

CELESTIAL MARRIAGE *REVELATIONS*



Revelations of the Lord to His Prophets

**Joseph Smith
John Taylor
& Wilford Woodruff**

Foreword

This ebook compiles together all of the known revelations received by LDS Church presidents on the doctrine of Celestial Marriage.

It includes many revelations not in the Doctrine and Covenants, but which are nevertheless genuine

Although some these revelations have not been officially accepted in any Church conference, nevertheless they are the word of God given to His prophets.

It is up to us individually to gain a testimony of them, and accept and follow God's will revealed within them.

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Revelations of Joseph Smith

Lamanites and Plural Marriage

17 July 1831 (UR 11)

West of Jackson County, Missouri

Verily, verily, saith the Lord, your Redeemer, even Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world ye cannot discern with your natural eyes, the design and purpose of the Lord your God, in bringing you thus far in the wilderness, for a trial of your faith - and to be especial witnesses to bear testimony of this land, upon which the Zion of God shall be built up in the last days, when it is redeemed.

2 Verily, inasmuch as ye are united in calling upon my name to know my will concerning who shall preach to the inhabitants that shall assemble this day to learn what new doctrine you have to teach them, you have done wisely - for so did the ancient Prophets, even Enoch, and Abraham, and others; and therefore, it is my will that my servant W. W. Phelps should preach the discourse; and that my servants Joseph Coe and Ziba Peterson should bear testimony as they shall be moved by the Holy Spirit. This will be pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

3 Verily, I say unto you, ye are laying the foundation of a great work for the salvation of as many as will believe and repent, and obey the ordinances of the Gospel, and continue faithful to the end: For, as I live, saith the Lord, so shall they live.

4 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 fullness 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.

5 Gird up your loins and be prepared for the mighty work of the Lord - to prepare the world for my second coming - to meet the tribes of Israel, according to the predictions of all the holy prophets since the beginning; For the final desolation and decrees upon

Babylon: For, as the everlasting Gospel is carried from this land, in love for peace, to gather mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, for Zion - even so shall rebellion follow after, speedily, and hatred for war, until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of the kingdoms and nations, that strive to govern themselves by the laws and precepts, and force and powers of men, under the curse of sin in all the world.

6 Verily, I say unto you, that the day of vexation and vengeance is nigh at the doors of this nation, when wicked, ungodly and daring men will rise up in wrath and might, and go forth in anger, like as the dust is driven by a terrible wind; and they will be the means of the destruction of the government and cause the death and misery of many souls; but the faithful of my people shall be preserved in holy places during all these tribulations.

7 Be patient therefore, possessing your souls in peace and love, and keep the faith that is now delivered unto you for the gathering of scattered Israel, and lo, I am with you, though you cannot see me, till I come: even so; Amen.

Letter from W.W. Phelps to Brigham Young, 12 August 1861

“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; and Jacob took Rachel, Bilhah and Ziplah; by revelation - the Saints of God are always directed by revelation”

W. W. Phelps to Brigham Young, 12 August 1861.

Raising up Seed in Plural Marriage

Fall 1841

¹Joseph, unless you go to and immediately teach that principle [*namely polygamy or plural marriage*] and put the same in practice, [*you*] should be slain.

1 “He sent an holy angel with a drawn sword unto him, saying unto him,” (*Joseph Lee Robinson Journal*)

For thus saith the Lord, that the time has now come that I will raise up seed unto me as I spoke by my servant Jacob as is recorded in the Book of Mormon², therefore, I command my people.

Joseph Lee Robinson Journal.

Plural Marriage to Sarah Whitney

27th July 1842 (UR 59)

Nauvoo, Illinois

Verily, thus saith the Lord unto my servant Newel K. Whitney,

2 The thing that my servant Joseph Smith has made known unto you and your family and which you have agreed upon is right in mine eyes,

3 And shall be crowned upon your heads with honour and immortality and eternal life to all your house, both old and young because of the lineage of my Priesthood, saith the Lord,

4 It shall be upon you and upon your children after you from generation to generation, by virtue of the holy promise which I now make unto you, saith the Lord.

5 These are the words which you shall pronounce upon my servant Joseph and your daughter Sarah Ann Whitney.

6 They shall take each other by the hand and you shall say,

7 You both mutually agree, calling them by name, to be each other's companion so long as you both shall live, preserving yourselves for each other and from all others, and also throughout all eternity, reserving only those rights which have been given to my servant Joseph by revelation and commandment and by legal authority in times past.

8 If you both agree to covenant and do this, then I give you Sarah Ann Whitney, my daughter, to Joseph Smith, to be his wife, to observe all the rights between you both that belong to that condition.

9 I do it in my own name and in the name of your wife, your mother, and in the name of my holy progenitors, by right of birth which is of priesthood, vested in me by revelation and

2 Jacob 2:30.

commandment and promise of the living God, obtained through the holy Melchizedek, Jethro and other of the holy fathers commanding in the name of the Lord all those powers to concentrate in you and through to your posterity forever.

10 All these things I do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that through this order he may be glorified and through the power of the anointing David may reign king over Israel, which shall hereafter be revealed.

11 Let immortality and eternal life henceforth be sealed upon your heads forever and ever.

*Joseph Smith Collection
Church Historians Office*

Instructions on Celestial Marriage

16 May 1843 (D&C 131)

Ramus, Illinois

In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];

3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

History of the Church 5:392

Celestial Marriage

**A Revelation on the Patriarchal Order of Matrimony
Or Plurality of Wives¹**

12th July 1843 (D&C 132)

Nauvoo, Illinois

Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants,

1 The Lord calls this “a Revelation on the eternity of the marriage covenant, including the plurality of wives.” in a revelation to John Taylor, see p. 15, v. 7.

as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines - ²Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter. ³Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same. ⁴For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory. ⁵For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted from before the foundation of the world. ⁶And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

² ⁷And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.

³ ⁸Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion. ⁹Will I accept of an offering saith the Lord, that is not made in my name? ¹⁰Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed? ¹¹And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was? ¹²I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment – that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord. ¹³And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or

things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God. ¹⁴For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

⁴ ¹⁵Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world. ¹⁶Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory. ¹⁷For these angels did not abide my law; therefore, they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.

⁵ ¹⁸And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife, and make a covenant with her for time and for all eternity, if that covenant is not by me or by my word, which is my law, and is not sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, through him who I have anointed and appointed unto this power, then it is not valid neither of force when they are out of the world, because they are not joined by me, saith the Lord, neither by my word; when they are out of the world it cannot be received there, because the angels and the gods are appointed there, by whom they cannot pass; they cannot, therefore, inherit my glory; for my house is a house of order, saith the Lord God.

⁶ ¹⁹And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed, unto whom I have appointed this power and the keys of this priesthood; and it shall be said unto them - Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection; and if it be after the first resurrection, in the next resurrection; and shall inherit thrones,

kingdoms, principalities and powers, dominions, all heights and depths - then shall it be written in the Lamb's Book of Life, that he shall commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

7 ²⁰Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power and the angels are subject unto them.

