

The Iniquitous “Things” of Jacob 2

The “Things” of Jacob 2 God separated Lehi and his family from various kinds of wickedness in Jerusalem (3 Ne. 15:19-20). God addressed “the chastity of women,” saying “**whoredoms** are an **abomination** before me” in Jacob chapter 2, He saying, “this people shall keep my commandments, or *cursed be the land* for their sakes.” Then in verse 30 He stated:

“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, see Jacob 2:27, 3:5-6]; otherwise they [the people] shall hearken unto these **things** [the many wives abomination]” (see Jacob 2:30).

The added words in the brackets [] above provide great clarity to Jacob 2:30. The word “**thing**” or “**things**” is used 4 times in Jacob 2, and each time in connection with *sin* or *negative things*. These negative **things** are described by the 5 words in bold below, used in this order in Jacob 2.

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

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. **Iniquity:** the worst kind of “*sin*” is an “*iniquity*” (*open rebellion* against God). *Sin* is basically a mistake, whereas *transgression* is willful sin - all 3 types of sin are found in Exodus 34:5-8, 7 scriptures have all 3 listed
4. **Whoredoms:** are severe sexual sins
5. **Abomination:** those *things* written of David & Solomon (many wives & concubines) are an abomination (v. 30)

Jacob 2:30 is tied to a unique prophecy of the LORD given Joseph Smith in 1831 in verses 13 and 18 of D&C 38. Verse 13 states, “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.” Verse 28 states, “And again, I say unto you that the enemy in the secret chamber seeketh your lives.” This prophecy was apparently fulfilled by Brigham Young and those practicing polygamy secretly in the organization they called “The Secret Chamber.” It was being practiced secretly behind Joseph Smith’s back. It was called “spiritual wifery.” The LORD used the words “mystery” or “thing” that was “had in secret chambers.” It was established “to bring about the death of Joseph Smith, the Saints, and their church. This “mystery” was tied to great “*iniquity*” (2 Thess. 2:7), in connection with “mystery Babylon” (or a secret combination, Rev. 17:5). Church leaders, led by Brigham Young were “wresting scripture” to *justify* polygamy (D&C 10:63-64; Jacob 2:23). After Joseph’s murder they claimed the practice was started by Joseph. He could no longer defend himself. There are 91 scriptures utilizing the word “**mystery**.” Three uses of the word (found 88 times in scripture) are negative in connection with the “secret things” addressed by Jacob in chapter 2, verse 30 (see D&C 10:63-64; 2 Thess. 2:7; Rev. 17:5). Emma Smith said that, “it was secret things which had cost Joseph and Hyrum their lives” (William Clayton journal, 15 August, 1844).

David and Solomon did these same sinful “**things**.” Today, many living 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 5 scriptures immediately before *and* after it are clearly anti-polygamy, tied to this same 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 in a special land set apart, separate land for God’s people west, (see 3 Ne. 3:15:19-20). The Israelites there practiced unlawful polygamy, with divorce and remarriage (see Mat. 19:3-9).

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 of verse 30 or any scripture is, (1) context (surrounding verses), and (2) God’s intended will and instruction, not our “wresting” or *justifying* interpretation of it. To receive God’s truth and meaning, we must first want truth in God’s will. Those supporting polygamy, are looking for *justification* for it, and because of this “*idol in their heart*,” they see Jacob 2:30 through their own “idol” or 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 that various individuals support. Jacob 2:30 as an opening for the multiple wives doctrine for Mormons, along with Section 132 of the D&C.