

Brigham Young, 19 August 1866 (two sermons)

Papers of George D. Watt MS 4534 box 4 disk 5 1866b images 4, 9-15

Second sermon only in JD 11:266; JD significantly altered; neither sermon in CR 100 317

Transcribed by LaJean Purcell Carruth 15 September 2009

HIS SATISFACTION WITH WILLIAM HOOPER, TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS; THOSE WHO WORK AGAINST THE CHURCH; "OBNOXIOUS DOCTRINE", PLURAL MARRIAGE [AT GREAT LENGTH]; OBNOXIOUS IN NAME ONLY; ELSEWHERE MEN KEEP WOMEN, BUT DO NOT MARRY THEM; THE WOMEN WHO ARE SEDUCED ARE OSTRACIZED, THE MEN INVITED INTO POLITE COMPANY; MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, HAD TWO HUSBANDS; GOD IS FATHER OF JESUS; HIS INITIAL REACTION TOWARDS POLYGAMY; "I DIDN'T CALL FOR THE REVELATION UPON THIS PRINCIPLE I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT AND DIDN'T WANT IT"; WHEN JOSEPH REVEALED THIS TO HIM, HE DESIRED THE GRAVE, BUT HE BELIEVED IT AND ACCEPTED IT; THOSE WHO SEEK THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM MUST ACCEPT THIS PRINCIPLE; GOD GAVE THIS REVELATION TO JOSEPH; TWIN RELICS; SLAVERY; HIS TESTIMONY OF THE REVELATION ON POLYGAMY; DEALING WITH ENEMIES; POLYGAMY IS FOR THE RESURRECTION; STATEHOOD; PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT MAY REALIZE THAT SAINTS ARE LOYAL CITIZENS; POLYGAMY A CIVIL CONTRACT, NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL; U.S. WILL SAY LAWS AGAINST IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER MEN HAVE THEIR MISTRESSES, WHICH THEY TREAT LIKE RENTING A HORSE; WOMEN WANT A HUSBAND; WOMEN IN LOWELL, MORE WOMEN THAN MEN; PROPHECY THAT IN LATTER DAYS SEVEN; WOMEN TAKE HOLD OF ONE MAN; MORE PEACE IN UTAH THAN ELSEWHERE; MORE TROUBLE IN FAMILIES WITH JUST ONE WIFE THAN WITH MORE; MEN NEAR 70 YEARS OLD CONSIDER THE END OF THEIR LIVES; JOSEPH SMITH ON WHO WILL BE SAVED; REFORMERS; BLACKS AND THE PRIESTHOOD; MAN HAS VOLITION, WHICH GOD CAN NOT VIOLATE

[Image 4]¹

[in longhand: Pres. Young] was personally perfectly satisfied² with the course of our delegate³ while absent on this

mission at the seat of government. We are proud to say we were proud of him. Obedience

to the law of plurality and that [this is?] necessary to obtain celestial glory etc. "Chapman[?] lost 90 head of oxen going out of [at end of next line: the Black Hills."

singing by the choir

prayer by [in longhand: G. Q. Cannon]

[Image 9]

President Young after Stenhouse

Brethren quite a number of subjects and little points I wish to speak upon and perhaps I shall not be able to call them forth as I should like to in the first place I would commence with our delegate I can say for one for myself that I am perfectly satisfied with his course while he has been absent on this mission as our delegate to the seat of our government he has done all that we could expect and I will say that he has done more than I believe he could perform still had I enjoyed these assurances before he went as I do now I might have anticipated all his labors and successes he told you the truth that when he said his affliction caused him to cleave to the Lord and I can say of a truth in my own information according to the spirit that is within me that the words of Brother Stenhouse]⁴ is true with regard to his being a better man than when he left he is a better man than he ever was before on the earth has more faith to day is surrounded with an influence I never saw him possess before his travels and labors at Washington