8 ²¹Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory. ²²For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me. ²³But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also. ²⁴This is eternal lives - to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore my law. ²⁵Broad is the gate, and wide the way that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law.

9 ²⁶Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man marry a wife according to my word, and they are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, according to mine appointment, and he or she shall commit any sin or transgression of the new and everlasting covenant whatever, and all manner of blasphemies, and if they commit no murder wherein they shed innocent blood, yet they shall come forth in the first resurrection, and enter into their exaltation; but they shall be destroyed in the flesh, and shall be delivered unto the buffetings of Satan unto the day of redemption, saith the Lord God.

10 ²⁷The blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which shall not be forgiven in the world nor out of the world, is in that ye commit murder wherein ye shed innocent blood, and assent unto my death, after ye have received my new and everlasting covenant, saith the Lord God; and he that abideth not this law can in nowise enter into my glory, but shall be damned, saith the Lord.

11 ²⁸I am the Lord thy God, and will give unto thee the law of my Holy Priesthood as was ordained by me and my Father before the world was.

12 ²⁹Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne. ³⁰Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and for the fruit of his loins - from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph - which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them. ³¹This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the promise was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself. ³²Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved. ³³But if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father, which he made unto Abraham.

13 ³⁴God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife. And why did she do it? Because this was the law; and from Hagar sprang many people. This, therefore, was fulfilling, among other things, the promises. ³⁵Was Abraham, therefore, under condemnation? Verily I say unto you, Nay; for I, the Lord, commanded it. ³⁶Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac; nevertheless, it was written: Thou shalt not kill. Abraham, however, did not refuse, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

14 ³⁷Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children; and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, because they were given unto him, and he abode in my law; as Isaac also and Jacob did none other things than that which they were

commanded; and because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods. ³⁸David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, as also many others of my servants, from the beginning of creation until this time; and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me.

15 ³⁹David's wives and concubines were given unto him of me, by the hand of Nathan, my servant, and others of the prophets who had the keys of this power; and in none of these things did he sin against me save in the case of Uriah and his wife; and, therefore, he hath fallen from his exaltation, and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord.

16 ⁴⁰I am the Lord thy God, and I gave unto thee, my servant Joseph, an appointment, and restore all things. Ask what ye will, and it shall be given unto you according to my word. ⁴¹And as ye have asked concerning adultery, verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man receiveth a wife in the new and everlasting covenant, and if she be with another man, and I have not appointed unto her by the holy anointing, she hath committed adultery and shall be destroyed. ⁴²If she be not in the new and everlasting covenant, and she be with another man, she has committed adultery. ⁴³And if her husband be with another woman, and he was under a vow, he hath broken his vow and hath committed adultery. ⁴⁴And if she hath not committed adultery, but is innocent and hath not broken her vow, and she knoweth it, and I reveal it unto you, my servant Joseph, then shall you have power, by the power of my Holy Priesthood, to take her and give her unto him that hath not committed adultery but hath been faithful; for he shall be made ruler over many. ⁴⁵For I have conferred upon you the keys and power of the priesthood, wherein I restore all things, and make known unto you all things in due time.

17 ⁴⁶And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word, saith the Lord, it shall be eternally bound in the heavens; and whosoever sins you remit on

earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whosoever sins you retain on the earth shall be retained in heaven.

18 ⁴⁷And again, verily I say, whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse, saith the Lord; for I, the Lord, am thy God.

19 ⁴⁸And again, verily I say unto you, my servant Joseph, that whatsoever you give on earth, and to whomsoever you give any one on earth, by my word and according to my law, it shall be visited with blessings and not cursings, and with my power, saith the Lord, and shall be without condemnation on earth and in heaven. ⁴⁹For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my Father, with Abraham your father. ⁵⁰Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac.

20 ⁵¹Verily, I say unto you: A commandment I give unto mine handmaid, Emma Smith, your wife, whom I have given unto you, that she stay herself and partake not of that which I commanded you to offer unto her; for I did it, saith the Lord, to prove you all, as I did Abraham, and that I might require an offering at your hand, by covenant and sacrifice. ⁵²And let mine handmaid, Emma Smith, receive all those that have been given unto my servant Joseph, and who are virtuous and pure before me; and those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God. ⁵³For I am the Lord thy God and ye shall obey my voice; and I give unto my servant Joseph that he shall be made ruler over many things; for he hath been faithful over a few things and from henceforth I will strengthen him.

21 ⁵⁴And I command mine handmaid, Emma Smith, to abide and cleave unto my servant Joseph, and to none else. But if she will not abide this commandment she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord; for I am the Lord thy God, and will destroy her if she abide not in my law. ⁵⁵But if she will not abide this commandment, then shall my servant Joseph do all things for her, even as he hath said; and I will bless him and multiply him and give unto him an

hundredfold in this world, of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, wives and children, and crowns of eternal lives in the eternal worlds. ⁵⁶And again, verily I say, let mine handmaid forgive my servant Joseph his trespasses; and then shall she be forgiven her trespasses, wherein she has trespassed against me; and I, the Lord thy God, will bless her, and multiply her, and make her heart to rejoice.

22 ⁵⁷And again, I say, let not my servant Joseph put his property out of his hands, lest an enemy come and destroy him; for Satan seeketh to destroy; for I am the Lord thy God, and he is my servant; and behold and lo, I am with him, as I was with Abraham, thy father, even unto his exaltation and glory.

23 ⁵⁸Now, as touching the law of the priesthood, there are many things pertaining thereunto. ⁵⁹Verily, if a man be called of my Father, as was Aaron, by mine own voice, and by the voice of him that sent me, and I have endowed him with the keys of the power of this priesthood, if he do anything in my name, and according to my law and by my word, he will not commit sin, and I will justify him. ⁶⁰Let no one, therefore, set on my servant Joseph; for I will justify him; for he shall do the sacrifice which I require at his hands for his transgressions, saith the Lord your God.

24 ⁶¹And again, as pertaining to the law of the priesthood - if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then is he justified; he cannot commit adultery for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else. ⁶²And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him, and they are given unto him; therefore is he justified. ⁶³But if one or either of the ten virgins, after she is espoused, shall be with another man, she has committed adultery, and shall be destroyed; for they are given unto him to multiply and replenish the earth, according to my commandment, and to fulfil the promise which was given by my Father before the foundation of the world, and for their exaltation in the eternal worlds, that they may bear the souls of men; for herein is the work of my Father continued, that he may be glorified.

25 ⁶⁴And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, if any man have a wife who holds the keys of this power, and he teaches unto her the law of my priesthood, as pertaining to these things, then shall she believe and administer unto him, or she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord your God; for I will destroy her; for I will magnify my name upon all those who receive and abide in my law. ⁶⁵Therefore, it shall be lawful in me, if she receive not this law, for him to receive all things whatsoever I, the Lord his God, will give unto him, because she did not believe and administer unto him according to my word; and she then becomes the transgressor; and she is exempt from the law of Sarah, who administered unto Abraham according to the law when I commanded Abraham to take Hagar to wife. ⁶⁶And now, as pertaining to this law, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will reveal more unto you, hereafter; therefore, let this suffice for the present. Behold, I am Alpha and Omega. Amen.

