where we are literally purged of all sin. This is where our sins are *fully* remitted. We are *sanctified* in this way, and then can receive the gift and power of the Holy Ghost - from God - to guide us back into His holy presence (see 2 Ne. 31 and 32). This is the “**fullness**” lost upon most of the Saints today! We can be numbered with those the LORD calls “**my people**” who “are of the house of Israel,” the saved or **redeemed** ones. They are part of the church of the Lamb, *not* the corrupted churches of men (1 Ne. 14:10). Have you been made new in Christ?

I did not become aware of this pathway, nor experience it personally until the later years of my life. Most in the church today are unaware of how the second fiery baptism is received (see the instruction by Christ, John the Baptist, Joseph Smith, Nephi, and Alma on pages 242 - 245 in chap. 7). When one of the Twelve spoke at a recent Stake Conference in my area, he addressed 2 Nephi 31, but he did **not** address this second necessary *spiritual* baptism administered by God. Our Christian friends outside the LDS church call it being “**born again**,” the central focus of 2 Nephi 31. Our collective ignorance of **the fullness of the way of salvation** of our God clearly illustrates how far we have drifted from “**the fullness**” Christ said **we would reject** in 3 Nephi 16:10. This “awful situation” can be remedied in the LORD’s simple, five-word invitation to “**repent and come unto me**.” We must do so in **His** way, with a *broken heart* and *contrite spirit* (3 Ne. 9:20). All our other works we perform are “**dead**” by comparison (2 Ne. 25).

This is the overlooked “**fullness**” of what He calls “**my doctrine**” and “**my gospel**” leading to entrance into “**my church**” (see 3 Nephi chapters 11 & 27). This “**fullness**” is summarized in five clear steps in chapter 7. The distraction of polygamy and new doctrines implemented by Young diminished the “*fuller*” things like the law of **real love** in “the law of consecration” and “the law of monogamy” (see D&C 42:2, 22-23, 30-37). **Lies** and **deception** are common threads found throughout this book and Satan’s ways (see Moses 4:4). They lead to *ignorance* of our *unredeemed state*, and of secret combinations that control us for gain. Satan was a **liar** and a *murderer* from the beginning (D&C

93:25; John 8:44). Seeing our day and the oppression caused by secret combinations surrounding us, Moroni stated:

“O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto **you**, that thereby **ye** may **repent** of your sins, and suffer not that these *murderous combinations* shall get above you, which are built up to get **power** and **gain**...when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall **awake** to a sense of your **awful situation** because of this *secret combination* which shall be among you...for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of **lies**...even that same **liar** who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath **hardened the hearts of men**...” (Ether 8:23-25).

Do not harden your heart to the truth of what follows. The wise, holy man known as King Benjamin was concerned for his people and their **unsaved** state. He loved his people. They are a type for the Latter-day Saints today. He stated:

“...if ye should transgress and go contrary to that which has been spoken, that ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit of the Lord, that it may have **no** place in you to guide you in wisdom’s paths that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved...the man that doeth this, the same cometh out in open **rebellion** against God; therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit, and becometh an enemy to all righteousness; therefore, the Lord has **no** place in him, for **he** dwelleth **not** in unholy temples. Therefore if that man **repenteth not**, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever. And now I say unto **you**, that mercy hath no claim on that man; therefore his final doom is to endure a never-ending torment...I pray that **ye should awake** to a remembrance of the **awful situation** of those that have fallen into *transgression*. And moreover, I would desire that **ye** should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, **they** are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if **they** hold out faithful to the end **they are received into heaven**, that thereby **they** may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness” (Mosiah 2:36-41).

Three chapters later in Mosiah 5, King Benjamin summed up his message. He had his people make a **covenant** with the LORD. Then they were “**spiritually begotten**” of God and became **His** sons and daughters. Their **hearts** had been changed through faith on **God’s name**. They were **born again**. Then the King admonished them and us to be –

“steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that the LORD God Omnipotent may **seal you His**, that you may be **brought to heaven** [in this life], that ye may have **everlasting salvation and eternal life**” (Mos. 5:7 & 15).