[Image 10]

to myself are known they were known when he was in Washington both his conduct and his successes was known by individuals here we are proud to say concerning our delegate here that we are proud of him he has enough of Spirit of Lord not to be flattered we have reason to be proud of him and no man could have done better themselves I believe will satisfy all the Latter-day Saints and satisfy perhaps a great many others this point I will passing over concerning these little items that has been rehearsed to you here is what I brought before the congregation last Sunday⁵ Brother Hooper and Stenhouse has one point of honor saying the error that I committed that is to mention names and I will ask the pardon of the congregation for ever letting a name pass through my lips as I mentioned last Sunday it is true and we know it is true every person that could see by the power of the spirit that when men rise up against the truth against the gospel of life and salvation they always commit themselves and they will commit themselves with one another to that degree that they don't believe each other this is the case with those that have arrayed themselves against us for a few years past their work they must perform I don't wish to injure them they must have their day their time and the season must be allotted to them the same as others for good or for evil they can do us no harm and there is one truth that does exist which is a great consolation to the Latter-day Saints it is simply this you can read it in the Bible if you wish to speaking of the arm of the Lord on the earth and speaking of the enemy of his kingdom that they can't do anything against the truth but for the truth he will make the wicked and ungodly and their acts accomplish his design and his want accomplish his purposes to use the words that is put here in this book by the writer he will make the wrath of man praise him we need to have no fears with regard to the outside if we purify and cleanse the inside of the platter the people called Latter-day Saints this people that profess to know and understand the way of life and salvation if we can purify ourselves and sanctify ourselves so that we are accepted

of God our Father Jesus Christ his Son our Elder Brother and Savior all is right every where rest assured all[?] that this is all we need

fear I wish to give my views to this obnoxious doctrine and practice to the outsiders and those that don't believe

the old saying is that a continual dripping will wear a stone and if you don't believe it try it place a fountain of water

drop by drop right on this granite and you see what it do in 500 years wear a hole right through

it verily through 10 feet in a hundred years a continual laboring will bring about the purposes of the Lord ~~he~~ was they say

that polygamy is obnoxious to the Christian world this is not so I could tell a few anecdotes illustrate this but this

I shall omit and say it is not polygamy it is only the name of it] in connection with this I want to look now at the Christian world and I will refer to the ladies of this congregation I will propose probably there is many here that have

lived long in the world and know pretty well what it is now ladies were you called to dine with your friends

ladies and gentlemen and you would see a gentleman enter with all the grace imaginable he is a lover of the ladies and the ladies

look upon him as a very beautiful gentleman but don't those ladies or some of them know that that [sic] man is corrupt with regard

to his chastity do they not know and do they not believe this that don't know from what they have heard from others that that [sic] beautiful

gentleman is a libertine and yet they will bow to him shake hands with him and and obey all the desires] and every

imaginable but let the ladies he has decoyed away and let them make their approach in the room where those beautiful

ladies are dining with such gentleman and the ladies will get up and leave the room on account of the character of the females

that wretch has decoyed he is the guilty one yet those ladies before [--?] were in the church [did do it?]

will nod and bow and scrape and pay all due desires to a gentleman know a libertine and yet the women he has ruined come into their presence they won't speak to them this is not according to the principles of heaven but it is according

[Image 12]

to the principles of the lower wretches the men are the ones guilty study mind nature every man and every woman whether you are literate in books or not study your own disposition ladies study your own disposition show me the woman that doesn't desire to have a man to look to to [sic] lean upon and guide her through this world and I would just leave[?] [look for/like have?] white black as look for such a man God has placed this in their nature every woman that lives on the earth wishes to have some person to look to as their superior and protector but we look upon those gentlemen as the destroyers of those innocent females those very men some of them not all are the ones that put up such a howl against this doctrine so much despised that was believed and embraced and practiced by the ancients and by the very men that they refer to as the pattern of all the piety that was ever exhibited through man upon the face of the earth does the world hate polygamy no] the thing was changed in the case of that creature/character[?] that we the Christian world own and acknowledge and believe to be our Savior the Son of the Living God it is true it was changed then the man Joseph didn't have more wives but Mary the wife of Joseph happened to have another husband the infidel says he is a bastard] you don't know that you have [r-?] how you apply it and that is all you know about it but that very babe that was born in the manger begotten not by the husband of the woman but by another man and if any of you wish to ask to find out who it was that did beget the child it was God our Heavenly Father you need never not inquire any more about it he is the Only Begotten of the Father and he is the Savior of the world now this changes polygamy you know and with females have kept up the system from that day to this more less to the disgrace of many that is not the order] it is not polygamy but still if you and I continue to be faithful to our God he will defend us in doing his right if it is wrong for men to have more than one wife at time the Lord will reveal it by and by and he will put it away and it won't be known in the church I didn't call for the revelation upon this principle I didn't ask for it and didn't want it and as I have said many time it is the fact until that revelation

was read to me and Joseph revealed these principles to me the ruin that I saw would come upon many elders of Israel and the trouble and persecution that would fall wrought visibly upon my feelings and so terrific it was I desired to go into the grave if my work was done I didn't want it but I had to stand up to it now permit me here brothers and sisters and those that don't belong to the Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints [sic] you may hear my remarks and do what you please with them now we as Christians desire to be saved] in the kingdom of God we desire to attain all the blessings there is for the most faithful that ever lived on the earth even him that is said to be the father of the faithful Abraham we wish to obtain all that Father Abraham obtained I want to say to the elders of Israel to members of this church and kingdom it is in the hearts of many to wish that this doctrine was not taught it may be cruel and hard for many and especially for the ladies but no harder for them than for the gentlemen it is the word of the Lord and I want to say to you and all the world if you desire wish with all your hearts to obtain the blessings that Abraham obtained you will be a polygamist in practice if you have the privilege or you will come short of it as God lives you that wish] there is no such thing in existence I am not a polygamist here is Brother John D Caine not a polygamist [fdr/thdr/Theodore?] is not his [--?] wife doesn't belong to the church she is a lady a fine woman I esteem her as a sister if any of you have it in your heart to say I pass along I don't know what community be bothered[?] yet and offices be placed on our head I will not be a polygamist lest I should fail to obtain

[Image 12]

some earthly honor character and office etc. with the children of men that man that has that in his heart and proceed in doing so he

will come short of celestial glory the only man and woman that becomes God and sons of God is those enter

into polygamy and they may enter into the presence of Father and Son and they will have their servants around

them but they will never reign and be kings as those that have the privilege of the blessings and refuse to accept them

what are we going to do the Lord gave a revelation through Joseph his servant and we have believed it and practiced it now then this

must be done away before we are permitted to receive our place in the nation it may be or it may not be

here is the twin relic slavery they say is done away but I don't want to talk about it if there

is not same slavery oppression and iron hand of cruelty not upon the blacks to day than ever has been I am

glad of it my heart is pained for them the twin relic must be destroyed next it is they [and God?]

for it you find that out all of you it ain't Brigham Heber Daniel Orson it ain't Thomas William Franklin

it ain't George but it is the Lord Almighty and the world for it (amen)⁶ what is the Lord going to do just as he

has mind to as far as he can I can't help this I have heard the revelation and I believe it with all my heart

and know it is from God and know he revealed it from heaven and know it is true and know and understand the bearings

of it and why it is so do you think we shall ever be admitted as a state into our union without coming

out as a people and denying] the principles of polygamy if we are not admitted until then we shall never will be admitted

we will live here just as the Lord mind to let us live and take just what he sends to us and when

enemies rise up against us we battle them as we can and exercise faith and pray for wisdom and power

more than they have to contend with them proceed go along my children saith the Lord do all

you can your blessings come through your faith be faithful cut the corners of your enemies where you can

get the advantage of them by faith and works they will destroy themselves take care of yourselves be what you should be

live as you should] now then who knows but what if the time why says Mr. President are things

any worse in Utah than in Washington says Mr. Congressman are the people any worse in Utah