Published in The Seer, Orson Pratt, 1852

Revelations of John Taylor

Celestial (Plural) Marriage

25/26 June 1882 (*UR 80*)

Salt Lake City

Question: Is the law of Celestial Marriage a law given to this nation or to the world?

2 Answer: No. In no other sense than as the Gospel is given, and in accordance with the laws thereof.

3 So far as it is made known unto men, it is made known unto them as the Gospel is made known unto them and is part of the New and Everlasting Covenant;

4 And it is only those who receive the Gospel that are able to, or capable of, entering into this Covenant.

5 Have I not said through my servant Joseph that “all kingdoms are governed by law,” and if they receive not the law of my Gospel they cannot participate in the blessings of Celestial Marriage which pertains to mine elect.

6 No person, or people, or nation can enter into the principle of Celestial Marriage unless they come in by me, saith the Lord,

7 And obey the law of my Gospel through the medium of him who is appointed unto this power as made known unto my people through my servant Joseph in a Revelation on “The Eternity of the Marriage Covenant, including the Plurality of Wives.”

8 I have therein stated that “all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same.

9 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.”¹

10 Furthermore, “And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall

1 D&C 132:3-4.

be damned, saith the Lord God.”¹

11 It is again written that “All kingdoms have a law given;”²

12 The Celestial Kingdom including the promise of eternal life pertains to “the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of all, through Jesus Christ his Son”³

13 Therefore such must be sanctified from all unrighteousness that they may be prepared for the Celestial Glory,

14 “For he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory.

15 “And he who cannot abide the law of a terrestrial kingdom cannot abide a terrestrial glory.

16 “And he who cannot abide the law of a telestial kingdom cannot abide a telestial glory; therefore he is not meet for a kingdom of glory. Therefore he must abide a kingdom which is not a kingdom of glory.”⁴

17 Each of the persons inhabiting these several kingdoms shall be quickened by the same power that pertains to the kingdom that they are destined to inherit, whether Celestial, Terrestrial, or Telestial; and shall receive of their respective glories.

18 And again it is written, “And again, verily I say unto you, that which is governed by law is also preserved by law and perfected and sanctified by the same.

19 “That which breaketh a law, and abideth not by law, but seeketh to become a law unto itself, and willeth to abide in sin, cannot be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, nor judgment. Therefore, they must remain filthy still.”⁵

20 It is further written, speaking of Celestial Marriage, “And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on

1 D&C 132:6.

2 D&C 88:36.

3 D&C 88:5.

4 D&C 88:22-24.

5 D&C 88:34-35.

the earth to hold this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.”¹

21 This law is a Celestial law and pertains to a Celestial Kingdom.

22 It is a new and everlasting covenant, and appertains to thrones, principalities, powers, dominions, and eternal increase in the Celestial Kingdom of God.

23 You are not now sent to proclaim this principle to the United States, nor to the world, nor to urge it upon them.

24 It is not for them as a nation or nations, only as many as accept the law of my Gospel and are governed thereby.

25 Behold, if you were to preach this principle unto them and they said “we accept it,” could you then administer it unto them? Verily, I say unto you, nay.

26 Have I not said, “Behold mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion.

27 “Will I accept of an offering saith the Lord, that is not made in my name?

28 “Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed?

29 “And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was?

30 “I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment - that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord.

31 “And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God.

32 “For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

1 D&C 132:7.

33 “Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.”²

34 You ask, what shall we do? Thus saith the Lord God, “Obey my law, and seek not to become a law unto yourselves, nor trust to outside influences; but seek in the way appointed to the Lord your God.

35 Ye are my spokesmen, I am your God; and as I have before said, I now again say, “Henceforth do as I shall command you.”

36 Concerning the course taken by the United States they have [the liberty] a right to reject this law themselves, as they have [the liberty] a right, to reject the Gospel; but it is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, for them to prohibit you from obeying it.

37 Therefore abide in my law which I have revealed unto you, saith the Lord God, and contend for your rights by every legal and constitutional method and in accordance with the institutions, laws, and Constitution of the United States.

38 Be humble, be faithful, be diligent, seek unto Me and it shall be made known unto you from time to time what My will is pertaining to this matter.

39 I am the Lord your God, hearken unto Me, and obey My law, and your enemies shall be confounded, and My kingdom shall be victorious. Even so, Amen.

John Taylor Papers, Church Historians Office.

Priesthood Authority

13 October 1882 (UR 83)

Salt Lake City

Thus saith the Lord to the Twelve, and to the Priesthood and people of my Church:

2 Let my servants George Teasdale and Heber J. Grant be

2 D&C 132:8-15.

appointed to fill the vacancies in the Twelve, that you may be fully organized and prepared for the labours devolving upon you, for you have a great work to perform;

3 And then proceed to fill up the presiding quorum of Seventies, and assist in organizing that body of my Priesthood who are your co-laborers in the ministry.

4 You may appoint Seymour B. Young to fill up the vacancy in the presiding quorum of Seventies, if he will conform to my law:

5 For it is not meet that men who will not abide my law shall preside over my Priesthood;

6 And, then proceed forthwith and call to your aid any assistance that you may require from among the Seventies to assist you in your labors in introducing and maintaining the Gospel, among the Lamanites throughout the land.

7 And then let High Priests be selected under the direction of the First Presidency to preside over the various organizations that shall exist among this people;

8 That these who receive the Gospel may be taught in the doctrines of my Church and in the ordinances and laws thereof, and also in the things pertaining to my Zion and my Kingdom, saith the Lord, that they may be one with you in my Church and in my Kingdom.

9 Let the Presidency of my Church be one in all things; and let the Twelve also be one in all things; and let them all be one with me and am one with the Father.

10 And let the High Priests organize themselves, and purify themselves, and prepare themselves for this labor and for all other labors that they may be called upon to fulfill.

11 And let the Presidents of Stakes also purify themselves, and this Priesthood and people of the Stakes over which they preside,

12 And organize the Priesthood in the various stakes according to my law, in all the various departments thereof, in the High Councils, in the Elders Quorums, and in the Bishops and their Councils, and in the Quorums of Priests, Teachers and Deacons, that every Quorum may be fully organized according to the order of my Church;

13 And, then, let them inquire into the standing and fellowship

of all that hold my holy Priesthood in their several Stakes;

14 And if they find these that are unworthy let them remove them, except they repent;

15 For my Priesthood, whom I have called and whom I have sustained and honored, shall honor me and obey my laws, and the laws of my Holy Priesthood, or they shall not be considered worthy to hold my Priesthood, saith the Lord.

16 And let my Priesthood humble themselves before me, and seek not their own will but my will;

17 For if my Priesthood whom I have chosen, and called, and endowed with the Spirit and gifts of their several callings, and with the powers thereof do not acknowledge me I will not acknowledge them, saith the Lord; for I will be honored and obeyed by my Priesthood.