Chapter 7 of this book is centered on “**the way** of salvation.” In it there is hope, but **only** in Christ the LORD and **His** way. He states, “**repent and come unto me**” (see D&C 10:67-68, 93:1; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; Ether 4:7-19; Mor. 7:34; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:2). It represents **the fullness** of **His** doctrine and **His** gospel, and includes those who then become part of **His** church. Chapters 1 through 6 hereafter address the rise and fall of polygamy among the Brighamite Saints, and what has resulted.

An Introduction to Polygamy in Mormonism

Too often writings on the subject of polygamy utilize our corrupted, modified history. As we will see in chapter 2, Latter-day Saint history is very flawed, with manipulation, deletions and additions, all promoting the pro-polygamy agenda of those assuming power after the Smith brothers were murdered. To share **truth**, this work is grounded in scripture. God has directed us to **rely on His written word** and pure revelation from **Him** for all things (D&C 18:3). Satan and his followers hate God and want to destroy those who love and follow Him. Satan’s favorite tools to destroy us are (1) pride, (2) idolatry, and (3) sexual sin. Secret combinations put them in place to spread their darkness.

1. The Sin of Pride

We need to know the truth about polygamy for many reasons. Because of pride, too many believe they already have truth and thus don’t search for more. Pride pits our will against God’s will. It is to seek one’s own will, not “thine be done.” The proud hearken to the precepts of men rather than the wisdom of God. They “love the praise of men

more than the praise of God” (John 13:43). In choosing to **believe and trust God** - that **pride** is rampant among us as **He** said, we must choose to believe the Book of Mormon message that is written to **us**. **Pride** is the first sin mentioned by Jacob (son of Enos) in the book where he addresses “*the grosser crime*” of his people; their many wives and concubines, like the people of David and Solomon of the old world. According to Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon is the **most correct book on earth**, and the **keystone** of our religion (HC 4:461). It clearly condemns polygamy and other sexual sin. Its words along with pure revelation from God, can bring us back to Him.

The Book of Mormon was written to *the remnant* of Jacob remaining on this land, along with *Jews*, and *Gentiles*. Most of us are in the third group, as Joseph Smith said (see D&C 109:60). Its words are to be likened unto us and our day (1 Ne. 19:23). In the Doctrine and Covenants the LORD tells us that the Book of Mormon is the “record of **a fallen people**” (D&C 20:9). The reason they fell (why *and* how) is one of the primary messages of the book. The Prophet Mormon stated, “Behold, the **pride** of this nation, or the people of the Nephites, hath proven their destruction” (Mor. 8:27). He added, “Beware of pride, lest **ye** become as the Nephites of old” (D&C 38:39). In the premortal council in heaven, it was **pride** that caused Lucifer, “a son of the morning,” to fall (2 Ne. 24:12–15; D&C 76:25–27; Moses 4:3). At the end of this world, when God cleanses the earth by fire, the proud will be burned as stubble, whereas the meek shall inherit the earth (3 Ne. 12:5, 3 Ne. 25:1; D&C 29:9; JS—H 1:37; Mal. 4:1). All **pride** is sin. There is no such thing as righteous **pride**. Although it may have ties to self-centeredness, conceit, boastfulness, arrogance, or haughtiness, God uses the word **pride** to signal **enmity** toward Him and our fellowmen. Enmity means “hatred towards, hostility to, or in a state of opposition.” Satan used **pride** to reign over us. In Jacob’s denunciation of the whoredom of polygamy in Jacob chapters 2 and 3, he lists “**pride**” **first** - prior to other words associated with the sin of polygamy. It was, “a grosser crime.” It was and is “wickedness,” a “whoredom,” and an “abomination.”

At its core, **pride** is competitive in nature. With it we pit our will against God’s superior understanding. It is “**my will** be done, and **not** thine.” As Paul said, such “seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s” (Philip. 2:21). It is to place **our will** in superior position to **God’s will**. Doing so allows our heartfelt desires, appetites, and passions to go unbridled (Alma 38:12; 3 Ne. 12:30). **Pride** does not allow us to accept God’s authority and His direction in our lives (Hel. 12:6), nor the truth of all things. We then pit our weaker perceptions of truth against God’s much greater knowledge, love, and wisdom. Our enmity toward God is tied to rebellion, hard-heartedness, stiff-neckedness, being unrepentant, puffed up, and easily offended. When we are **prideful**, we wish God to agree with us. We aren’t interested in **His will** - changing to agree with God. Enmity towards our fellowman causes us to elevate ourselves above others and diminish them. It is to be in competition with them, pitting our intellect, opinions, work, and talent against theirs (Hel. 6:17; D&C 58:41). In the pre-earth council, Lucifer placed his proposal in competition with the Father’s plan, the one advocated by Christ (Moses 4:1–3). Lucifer desired honor above all others (2 Ne. 24:13). His **prideful** desire was and is to dethrone God (D&C 29:36; D&C 76:28).

Pride is also closely tied to selfishness, contention, and to secret combinations. They are built up to get gain, which is typically sex, power, money, and the honors of men (see 1 Ne. 22:23; Hel. 7:5; Ether 8:9, 16, 22–23; Moses 5:31). Secret combinations brought down the Jaredite nation, the Nephite civilization, and have been and will yet be the fall of many nations - us (Ether 8:18–25). As we will see in ensuing chapters, **pride** and secret combinations also led to many problems among the early Saints, including rejection of God’s fullness, the murder of Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith, and the rise of polygamy thereafter for some sixty years, with all the resulting curses.

Pride continues to destroy individuals, groups, cities, and nations. “**Pride** goeth before destruction” (Prov. 16:18). It destroyed the Nephite nation completely and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Moro. 8:27; Ezek. 16:49–50). The LORD Jesus spoke to the Prophet Joseph about **pride**, warning him to **not** fear or honor man more than God, stating, “For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his **own will and carnal desires**, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him” (D&C 3:4).

Too often the **prideful** stand more in fear of men’s judgment than of God’s judgment (D&C 3:6–7; D&C 30:1–2; D&C 60:2). They want “the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43). Jesus said He did, “always those things” that pleased God (John 8:29). Because of flawed reasoning, the **prideful** don’t seek to take hold of the iron rod. It is God’s pure revelation to us, along with His word in scripture (1 Ne. 8:19–28; 1 Ne. 11:25; 1 Ne.

15:23–24). Get rid of **pride**. Be humble. Receive the mighty change of heart by being born again in Christ Jesus, and obtain the Holy Ghost. Then go to God in prayer for answers on everything here. Know the truth. It will set you free.

2. Idolatry - Idols in our Hearts

Idolatry normally follows pride. In it we elevate men and things and diminish God. In it we come to fear man more than God. Satan is part of this. He is the great deceiver; a liar from the beginning. He and evil men desire that we remain in darkness, ignorance, and deception. The cover of this book features a heart-shaped illustration tied **to love of God**. To receive pure revelation from Him, directing us in this life, is one of the greatest blessings we can have. To receive it, we must love God with our whole heart, and remove all **idols** that may be there (our desire for other things). Our motives are a reflection of our heart and its condition. Jesus sought the Father's superior will and wisdom in all things (John 6:38). Pride causes us to place our desires ahead of those of God, and thus we receive lesser things, including deception. Scripture compares these desires to "**idols**" residing in the deep chambers of our heart. They drive our focus and actions. They can be things like fame, money, and position, or people, like actors, sports heroes, or church leaders. If we do not value God above them, seeking a close relationship with Him, these things become an **idol replacing God**. When this happens, our ability to receive *pure* revelation from the source of all light and knowledge is severely impaired. We are then **cut off** from God (Psalm 66:18; Isa. 59:2). We then open ourselves up to *false revelation* from Satan, deceiving spirits, or our own mind. We may then get what we want, or what Satan and his servants want us to have, rather than what God, in His superior love and wisdom, wants us to receive. We may then live a **lie** having **strong delusion**, thinking we have received a revelation from Him, when we have **not**.

