

Orson Pratt, 29 August 1852 Plural Marriage

Papers of George D. Watt MS 4534 box 1 folder 7, images 168-201

Sermon is in Journal of Discourses 1:54-66; CR 100 317 box 1, folder 40

Transcribed by LaJean Purcell Carruth August 2007 revised 18 October 2013

[Image 168]

Orson Pratt

This is quite unexpected to me brethren and sisters to be called upon to address you this forenoon and still more so to address you upon the particular subject which has been named it is rather new ground for me that is I have not been in the habit of publicly speaking upon this subject and it is rather new ground to all of the inhabitants of the United States not only them but to all of inhabitants of Europe the greater portion of them not been in habit of preaching a doctrine of this description consequently we shall have to break up new ground

it is well known however by the congregation that is before me that the Latter-day Saints have embraced the doctrine of plurality of wives as part of their religious faith it is not as many have supposed a doctrine embraced to gratify the carnal lusts and feelings of man that is not the object of the doctrine and we shall endeavor to set forth before this enlightened assembly some of the causes and whys and wherefores in relation to this doctrine show you why it is a part and portion of our religious faith and I believe that they will not under our present

[Image 169]

form¹ of government I mean government of United States I believe they will not try us for treason for believing and practicing our religious notions and ideas I think if I mistake not there is amendment this constitution gives the privilege to all the inhabitants of this country the free exercise of their religious notions the free exercise of their faith the practice of it then if it can be proven to administration that the Latter-day Saints have actually embraced as part and portion of their religion plurality of wives constitutional and should there be laws enacted by this government from the free exercise of this it must be unconstitutional but says one we cannot comprehend how this doctrine can be embraced as a matter of your religious views and faith we can hardly conceive how it can be embraced as a kind of domestic concern something that pertains to domestic pleasures but when it is incorporated as part of religion like to know the whys and wherefores very well before we get through we will endeavor to tell you why we consider it an essential doctrine to our glory exaltation and to our happiness or our fullness of happiness in the eternal world and before we come directly to the point it [may/may not?] be necessary to make a few preliminary remarks in regard to the existence of man to his first existence to his first estate and then say something in relation to his present state and in third place something

[Image 170]

in relation to next or future state the Mormons have a peculiar doctrine and belief in regard to our pre-existence different from the religions of the Christian world so called they do not believe that man had a pre-existence what do you mean by pre-existence I mean that man it is believed generally that man both body and spirit begins to live about the time that he is born into this world or little before that that is the beginning of life they believe that the Lord by a direct act of creation formed in first place man out of the dust [of the] ground that is the religions notion of the world at large he was formed out of the dust of the ground and became a living soul yet they believe that man is possessed of both body and spirit well how do you suppose the spirit was formed suppose that we admit his doctrine that man was actually formed out of dust of the ground how was his spirit formed why says one we suppose that it was made by a direct act of creation by the Almighty himself that he molded the spirit of man formed it and fashioned it in a proper likeness to inhabit the tabernacle made out of the dust have you any account of this in Bible do the scriptures declare unto us that the spirit was formed at the time the tabernacle made no

[Image 171]

all the tabernacles of children of men ever formed from many generations from the days of Adam
have been formed out of the earth we are of the earth earthy it has been organized according to
certain

principles and laws of organization bones and flesh and sinews and skin and

it has been done through a system of laws now where do you suppose all these tabernacles
got their spirits does the Lord make a new spirit every time [a] tabernacle

made for us then the work of creation according to the sectarian world did not cease

on the seventh day if the Lord is continually making spirits to inhabit

all the tabernacle of the children of men then he must make something like one

thousand millions of spirits every century must be at it every day

for there is many scores and hundreds of individuals being born into [the] world

continually day after day does the Lord create a new spirit every time

this tabernacle come into the world that don't look reasonable nor

likely but how is it says one why the fact is that being

that animates these bodies that gives life and energy and power to

move act to think that being that dwells within this tabernacle is

much older than what we are [naturally?] than what our tabernacle [is]

[last line is blank]

[Image 172]

that spirit that now dwells within each man and each woman in this vast room of people is more than a thousand years old and I would venture to say that [it] is more than five thousand years old but how was it made when was it made by whom was it made if we existed thousands of years ago if we began to exist if there was a beginning of organization of our spirits by what process was this organization carried on through what medium by what system of laws was it by direct creation of Almighty or are we formed according to certain system of laws the same as our tabernacle being formed why if we are to reason from analogy an analogical reasoning would say that our spirits are formed by generation the same as the body or tabernacle of flesh and bones knowledge would teach us this but what says revelation upon the subject see whether revelation analogy agree we read of a certain time when the corner stones of the earth were laid and the foundations thereof of certain time when the Lord began to erect this beautiful and glorious habitation the earth the day and time of joy I do not know whether had instruments of music or not do not know whether engaged in dance or not one thing is certain they had great joy

[Image 173]

and music it was the shout of joy from whom all the sons of God shout for joy and the morning stars sang together when the foundations of this globe that the sons of God recollect shouted for joy I recollect this was before Adam was placed in Garden of Eden before the Garden of Eden planted it was before that period spoken in first chapter of Genesis where in man beasts of field made out of ground previous to that period it was away back to the time when the very foundation of this creation was laid before it was inhabited by man there were the sons of God they shouted for joy because there was a beautiful habitation being built so that they could get tabernacle President Young says they anticipated the time they looked forward to the time it was joyful to them to reflect that the creation was and about being formed the corner stone of which then was laid on which they might come forth and in due time receive tabernacle for their spirits to dwell in do you bring it home to yourselves brethren and sisters do you realize that you and I were there can you bring it to your minds that you and I among that happy number that shouted for joy when this creation

[Image 174]

made says one I do not recollect no wonder your recollection taken from you because you are a tabernacle that is earthly and all this was right and necessary same as Jesus himself had to descend though he had wisdom to assist in organization of this world though through him as the great leader of all these sons of God the earth was formed and framed² by the assistance of all his brethren yet we find that with that great and mighty power he possessed and the great and superior wisdom in his bosom yet for all his judgment had to be taken away in his humiliation his reason his intelligence his knowledge and the power that he was formerly in possession of vanished from him when he entered in infant tabernacle and was obliged to begin down to the lowest principles of knowledge and ascend upward by degrees receiving grace for grace truth for truth knowledge for knowledge until he was filled with all the fullness of Father and he was capable of ruling governing and controlling all things having ascended above all things just so we brethren and sisters we that once lifted up our united voices as sons and daughters of God and shouted for joy at the erection or laying of the foundation of this earth have come here and taken tabernacles after the pattern

[Image 175]

of our Elder Brother and in our humiliation for it is humiliation to be
deprived of knowledge we once had and power we once enjoyed in our
humiliation then like Elder Brother our judgment is taken away do we
not read in the writing of Moses that God is the father of our spirits we have
ascertained that we have had a previous existence we find that Solomon that
wise man says that when the body returns to its dust the spirit returns to God
gave it now all of this congregation very well know that if
we never existed there we could not return there I could not
return to California why because never been there if you never
been with the Father the same as Jesus was before the foundation of world
if you never was there you never could return there any more than I could
to the West Indies but if we have once been there then we
can see the force of the saying of the wise man that the spirit returns to God gave it
goes back where once was much might be said upon this subject even
from King James translation but I do not feel disposed to dwell too long
upon any particular testimonies suffice it to say brethren that the Prophet Joseph
Smith's translation of the fore part of Genesis is exceedingly plain upon

[Image 176]

this and it is printed Brother Franklin D Richards printed it in
England the first and second chapters of Genesis and many other [sayings?] of older
items there we find the pre-existence of man clearly laid down that the spirits
of all men male and female did have an existence before man was formed
out of dust [of the] ground but who was there father I have already quoted the saying that
God is called the Father of our spirits there are more gods than one and in
another sense there us but one God the scriptures speaks of more gods than one
Moses was called God to Aaron in plain terms and our Savior in speaking
upon this subject says if the scripture called them gods unto whom the word of God
came why is it that you should seek to persecute me and kill
me because I testify that I am the Son of God this in fact
was the word of our Savior those to whom the word of God came are called
gods according to the testimony of our Savior well all those beings of course
are one the same as the Father and Son one the Son is called God and so is the Father
and in some places the Holy Ghost called God they are one one [sic] in power
in wisdom one in honor one in the inheritance of celestial glory

