

is heavenly. Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that he had a Father also?" (*Teachings*, pp. 370-373.)

Plural Marriage. See ADULTERY, ARTICLE ON MARRIAGE, CELESTIAL MARRIAGE, CHASTITY, CONCUBINES, KEYS OF THE KINGDOM, MANIFESTO, PRIESTHOOD, SEALING POWER. According to the Lord's law of marriage, it is lawful that a man have only one wife at a time, unless by revelation the Lord commands plurality of wives in the new and everlasting covenant. (D. & C. 49:15-17.) Speaking of "the doctrine of plurality of wives," the Prophet said: "I hold the keys of this power in the last days; for there is never but one on earth at a time on whom the power and its keys are conferred; and I have constantly said *no man shall have but one wife at a time, unless the Lord directs otherwise.*" (*Teachings*, p. 324.)

The Lord, by the mouth of his Prophet Jacob, gave similar direction to the Nephites: "For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts. Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes. For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they

shall hearken unto these things." (Jacob 2:27-30.)

From such fragmentary scriptural records as are now available, we learn that the Lord frequently did command his ancient saints to practice plural marriage. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—among a host of others (D. & C. 132)—conformed to this ennobling and exalting principle; the whole history of ancient Israel was one in which plurality of wives was the divinely accepted and approved order of matrimony. Millions of those who entered this order have, in and through it, gained for themselves eternal exaltation in the highest heaven of the celestial world.

In the early days of this dispensation, as part of the promised restitution of all things, the Lord revealed the principle of *plural marriage* to the Prophet. Later the Prophet and leading brethren were commanded to enter into the practice, which they did in all virtue and purity of heart despite the consequent animosity and prejudices of worldly people. After Brigham Young led the saints to the Salt Lake Valley, plural marriage was openly taught and practiced until the year 1890. At that time conditions were such that the Lord *by revelation* withdrew the command to continue the practice, and President Wilford Woodruff issued the Manifesto directing that it cease. (*Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, pp. 213-218.) Obviously the holy practice will commence again after the Second Coming

of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the millennium. (Isa. 7.)

Plural marriage is not essential to salvation or exaltation. Nephi and his people were denied the power to have more than one wife and yet they could gain every blessing in eternity that the Lord ever offered to any people. In our day, the Lord summarized by revelation the whole doctrine of exaltation and predicated it upon the marriage of one man to one woman. (D. & C. 132:1-28.) Thereafter he added the principles relative to plurality of wives with the express stipulation that any such marriages would be valid only if authorized by the President of the Church. (D. & C. 132:7, 29-66.)

Any who pretend or assume to engage in plural marriage in this day, when the one holding the keys has withdrawn the power by which they are performed, are guilty of gross wickedness. They are living in adultery, have already sold their souls to Satan, and (whether their acts are based on ignorance or lust or both) they will be damned in eternity.

Politeness. See COURTESY.

Polygamy. See PLURAL MARRIAGE.

Polytheism. See APOSTASY, ATHEISM, DEISM, FALSE GODS, GOD, HENO-THEISM, MONOTHEISM, PLURALITY OF GODS, THEISM. Primitive and pagan peoples often believe in and worship many supposed gods. They imagine that there are gods of birth, marriage,

and death, of war and peace, of the mountains, forests, and plains, and so forth.

It is falsely supposed by uninspired religious scholars that Yahweh or Jehovah was the tribal God of the Hebrew peoples, that he gradually came to have pre-eminence over the gods of other nations, and that he was finally accepted as the One Supreme Being. The fact is, however, that monotheism did not grow out of *polytheism*, rather polytheistic concepts are apostate perversions of the original truth about God which was revealed to Adam and the ancient patriarchs.

It should be remembered that polytheism has reference to pagan deities to whom reverence, devotion, and worship are given. It is not to be confused with the gospel truth that there are "gods many, and lords many, But to us there is but one God, the Father, . . . and one Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 8:4-7.) The saints are not polytheists.

Poor. See ALMSGIVING, CHURCH WELFARE PLAN, RICHES. In the present telestial order of things, there will always be *poor* people, those who do not have sufficient of this world's goods to satisfy their just needs and wants. Provision is always made by true saints for the care of their less economically fortunate brethren. In modern times this is done primarily through the great Church Welfare Plan.

Whether people are rich or poor