

not find a single passage within the Holy Bible which condemns it. Even Paul, in his exhortations, expressed only his opinion. "Nevertheless," he said, "neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord."

In Joseph Smith's *Advocate* of July 1st, 1881, I read an article in which he asks, "By what authority did Brigham Young teach the Saints that Adam is our Father and our God?" etc. He then says, "Let the saints then judge Brigham Young's strange doctrines and practices."

Brigham Young did not happen to be the author of this doctrine, and to prove the truth of my assertion, I will produce some of the Prophet's teachings, given May 16th, 1841. These were written, together with other things, by his clerk, William Clayton, as they were spoken, and as I had the privilege of reading them when quite a young woman, I took the liberty of copying them. The copy I have retained, and this is what the Prophet said upon this subject, commencing with the

PRIESTHOOD:

"The Priesthood was given to Adam—he obtained the first presidency and held the keys of it from generation to generation. He obtained it in the creation before the world was formed. * * He had dominion given him over every living creature; he is Michael, the archangel spoken of in the scriptures. Then Noah who is Gabriel—he stands next in authority to Adam in the Priesthood. He was called of God to his office and was the father of all living in this day, and to him was given the dominion. These men held the keys first on earth and then in heaven. The Priesthood is an everlasting principle and existed with God from eternity and will to eternity, without beginning of days or end of years. The keys have to be brought from heaven—it is by Adam's authority.

"Daniel, in the seventh chapter of his book, speaks of the Ancient of days—he means the oldest man, our father Adam, Michael. He will call his children together and hold a council with them to prepare them for the coming of the Son of man. He (Adam) is the father of the human family and presides over the spirits of all men, and all that have had the keys must stand before him in this grand council. This may take place before some of us leave this stage of action. The Son of man stands before him and there is given him glory and dominion. Adam delivers up his stewardship to Christ, that

which was delivered to him as the keys of the universe, but retains his standing as head of the human family.

“The spirit of man is not a created being, it exists from eternity, and will exist to eternity. Any thing created can not be eternal.

“The fullness of times has come of which Daniel writes: ‘I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. ‘A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.’

“‘I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that shall not be destroyed’” (*Daniel, vii.*, 9, 10, 13, 14).

When the Saints first heard this doctrine advanced it looked strange and unnatural to them; it was strong meat and required a little time before it could be digested; but this was owing to the narrow, contracted ideas which had been handed down from generation to generation by our forefathers. We were like babes and had always been fed upon milk; but, as Jesus said, we have to be taught “here a little and there a little.” When I was able to comprehend it, it appeared quite consistent. There is something in this doctrine that is very home-like, grand and beautiful to reflect upon, and it is very simple and comprehensive. It teaches us that we are all the children of the same parent, whose love was so great that He gave His beloved Son, our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, to redeem us from the fall. He came down upon this earth in the meridian of time and descended below all things that He might rise above all things, and thus rescue us from everlasting death. It teaches us that our Father was once mortal, and that if we remain faithful we will finally become as He is—immortal, even if we must first pay the penalty for the transgression of our first parents.

We here produce some other remarks of the Prophet: