Utah Stake Quarterly Conference 3-4 Mar 1883 (Series 11, Reel 2)

Sunday session, 2 p.m. held at old Provo meeting house

Pres WW: "Then occupied the stand reading from the Doc and Covts relative to the sealing Ordinance, followed by Pres. Js F Smith who gave a history of the coming forth of the Revelation on Celestial Marriage: and said as follows -- Bro Woodruff has read a portion of a Revelation written in 1843. Known as the Revelation on Celestial Marriage. Which however was revealed in (1831) one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, but never written until July 12th 1843, but was not then given as a commandment to the Church, but was given for a specific purpose and was not presented to the Church until 1852 or 3; it was then first read to the Church in Conference assembled up to that time it was not in force unto the whole Church but only to those to whom it was given - but since 1852 it has been binding upon the whole Church; there were many speculations in regard to its real meaning, what was the duty of the Latter day Saints in regard to this Revelation and what was meant by the principles here set forth: Joseph recieved it in 1831 but he was told by the Lord that the time was not come to reveal it, and was forbidden to publish it save it be to a few. Joseph did entrust this to a few soon after 1831. Lyman E. Johnson one of the Apos[t]les recieved this from Joseph, we also understand that Oliver Cowdery recieved it from Joseph - did not Know of any others that Joseph entrusted it to. L E Johnson testified of this to Orsen [sic] Pratt as early as 1832 or a little later, and Brother Orsen Pratt has left his written testimony of the facts relating to this matter: Oliver Cowdery was not so discreet in regard to this matter but in consequence of his conduct brought reproach upon the Church bringing upon the Church the accusation of fornication & polygamy - he wrote an article to stave off the impression that had been made which was published in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants which has been left out of the New Edition because it was not one of the Revelations: in latter times Joseph Smith was commanded to take wives, he hesitated and postponed it, seeing the consequences and the trouble that it would bring and he shrank from the responsibility, but he prayed to the Lord for it to pass as Jesus did, but Jesus had to drink it to the dregs so it was with Joseph Smith, the Lord had revealed it to him, and said now is the time for it to be practiced - but it was not untill he had been told he must practice or be destroyed that he made the attempt - in 1841 he had wives sealed unto him - from that time untill his death he had wives sealed unto him - Emma his wife yielded but it was not without considerable argument that she consented and with her own hand gave to Joseph Smith four wives in his new and everlasting Covenant their names are Emily and Eliza Partridge and Sarah and Maria Lawrence the latter two being sisters of Henry Lawrence of Salt Lake City and I have their testimony and of the witnesses of the Ceremony of their marriage - notwithstanding this young Joseph (the son of Joseph the Prophet) has published to the world that his
Mother testified to him that Joseph his Father never had a plurality of Wives - I do not think that Emma (Joseph Smith's wife) ever made such an assentation, and if she did she lied. Soon after the marriage of Joseph to the four ladies mentioned Emma repented of having given them to Joseph, and told Joseph that if he would not give them up, she would bring him up before the law and became very bitter: about this time under this threat and on account of the determined manner of Emma, Joseph went to his brother Hyrum and had a talk with him about it. Hyrum told Joseph if you will write the Revelation I will take it and go and see Emma for I can convince her that it is true. Joseph smiled at Hyrum saying you do not know Emma as well as I do—but Hyrum said he still had faith that he could do as he said, and to satisfy his Brother Hyrum, Joseph caused the Revelation to be written on the 12th July 1843. Joseph with Hyrum went into the office and Joseph commanded Wm Clayton to write as he should dictate. Joseph was asked by Hyrum to get the Urim and Thummin. Joseph said he knew it from beginning to end; he then dictated it word for word to Wm Clayton as it is now in the Doctrine and Covenants it was written for this purpose at Hyrums suggestion, after it was done, Joseph said there that is enough for the present, but I have a great deal more, which would be given hereafter; Hyrum went to Emma and returned without making any impression upon her; some two or three days after this Emma getting so violent Joseph burnt the Revelation to pacify her saying "there that is the last of it" and for the rest of the time he was more or less in her power; and all he done hereafter in relation to this law, was done in secret, un-Known to Emma; the new and everlasting Covenant is marriage, plural marriage - men may say that with their single marriage the same promises and blessings had been granted, why cannot I attain to as much as with three or four, many question me in this manner I suppose they are afraid of Edmuns, what is the Covenant? it is the eternity of the Marriage Covenant, and includes a plurality of wives and takes both to make the law - the Lord leads the mind along step by step to this point, first that all covenants must be made by his power—next the eternity of the Covenant reaching into Eternity after this the Lord tells us what the Law is and how he justified his Servants. God commanded Abraham and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham because this was the law ordained for the fullness and glory of God before the world was. this was the law and from Hagar sprang many nations, the Lord has said that to whom this Revelation is given, that they are eligible to this law, its blessings and its requirements-- the men can only be saved by acts of Righteousness - and the woman are under the same law. Joseph Smith declares that all who become heirs of God and joint heirs of Christ must obey this law or they cannot enter into the fullness and if they do not they may loose the one talent, when men are offered knowledge and they refuse it they will be damned and there is not a man that is sealed by this priesthood but covenants to enter into the fullness of the law and the same with the woman she says she will observe all that pertains to the
new and everlasting Covenant both are under the Covenant and must obey if they wish to enter into a continuation of the lives or of the seeds:"

MFM 5 May 1883
A0: "was of the opinion" that it was "too early" to talk of