

"An Elder of the sect called by the Sadducees, Mormons, solemnly testified to me that the Gospel in its fullness, as taught by Jesus Christ and His Apostles, had been restored—that he knew of its truth by the Holy Ghost, and that I might receive the same through obedience. I believed his testimony, humbled myself before God, was immersed in water for the remission of sins, by one who professed authority from God, and had the laying on of hands, by a servant of God, for the reception of the Holy Ghost."

But, my Son, how didst thou know those men were not sons of Belial? saith the Preacher.

"I carefully and prayerfully compared the principles of the restored Gospel with those recorded in the New Testament, and they harmonized precisely in every feature, viz. faith, repentance, immersion, and laying on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by one divinely authorized."

Art thou certain thou wert not deceived in making those comparisons? saith the Preacher: knowest thou that the heart and mind of man are often deceitful, yea, very deceitful?

"Sire, I know that in all ages of the world, the same causes produce precisely the same effects; and, as the doctrines testified of by the Elder were the same as Jesus taught, I knew there could be no risk in putting his promise to the proof—that those complying with His requirements, "should know of the doctrine, whether it be of God." I humbled myself—obeyed, and covenanted with God that I would follow the leading of His Holy Spirit, though it should require the sacrifice of the dearest object of my heart, mortal life not excepted; and I received the desired knowledge by direct revelation from God, and in a manner infinitely more tangible and clear than I had anticipated; it being imparted with power it vibrated through my mental and physical organs, lighting up the eyes of my understanding and imparting a perfect knowledge that God had spoken; that Joseph Smith was His Prophet and that this is the last dispensation.

My son, thou hast answered in great plainness, and thy discourse savors of wisdom and understanding. But why hast thou taken wives, even many? Seest thou not what cometh of it? Hath not thy substance been wrested from thee, and thyself thrust into prison, where in bitterness thou eatest thy bread and drinketh water in sorrow; Canst thou answer? saith the Preacher.

"Sire, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, which leads into all truth, which takes of the things of God and shows unto us, which shows us things to come, clearly manifested unto me that God was about to purify the earth, and required His true and virtuous servants who have received the fulness of the everlasting Gospel, to enter into the sacred principle of plural, celestial marriage; that the pure daughters of Zion may enter into marriage which ennobles and elevates. The Lord delights in the chastity of women; and any pure-hearted and pure-minded woman would prefer to be the twentieth wife of a chaste, noble and God-fearing and God-serving man, than the dandied, pretended lone-one of a faithless polluted specimen of manhood.

I examined carefully the revelation on celestial marriage given through Joseph Smith. To me every feature of it bore the marks of divinity, and seemed perfectly consistent with Scripture, reason and nature. I as well knew Joseph Smith to be a Prophet, as I knew the sun, moon and stars had been shown to my visual organs. How could I withhold credence when hundreds of my brethren, whose integrity could not be disputed—whose hearts were as pure as angels, possessed the same knowledge, and with me heard Joseph Smith, by the power of the Almighty, bear testimony in the most solemn manner to the truth of that revelation. When he felt to shrink from the responsibility, an angel from heaven stood before him with a drawn sword, saying, of he did not move forward and set the example for his brethren by introducing plural marriage, his Priesthood would be taken from him, and he should be destroyed. How could I disbelieve under the force of all these circumstances, supported by the great fact, that the luminary of heaven, the Holy Ghost, manifested to me the divinity of that revelation?

Thus, with a foundation as firm as the pillars of heaven, I went forth in obedience to the holy requisition in the celestial order, and married wives, and in the love and fear of God have begotten children, and in the depth of my heart I have sworn by the holy covenant I made with God at the waters of baptism, and by the holy covenant I made with my wives at the sacred altar in the name of the Almighty, that I will love, cherish, support and acknowledge them.

Angus, thou speakest well; yea, as one that hath understanding. Behold, now, thou shalt listen unto the words of thy father, saith the preacher.

Thou must take heed unto the times that are, and that are to come, and ponder them in thy heart—herein lieth wisdom and understanding.