18 And, then, I call upon my Priesthood, and upon all of my people to repent of their sins and shortcomings, of their covetousness, and pride, and self will, and of all their iniquities wherein they sin against me;

19 And to seek with all humility to fulfill my law, as my Priesthood, my Saints, and my people;

20 And I call upon the heads of families to put their houses in order according to the law of God, and attend to the various duties and responsibilities appointed therewith, and to purify themselves before me, and to purge out iniquity from their households.

21 And I will bless and be with you, saith the Lord,

22 And ye shall gather together in your holy places wherein ye assemble to call upon me, and ye shall ask for such things as are right,

23 And I will hear your prayers, and my Spirit and power shall be with you, and my blessing shall be upon you, upon your families, your dwellings, and your households, upon your flocks and herds and fields, your orchards and vineyards, and upon all that pertain to you;

24 And you shall be my people and I will be your God;

25 And your enemies shall not have dominion over you, for I will preserve you and confound them, saith the Lord,

26 And they shall not have power nor dominion over you;

27 For my word shall go forth, and my work shall be

accomplished, and my Zion shall be established, and my rule and my power and my dominion shall prevail among my people, and all nations shall yet acknowledge me. Even so, Amen.

John Taylor Papers, Church Historians Office

Continuation of Plural Marriage

27 September 1886 (UR 88)

Centerville, Utah

My son John: You have asked me concerning the New and Everlasting Covenant and how far it is binding upon my people.

2 Thus saith the Lord: All commandments that I give must be obeyed by those calling themselves by my name unless they are revoked by me or by my authority, and how can I revoke an everlasting covenant;

3 For I the Lord am everlasting and my everlasting covenants cannot be abrogated nor done away with; but they stand forever.

4 Have I not given my word in great plainness on this subject?

5 Yet have not great numbers of my people been negligent in the observance of my law and the keeping of my commandment, and yet I have borne with them these many years because of the perilous times. And furthermore it is pleasing to me that men should use their free agency in these matters.

6 Nevertheless I the Lord do not change and my word and my covenants and my law do not.

7 And as I have heretofore said by my servant Joseph: All those who would enter into my glory must and shall obey my law.

8 And have I not commanded men that if they were Abraham's seed and would enter into my glory they must do the works of Abraham.

9 I have not revoked this law nor will I for it is everlasting and those who will enter into my glory must obey the conditions thereof, even so, Amen.

John Taylor Papers, Church Historians Office

Revelations of Wilford Woodruff

Regarding the Nation and Plural Marriage

26 January 1880 (UR 79)

Sunset, Arizona

During the month of January, 1880 I was at Sunset, Arizona, with Bro. Lot Smith and the brethren with him who were trying to establish a branch of the United Order at that place. At this time the Government, through its officers, was using every means in its power to enforce the Edmunds-Tucker anti-polygamy law with the evident intent on the part of the officers, to break us up as an organized community. Being away from President Taylor and my Quorum, I felt deeply distressed in mind concerning our condition as a people. While thus exercised I went into "the Wilderness," a region of country called by this name situated about forty miles west of Sunset; and while there I stopped with two young men who were herding sheep belonging to the people of Sunset. I remained with them ten days reading the revelations of God as contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, and praying fervently unto the Lord to reveal to me His mind and will concerning Zion. On returning to bed on the night of the 25th of January, 1880, I found myself wrapt in vision and the next morning the following revelation was given to me of the Lord which I wrote at the time -

Thus saith the Lord unto my servant Wilford Woodruff. I have heard thy prayer, and will answer thy petition.

2 I will make known unto thee my will concerning the nation who encumbers the land of promise and also concerning Zion and her inhabitants.

3 I have already revealed my will concerning this nation through the mouth of my servant Joseph who sealed his testimony with his own blood, which testimony has been in force upon all the world from the hour of his death.

4 What I the Lord have revealed in that testimony and decree upon this nation, and all the nations of the Earth shall be fulfilled.

Saith the Lord of Hosts,

5 I the Lord have spoken and will be obeyed.

6 My purposes shall be fulfilled upon this nation and no power shall stay my hand.

7 The hour is at the door when my wrath and indignation shall be poured out upon the wicked of this nation.

8 Their murders, blasphemies, lyings, whoredoms and abominations have come up before my face and before the heavens and the wrath of mine indignation is full.

9 I have decreed plagues to go forth and lay waste mine enemies and not many years hence they shall not be left to pollute mine heritage.

10 The Devil is ruling over his kingdom and my Spirit has no place in the hearts of the rulers of this nation, and the Devil stirs them up to defy my power, and to make war upon my Saints.¹

11 Therefore let mine Apostles and mine Elders who are faithful obey my commandments which are already written for your profit and guidance.

12 Thus saith the Lord unto my servant John Taylor and my servant Wilford Woodruff and my servant Orson Pratt and to all the residue of mine Apostles. Have you not gone forth in my name without purse or scrip and declared the Gospel of life and salvation unto this nation and the nations of the Earth and warned them of the judgments which are to come as you have been moved upon by the power of the Holy Ghost and the inspiration of the Lord.

13 You have done this year by year for a whole generation as man count time.

14 Therefore your garments are clean of the blood of this generation and especially of this nation.

15 Therefore as I have said in a former commandment so I the Lord say again unto mine Apostles

16 Go ye along by yourselves whether in heat or in cold and cleanse your feet with pure water, it matters not whether it be by the running streams or in your closets but bear their testimonies

1 Earlier the same month (on the 13th), President Rutherford B. Hayes wrote in his personal journal, "Laws must be enacted which will take from the Mormon Church its temporal power. ... it is our duty to deal with it as an enemy of our institutions, and its supporters and leaders as criminals." (*Diary and Letters of Rutherford B. Hayes 3:383-84, ed. Charles Williams*)

before the Lord and the heavenly hosts.

17 And when you have all done this then gather yourselves together in your holy places and clothe yourselves in the robes of the holy priesthood and there offer up your prayers according to my holy law.

18 Let him who presides be mouth and kneel upon the holy altar and there let mine Apostles bring all their testimonies before my face and before the heavenly hosts and before the justified spirits made perfect

19 And thus saith the Lord unto you mine Apostles when you bring these testimonies before me, let them be presented by name as far as the Spirit shall present them unto you.

20 The Presidents of the United States, the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, the Senate and House of Congress of the United States, the Governors of the states and territories, the judges and officers sent unto you and all men and persons who have taken any part in persecuting you or bringing distress upon you or your lives or sought to hinder you from keeping my commandments or from enjoying the rights which the Constitutional law of the land guarantee unto you.

21 And what I the Lord say unto you mine Apostles I say unto my servants the Seventies, the High Priests, the Elders, and the Priests And all my servants who are pure in heart and who have born testimony unto this nation

22 Let them go forth and cleans their feet in pure water and bear testimony of it unto your Father who is in heaven

23 And then saith the Lord unto mine Apostles and mine Elders when you do these things with purity of heart and the Lord will hear your prayers and am bound by oath and covenant to defend you and fight your battles

24 As I have said in a former commandment it is not my will that mine Elders should fight the battle of Zion for I will fight your battle.

25 Nevertheless, let no man be afraid to lay down his life for my sake for he that layeth down his life for my sake shall find it again and have eternal life.

26 The nation is ripened in iniquity and the cup of the wrath of mine indignation is full and I will not stay my hand in judgment

upon this nation or the nations of the Earth

27 I have decreed wars and judgments upon the wicked and my wrath and indignation are about to be poured out upon them and the wicked and rebellious shall know that I am God.

28 As I the Lord have spoken so will I the Lord fulfill.

29 I will spare none who remain in Babylon but I will burn them up saith the Lord of Hosts.

30 As I the Lord have suffered so will I put all enemies under my feet, for I the Lord utter my word, and it shall be obeyed.

31 And the day of wrath and indignation shall come upon the wicked.

32 And I say again wo unto that nation or house or people who seek to hinder my people from obeying the Patriarchal Law of Abraham which leadeth to a celestial glory which has been revealed unto my Saints through the mouth of my servant Joseph,

33 For whosoever doeth those things shall be damned saith the Lord of Hosts and shall be broken up and wasted away from under heaven by the judgments which I have sent forth and shall not return unto me void.

34 And thus with the sword and by bloodshed and with famine and plagues and earthquakes and the thunders of the Earth be made to feel the chastening hand of an Almighty God until they are broken up and destroyed, and wasted away from under heaven, and no power can stay my hand.

35 Therefore let the wicked tremble, let them that blaspheme my name hold their lips, for destruction will swiftly overtake them.

36 All that I the Lord have spoken through the mouth of my prophets and Apostles since the world began concerning the last dispensation and fullness of times, concerning my Church which has been called out of the wilderness of darkness and error, and concerning Babylon the Great, and what I have spoken through the mouth of my servant Joseph shall all be fulfilled.

37 And though heaven and Earth pass away my words shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled Saith the Lord.

38 These revelations and testimonies you have before you.

39 Let my Saints search the word of the Lord and treasure up wisdom and be prepared for that which is to come.

40 As I have decreed so shall my judgments begin at the house

of God.

41 There are those in my Church who have a name among you who are adulterers and adulteresses and those who blaspheme my name and those who love and make a lie and those who revel and drink with the drunken.

42 If they do not speedily repent of their wickedness and abominations they shall be severed from the ordinances of my house saith the Lord.

43 There are many who have need to repent whose hearts are set upon the things of this world, who aspire to the honors of men and do not honor the priesthood, nor seek to build up the kingdom of God as they should.

44 Neither do they learn or comprehend that the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heavens and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

45 Such should repent and turn unto the Lord and seek for the Holy Spirit go guide them.

46 Judgments will begin at my house and from thence will they go forth unto the wicked, and the wicked cannot escape.

47 Blessed are the pure in heart, for my blessings await them in this life and eternal life in the world to come.

48 Thus saith the Lord unto you mine servants the Apostles who dwell in the flesh: fear ye not your enemies.

49 Let not your hearts be troubled, I am in your midst, I am your advocate with the Father.

50 I have given mine angels charge concerning you,

51 Mine eyes are upon you, and the eyes of your Heavenly Father and the Heavenly hosts, and all justified spirits made perfect are watching over you.

52 Your works are manifest before the face of my servants who have sealed their testimony with their blood and before all of my servants of the Twelve Apostles whom I have taken unto myself.

53 The veil is taken from off their faces and they know your works.

54 They await your coming when you have finished your testimony in the flesh.

55 Therefore be ye faithful until I come. My coming is at the door.

56 Call upon the Lord in mighty prayer. Ask and you shall receive.

57 Whenever you agree as touching anything and ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you.

58 Seek diligently to build up Zion and magnify your high calling and your enemies shall not prevail over you.

59 Zion shall not be moved out of her place.

60 Zion shall prevail against her enemies.

61 My people shall not be hindered in the building of my temple unto my holy name if they will hearken to my voice and do as I command them.

62 The blood of my servant Joseph and Hyrum and of mine Apostles and Elders which have been shed for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ cries from the ground for vengeance upon the nation who have shed their blood.

63 But that blood shall speedily be avenged and shall cease to cry unto me for the hour of Gods judgment is fully come and shall be poured out without measure upon the wicked.

64 But harken and hear, O ye Apostles Elders, and people of my church to the word of the Lord concerning you.

65 That for all the blessings that I will pour out upon you and the inhabitants of Zion, and the judgments and destructions upon the wicked that I will be inquired of by you to ask the Father in my name to do and to perform these things for you. As I told all the house of Israel by my servant Moses that they should ask of my hand for all these blessings which I the Lord had promised unto Israel in the latter days.

66 And as I the Lord ordained my Apostles who were with me in my ministry, and promised them that they should sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel so I say unto you mine Apostles whom I have raised up in these last days that I have ordained you to bear record of my name and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles first and then to the house of Israel.

67 I have also ordained you to set upon thrones and judge the Gentiles and all of the inhabitants of the Earth unto whom you have borne testimony of my name in the day and generation in

which you live.

68 Therefore how great is your calling and responsibility before me.

69 Therefore gird up the loins of your minds and magnify your callings in the fear of God and prepare for the coming of the Son of Man which is nigh at the door.

70 No man knoweth the day or the hour but the signs of both heaven and earth indicate his coming as promised by the mouths of my disciples. The fig trees are leaving and the hour is nigh.

71 Therefore prepare yourselves, O ye Saints of the Most High God with oil in your Lamps, for blessed is he that watcheth for the coming of the Son of man.

72 Again hear ye the word of the Lord, O ye mine Apostles whom I have chosen in these last days to bear record of my name and to lead my people Israel until the coming of the Son of Man.

73 I the Lord have raised up unto my servant John Taylor to preside over you and to be a law giver unto my Church.

74 He has mingled his blood with that of the martyred Prophets.

75 Nevertheless, while I have taken my servants Joseph and Hyrum Smith unto myself I have preserved my servant John Taylor for a wise purpose in me.

76 I have also taken many others of the Apostles unto myself for I take whom I will take and preserve in life those whom I will preserve according to the council of my own will.

77 And while my servant John Taylor is your President I wish to ask the rest of my servants of the Apostles the question,

78 Although you have one to preside over your quorum and over the Church which is the order of God in all generations. Do you not all of you hold the Apostleship which is the highest authority ever given to man on the earth? You do.

79 Therefore you hold in common the keys of the kingdom of God in all the world.

80 You each of you have power to unlock the veil of eternity and hold converse with God the Father and his son Jesus Christ and to have the administration of angels.

81 It is your right privilege and duty to inquire of the Lord his mind and will concerning yourselves, the inhabitants of Zion, and

their interests.

82 And whenever any one of you receive the word of the Lord Let it be written and presented in your Council,

83 And whatever by a united council you deem wisdom to be presented unto the people let it be presented by the President my servant John Taylor as the word of the Lord.

84 In this way you will uphold him and strengthen his hands as all the burden should not rest upon one man.

85 For thus saith the Lord: All of mine Apostles should be filled of the Holy Ghost of inspiration and revelation and know the mind and will of God and be prepared for that which is to come.

86 Therefore let mine Apostles keep my commandments and obey my laws and the gates of hell shall not prevail against you. Fear not for I am with you until I come. I come quickly, even so, amen.

Not Conceding to Enemies

24 November 1889 (*UR 89*)

Salt Lake City

Thus saith the Lord, to my servant Wilford, I the Lord have heard [your] prayers and thy request, and will answer thee by the voice of my spirit.

2 Thus saith the Lord, unto my servants, the Presidency of my Church, who hold the Keys of the Kingdom of God on the earth.

3 I the Lord hold the destiny of the courts in your midst, and the destiny of this nation, and all other nations of the earth in mine own hands; all that I have revealed, and promised and decreed concerning the generation in which you live, shall come to pass, and no power shall stay my hand.

4 Let not my servants who are called to the Presidency of my Church, deny my word or my law, which concerns the salvation of the children of men,

5 Let them pray for the Holy Spirit, which shall be given them to guide them in their acts.

6 Place not yourselves in jeopardy to your enemies by

promise;

7 your enemies seek your destruction and the destruction of my people.

8 If the Saints will hearken unto my voice, and the counsel of my servants the wicked shall not prevail.

9 Let my servants, who officiate as your Counsellors before the courts, make their pleadings as they are moved upon by the Holy Spirit, without any further pledges from the Priesthood, and they shall be justified.

10 I the Lord will hold the courts, with the officers of government, and the nation responsible for their acts towards the inhabitants of Zion.

11 I, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, am in your midst. I am your advocate with the Father.

12 Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

13 Fear not the wicked and ungodly.

14 Search the scriptures, for they are they which testify of me; also those revelations which I have given to my servant Joseph, and to all my Servants since the world began, which are recorded in the records of divine truth.

15 Those revelations contain the judgments of God, which are to be poured out upon all nations under the heavens, which include great Babylon. These judgments are at the door, they will be fulfilled as God lives.

16 Leave judgment with me, it is mine saith the Lord.

17 Watch the signs of the times, and they will show the fulfillment of the words of the Lord.

18 Let my servants call upon the Lord in mighty prayer, retain the Holy Ghost as your constant companion, and act as you are moved upon by that spirit, and all will be well with you.

19 The wicked are fast ripening in iniquity, and they will be cut off by the judgments of God.

20 Great events await you and this generation, and are nigh at your doors.

21 Awake, O Israel, and have faith in God, and his promises, and He will not forsake you.

22 I the Lord will deliver my Saints from the dominion of the

wicked, in mine own due time and way.

23 I cannot deny my word, neither in blessings nor judgments.

24 Therefore let mine anointed gird up their loins, watch and be sober, and keep my commandments.

25 Pray always and faint not; exercise faith in the Lord and in the promises of God; be valient in the testimony of Jesus Christ.

26 The eyes of the Lord and the heavenly hosts are watching over you and your acts. Therefore be faithful until I come.

27 I come quickly, to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body, even so. Amen.

*L. John Nuttall Diary, Brigham Young University
Messages of the First Presidency 3:175-6*

Appendix

The 1886 Visitation to John Taylor of Jesus and Joseph Smith

1886 was a difficult year for the Church, a great number of Latter-day Saints were convicted of polygamy, and a great many of them, including Apostle Lorenzo Snow, were put in jail. Some of the Saints who had previously fled to Canada found themselves no longer safe, as it now became against the law there too. Two thousand Mormon women involved in plural marriages protested the government's persecution against their husbands, but were largely ignored. Ironically this was the year the statue of liberty was erected, however, it seemed that Mormons weren't entitled to such liberty, freedom and justice as the rest of Americans. Even Church President John Taylor had to go into hiding as there was a price on his head for his capture, and his picture (along with George Q. Cannons') featured on wanted posters throughout the territory.

Despite being out of the public's eye, John Taylor still had an important role and mission to fulfill as God's prophet, and even though the United States and many of the Saints had forsaken him, the Lord was mindful of him, and he found refuge in the homes of a few trusted Saints. John Taylor had faced persecution and death before at the hands of the mob that killed Joseph Smith, but as the Lord revealed to Wilford Woodruff half a decade before he went into hiding, "I have preserved my servant John Taylor for a wise purpose in me." (Woodruff Journal, 28 Dec 1880¹) This is the story of how he fulfilled that prophesy, from someone who witnessed it.

While the brethren were at the Carlisle residence [in Murray] in May or June of 1886, letters began to come to President John Taylor from such men as John Sharp², Horace Eldredge, William Jennings, John T. Caine³, Abraham Hatch, President Cluff and

1 See page 28.

2 The John Taylor Papers contain a letter from President Taylor to John Sharp, dated 2 May 1887 on this subject.

3 "He was President of the convention and strongly urged the adoption of the clause in

many other leading men from all over the Church, asking the leaders to do something, as the Gentiles were talking of confiscating their property in connection with the property of the Church.

These letters not only came from those who were living in the Plural Marriage relation, but also from prominent men who were presiding in various offices of the Church who were not living in that relation. They all urged that something be done to satisfy the Gentiles so that their property would not be confiscated.

George Q. Cannon on his own initiative selected a committee comprising himself, Hyrum B. Clawson, Franklin S. Richards¹, John T. Caine and James Jack to get up a statement or Manifesto that would meet the objections urged by the brethren above named. They met from time to time to discuss the situation. From the White home, where President Taylor and companions stopped, after leaving the Carlisle home, they came out to father's. George Q. Cannon would go and consult with the brethren of the committee, I taking him back and forth each day.

[Some were insisting that the Church issue some kind of edict to be used in Congress, concerning the surrendering of Plural Marriage, and that if some policy were not adopted to relieve the strain the government would force the Church to surrender. Much was said in their deliberations for and against some edict or manifesto that had been prepared.]²

On September 26, 1886, George Q. Cannon, Hyrum B. Clawson, Franklin S. Richards, and others, met with President John Taylor at my father's residence at Centerville, Davis County, Utah, and presented a document for President Taylor's consideration.

I had just got back from a three days trip, during most of which time I had been in the saddle, and being greatly fatigued, I

the proposed constitution prohibiting polygamy, believing this to be the true solution of the 'Mormon' problem, and the only course that would satisfy the government and people of the United States." (*John T. Caine, LDS Biographical Encyclopedia 1:733*)

1 The John Taylor Papers contain letters from Taylor on this subject to Franklin S. Richards, dated 19 February & 2 May 1887.

2 Note: non-italicized passages in square brackets come from Lorin Woolley's 1912 affidavit

had retired to rest. Between one and two o'clock P. M., Brother Bateman came and woke me up and asked me to be at my father's home where a Manifesto was to be discussed. I went there and found there were congregated Samuel Bateman, Charles H. Wilkins, L. John Nuttall, Charles Birrell, George Q. Cannon, Franklin S. Richards and Hyrum B. Clawson.

We discussed the proposed Manifesto at length, but we were unable to become united in the discussion. Finally George Q. Cannon suggested that President Taylor take the matter up with the Lord and decide the same the next day. [*President Taylor replied: "Do you think that I would decide on such an important matter as that without taking it to the Lord and get His decision and final word on the matter?"*]¹

Brothers Clawson and Richards, were taken back to Salt Lake. That evening I was called to act as guard during the first part of the night, notwithstanding the fact that I was greatly fatigued on account of the three days trip I had just completed.

[Two were usually selected each night, and they took turns standing guard to protect the President from trespass or approaching danger. Exceptional activity was exercised by the U.S. Federal Officers in their prosecutions of the Mormon people on account of their family relations in supposed violation of the Federal Laws.]

The brethren retired to bed soon after nine o'clock. The sleeping rooms were inspected by the guard as was the custom. [Soon after our watch began, Charles H. Birrell reclined on a pallet and went to sleep. President Taylor had entered the south room to retire for the night.] President Taylor's room had no outside door. The windows were heavily screened.

Sometime after the brethren retired and while I was reading the Doctrine and Covenants, I was suddenly attracted to a light appearing under the door leading to President Taylor's room, and was at once startled to hear the voices of men talking there. There were three distinct voices. I was bewildered because it was my duty to keep people out of that room and evidently someone had entered without my knowing it. I made a hasty examination and

1 Note: italicised passages (in square brackets) come from Daniel R. Bateman's affidavits of 1934 & 38

found the door leading to the room bolted as usual. I then examined the outside of the house and found all the window screens intact. While examining the last window, and feeling greatly agitated, a voice spoke to me, saying, “Can't you feel the Spirit? Why should you worry?”

At this I returned to my post and continued to hear the voices in the room. They were so audible that although I did not see the parties I could place their positions in the room from the sound of the voices. The three voices continued until about midnight, when one of them left, and the other two continued. One of them I recognized as President John Taylor's voice. I called Charles Birrell and we both sat up until eight o'clock the next morning.

[The conversation was carried on all night between President Taylor and the visitor, and never discontinued until the day began to dawn – when it ceased and the light disappeared. ... My father came into the room where we were on watch ...]

When President Taylor came out of his room about eight o'clock of the morning of September 27, 1886, we could scarcely look at him on account of the brightness of his personage.¹ [His countenance was very bright and could be seen for several hours after.]

He stated, “Brethren, I have had a very pleasant conversation all night with Brother Joseph.”² (Joseph Smith) I said, “Boss, who is the man that was there until midnight?” He asked, “What do you know about it, Lorin?” I told him all about my experience. He said, “Brother Lorin, that was your Lord.”

We had no breakfast, but assembled ourselves in a meeting. I forget who opened the meeting. I was called to offer the benediction. I think my father, John W. Woolley, offered the opening prayer. There were present, at this meeting, in addition to President Taylor, George Q. Cannon, L. John Nuttall, John W.

1 “And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.” (*Exodus 34:30*)

2 “he [Joseph] yet lives, and is with me where I am.” (*Revelation to John Taylor, 27 June 1882, Unpublished Revelations 81:19*)

“Elder [Lorin] Woolley testified that he knew the Prophets Joseph, Brigham and Heber lived for he had seen them as they appeared to President John Taylor in brother John Woolley's house.” (*Andrew Kimball Journal, 25 January 1897.*)

Woolley, Samuel Bateman, Charles H. Wilkins, Charles Birrell, Daniel R. Bateman, Bishop Samuel Sedden, George Earl, my mother, Julia E. Woolley, my sister, Amy Woolley, and myself. The meeting was held from about nine o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon without intermission, being about eight hours in all.

President Taylor called the meeting to order. He had the Manifesto, that had been prepared under the direction of George Q. Cannon, read over again.

[He asked those present if they were willing to consecrate all that they had to the furtherance of the cause of righteousness in case it is requested of them. They responded they were. He asked if they were willing to give up their lives for the truth in the event it was required. They answered they were.]

He then *[placed them under covenant to uphold and sustain the principles of the Gospel and]* put each person under covenant that he or she would defend the principle of Celestial or Plural Marriage, and that they would consecrate their lives, liberty and property to this end, and that they personally would sustain and uphold that principle.

By that time we were all filled with the Holy Ghost. President Taylor and those present occupied about three hours up to this time. After placing us under covenant, he placed his finger on the document, his person rising from the floor about a foot or eighteen inches, and with countenance animated by the Spirit of the Lord, and raising his right hand to the square, he said, "Sign that document, - never! I would suffer my right hand to be severed from my body first. Sanction it, - never! I would suffer my tongue to be torn from its roots in my mouth before I would sanction it!"

After that he talked for about an hour and then sat down and wrote the revelation which was given him by the Lord upon the question of Plural Marriage¹ *[the 1886 revelation to John Taylor]*. Then he talked to us for some time, and said, "Some of you will be handled and ostracized and cast out from the Church

1 "There was a revelation that John Taylor received and we have it in his handwriting. We've analyzed the handwriting. It is John Taylor's handwriting and the revelation is reproduced by the Fundamentalists ... The revelation is dated September 27; that fits the account of the meeting, 1886." *(Reed C. Durham, LDS Stake High Priests meeting, 24 Feb 1974)*

by your brethren because of your faithfulness and integrity to this principle, and some of you may have to surrender your lives because of the same, but woe, woe, unto those who shall bring these troubles upon you.” (Three of us were handled and ostracized for supporting and sustaining this principle¹. There are only three left who were at the meeting mentioned - Daniel R. Bateman, George Earl and myself. So far as I know those of them who have passed away all stood firm to the covenants entered into from that day to the day of their deaths.)

After the meeting referred to, President Taylor had L. John Nuttall write five copies of the revelation. He called five of us together: Samuel Bateman², Charles H. Wilkins, George Q. Cannon, John W. Woolley³, and my self. He then set us apart and placed us under covenant that while we lived we would see to it that no year passed by without children being born in the principle of plural marriage⁴. We were given authority to ordain others if necessary to carry this work on, they in turn to be given authority