than in Washington or in New York or in our states are they more unvirtuous are they disloyal to the government well I don't know that they are only this polygamy that has nothing to do with being loyal or disloyal in the least one way or another well by their transgressing the law of United States what law the polygamy law how are they transgressing it nothing more than to go along and obey the revelation the Lord has revealed by and by men will rise up and you will see men come into those departments that make the laws of the people for the United States that will begin to send those questions and inquire into the validity of them and say that is unconstitutional you can't make a law what he shall do in these things it is a civil contract you might as well tell a man how many horses he [show shown?] you might as well make a law to tell a woman how many cows milk as husbands if a woman wants to live with me as a wife all right but you must not have them opening[?] but I must take them home not my wife you know you can sweep my house and make the bed and help make the butter and cheese and partake] of my pleasure and wealth and the and the work they don't care a course for it where is the president and cabinet officers senators nvs[?] governor and chief magistrate and down to the lowest dog whipper in the street we have our mistresses go into New York

[Image 13]

and into Philadelphia Washington Cincinnati Albany Boston etc. etc. you see societies there of young men perhaps a thousand of them 5

hundred that don't[?] get married and we have declared that we will sustain this club and we won't have a wife have you any

place yes we have places out here where we hire the girls and sustain them pay them so much and let one of them

say he is going to get married he is rejected and his name taken from the paper he has a woman

out yonder and perhaps another out yonder and he keeps his lady but there is no ceremony between them and no special[?]

bargain for this life and that which is to come it is like hiring a horse and chaise at liberty [sic] stable

you go out two 3 days return put up your horse and pay you money and away you go does the Lord look upon this as right thing does the constitution of the United States no does any man of justice and of truth and do

the ladies of North America Christian world or of world of mankind look upon such a course

of conduct of gentlemen as being just righteous and true we'll keep talking keep showing the people the true principles how they are

you go into the city of New York go to the city of Lowell the last time I was there 14 thousand

more females than males in that city that is many years ago they live and die and are forgotten

have they filled the measure of their creation or the design of heaven in bringing them upon the earth no they have not

there should be a thousand men go in there two or 3 thousand and take 7 women apiece it is written

you know in the Bible] that in the latter⁷ days 7 women take hold of skirts of one man and say we eat

our own bread etc. and yet with the United States don't mean that prophecy fulfilled and the Lord Almighty means

it shall be don't you think the Lord will conquer I think he will and we are helping of him the

government rises up and says the scripture shall not be fulfilled and the Lord reveals his will from heaven and says fulfill that

revelation I recollect an expression of William H Seaver when conversing on constitution slavery and the laws

of the states and United States says he there is a higher law than written in our book and ~~they~~ that must be obeyed

where is the higher law concerning slavery compare it with that written about polygamy the Lord said

to Ham you and your seed shall be the servants of servants they must be wrong about this item
the Lord says in the last days 7 women shall take hold of skirts of one man and ask to have his name
and it is all the requirement they make upon him for him to counsel and advise them they spin their
own wool and cloth and do every thing to live if we can only have a name with him what is
this for it is for the resurrection not for this world I would not go across the bowery for polygamy
pertaining to this world and I never saw the day I get off my feet for it it is for the resurrection and
the
Spirit of the Lord come upon the people and the ladies especially those been deceived so long and trodden
under foot of
men on the earth there is a spirit comes on them I want a place a name there that I may have a home
in the celestial kingdom of our Father and God] many and many go from this territory and said there is
more peace joy and union
and fellowship in the midst of families in Utah than in our own neighborhoods and city they say it and it is a
fact
and there is not and the trouble in this city with men that have more than one wife than with those that have
but one I have more trouble with those that have but one companion than those that have more than
one to counsel them and advise them and coax them and persuade them to live their religion and do as they
ought to do
it is hard I have proved to my Father and my God that I am willing to forsake wives and children and
labor my life time
to build up the kingdom of God and never enjoy a companion while I live and that I have done in my young
days it is my

[Image 14]

to day now come up here you shall come up in the first resurrection and receive the keys there of and go and resurrect the rest

it will be here in a little while when a man begins to get 3 score years and ten they begin to look where I shall be buried although they may live a little longer but about 3 score years and ten that was the age of old King David when he lived they begin to look around and inquire what they are going to do it will soon be her great many in this congregation soon see that number of years I shall see it less than 5 years more whether I live over that time no matter to me if I can do

the work designed me] I will bring in right here what Joseph Smith talking about this morning I take the liberty of giving you my opinion in this little dialogue he referred it and asked

