



TIMELINE of MORMON POLYGAMY

TIMELINE: 1827



**Joseph Smith
marries
Emma Hale**

1830



**Book of Mormon Published,
Condemns Polygamy**

"..behold David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me... hearken to the word of the Lord: ...there shall no man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none."

~ Book of Mormon, Jacob 2:23-24,27

1833



**28 year old
Joseph Smith
Marries
16 year old
Fanny Alger**

August 1835

**Official Church publication
denies polygamy charges**

"Inasmuch as this Church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication and polygamy, we declare that we believe that one man should have one wife and one woman but one husband."

~Messenger and Advocate 1:163; also ~ History of the Church 2:247



1835 - 1876

**Doctrine and Covenants
published - Section 101
condemns polygamy**

"..this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of .. polygamy: .. we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband... the above rule of marriage as the only one practiced in this church... We ... know of no other rule or system of marriage.."

April 1837

General Authorities issue statement condemning polygamy

...we will have no fellowship whatever with any Elder ... who is guilty of polygamy ... and who does not in all things conform to the laws of the church contained in the Bible and in the

Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

~ Quorum of Seventies Resolution #1

~ Messenger and Advocate 3:511

1838



Joseph Smith
Marries
Lucinda Harris
who was at the time married to
George Harris

January 1838

Oliver Cowdery confronts Smith about his Polygamy



A dirty, nasty, filthy affair of [Joseph Smith] and Fanny Alger's...

Oliver Cowdery – Asst President and Book of Mormon Witness
Letter recorded by his brother, Warren Cowdery

April 1838



Oliver Cowdery
is
Excommunicated

April 1838

Joseph Smith denies polygamy

Joseph Smith, Question 7th:

Do the Mormons believe in having more wives than one?

Answer: No, not at the same time.

Joseph Smith, Mormonism Founder

Elder's Journal, p. 43

December 1838

Joseph Smith Denies Polygamy

"We have heard that it is reported by some, ... that we not only dedicated our property, but our families also to the Lord; and Satan, taking advantage of this, has perverted it into licentiousness such as a community of wives, which is an abomination in the sight of God."

Joseph Smith, Mormonism Founder

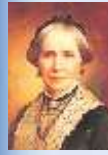
Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 127
History of the Church 3:230

April 1841



Joseph Smith
marries
Louisa Beaman

October 1841



Joseph Smith, 35,
marries 20 yr old,
Zina Huntington Jacobs,
who at the time
was married to
Henry Jacobs and
WAS 7 MONTHS
PREGNANT

December 1841



Joseph Smith
marries
Presendia Buell

January 6 1842



Joseph Smith
marries
Agnes Coolbrith,
she was the
widow of his
brother,
Don Carlos

January 17 1842



Joseph Smith, 36,
marries 23 yr old
Mary Lightner who
at the time was
married to Adam
Lightner

February 1842



Joseph Smith, 36-
marries Sylvia Lyon,
23, who at the time
was married to
Windsor Lyon.
Joseph would also
marry Sylvia's mother:
Patty the next month

March 1 1842

Joseph Smith pens the 12th
Article of Faith



"We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law."

Polygamy was a violation of the law.

March 9 1842



Joseph Smith, 36,
marries 47 yr. old
Patty Sessions
who at the time was married
to David Sessions.

Smith had married Patty's
daughter Sylvia the
previous month

April 1842



36 Yr. old
Joseph Smith
marries 27 yr old
Marinda Hyde
who at the time
was married to
Orson Hyde

June 1842



36 yr. old Joseph Smith
marries:

- * Sarah Cleveland, 53
- * Eliza Snow, 38 and
- * Elizabeth Durfee, 50
who at the time was
married to
Jabez Durfee

July 1842



Joseph Smith, 36,
marries
Dulcena Johnson,
and 17 yr old
Sarah Whitney

August 1842



Official Church publication
denies polygamy

"But for the information of those ...
foolish tales about two wives, we would
say that no such principle ever existed
among the Latter Day Saints..."

~ Millennial Star, Vol.3, No4, p.73

August 1842



**Joseph Smith
marries
Martha
McBride**

September 1842

**Official Church publication
denies polygamy**



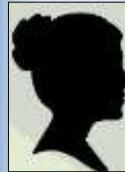
**"... inasmuch as this church of Christ
has been reproached with the crime of
fornication and polygamy; we declare
that we believe, that one man should
have one wife...."**

~Times and Seasons 4:909

February 1843

**Joseph Smith
marries
Ruth Sayers**

Spring 1843



**37 year old
Joseph Smith,
marries
16 year old
Flora Woodworth**

March 1843



**37 yr old
Joseph Smith,
marries
sisters Emily, 19,
and
Eliza Partridge, 22**

April 1843



**Joseph Smith
marries
Almera
Johnson**

May 1843



37 year old
Joseph Smith
marries
17 yr old Lucy Walker,
And
14 yr old
Helen Mar Kimball

May 1843

37 year old
Joseph Smith
marries sisters
Sarah, 17, and
Maria Lawrence, 19

1843

37 year old
Joseph Smith
marries
Hanna Ells, 29,
AND
14 year old
Nancy Winchester

June 1843



Joseph Smith, 37, marries
Elvira Holmes who is
already married to
Jonathan Holmes -
Smith also marries
Rhoda Richards
who is 58 years old.

July 1843

“Revelation” on plurality of wives – D&C 132

Smith dictates a "revelation" requiring the practice of polygamy to obtain exaltation: becoming gods (v.1-6, 20).

The revelation specifically states that if Emma rejects it she would be destroyed (v.54,64). But it was Joseph who died within a year. Emma, who was 39 years ... lived to be 75. Additional wives were to be virgins. (v.61-62). ~ Doctrine & Covenants 132

July 1843



Joseph Smith
marries
Desdemona
Fullmer

Summer 1843



**Joseph Smith
marries
Olive G. Frost**

September 20 1843



**37 year old
Joseph Smith,
marries
19 year old,
Melissa Lott**

November 2 1843



**37 year old,
Joseph Smith
marries
56 year old,
Fanny Young**

January 1844

**Despite the July revelation
requiring polygamy, the
Mormon Church publication
Millennial Star
continued to deny it.**

~ Millennial Star, Vol. 4, No. 9, p.144

February 1844

**Joseph Smith
denies polygamy**

As we have lately been credibly informed, that an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints, by the name of Hiram Brown, has been preaching polygamy, ... This is to notify him... that he has been cut off from the church, for his iniquity.

~ Joseph Smith - Mormonism founder; Times and Seasons 5:423

March 1844

**Under the direction of
Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith
officiated a polygamous
wedding for Mormon
apostle Erastus Snow**



Testimony of Erastus Snow, The Historical Record 6:232

March 15 1844



Joseph's brother Hyrum denies polygamy

"...some of your elders say, that a man having a certain priesthood, may have as many wives as he pleases, and that doctrine is taught here: I say ... there is no such doctrine taught here. And any man that is found teaching privately or publicly any such doctrine, had better beware what he is about.

~ Hyrum Smith - Assistant President, *Times and Seasons* 5:474

April 1844

Joseph Smith denies polygamy

"... pertaining to John C. Bennet's spiritual wife system ...we cannot but express our surprise... that anything like iniquity is practiced, much less taught or sanctioned by the ... LDS Church..."

~ Joseph Smith - Mormonism founder;

Times and Seasons, Vol.5, No.7, p.491

April 1844

Presidency Counselors Protest Smith's Behavior

After Jane Law rebuffs Joseph Smith's proposal .. Her husband William Law, Smith's 2nd Counselor, is excommunicated.

Austin Cowles, the 1st Counselor, quits the church in protest.

May 1844



Joseph Smith denies polygamy

"I had not been married scarcely five minutes, before it was reported that I had seven wives. .. This spiritual wifeism! Why, a man dares not speak or wink, for fear of being accused of this... What a thing it is for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives, when I can only find one. I am .. as innocent as I was fourteen years ago."

~Joseph Smith - Mormonism founder, *History of the Church* 6:410-11

June 7 1844

William Law publishes newspaper condemning Smith's polygamy

In the latter part of the summer, 1843, the Patriarch, Hyrum Smith, did in the High Council, of which I was a member, introduce what he said was a revelation given through the Prophet..... the *doctrine of a plurality of wives, or marrying virgins...*

~ *Nauvoo Expositor*, Vol. 1, No. 1, p.2

June 10 1844

Joseph Smith orders the printing press destroyed



Smith is the Mayor of Nauvoo when he orders the Expositor destroyed – the Governor has Joseph arrested..

June 27 1844

Joseph Smith is killed



An angry mob storms Joseph and Hyrum's jail cell - they are killed in a gun battle.

October 1844



Sidney Rigdon admits church authorities practice polygamy

It is a fact, so well known, that the Twelve and their adherents have endeavored to carry this spiritual wife business in secret... and have gone to the most shameful and desperate lengths, to keep it from the public.

~ Messenger and Advocate, Vol. 1, No. 1

November 1844

Official LDS Publication denies polygamy



The law of the land and the rules of the church do not allow one man to have more than one wife alive at once.

~ Times and Seasons, Vol. 5, No. 21, p.715

May 1845

Official LDS Publication denies polygamy



The Latter-day Saints are charged by their enemies, with the blackest crimes. Treason, murder, theft, polygamy, and adultery, are among the many crimes laid to their charge...

~ Times and Seasons 6:894

1850



John Taylor denies polygamy while married to at least 7 plural wives

"We are accused here of polygamy, and actions the most indelicate, obscene, and disgusting, such that none but a corrupt and depraved heart could have contrived. These things are too outrageous to admit of belief..."

~ John Taylor, Three Nights' Public Discussion, p.8

Sept. 14 1852

Public Acknowledgment of polygamy!



In a special conference, the LDS church publicly acknowledges the practice of polygamy.

~ Deseret News Extra, September 14, 1852

February 1854

Mormon Authority encourages polygamy

"What would a man of God say, ... when Joseph ... came and said, "I want your wife?" "O yes," he would say, "here she is, there are plenty more"... Did the Prophet Joseph want every man's wife he asked for?... If such a man of God should come to me and say, "I want your gold & silver, or your wives," I should say, "Here they are, I wish I had more to give you, take all I have got."

~ Jedediah M. Grant - First Presidency Counselor
Journal of Discourses 2:13-13-14

July 1857

Official LDS publication condemns polygamy before 1843

The Latter-day Saints, from the rise of the Church in 1830, till the year 1843, had no authority to marry more than one wife each. To have done otherwise, would have been a great transgression.

~ Millennial Star, Vol. 19, No. 30, p.475

1862

Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act



United States President Abraham Lincoln signs the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act targeting the LDS Church

August 1866

Mormon Prophet Brigham Young declares polygamy a priority over obtaining statehood

"Do you think that we shall ever be admitted as a State into the Union without denying the principle of polygamy?" If we are not admitted until, we shall never be admitted.

~ Journal of Discourses 11:269

1876

Doctrine and Covenants Section 101 removed, Section 132 inserted

After 41 years as part of the LDS canon, Section 101 condemning polygamy is removed from the Doctrine and Covenants.

Section 132 requiring polygamy for exaltation is canonized.

Section 132 remains part of the canon today.

October 1879

Mormon Prophet John Taylor declares polygamy superior than obeying federal law



"I was asked, "Do you believe in obeying the laws of the United States?" Yes I do, in all except one.... "What law is that?"

The law in relation to polygamy."

~ John Taylor - Mormon prophet Journal of Discourses 20:317

February 19 1887

Edmunds-Tucker Act

The United States Congress passes the Edmunds-Tucker Act which permits the government to seize assets and disincorporate the LDS church for continuing to practice polygamy against the law. The bill is enacted into law March 3

May 1887

Andrew Jenson, Asst. Church Historian compiles list of Smith's plural wives

"... is considered the first list of the wives of Joseph Smith. He documented 28 plural wives, not including Emma.

~ The Historical Record 6:233-234

October 1890

Manifesto – Official Declaration-1

Under increasing pressure from the federal government, the Woodruff issued a statement denying that the Mormon Church was practicing polygamy. I, ..do hereby, ... declare that these charges are false. We are not teaching polygamy or plural marriage, nor permitting any person to enter into its practice.