[Image 177]

one in their works they possess all things and all things are subject to them and they act in unison and if one has power to become father of spirits so has another if one God can promulgate his species and raise up spirits in his own image and likeness and call them his sons and daughters so can all other gods that become like him do the same things consequently there will be many fathers and there will be many families and many sons and many daughters and there will be descendants of those celestial glorified beings that are counted worthy to be gods here let me bring for the satisfaction of Latter-day Saints testimony of the vision given to our prophet and revelator Joseph Smith and Sydney Rigdon on 16 day of February 1832 they were engaged in translating the New Testament by inspiration and while engaged in translating that when given the translation of certain verse 16 chapter of John here it is says those done good shall come forth in resurrection of just and those done evil in resurrection of unjust given in different language from the language [of the] translators this caused them to marvel and wonder they lifted up their hearts in prayer to show why it was that this should be given to them in different language and behold the visions of heaven opened before

[Image 178]

them they gazed upon eternal things saw things before the world was made he saw the spirit creation were to come forth and taken upon themselves bodies and saw things as they are to be in the future of celestial terrestrial and telestial worlds as well as sufferings [of the] ungodly all passed before them in this great glorious vision opened to their minds when gazed upon things before the worlds was made what did they say said they this is the testimony last of all which we give of him that he lives even Jesus Christ the Only Begotten of the Father for we beheld him on the right hand [of the] Father and we heard voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of Father that by him and of him and through him the worlds are and were created and the inhabitants there of are begotten sons and daughters to God notice this last expression the inhabitants there of meaning different worlds that have been created and made and the inhabitants there of ~~have~~ are begotten sons and daughters unto God notice now this does not say that the God we serve and worship was actually the Father himself personally of all those sons and daughters but they are begotten sons and daughters unto God that is begotten by those made like him after his image and in his likeness that are made

[Image 179]

gods like unto him they begat sons and daughters and begat them unto God
to inhabit these different worlds we have been speaking of more of this hereafter before
we get through if we have time we will come down now to the principle of those
spirits we are told that among this great family of spirits some were
more noble and great than others having more intelligence where do you read that says
one of the Book of Abraham translated from the Egyptian papyrus by the Prophet Joseph
Smith among the great and numerous family of spirits the begotten sons daughters
to God some more intelligent than others and he says among those thou perceivest
speaking to Abraham that some are the noble and great ones and says
he to Abraham thou art one of them for thou wast³ chosen before thou
wast born chosen before he was born here then comes knowledge if we
only had time to treat upon the doctrine of election how ever I may
just remark does not mean election to eternal life of certain ones
and the rest [to] eternal damnation suffice it to say that Abraham many
many others great and noble ones in family of spirits were chosen before
they were born for certain purposes to bring about certain works to
have the privilege of coming upon the stage of action among the hosts of men [in?]

[Image 180]

favorable circumstances by good and holy parentages and to fulfill certain things
the Lord decreed from before the foundation [of the] world the Lord
has ordained that these spirits come here and take tabernacles through a certain law certain
channel and that law is the law of marriage great many things that I will pass
by I perceive going to touch upon all these principles the time would be
up completely there fore⁴ passing by many things in relation to these spirits
and first estate and laws govern them in first estate and come to second estate
the Lord ordained marriage between male and female as system of laws means
through which spirits come here and take tabernacles and enter into second state of
existence the Lord himself solemnized the first marriage pertaining to this globe
and pertaining to flesh and bone as people now live here upon the earth
I do not say pertaining to mortality for when the first marriage celebrated no
mortality there the first marriage that we have any account of was
between two immortal beings old father Adam and old mother Eve immortal
beings over whom death had no dominion no power and capable of enduring
for ever and ever in their organization had they fulfilled the law and kept within
certain conditions and bounds their tabernacle never been seized by death death

[Image 181]

entered entirely by sin and sin alone this marriage was celebrated between two immortal beings how long until death no that is out of question no such thing and in the ceremony what would you consider my hearers if a marriage was to be celebrated between two beings not subject to death would you consider it celebrated and them joined together for certain number of years then that all their covenants was to cease forever would it look reasonable consistent no every heart would say that the work of God is perfect in and of itself and in as much as sin had not brought imperfection upon the globe what he joined together could not be dissolved and destroyed and turned asunder by any power beneath the celestial world consequently it was eternal the ordinance was eternal the sealing power of the great Jehovah upon Adam and Eve was eternal in its nature never instituted for the purpose of being overthrown and coming to end you know the Mormons peculiar belief about marriage we believe in marrying not only for time but eternity also curious idea says one to be married to eternity not curious at all when we come to look at scriptures we find the very finest example set for the whole human family a pattern instituted for us all to

[Image 182]

follow it in that he was not instituted until death death [sic] had no dominion
at that time and it was an eternal blessing pronounced upon first parents very well
we will say no more at present upon this subject we will come down to
the posterity of Adam it us true they became fallen but there is a redemption
and you might consider my hearers that the redemption only redeem us
in part from effects of fall was full redemption no
every man and woman see at once that a redemption must include a
complete restoration of all privileges lost by the fall very well supposing
then that the fall was of such a nature as to dissolve we will suppose
this as to dissolve the marriage covenant no we will not admit this
the covenant that has been sealed previous to that before the fall we have no
account that it was to dissolve it but supposing it was the case would not
the redemption which is equally as broad as the fall restore the posterity of Adam
back to that lost and if Adam and Eve were married for eternity
the [ceremony?] of which was an everlasting an ordinance and ceremony that they twain
was to be one flesh and you and I should ever be counted worthy
to be restored back from fallen⁵ the condition to the privileges enjoyed before

[Image 183]

the fall we not have everlasting marriage seal as it was with first progenitors of human race you leave that out of the redemption and it would be incomplete well here then if we had no other reasons in all the Bible this would be sufficient to settle the question at once in the mind of every reflecting man and woman that is in as much as the fall of man has taken away any privileges in regard to the union of male and female that these privileges must be restored in the redemption or else not complete but what object of this union next question merely touched upon union we are told the object of it is clearly expressed for says the Lord unto the male and female I command you that you shall multiply and replenish the earth was the command of the Great Jehovah unto the male and the female and in as much as we have proved that the ordinance was eternal in its nature previous to the fall if we are restored back to what lost by the fall we are restored for the purpose of carrying out command given before the fall namely to multiply and replenish the earth does it say continue to multiply for few years and then the marriage ceremony cease and opportunity for carrying out this command shall have end no nothing specified of this kind

[Image 184]

the fall has brought in this and it was not⁶ a part of original plan it was the fall brought this and consequently when male and female restored from the fall by the virtue of everlasting eternal covenant of marriage they will continue to increase and increasing to all ages of eternity to raise up beings after their own order and in their own likeness and image intelligent beings germs of intelligence that are destined in their times and season to become not only the sons of God but gods themselves this accounts for the many worlds we heard Brother Grant speaking about yesterday afternoon the peopling of worlds for an endless of increase even of one chain one family would require an endless increase of worlds and for one family to be united in the eternal covenant of marriage to fulfill that eternal commandment to multiply his species and propagate them if there is no end to them it would call for an endless increase of new worlds and if one family calls for this what would innumerable millions of families call for it would call for as many worlds already discovered by telescope and millions more in order be a place for inheritances for sons and daughters of God do you begin to understand how these worlds get their

[Image 185]

inhabitants to learn that the sons and daughters of God are this day before me
his own offspring after his own image that they are to multiply their
species until they become innumerable to him yes we understand it and let's
say a few words before we leave this part of subject on Abraham
promises made to him Isaac and Jacob the promises were
lift up your eyes count the stars thy seed shall be a numberless
as stars what else go to the sea shore look at the ocean of sand
upon the sea shore and count the particles there of and then realize that your
seed shall be as numberless as sand now let's take up
this subject into consideration how many cubic feet of sand take to make
as many inhabitants as there is now upon the earth about one cubic
feet of sand reckoning the grains of sand of certain size would be a
thousand million that is about the estimated population of our globe supposing
the globe spanned 8000 [revolution?] and then cease multiply
in each 80 centuries thousand millions that would be 80 cubic
feet of sand where is the promise made to Abraham is it fulfilled no
if that is the end of his seed behold the Lord's promise not fulfilled to

[Image 186]

to him 8000 millions of inhabitants 80 thousand acres of sand
only 80 cubic feet might be thrown upon one of these
larger carts there would be only 3 solid yards of sand if you count
the grains of sand as many people upon the earth as ever has been
will be 8000 years roll along and yet the Lord said
to Abraham thy seed shall be numerous [to/and?] seed⁷ upon the shore that is
to carry out his idea endless and therefore there must be as ~~many~~
innumerable globes we cannot comprehend infinity but suffice
to say of all of the sands [of the] sea shore are numbered says the prophet
Enoch and then all the particles of earth besides and [sand?] and particles
of ~~earth~~ millions of earth like this not beginning of thy
creations thou art there thy bosom there and thy curtains stretched out
still that gives us room inherit plenty for Abraham
to have his promise fulfilled and who else why we read those do the
works of Abraham are to be blessed with blessing of Abraham what
if we do Abraham works blessed with his blessings yes did
you never after achieve and obtain ordinances of this last dispensation did you

[Image 187]

never have these blessings pronounced upon your heads oh yes I well
recollect the time God restored the everlasting the priesthood certain ordinances
placed upon my head the blessings Abraham Isaac and Jacob why
says one I never thought of it why did not you think of it why
not look upon Abraham's blessings for the Lord blessed him with
innumerable seed as the sand upon the sea shore so if you obey
the laws shall inherit the blessings of Abraham how does he get
along to get this mighty kingdom did he do it all through one
wife suppose he got it all by his wife Sarah alone no
Sarah gave certain woman name of Hagar to Abraham and by her
a seed was raised up unto Abraham is this all no we read of
quite a number I think of ten dozen wives Abraham had after
Sarah's death here then is a foundation laid for what for the fulfillment
of the great and grand promises concerning the multiplicity of his seed it would have been
rather a slow process if he had been confined like some of those narrow
contracted nations of modern Europe I think only 1/5 [of the] whole population of [the] globe
that believe in such narrow contracted beliefs the other four fifths believe

[Image 188]

in plurality of wives had it handed from time immemorial
half narrow contracted as well as about 1/5 nations of Europe done away with
these promises and deprived themselves the blessings of Abraham Isaac and Jacob
they do not know anything about it [are?] in their ignorance and even those
got one wife for they cannot get rid of their covetousness and get their
little hearts large enough to share their property with her so
penurious and so narrow contracted take every possible care not to have their own
families so large they do not know what is in the future nor what blessings
they are depriving themselves of because of traditions of fathers they do not know that a
man's own posterity in the eternal worlds are to constitute his glory kingdom and dominion
they do not know it here then we perceive just from this one principle
reasoning from the blessings of Abraham alone we see the necessity if we would
partake of blessing of Abraham Isaac and Jacob to do their works
and he that will not do the works of Abraham and walk in his footsteps
will be deprived of blessings of Abraham again let's look at
Sarah her peculiar position in regard to Abraham she understood the whole matter
she knew that unless seed was raised up to Abraham that he

[Image 189]

would be cut short of his glory and she beheld the promise the Lord and
longed for Abraham to have seed and when he saw she was old
fearing she should not have privilege of raising up seed gave to Abraham
Hagar would the gentiles do such things now days oh no consider that
enough to send a man to endless hell of fire and brimstone why because
tradition has instituted this dreadful feeling in their hearts it matters not how corrupt
they are in female portion of community if not lawfully married to them
but it would be considered an awful thing to raise up posterity lawful wife
wrong indeed but to go into a [inserted above line: shall I speak it?] whore house and there debauch
themselves
in the lowest haunts of degradation all the days of lives they consider that no
harm [no/when?] they can license such institutions among Christian nations and it all
passes off very well that is tradition and their posterity have no [--?] in
them they are brought up in the footsteps of wickedness diseases and death
as it stalks abroad among the great popular cities [of the] nations of Europe and America
do you find such haunts of prostitution degradation and misery here in city of
valley of mountains no were such things in midst I should feel
indignant enough to see threat made to see them blotted out of feelings

[Image 190]

page of existence that would be our feelings like those that committed iniquity in Israel in ancient days every man and woman committed adultery in Israel in ancient days were put to death I do not say that this people are going to do this but I tell you what we believe we believe it ought to be done whoredom and adultery and fornication and those [evils?] that have cursed the nations of earth for many generations and are increasing upon community must be done away from those that call themselves the people of God if it is not woe woe be unto them also for thus saith the Lord God Almighty in Book of Mormon woe unto them that commit whoredom for they shall be thrust down to hell no getting away from it well such things will not be allowed in this community and you will find that the time will come that that God whose eyes are upon all the children of men and who discerneth the things done in secret will bring your acts to light if such things shall exist among you and you will be made an example before the people and shame and infamy on your posterity after you to the third and fourth generation to all them that repent not how is this to be prevented man has and woman has got fallen nature to grapple with how is to be

[Image 191]

to be [sic] prevented in the way the Lord did in ancient how by giving
to man his faithful servants a plurality of wives by whom he could raise
up a posterity and teach them in principles of righteousness and truth and them after understand
these principles that were given to ancient patriarchs if they break
[over/away?] the bounds of law of God and commit adultery and transgressions of this kind
let their names be blotted out from under heaven to have no place
among the people of God but again there is another reason why this plurality
should exist among the Latter-day Saints I have already given you one reason and that is that
you might inherit the blessings made to Abraham Isaac and Jacob and receive
a continuation of your posterity that they may become a[s] numerous as sand upon
there is another reason a good one too what suppose it is I will tell you
and it will appear reasonable to every man and woman of reflecting mind do we
not believe as the scriptures have told us that the nations of the earth are doomed to
destruction yes we believe it do we not also believe as the prophets have
foretold concerning the last days as well as what the new revelations said upon the subject that
darkness prevails upon the earth and gross darkness the minds of the people and not only
this but that all flesh has corrupted its way upon the face of the earth

[Image 192]

that is all nations speaking of them as nations have corrupted themselves before the Most High God by their wickedness whoredoms idolatries abominations adulteries and all other wicked and abominations in his sight but we further believe that according to the Jewish prophets as well as the Book of Mormon and modern revelations given in Book Doctrine and Covenants that the sword of vengeance of Almighty already unsheathed and stretched out and no more put back until it falls upon the head of nations until he destroys unless they repent what else believe we believe that God among these nations gathering out those hear his voice and receive the proclamation of message of mercy gathering them out here he has established them as a people alone by themselves where they can be brought up in the right way and according to the knowledge of truth we believe all that [it/t?] very well if this be the case that the righteous are gathered out and are still being gathered from among the nations planted by themselves one thing is certain if these things be true that that people are the best calculated to bring up children than any other under the whole heavens oh yes says one if that is the case if you are the people the ancient prophet spoken of and you are the people guided

[Image 193]

by the Lord under influence and power guidance of Almighty must be the best people under heaven to dictate and guide a young mind what has that to do with plurality system I will tell I have already told you that the spirit of men and women all had a previous existence thousands of years ago in the heavens in the presence of God in the heavens and I have already told you that among them were some spirits that were more noble than others more intelligent than others that were called the great ones reserved until the dispensation of fullness of times to come forth upon the face of the earth through a noble parentage those that shall take their young and tender minds train them up in truths of eternity that they may grow up in the Lord be strong in the power of his might be clothed upon with his glory be filled with exceeding great faith that the [visions?] of eternity be opened to their minds that they may be made prophets and priests and kings to the Most High God do you believe says one they are reserved until the last dispensation for such a noble purpose chosen before born like Abraham yes where the most likely place for these spirits to take their tabernacle through just and righteous parentage but says one naturally be send to that people most righteous of any other people upon