It is **very important** that we learn to discern between three voices that may be part of our "revelations." Having **idols** in our hearts often causes us to receive **according to our desires** (see Jacob 4:14; Alma 29:4; Isa. 66:2-4). Some are then given over to "**strong delusion**" (2 Thess. 2:10-12). To receive **pure revelation**, we must seek and receive it from God, by seeking **His will**. Nephi said, "I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. Yea, my God will give me, **if I ask not amiss**" (2 Ne. 4:35). Asking "amiss" is not seeking God's will in our answers. This is the great overlooked key in understanding and receiving real **truth**. In addition to 2 Thess. 2:10-12, there are more scriptures that address removing all **the idols in our hearts** - that we might not be deceived - or given delusion or lies. They include Proverbs 23:7, Isaiah 66:2-4, Ezekiel 14:1-11, James 4:3, and Mormon 9:28. They are worthy of your study.

Removing false beliefs and traditions is also necessary to receive truth. Some are "iniquities" passed down to us from "fathers, priests, and kings" (family, church, and the state). Others came from life experience, work, reading and research, etc. Awakening to the truth of all things is necessary to receive salvation, as we cannot be saved in ignorance (D&C 131:6). The transition to truth can be traumatic, but in the end, truth frees us from the chains of ignorance.

It took time for the young Prophet Joseph and his companions to learn how to receive *pure*, undefiled revelation from God. Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer discovered early on, that when they received a "revelation," it could come from one of three sources - from (1) God, (2) from Satan and false or deceiving spirits, and (3) from their own minds. To receive *pure* revelation - or truth - from God alone, they had to be clean and open to **God's will** rather than seeking **their own**. Some of the earliest revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants were directed to Joseph, Oliver, and David as a group. *David Whitmer (once second in command of the church) said:*

"How humble and contrite in heart a man must be to receive revelations from God: and how very weak man is, and how liable to be led into error, thinking at the time that he is doing God's will. At times when Brother Joseph would attempt to translate, he would look into the hat in which the stone was placed, he found he was spiritually blind and could not translate. He told us that his mind dwelt too much on earthly things, and various causes would make him incapable of proceeding with the translation. When in this condition he would go out and pray, and when he became sufficiently **humble before God**, he could then proceed with the translation. Now we see how very strict the Lord is; and how he requires **the heart of man to be just right** in His sight, **before he can receive revelation from him.**"

One specific false revelation is of particular interest. "Brother Hyrum said it had been suggested to him that some of the brethren might go to Toronto, Canada, and sell the copy-right of the Book of Mormon for considerable money [gain], and he persuaded Joseph to inquire of the Lord about it. Joseph concluded to do so. He had not yet given up the stone. Joseph looked into the hat in which he placed the stone, and received a revelation that some of the brethren should go to Toronto [or Kingston], Canada, and that they would sell the copy-right of the Book of

Mormon. Hiram and Oliver Cowdery went to Toronto on this mission, but they failed entirely to sell the copy-right, returning without any money. Joseph was at my father's house when they returned. I was there also, and am an eye witness to these facts. Jacob Whitmer and John Whitmer were also present when Hiram Page and Oliver Cowdery returned from Canada.”

“Well, we were all in great trouble; and we asked Joseph how it was that he had received a revelation from the Lord for some brethren to go to Toronto and sell the copy-right, and the brethren had utterly failed in their undertaking. Joseph did not know how it was, so he enquired of the Lord about it, and behold the following revelation came through the stone: [1] 'Some revelations are of God: [2] some revelations are of men: and [3] some revelations are of the devil.' 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” (David Whitmer, An Address to All Believers in Christ, pps. 30 - 31).

