

MORMON POLYGAMY CHRONOLOGY

Spring 1831 Mary E. Rollins sealed to Joseph Smith.

17 July 1831 Joseph Smith allegedly gives revelation to seven elders near the boundary west of Jackson County, Missouri. W.W. Phelps in a letter to Brigham Young in 1861 records:

Verily, I say unto you, that the wisdom of man, in his fallen state, knoweth not the purposes and privileges of my holy priesthood, but ye shall know when ye receive a fulness by reason of the anointing; For it is my will, that in time, ye should take unto you wives of the Lamanites and Nephites that their posterity may become white delightsome and just, for even now their females are more virtuous than the gentiles.

In a note appended to the revelation, Phelps adds:

About three years after this was given, I asked brother Joseph, privately, how "we," that were mentioned in the revelation could take wives of the "natives" as we were all married men? He replied instantly "In the same manner that Abraham took Hagar and Keturah; that Jacob took Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah; by revelation-- the saints of the Lord are always directed by revelation." (Letter in Brigham Young Collection 12 August 1861).

The other elders present were Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, W.W. Phelps, Martin Harris, Joseph Coe, Ziba Peterson, and Joshua Lewis. *D&C 58:21 "Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the law of God hath no need to break the laws of the land."*

1 Aug 1831

Nov 1831

12 Nov 1831

8 Dec 1831

J.S. and S.R. engaged in translating Inspired Version--until early 1832. Literary firm organized approximate to this date (W.W. Phelps member) Ezra Booth in the Ohio Star criticized Mormon tactics "invented, in order to remove obstacles which hitherto had proved insurmountable" in converting the indians being relocated in eastern Kansas. Booth added that "it has been made known by revelation," that it would be "pleasing to the Lord if the elders formed a matrimonial alliance with the natives." The Lord promised to bless "abundantly" those who complied with the commandment. Through obedience they would "gain a residence" in Indian territory, despite the opposition of Indian agents.

6 Nov 1832

Joseph Smith III born.

12 Feb 1833

Illinois state bigamy law enacted (the crime of marrying while one had a wife or husband still living from whom no valid divorce has been effected"). If convicted face "fine not exceeding one-thousand dollars, and imprisoned in the penitentiary not exceeding two years."

6 Aug 1833

1833

D&C 97:4-9 "Concerning the laws of the land... Therefore I, the Lord, do you, and your brethren of my church, in befriending the law which is the Constitution of the land."
Robert Matthias (Joshua the Jewish Minister) contracted an unusual marriage to a married woman using the justification that, as sinners, she and her first husband had not been properly united in wedlock. Matthias claimed the power to dissolve the first marriage, did so, and later fathered a child with the woman.

5 May 1834

Zion's Camp leaves Kirtland.

Nov 1834

Printing office in Kirtland completed late in the month. On 11 Sept 1833 the Kirtland Press had been designated F.G. Williams & Co. Phelps leaves for Kirtland.

25 Apr 1835

16 May 1835

W.W. Phelps arrives in Kirtland, assigned to help with D & C. By June the D&C was in press; by August it was ready for binding. In mid-Sept., it was back from the binder.

17 Aug 1835

21 Aug 1835

23 Aug 1835

28 Aug 1835

9 Sept 1835

Article on marriage read to Kirtland Saints by W.W. Phelps. *O.C. / Elizabeth's daughter Maria born.*
Joseph Smith and Frederick G. Williams return to Kirtland from Michigan. Joseph preached in Kirtland "on the duty of wives."

W.W. Phelps letter to Sally: "I have it in my heart to give you a little instruction, so that you may know your place, and stand in it, believed, admired, and rewarded, in time and in eternity."

11 Sept 1835

Phelps letter to Sally: "Nothing has been doing in translation of the Egyptian Record for a long time, and probably will not for sometime to come."

16 Sept 1835

W.W. Phelps letter to Sally: "Br. Joseph has preached some of the greatest sermons on the duty of wives to their husbands and the side of all Women, I ever heard. I would not have you ignorant, Sally, of the mystery of Men and Women, but I cannot write all You must wait till you see me. This much, however, I will say, that you closed your 4th letter to me as a singular manner: really it was done after the manner of the Gentiles: