

1r-D&C-31
Sealed ... for Time and All Eternity
(D&C 131, 132)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Restoration)

I. The Lord revealed His precious truths to the Latter-day Saints line upon line. Now **the pinnacle of God's greatest blessings was revealed --- Celestial Marriage and Exaltation of Family Units!**

A. "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..." (D&C 132:46).

II. As with all previous truths, what Joseph revealed was not really new --- but Restored!

A. Adam and Eve were *sealed* as "**One Flesh,**" by God and were therefore forever inseparable (Genesis 2:24).

B. Jesus affirmed this principle when he asked "Have ye not read that **he** which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And **said**, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? **Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh**" (Matthew 19:5-6). (If sealed so by God).

III. When Jesus answered the question (whose would be the wife of seven brothers all of whom married the widow of the first dead brother) (Matthew 22:23-30), **Jesus was not repudiating His earlier statements about man and wife being "One Flesh"** (Matt. 19:5-6).

A. First, their question actually showed total ignorance of the purpose of the Levirate Law.

1. **Its purpose was to witness of Him!**

2. The Mosaic Law commanded kinsmen marry the wives of deceased brothers in order to raise up seed to the deceased. But this taught of Jesus: **He was Israel's Kinsman/Redeemer.**

3. **Because Adam suffered physical and spiritual death, Jesus would be the Kinsman/Redeemer who would raise up Adam's seed, else they would remain forever dead! He and only He could do that!**

4. This **is a major reason He was called "The Bridegroom."**

IV. As for Jesus' answer: He was telling those unbelievers of *that* generation that *they* would not obtain the blessing of Eternal Marriage **due to their rejection of Him and His sealing powers!**

1. Because they were rejecting the One who could make Eternal Marriage possible, they could not inherit that blessing.

2. Rather His sealing powers would be given to a new Priesthood, beginning with Peter, who *would* have the power to bind man to wife on earth so they would be also bound in heaven.

3. The corrupt priests would lose the priesthood, and thus neither marry nor be given in marriage in Heaven (See LeGrand Richards, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, pp. 204-6).

V. And this was not the only loss that generation of unbelievers would experience.

A. He had previously cast out the wicked from the temple.

1. His Temple cleansing manifest that He was revoking from the unbelievers of that generation all the covenants made with Abraham: **the inheritance of that land, (which they**

would soon lose in 70 A.D.), and their true inheritance --- Eternal Life with Him --- for the Inherited Land and its Temple signified that inheritance.

B. Further, in doing that and in **cursing the fig tree**, (a symbol of Israel and God's covenant of great seed), He was also manifesting the loss of that part of the Abrahamic Covenant pertaining to multiplicity of seed.

1. Those who rejected Him and His Word and Priesthood Powers would not have marriage in the resurrection, and thus no Eternal Seed either. **Their mortal fruitlessness would become their Eternal Lot.**

C. **For the Covenant the Lord had made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was really a promise of Eternal Life as a Family and thus of Eternal Seed.**

D. Israelites should have understood this, as the very "huppa" or wedding canopy they used for their weddings was a witness of such truths.

1. The canopy was usually set up under the stars, or with lights representing the stars, with the expectation and hope the seed springing from that marriage would be "as numerous as the stars," as promised in the Abrahamic Covenant.

2. Obviously this **could only really happen if marriage continued beyond this mortal life!**

E. Similarly, those who reject the sealing powers restored today, are also rejecting the Abrahamic Covenant and its two major blessings: Eternal Family Life and Eternal Seed.

VI. The most Plain and Precious Truths have always been the first to be jettisoned.

A. The wondrous truth: man has the potential to become as God, had been previously taught.

1. See Psalm 82 where the Lord tells men "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High." He confirmed the point by stressing those doing evil works (vs. 2-5), would "die like men, and fall like one of the princes" (v. 7). **He was warning the wicked would fail to reach their ultimate potential and remain only as men, or fail like a prince who falls in battle and does not become a King.**

2. In His trial before Caiaphas, Jesus used this Psalm to teach that *all* men have god-like potential (John 10:30-39). Nevertheless, Caiaphas charged Him with blasphemy (Luke 22:67-71) and condemned Him to crucifixion.

B. The "plain and precious truths" of the Abrahamic Covenant were first jettisoned by ancient Israel, and then by those whom Jesus came to redeem in *His* generation.

D. They were also eventually jettisoned by those who later took over Christ's Church.

1. The intimate relationship between husband and wife became thought of as evil

2. The sealing keys given to Peter were lost due to corruption, and while still claimed, are not used for any purpose of "sealing," indicating that they were indeed lost.

3. While reformers to corrupt Christianity saw many things that were awry, without direct revelation from the Lord, they were not aware of this loss. It required a prophet to reveal it.

VII. In answer to Joseph's questions, the Lord also showed that occasionally He allowed the taking of more than one wife. **But only under His direct authority and for righteous purpose!**

A. While other scriptures make clear **the Lord prefers a man has only one wife** (See Jacob 2:26-30), that scripture and D&C 132 shows the Lord allows it under certain circumstances.

B. Why did the Lord allow it in the early period of the Last Dispensation?

C. There actually appears to be four reasons why the Lord allowed polygamy in the early days of the Church.

1. Often wives died in childbirth and men married women who raised their children and also bore more children. Surely a loving Lord would allow being sealed to that wife as well.

2. More women joined the Church than men. That time was such that women had a difficult time providing for themselves, particularly in a frontier community. Marriage to a man who could help provide for them was an essential step for many for survival.

3. The Lord had established His Latter-day Kingdom. It needed to grow as rapidly as possible. It is obvious that multiple marriages allowed that to occur. Today's large missionary force likely had some of its origin in the larger families of the early Saints.

4. **The Lord was also establishing a witness!** He had done this with ancient Israel when He commanded them to sacrifice animals for centuries. He did not delight in the blood of animals! **Rather, He was witnessing that He Himself would eventually come among men and allow Himself to be sacrificed to save men from Death and Hell.**

In the Last Days, through temporarily allowing some of His Latter-day servants to have multiple wives, **He was establishing a physical witness of His Kingdom of Glory and of its great blessing of seed without number.** In mortality, such a witness could only be made with **multiple wives.** (Think of the witness made through Brigham Young's Beehive House).

D. We must remember: The authority to seal rests only in the prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. No other marriages are of the Lord! **Those groups who have taken multiple wives without authority have always eventually slipped into gross evils.**

VIII. **Continued vitality in life only comes through continued and abundant family life.**

A. When I was in Israel, first sailing across the Galilee Sea and later visiting the Dead Sea, I saw for myself the great contrast.

B. On the one hand, Galilee was teeming with life and freshness. **It is so because it pours out its life into new venues. Peter, given the sealing keys, was associated with this Sea.**

C. In contrast, the Dead Sea, with no outlet, was not just stagnant, but putrid and stinking.

1. Everything there spoke of decay --- because it does not give out life.

2. Note that Sodom and Gomorrah were near the Dead Sea. While **Abraham, who had been given the Lord's Precious Covenant, moved far away from it.**

3. I am deeply convinced those events contained witness of very great truths.

D. These two seas have often been used as examples of what happens when we become selfish as opposed to selfless. But I believe the deepest message pertains to something most vital.

1. As said, the Dead Sea does not have an outlet for pouring forth life. Its life is "damned."

2. **Similarly, when procreative life is "dammed" due to abortion, a selfish determination to have no children, promiscuous sex, or same sex, it leads to a Dead End.**

3. Only through procreation can life flow forward.

4. That "on-going life" brings vitality to what would otherwise be a Dead and Decaying World. We see this even today as a "Demographic Winter" has been settling over countries where there are ever lowering birth rates.

E. Those who pursue the things of the world above raising a righteous and eternal family should hearken to the many witnesses we hear uttered around us everywhere. Such witnesses are given by those caught in one of the many natural disasters where all the physical possessions they owned were destroyed. Repeatedly they exclaim, "While everything we had accumulated in life has been lost, **what is really important is that the members of our family were saved.**"

This is the Lord's wisdom.

And His greater wisdom comes from eternities of greater knowledge.