- 1 “You will live to see men arise in power in the Church who will seek to put down your friends and the friends of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Many will be hoisted because of their money and worldly learning which they seem to be in possession of; and many who are the true followers of our Lord and Saviour will be cast down.” (*Joseph Smith to Mosiah Hancock, as recorded in his Journal, p. 19*) John Woolley was excommunicated in 1914, Lorin Woolley was excommunicated in 1924, and so was Daniel R. Bateman at some point.
“... woe unto those who cut men off from the Church for private pique, or to exercise undue dominion, or for any reason not prompted by truth and righteousness!” (*Millennial Star 40:262*)
- 2 In 1888 John M. Whitaker recorded in his Diary that Samuel Bateman had told him of some “very interesting incidents that occurred while he was with the late President John Taylor,” but he says he did not include them because they didn't fit in with the direction the Church was then taking. (*Whitaker Journal, 16 September 1888.*) “Samuel [Bateman] spoke of the 8 hour meeting in Centerville, the sermon of John Taylor there and the subsequent calling of certain men there.” (*Life of Samuel Bateman, Olive A.K. Neilson, 1944.*)
- 3 In the Spring of 1839, Joseph Smith, Sr. gave the young John W. Woolley a Patriarchal Blessing which prophesied, “Thou wilt obtain blessings, glory and honor, and through it though wilt receive keys, world of knowledge and power, and thou wilt be called the Lord's anointed.”
- 4 “...no year will ever pass, ... from now until the coming of the Saviour, when children will not be born in Plural Marriage. And I make this prophecy in the name of Jesus Christ.” (*Apostle Abraham O. Woodruff, Quarterly Conference in Colonia Juarez, 18-19 November 1900.*)
“...the time would never come when children of Polygamous parents would cease to be born in the Church.” (*Apostle Marriner W. Merrill, Rudger Clawson Diary, 11 July 1899.*)

to ordain others when necessary, under the direction of the worthy senior (by ordination), so that there should be no cessation in the work.¹ [*He counseled us not to begin our work until told to do so by proper authority.*] He then gave each of us a copy of the Revelation.²

I am the only one of the five now living, and so far as I know all five of the brethren remained true and faithful to the covenants they entered into, and to the responsibilities placed upon them at that time.

During the eight hours we were together, and while President Taylor was talking to us, he frequently arose and stood above the floor, and his countenance and being were so enveloped by light and glory that it was difficult for us to look upon him.

He stated that the document, referring to the Manifesto, was from the lower regions.³ He stated that many of the things he had told us we would forget and they would be taken from us, but that they would return to us in due time as needed, and from this fact we would know that the same was from the Lord. This has been literally fulfilled. Many of the things I forgot, but they are coming to me gradually, and those things that come to me are as clear as on the day on which they were given.

President Taylor said that the time would come when many of the Saints would apostatize because of this principle. [*“Some of you will live to see the time when there will scarcely be a family among the Latter day Saints that will be united on all the principles of the Gospel.”*] He said “one-half of this people will apostatize over the principle for which we are now in hiding, yea,

1 A.B. Irvine told me that Apostle Woodruff told him that a certain number of worthy people had been commissioned to keep alive the principle of plural marriage. (*Carl Ashby Badger – Apostle Reed Smoot’s secretary - Journal, 8 October 1904.*

“President Taylor died in exile for this principle and he gave men authority to perform the ceremony of marriage, which authority I have been told was never revoked.” (*Mission President to Apostle Francis M. Lyman, 19 Oct 1906, Quinn – Origins of Power*)

2 See page 21.

3 “the powers of hell will do their utmost to get this people to give up that holy law which God designs to maintain.” (*Brigham Young, Mosiah Hancock Journal, Spring 1863*)

“We have made a covenant with death, And with hell we are in agreement.” (*Isaiah 28:15*)

and possibly one-half of the other half¹¹ (rising off the floor while making the statement). He also said the day will come when a document similar to that (Manifesto) then under consideration would be adopted by the Church, following which “apostacy and whoredom would be rampant in the Church.”¹²

He said that in the time of the seventh president of this Church, the Church would go into bondage³ both temporally and spiritually and in that day (the day of bondage) the One Mighty and Strong spoken of in the 85th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants⁴ would come.

Among many other things stated by President Taylor on this occasion was this: “I would be surprised if ten per cent of those who claim to hold the Melchisedek Priesthood will remain true and faithful to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, at the time of the seventh president, and that there would be thousands that think they hold the Priesthood at that time, but would not have it properly conferred upon them.”¹⁵

- 1 “What would be necessary to bring about the result nearest the hearts of the opponents of 'Mormonism'? Simply to renounce, abrogate or apostatise from the new and everlasting covenant of marriage in its fullness.” (*Pres. Charles W. Penrose, Deseret News, 23 April 1885*)
 “To be at peace with the government and in harmony with their fellow citizens who are not of their faith, and to share in the confidence of the Government and the people, our people have voluntarily put aside something which all their lives they have believed to be a sacred principle.” (*First Presidency, Petition of Amnesty, 19 Dec 1891*)
- 2 “You men and you women that lift up your voices against that holy principle [plural marriage] that has been introduced among this people, the time will come when your daughters will run these streets as common harlots” (*Pres. Heber C. Kimball, as related in General Conference, Oct 1901, p. 32*)
 “the sin of adultery is running rampant through the Church.” (*Harold B. Lee, Ensign 4:7:101*)
- 3 “A spirit of speculation and extravagance will take possession of the Saints, and the result will be financial bondage.” (*Pres. Heber C. Kimball to Amanda Wilcox, 1868*)
 Heber J. Grant mortgaged the temple for \$30 million in 1923 (for 50 years) to help out the Utah and Idaho Sugar Co.
- 4 “And it shall come to pass that I, the Lord God, will send one mighty and strong, holding the sceptre of power in his hand, clothed with light for a covering, whose mouth shall utter words, eternal words; while his bowels shall be a fountain of truth, to set in order the house of God, and to arrange by lot the inheritances of the saints whose names are found, and the names of their fathers, and of their children, enrolled in the book of the law of God;” (*D&C 85:7*)
- 5 “... the ordinances must be kept in the very way God has appointed; otherwise their Priesthood will prove a cursing instead of a blessing.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 169*)

John Taylor set the five mentioned apart and gave them authority to perform marriage ceremonies, and also to set others apart to do the same thing as long as they remained on the earth; and while doing so, the Prophet Joseph Smith stood by directing the proceedings. Two of us had not met the Prophet Joseph Smith in his mortal lifetime, and we -Charles H. Wilkins and myself -were introduced to him and shook hands with him.

(signed) Lorin C. Woolley, 1929

I was privileged to be at the meeting of September 27, 1886, spoken of by Brother Woolley, I myself acting as one of the guards for the brethren during those exciting times. The proceedings of the meeting as related by Brother Woolley are correct in every detail. I was not present [in the room] when the five spoken of by Brother Woolley were set apart for special work, but have on different occasions heard the details of the same related by Lorin C. Woolley and John W. Woolley, and from all the circumstances with which I am familiar, I firmly believe the testimony of these two brethren to be true.

4 May, 1934, Daniel R. Bateman, Sworn Statement

The year of 1886 is past and gone. It has been an important year in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints. It has sent to prison hundreds of the Leading men of the Church and driven into exile the Presidency of the Church & Twelve Apostle and many other leading men all for obeying the celestial law of God and the patriarchal order of marriage and our nation are uniting in passing unconstitutional Laws for the purpose of destroying the Latter Day Saints from off the Earth. Our nation is becoming vary wicked and fast ripening in iniquity and preparing for the just judgments of God which await them.

Wilford Woodruff Journal, 31 December 1886.

“Surely a man cannot possess an appendage to the Priesthood without possessing the Priesthood itself, which he cannot obtain unless it be authoritatively conferred upon him.” *(Joseph F. Smith, Improvement Era 4:394, March 1901)*