The **idols** in our heart may include churches and their leaders. We raise them up and put too much trust in them, rather than taking what they say to a higher source – God. Consult His word in scripture. Consult Him personally, but first remove all false beliefs you may hold as an idol in your heart (“we cannot and will not lead you astray”). To avoid lies and deception, turn to God or be **cursed** (2 Ne. 4:34; 28:31; Jer. 17:5). Satan influenced secret combinations to rise up all around us. To overcome them, two things are in order; (1) believe God’s word in scripture that the wheat and the tares **are growing together** in and out of the church, and turn fully to God for light (3 Ne. 18:24).

Sexual Sin

Idolatry is often tied to sexual sin, which replaces selfless, holy love with selfish unholy indulgences. Those in power often use it to gratify their own lusts. It was first called “**spiritual wifery**” in early LDS Church history. It later came to be known as “plural marriage” and then “*celestial marriage*.” Outsiders call it polygamy. God calls it an “abomination” and a “whoredom” in Jacob 2. The term “**spiritual wifery**” effectively describes the use of a religious environment to justify sex. In it, religion is used for self gratification, **not** charity and charitable service. Regardless of its name, sexual sin has been used by Satan for thousands of years to destroy God’s work and his people. It effectively **cuts off** those practicing it from God and His Spirit. They are then left in darkness and ignorance. The first six presidents of the Utah LDS Church following Joseph Smith were polygamists. We have little or no revealed truths from these men, including new scripture, prophecy, or revelation. Joseph Smith, on the other hand, was very fruitful. The scriptures he brought forth are a testament to his fruitful relationship with God.

Fruits on the Trees of the Vineyard

In referring to His servants and the people they lead, God said, “**by their fruits ye shall know them**” (Mat. 7:16-20). Today, the State of Utah – capital of Mormonism - is known for many things, including beautiful mountains, red desert landscapes, a number of National Parks, the Great Salt Lake, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Osmonds, and **polygamy**. For many, polygamy is the first thing that comes to mind when “Utah” is brought up in a conversation. Sadly, our state is also known as the scam capital of the country. We are a trusting people. Too often, however, our trust is placed in men, not God. God’s healing hand is desperately needed here and throughout the world. Much of our present “awful situation” is the result of following men who embraced the abomination of polygamy, rather than seeking the LORD and His ways. Today, the State of Utah has abnormally high rates of child physical and sexual abuse, including satanic ritual abuse (or SRA). Our pornography addiction is at epidemic levels. Utah ranks #1 in on-line porn subscriptions, according to Harvard Economics professor Benjamin Edelman. And abortions in Utah are on the rise (3,200 per year and growing [2017]). Prescription drug abuse (including anti-depressants) is very high in Utah, as are our teen suicide rates. We are among the leading states in a number of these categories. There is also an increasing exodus of from the Church as detailed in a 2013 report (see endnote 4).

Polygamy did bring curses upon the church early on. The lies and deception of the current church narrative is foremost among them. It asserts that Joseph Smith was a polygamist. It is a stumbling block that has caused many to leave the church, and in greater numbers than ever. Many do not feel the Spirit in their meetings, as focus is often upon leaders and the church itself, rather than Christ. At present, we have the lowest growth rate for the church in our recorded history (see endnote 4). There are other signs of trouble among us too, such as various types of sexual dysfunction, potentially reflecting generational curses passed down to us from the early polygamy years. They include

men wielding unrighteous dominion over the women in their lives, along with incest, unnatural affection, and plenty of broken marriages, not to mention many polygamous groups around us. We are nearing the end of **the fourth generation** from the time polygamy was first implemented in early church history. Thus, it is time for truth to be revealed and the oppressive chains upon many to be broken. Those who accept the blood of Christ in their lives will be freed and find healing, as our LORD's arms are extended to all those who will come to Him.