The great apostate, a beautiful and powerful son of the morning, and once a favorite in heaven, hath descended to the vales of Utah with all his forces, and reigneth with absolute sway. He has banished freedom, manacled justice—placed his feet in the stocks, and now traileth his once beautiful, spotless robes in the dust.

The righteous mourn—the wicked rejoice. The good and the virtuous flee from impending evil, wandering in the mountain wilds, seeking safety like men of old, in dens and caves.

The great ocean beareth the innocent the loyal braves, to foreign climes, seeking protection their own country denieth them,

Husbands, guiltless of wrong, are torn, in the deep stillness of night, from their weeping, loving wives and affrighted children, and dragged before hireling sycophants which seemeth to imitate the parasite, a thing that creepeth, crawlth and calleth itself justice. But justice untrammelled walketh erect with noble and stately air, or sitteth in the judgment seat; and when it giveth sentence, it is not moved with hatred and malice and with countenance lit with fierceness of passion, but with calmness saith to the prisoner, "Thou hast shed blood; thy crime is great; thou goeth to the gallows"—spoken with firm and sorrowing heart over a fallen man—a brother—an offspring of God.

Behold, now, my son, saith the Preacher, the lion roareth and devoureth; the wolf howleth and when man sleepeth stealeth into the fold and seizeth its victims; the toad that disgusteth, darteth its tongue and lapeth the insect; the night hawk screameth and pounceth upon its prey; the serpent hisseth and casteth forth its venom; the ass brayeth and frighteneth children, but in its much braying it showeth itself to be but an ass, saith the Preacher. Yea, and the little beast in its coal-black vesture, adorned with spots of white, waddeth proudly into sanctuaries sacred to purity, virtue, and beauty, and there even whisketh and floateth its filthy odors.

Yea, my son, darkness reigneth and clouds increase in blackness, and the fallen "son of the morning," marshal-eth his hosts; evil spreadeth, blindeth the mind and stealeth into and corrupteth the heart, leading astray even of the sons of Zion that walk not fully in the ways of the fathers, which causeth the Philistine to rejoice and make merry.

The sons of Zion, yea, the hope of Israel, appointed of God as Jeremiah of old, even before they were in their mother's womb, to come to earth in the day of clouds and thick darkness, and that through obedience and sacrifice, with pure hearts and the love of God, behold, they should shine forth like brilliant stars; yea, like the sun when it riseth in its majesty; and in due time should flow unto them wives, children, wealth and grandeur, crowned with glory and immortality; but behold, if they seek not the Lord, to do that which hath been appointed, lo, Zion may weep and weep in vain, saith the Preacher.

But lo, suddenly while pondering over these weighty matters, the vista of the future openeth before me, and it seemeth as it were a voice low and musical, that saith "Look! See thou the sons of Zion and their fathers." And I looked, and behold the sons of Zion awaken, and their fathers arouse and sacrifice, yea, their substance—as it were laying all upon the altar, and praying as one sitting in sackcloth; and the hypocrite and the traitor fleeth; the clouds disperse; night foldeth her mantle, and justice, free and triumphant, having broken his bands asunder, cometh forth from the stocks and calleth for the righteous, the persecuted and oppressed. Yea, as one descending in a golden chariot from the throne of glory, he rideth forth with a crown of diamonds on his head, on his forehead inscribed JUSTICE, bearing in his right hand a glorious banner waving slowly and gracefully, on it inscribed LOVE—MERCY—JUDGMENT, set with costly pearls, and above, written in characters of gold, UTAH.

And the voice again seemed to whisper, "Behold!" I looked and beheld abroad over all the plains, lovely towns and beautiful cities—over the mountains, along the land which bordereth the lakes and flowing streams; but, behold! nowhere were the wicked seen. At the approach of Justice, in fear and terror, all had fled—hastening beyond where "the woodbine twineth and the roses bloom."

Yea, he that playeth on "the harp of a thousand strings"—he that roareth and devoureth—he that howleth and slippeth into the fold—he that hisseth and throweth venom—he that screameth and pounceth, and he with the spotted garb, that polluteth; yea, all that tremble with dismay, hasten to join the rabid, malicious, wretched throng, and each goeth to its own.