[Image 194]

the earth there trained up properly according to their nobility intelligence and according to choices
the Lord made before they are born very well he is sending them here
brethren and sisters they are appointed to come and take their bodies here that in
their generations they may be raised up among the righteous the Lord has not kept
them in store for four five six thousand years past kept them waiting
for their bodies to send them among the Hottentots African Negroes idolatrous
Hindus Chinese or those wicked nations that dwell upon the face [of the] earth
they are not kept in reserve in order to come forth receive such
a degraded parentage as this upon the earth no the Lord is not such a
being his justice goodness and mercy will be magnified towards those that were chosen before
born and they will come and they would long to come among the saints of living
God be their highest pleasure joy to know that they could have the privilege
of being born of this noble parentage ~~is not~~ why then is not
reasonable and consistent that the Lord should say unto his faithful and chosen servants
that had proved themselves before him all the day long that had been ready and willing
to do whatsoever his will required them to perform why be that a thing
unreasonable that he should say unto them take unto yourselves some

[Image 195]

wives like unto patriarch Abraham Jacob of old those that lived in
ancient times who walked in my footsteps and kept my commands why should
they do this well suppose the Lord should answer this question would he not
say ¶ that I have here in reserve noble spirits waiting for thousands
of years to come forth in fullness of times and I designed they
should come forth through these my faithful and chosen servants for
I know they will do my will and they will teach their children after them to do
it would not they be the language in substance if the Lord gave us answer
upon this subject that that was the object he had in view but then an another
question arises how are these things to be conducted are they to be left at
random is every servant of God at liberty to run here
there go [ye?] and seek out of daughters of man wives unto
themselves without any restriction law condition no we find these things
restricted in ancient times do not you recollect prophet Nathan coming
to David came to reprove him for certain disobedience and tell him about
the wives lost through it that the Lord give them to another and told
him been faithful the Lord give him more only ask of him

[Image 196]

here is a man held the key concerning this matter Nathan the prophet in relation to David ancient days under the strictest laws so in these days let me announce to this congregation that there is but one man in all the world that holds keys concerning these matters but one man has power to turn the key to inquire of the Lord and to say whether I or these my brethren or any members of this congregation or the saints upon the face of the whole earth may have this blessing of Abraham conferred upon them he holds the keys of these matters same as Nathan in this day but says one how find that out by new revelation in our day when was it given and to whom it was given to our prophet seer revelator Joseph Smith on the twelfth day of July 1843 only about 11 months before he was martyred for his testimony of Jesus he held the keys of these matters he had the right to inquire of the Lord and the Lord has set bounds and restrictions to these things and he has told us in that revelation that only one man can hold these keys upon the earth at the same time and these keys belong to those that stand at the head and at the front and preside over all affairs of church and kingdom of God last days they are the sealing keys the power in other words of Elijah having been committed

[Image 197]

restored to the earth by Elijah the prophet who held many keys among the rest the keys of sealing to bind the hearts of fathers to children and the children to the fathers and all the sealing keys and powers pertaining to the last dispensation there were committed by that angel who administered in Kirtland temple and spoke unto his servant Joseph the prophet at the time of endowments in that temple now let's inquire although we have not time to run into it at large just make a few inquiries what will become of those individuals that have this law taught unto them in plainness and reject it (a voice in the stand they will be damned)⁸ I will tell you they will be damned saith the Lord God Almighty in the revelation he has given why because where much given much is required where there is great light and knowledge unfolded for the exaltation glory happiness of the sons and daughters of God if they close up their hearts if they reject the testimony of his word will not give heed to the principles he has ordained they are worthy of damnation and the Lord has said they shall be damned thus saith the word of Lord to his servant Joseph this prophet himself with all the honor and light he had he must comply with it or says the Lord you shall be damned and the same true in regard to all those reject these things

[Image 198]

what else we have heard from our president related to us that there is some damnations that are eternal in their nature while others after a certain period will have an end but there will be not a restoration but there will be a deliverance from certain punishments and instead of being restored to all the privileges pertaining to man previous to the fall only be permitted to enjoy certain degree of happiness not restoration let's inquire after those are to be damned supposing they will be redeemed which they will be unless sinned against the Holy Ghost they will be redeemed to what will it be to exaltation and fullness of Lord's glory become the sons of God gods to reign upon thrones and multiply their posterity and reign over them as their kings no will not lost that privilege forever though they may after having been punished for long periods they may escape only by the skin of teeth no kingdom conferred upon them what will be their condition I tell you what that revelation says not only concerning them that reject but concerning those that through their carelessness or want of faith something else fail to have their marriages sealed for time and all eternity those that do not do this so as to have the same kind of ordinances on their heads upon the head of old

[Image 199]

father Adam if they fail ~~to~~ to do it through wickedness through ungodliness
behold they also will never have the privilege of passing by the Gods that hold
the keys of power of going up to the thrones of their exaltation of
receiving their kingdoms why because says the Lord all oaths all covenants
all agreements etc. that have been made by men and not by me and by
authority I have established they shall cease in death shall separate that is the
end that is the cessation they go no further they cannot come up in
morning [of the] resurrection and say behold here I claim you you [sic] are mine I
married you in the other world before death you are mine cannot do
this why because never married that person for eternity suppose
they should enter in covenant and agreement conclude to live together to all
eternity and never have it sealed by the word of Lord sealing power [of the]
holy priesthood would they have claim no not be valid legal
and he will say in morning [of the] resurrection not by me your covenants
not sealed on the earth and not in heavens not recorded on
my book not found in the records in the archives of eternity
therefore that blessings you might have had not for you to enjoy

[Image 200]

what be their condition the Lord tell us he says that these angels because keep
not this law says he they shall be ministering servants unto those
who are worthy of obtaining a far more exceeding eternal weight of glory
servants to them wherefore says he they shall remain single and separate
in their spiritual condition and shall not have power to enlarge themselves and
thus shall they remain forever and ever here then you can read
their history they are not gods in other words they are angels there is a difference the gods
are exalted they have keys they are made kings and priests and even
have the power being conferred upon them in time by the everlasting priesthood
to hold a kingdom that shall never be taken from them worlds without end
and they propagate their species they will not [be] servants one god not be
servant unto another god these gods not servants who are
they they are angels this is the reason why Paul said we shall judge angels
they are inferior in that respect have not kept the law not received
the law ~~therefore~~ pertaining to these things therefore they are servants will
be saved but servants to those in higher condition what does the Lord intend
to do with this people he intends to make you a kingdom of priesthood and [--?]

[Image 201]

kingdom unto himself in other words a kingdom of gods if they will hearken to law
there shall be many will not hearken foolish among the wise that will not
receive the new and everlasting covenant in its fullness that never will
attain to their exaltation to be counted worthy to hold the scepter of power
over a numerous progeny that shall multiply themselves without end like
sand upon the sea shore we can only just touch here and there upon
a [point?] with regard to this great sublime beautiful glorious subject revealed
by the prophet the seer the revelator that has sealed his testimony with his blood
and born testimony to the nations of things that were of ancient times
as well as of things that are to come but while talk the vision of my
mind is opened it spreads forth the branches like the branches
of thrifty tree spreading out far ends of heavens in all ways and as
the glory of God how great what do I feel to say hallelujah
to his great and holy name for he reigns in heavens and he will exalt
his people to sit with him upon thrones of power to reign for ever and ever.

¹Written *fr*.

²Phrase could be read *formed and formed, framed and framed, formed and framed* or *framed and formed*. The two shorthand symbols for *frmd* are different, but without any given vowels could each be read as *formed* or *framed*.

³Written *wsst, wasest*.

⁴*There fore* written as two separate words.

⁵Word is crossed out or written over illegible shorthand.

⁶*Was not* written over *is*.

⁷Obvious intent is: *as sand*.

⁸George Watt frequently enclosed responses from the audience within ().