These things, combined with widespread unbelief among the Saints, and an **unsaved** condition for far too many of us - are the "fruits" we as trees are bearing in the LORD's vineyard. These bitter fruits are in direct opposition to what could be occurring in Utah - the headquarters of the Brighamite branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some are also the natural result of immersing ourselves in modern-day Babylon. God charged the early Saints to become a light to the world instead. The LORD said that He, "will not spare any that **remain** in Babylon" (D&C 64:24). We can only be lights if we remove ourselves from the false traditions and lies that are pervasive among us. This is what Lehi and his family did, along with Alma, a priest in King Noah's employ. They left spiritual Babylon and turned their hearts wholly to the living God. With it, there was healing and salvation. It requires us to "awake" before we can "arise," however, requiring hard truths to be addressed, the reason for this book. Its focus is not just polygamy and its origins in the Church, but original, pure doctrines, and the later substitutes for them. Many of these new doctrines emerged after Brigham Young's takeover. Scripture reveals a link between pride, idolatry, polygamy, and false doctrine. They in turn led to the murder of three Smith brothers, and the cursed condition of many today.

God has said that we as trees in His vineyard are to "bear fruit meet for **the Father's kingdom**" (D&C 84:58). Many trees are bearing bitter fruit, perhaps tied to curses originating in the polygamy of our ancestors. They have continued to the third and fourth generations (see Mosiah 13:11-14; Ex. 20:5). In the Book of Mormon, Abinadi called King Noah and his priests to repentance. They were living off the high taxes they placed upon the people to support their lavish lifestyle. It included many wives and concubines. Abinadi stated:

"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...for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the **iniquities** of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me; And showing **mercy** unto thousands of them that **love me** and keep my commandments" (Mosiah 13:11-14).

A search of the word "**iniquity**" reveals that it is found 1,129 times in scripture; 330 times in the Old Testament, 231 times in the Book of Mormon, and 20 times in the D&C. It is tied to three things:

Is is "**premeditated moral sin** worthy of punishment," those directly opposing "virtue, morality, and goodness."

It is also associated with "**generational curses**" passed down to us from our fathers, priests, and kings, those whom many look to in their idolatry. From them we have received false teachings and traditions.

The word iniquity is also tied to "**inequality**," where some place themselves above others in pride, causing an increase in oppression.

Pride is at the root of iniquity and most sin, the first thing Jacob spoke of in his address on the evils of polygamy. Polygamy in early Mormonism involves *all three types* of "**iniquity**." It has resulted in too many of the Saints remaining unredeemed (Mos. 2:40-41). Three times we are warned that, "**the harvest is come and our souls are not saved**" (D&C 45:2, 56:16; Jer. 17:11). God and His word invite us to "awake and arise" and come out of Babylon and be **redeemed – of Him**. To do so, we must remove all kinds of deception – including the belief that we are saved in ignorance or our "dead works" - including church callings, church service, and temple work. It is through Christ's blood, His grace and mercy that we are redeemed, **not** anything we do, other than *turning* to Him in **repentance**. Nephi invited us to become "*alive* in Christ" (see 2 Ne. 25:25-30), developing a relationship with Him, that we might *abide* in Him as the True Vine, bearing fruit abundantly. Note the last-days fulfillment of the parable of the wise and unwise virgins in D&C 45:56-58.

"And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins. For they that are **wise** and [1] have received **the truth**, and [2] have taken **the Holy Spirit** for their guide,

and [3] have **not been deceived**—verily I say unto you, **they shall not** be hewn down and cast into the fire [with other unfruitful trees] but shall abide the day. And the earth shall be given unto **them** for an inheritance...”