Fair Utah raiseth her drooping head and rejoiceth. Throughout all the mountain vales and over all the plains, nought now soundeth but the voice of gladness and thanksgiving and of him that maketh merry; yea, and of every musical instrument that charmeth. The harp that hung on the willows, now disrobed of its covering of sackcloth, joineth the jubilant throng and imparteth impulse and fervor to pure and holy aspirations. The prison yieldeth up him that languisheth in bonds—the dens and caves, him that hideth—the ship on the great ocean, that beareth the returning exile, quickeneth its speed.

And when the anxious husband, returning from bondage, presseth the door-bell of his habitation, the weeping wife, in recognition, dasheth away her tears, and in frantic joy rusheth into his arms and is folded on his bosom.

Thus, my son, was a glorious view presented to my mental vision, even a magnificent day for Utah.

Now listen, saith your father. Though the time moveth slowly—though the days multiply, and the heart groweth faint, as the Lord God liveth, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, yea, the God of Joseph, Brig-

ham and John Taylor, JUSTICE, in God-like majesty, shall wield imperial sway in Utah, untrampled by usurping oppressors.

But ah! my son, here cometh the man of keys, to fasten thee in thy cage! Wherefore I hasten to speak of thee and of thy brethren, thy fellow prisoners, now pining in bonds for righteousness sake. Thou shalt come forth from imprisonment, and it shall come to pass that thou shalt abide with thy wives and thy children in thine own habitation, in peace and plenty,

Then the prattle of the little ones, who are weeping because of thy long absence, shall be sweet music in thy ears, and the affectionate smiles of their mothers, rich solace to thy heart. Thy children shall be as olive plants around thy table—thy flocks and herds shall multiply—thy substance shall increase, and thy children's children shall run up and call thee blessed. Thou shalt be great in the eyes of the righteous, and thy name held in honor by the generations to come, for the Lord our God loveth thee.

Adieu, my son, Angus. If this interview hath pleased thee, and thou desirest it, behold, thy father may call again before he returneth to Jerusalem.

## ECCLSIASITES AS AN INTERVIEWER.

DISCOURSES WITH HIS SON ANGUS ON MODERN SUBJECTS IN ANCIENT STYLE.

JERUSALEM, Month 7, A. D., 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

Thou wilt perceive this manuscript purporteth to set forth an interview that myself (which signifieth the Preacher) did hold with my son Angus, (whom I do greatly love and esteem), where he now lieth in prison in your far-off land, called Utah.

It seemeth that it becometh an interviewer, when he doth interview, and setteth forth, to represent many things as having been said, that, behold, were not said, but that might, or should have been said. Ecclesiastes, the Preacher, hath seen proper to depart not from this custom which seemeth so much to prevail in your country.

Yours,  
ECCLSIASITES, the Preacher.

Angus, my son, why art thou here—fallen among thieves, where the murder doth flourish? Yea, thou shalt answer, saith the Preacher.

"I have supported my wives—I have eaten at their tables, and have held them out as wives." Such are the causes of my incarceration."

Why didst thou, my son, do this thing, to take to thyself, and even to thy bosom, some of the daughters of Zion, yea, many? saith the Preacher.

"They were willing, and desired to accept me as their husband—to be the father of their children, and I knew it was right in the sight of God."

Angus, my son, thou answereth strangely. Wilt thou explain, showing clearly, whence cometh this knowledge whereof thou speakest?

"Sire, I have reflected seriously on the increasing corruption of the world, for this truly is an adulterous generation, and I was fully aware that more men than women were corrupt and degraded. I pondered in my mind on the subject of marriage—that like cleaveth unto like—purity unto purity, etc.; but if, according to the laws of nature, all women shall be married, some good, noble women must be allied to unworthy, ignoble men."

Yea, my son, that is truth thou speakest, which pertaineth to monogamy, a modern institution of the world; thou occupiest a higher platform—now proceed and show whence cometh thy knowledge, saith the Preacher.