Joseph Smith many questions says he with the rest according to your faith and teachings of your elders I understand nobody going to be saved but you Mormons will all be damned but you Mormons yes says Joseph and most of them unless they repent and do better to be damned is to be banished or be deprived of presence of Father and Son of living in their presence] now how many is going to live with him those that I told you that will come up and inherit the first glory that is prepared] with the faith to live as Father Abraham did and improve upon every means of grace and privilege given to them what is going to become of others

Joseph F told us the truth this morning none will become angels to the devil except those sin against the Holy Ghost but there is intermediate steps in my Father's house many mansions I go to prepare a place for you I prepare a place for a number when the mansions are almost innumerable but they are there and ready and waiting for the people the people [sic] living according to the best light they had 500

years ago two thousand 5 thousand if they lived according to best light they had they will have all the glory they ever anticipated in the flesh I recollect in 31 one of the elders preaching he began to speak of reformers and finally Father Wesley came up says he Father Wesley went to hell the man didn't understand

matters this was referred to Joseph Father Wesley could not possess that he would have possessed had the priesthood

been on the earth and all the glory and keys and power of that priesthood been in possession of John Wesley and lived up to it

then he can be crowned as God even the Son of God will he be saved yes in a kingdom

in a good kingdom full of glory light joy more than ever entered into the heart of the man to conceive Father

Wesley never conceived of the glory he enjoyed probably to day and so it is with all hell most of the people they ain't going to be made angels to the devil if they have committed error and weakness and repented of it here is the blood of the Savior to wipe it out and cleanse them against all sin except they have sinned against the Holy Ghost which is unto death] as the apostle says I don't command you to pray for all sinners etc. they don't want to be prayed for but they just desire to destroy the kingdom of God here is a few items with regard to the celestial kingdom and the kingdom the Lord prepared for his children the Lamanites just as much the children of our Father and we are go and protect/partake[?] to hunt up the Black and the rest grow of them that are human beings they are the children of our Father and God the same as you and I are we are children by adoption now that is true children in the gospel but all the children of man are the children of our Father and God why are they black why is this copper color and why is this curse upon so many of the inhabitants of the earth it is because they had the priesthood on them and probably a law

[Image 15]

like polygamy and before they could get into union/notion[?] they renounced this doctrine and this curse came upon them and they go down to death when the rest of children receive their blessings and holy priesthood then that color be taken from the [--/progeny?] of Cain and when the rest of children receive their blessings in the holy priesthood then that curse be removed from the children of Cain they will come up and possess the priesthood and receive all the blessings we receive here is a few items and these are the reasons has considered as line thrown out to them that understand here is reason why things are thus and so the volition of the creature is free consequently as Brother Joseph said this morning Jesus could not do what he would like to do when he came into the flesh and the Lord can't to day do what he wanted to do the reason is because he can't violate his own law if he did he would cease to be God then says he my sons here is life and death which will you choose well one/want/won't[?] [--/matter?] we have no more than with his own existence it is an eternal law from all eternity and will exist to all eternity those independent beings must have the power of choice and I will bring forth the result of my acts to promote my kingdom and do good to those and the human family as much as I can and as for their acts they are free to perform without my meddling with them if the Lord could to do have his own ways upon the ways of all the human family enter in this church and receive the holy priesthood and come into the kingdom of our Father and God just[?] upon the power of Jesus may the Lord bless you amen.

¹This brief section is in pencil; it appears not to be in Watt's hand.

²Written over "Amen.", conclusion of previous sermon.

³William H. Hooper, territorial delegate to Congress.

⁴Only] is given throughout; Watt used] to mark his place, probably while transcribing.

⁵See JD 11:257; there is no extant Watt shorthand for Brigham Young, 12 August 1866.

⁶Watt used () to indicate words spoken from the congregation.

⁷See Isaiah 14:1.