In the 1999 movie the Matrix, the main character *Neo* (a type for Christ – the “*one*” – the same letters as “*Neo*”) is a disillusioned, unhappy computer hacker. He knows something is wrong in his life. It is because he is **asleep** - to the reality of his **awful situation**. He is given the choice to know **the truth** or remain *asleep* by one who has **awakened** – Morpheus (a type for a true prophet). *Neo* and all the human beings (us) that are **not** awake are being *used* by the machines to generate electricity **for them**, just as secret combinations today use the masses for “**gain**” of every kind. Morpheus offers Neo a *blue pill* (remaining in the happy **deception** of “wonderland”), or the *red pill* (**the truth** and its difficult ramifications). Morpheus tells *Neo*, “After this, there is **no** turning back. You take the blue pill, the story ends (everything remains as it is). You wake up in your bed and **believe whatever you want to believe** [the state of most today]. You take the red pill – I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes. Remember, all I’m offering is **the truth**.” In reading this book, you are taking the red pill and entering into a many faceted rabbit hole, with real ramifications. The 2015 movie “Oblivion” with Tom Cruise has a similar message about awakening to truth, and those not wanting it.

In addressing the deceptive history given us and the events tied to the rise, fall, and remaining curses associated with polygamy in the early church, the remedy to our “**awful situation**” is also presented. It is contained in “the fullness” of the **doctrine, gospel, and church** of Christ (chap. 7). The fuller “saving” portions of it have been diminished and modified. They are re-introduced hereafter, side by side with the darkness that removed it. These doctrines include:

The “new and everlasting covenant,” what it is (endnote 31) and what it became following Joseph’s murder
What the “fullness of the gospel” of Christ is, and how we rejected it in connection with “the doctrine of Christ”
How to be made new in Christ, by obtaining the “mighty change of heart,” or being “born again” in Him
What the “endowment of power from on high” really is, and what it has become because of polygamy
What the Holy Ghost is and how to obtain it, according to God’s words and instruction
What “the sealing power” really is, in connection with “the promises made to the fathers”

The journey to explore these saving doctrines *and* the truth about polygamy in our history, are introduced side by side in eight chapters, each about thirty pages in length, plus the endnotes at the end of the book.

In Chapter 1, **God’s Word and Will: Is Polygamy of the LORD?** we begin our journey for truth regarding polygamy in Mormonism. It must begin with God’s word and will, not man’s flawed thinking. God’s word is the standard to be consulted, in all of scripture, not just a few select verses used out of context. With it we **can** determine if God encouraged, condoned, or condemned those who had more than one wife in the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and early church history, and discover **why**. Specific scriptures used by pro-polygamists are also carefully examined in context to determine if polygamy is ordained of God, past, present, or future.

Chapter 2 follows, entitled, **Historical Truth: The Origin of Polygamy**. This chapter addresses our messy history, one modified to support the agenda of pro-polygamists that took control of the Utah church following the murder of the three Smith brothers (Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith). In it we see how our “doctored” records were used to frame Joseph Smith as a polygamist by those using his name and standing to **justify** their own early secret practice of it. Secret combinations control information. Seven information sources were *or* are used to **deceive**. They include:

1. Modifying scripture – *what God has to say*, by modifying, adding to, and removing relevant statements in scripture
2. Modifying Joseph Smith’s personal journals and history in the same way – *what Joseph had to say*
3. Modifying official church history in the similar ways – *what our official record has to say*
4. Modifying - *what Joseph Smith’s mother had to say* in her biography (gathered up, modified, and republished by Young)
5. Creating false affidavits and stories to prop up polygamy (mostly between 1860-90) – *what others supposedly said*
6. Creating a false narrative in Nauvoo’s two newspapers (one civil, one religious) – *the fake news presented to the Saints*
7. *Continuing the false narrative today* - via sermons, press releases, magazines, books (including a *new* four-volume church “history”), supportive websites, and church owned media outlets (KSL, Deseret News, etc.).

A more accurate history reveals how the Prophet Joseph fought against all forms of spiritual wifery (and other false doctrines) early on at Kirtland, and how this effort continued right up until his murder at Nauvoo, along with the words of Hyrum and others. Joseph’s voice (in accurate statements) and that of the entire Smith family has been suppressed and ignored for far too long. We will hear from the Smiths and others in this and later chapters.

Chapter 3 is entitled, **The Secret Chamber: *New Doctrine***. This chapter addresses a secret combination that rose up at Nauvoo within the church, one prophesied by our LORD in D&C 38. Its focus was supporting the secret practice of “spiritual wifery” (using religion to justify sexual sin), and getting other gain. The words “secret chamber” represent more than just an organized group with evil intent. It is also tied to desires held in the secret chambers **of our hearts**. Because spiritual wifery was opposed by Joseph, he and those who could have taken over following his death (Hyrum and Samuel Smith) were also murdered that the practice might continue, and so that others outside the Smith bloodline might lead the Church. Spiritual wifery began at Kirtland. It was secretly practiced by some leaders at Nauvoo, finally becoming an institutional practice as part of marriage in Utah, one *required* for exaltation under Young. What began as “spiritual wifery,” became marriage to multiple wives in “celestial marriage.”

Chapter 4 is entitled, **Succession Crisis: *Legitimate Heir or Usurper?*** This chapter focuses on who was to lead the Saints following the murders of the Smith brothers, in God’s forgotten choice in the Smith bloodline. Another took power after the murders in crafty ways, cleverly going against God’s word in scripture. In a unique twist, Joseph Smith’s firstborn son, the one anointed and blessed to succeed him, finally published his father’s re-translation of the Bible. He also eradicated polygamy in Utah with help from the U.S. Government. Two over-looked court cases support his legal right to succession in leadership, also revealing how his father’s name and mission were free from polygamy.

Chapter 5 features a discussion of **The Nauvoo Masonic Temple: *New Temple Theology***. In it we will see the transition that occurred from Joseph Smith’s inspired vision for a “house of the LORD” at Nauvoo, to a new temple theology that emerged after Joseph’s murder, one featuring a mix of Joseph’s teachings, with modified Elijah doctrine from two pro-polygamy publications, along with Freemasonry influences, all in support of plural marriage “sealings.”

In Chapter 6, **Our Awful Situation: *Modern Doctrine***, we look at the awful situation the Utah Saints have inherited as a result of embracing polygamy as a people for some sixty years, in Brigham’s “new order of things.” Ten assumptions held by many Saints are addressed one by one, revealing the truths tied to these assumptions and how many things, including church doctrine have changed since the early restoration movement of Joseph Smith.

Chapter 7, **The Doctrine of Christ & *Rejecting God’s Fullness***, provides hope in addressing the most important message of the Book of Mormon. It is salvation **in Christ** and how to receive it. We do so by embracing the fullness of His doctrine and His gospel. We then become part of His church. It is laid out in the early teachings of Joseph Smith and in what the LORD called “**the fullness of my scripture**.” Joseph’s primary mission was to bring forth this knowledge. Key portions of this “fullness” were suppressed when many became focused upon polygamy and other worldly things.

Chapter 8 concludes the book, providing hope in Christ, but only as pride, idolatry, unbelief, and sin are removed through our repentance and turning fully to God. It is entitled, **A Coming Reformation: *Inviting Zion***. It concentrates on what must occur to bring about Zion among the pure in heart. The endnotes provide additional clarifying insights.

The Prophet Joseph taught, “For there are many yet on the earth among **all** sects, parties, and denominations, who are **blinded by the subtle craftiness of men**, whereby they **lie** in wait to **deceive**, and who are only kept from **the truth** because they **know not where to find it**—Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in **bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness**, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven” (D&C 123:12-13). Nephi said, “O Lord, **I have trusted in thee**, and I will trust in thee forever. I will **not** put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that **cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh**. Yea, **cursed is he that putteth his trust in man** or maketh flesh his arm. Yea, I know that God will give liberally to **him that asketh**. Yea, my God will give me, if I **ask not amiss**; therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, **the rock** of my righteousness. Behold, my voice shall forever ascend up unto thee, **my rock** and mine everlasting God. Amen” (2 Nephi 4:34-35).

The LORD Jesus holds His arms out to you and I, continually inviting us to, “**repent and come unto me**” (D&C 10:67-68, 93:1; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; Ether 4:7-19; Mor. 7:34; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:2).

He really is the answer as our source of **light** (3 Ne. 18:24).