~ Wilford Woodruff - Mormon prophet D & C Official Declaration—1

1892

Mormon prophet Lorenzo Snow condemns the practice of polygamy before 1843

"Before the giving of that revelation in 1843 if a man married more wives than one who were living at the same time, he would have been cut off from the church. It would have been adultery under the laws of the church and under the laws of the State, too."

~ Lorenzo Snow - Mormon prophet, The Temple Lot Case, pp.320-322

1904

Reed Smoot Hearings



Hearings held by the United States Congress reveal that polygamy was still being practiced secretly among LDS church general authorities

April 1904

Second Manifesto

In response to the Reed Smoot Hearings, Mormon Pres. Joseph F. Smith issued ...another statement denying polygamy. "Inasmuch as there are numerous reports .. that plural marriages have been entered into I.. affirm and declare that no such marriages have been solemnized with the sanction .. of the Church.. all such marriages are prohibited, and if any .. member .. enter into any such marriage, he will be... excommunicated.."

~ Joseph F. Smith - Mormon prophet Conference Report, p.97

October 1905

In protest two Mormon Apostles resign



John W. Taylor & Matthias F. Cowley resigned from the Quorum of Twelve, both continued to take plural wives.

November 1943



Mormon Apostle Richard R. Lyman is excommunicated for secretly practicing polygamy

1958

Mormon Apostle Bruce R. McConkie anticipates polygamy will resume



“ Obviously the holy practice [plural marriage] will commence again after the Second Coming of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the millennium.”

~ Bruce R. McConkie - Mormon apostle, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.578



Doctrinal teachings on polygamy

When polygamy was openly practiced, Mormon authorities taught that:



Those who reject it would be damned.

“The Lord has said, that those who reject this principle reject their salvation, they shall be damned, saith the Lord; those to whom I reveal this law and they do not receive it, **shall be damned.**”

Orson Pratt, *Jod*, 17 pg 224

I want to prophesy that all men and women who oppose the revelation which God has given in relation to polygamy will find themselves in darkness; the Spirit of God will withdraw from them from the very moment of their opposition to that principle, until they will finally go down to hell and be damned, if they do not repent. JoD, 17,pg 225 Orson Pratt



Verily, thus saith the Lord... as touching the principle of... having many wives and concubines ..for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey ...

For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory... must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

— Doctrine and Covenants, Section 132

It is a requirement to obtain the highest exaltation: becoming gods

“The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy.”

~ Brigham Young - Mormon prophet, Journal of Discourses 11:269



Joseph F. Smith: “Some people have supposed that the doctrine of plural marriage was a sort of ... nonessential to the salvation or exaltation of mankind. ... some of the Saints have said .. that a man with one wife .. will receive an exaltation as great and glorious,... as he possibly could with more than one. I want here to enter my solemn protest against this idea, for I know it is false ...

~ Joseph F. Smith - Mormon prophet; Journal of Discourses 20:28-30

If polygamy is not true then neither is celestial marriage



If plurality of marriage is not true or ... if a man has no divine right to marry two wives or more in this world, then marriage for eternity is not true, and your faith is all vain, and all the sealing ordinances and powers, pertaining to marriages for eternity are vain, worthless, good for nothing; for as sure as one is true the other also must be true. ~ Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt – JoD, 21:296



Polygamy will exist in the afterlife

I bear my solemn testimony that plural marriage is as true as any principle that has been revealed from the heavens. I bear my testimony that it is a necessity, and that the Church of Christ in its fullness never existed without it. Where you have the eternity of marriage you are bound to have plural marriage; bound to; and it is one of the marks of the Church of Jesus Christ in its sealing ordinances.

~ George Teasdale - Mormon apostle; Journal of Discourses 25:21



Brigham Young Mormon Prophet

The Scripture says that He, the Lord, came walking in the Temple, with His train; I do not know who they were, unless His wives and children...

~ Journal of Discourses 13:309



Brigham Young Mormon Prophet

**God the Father was a polygamist:
"When our father Adam came into the
garden of Eden, he came into it with a
celestial body, and brought Eve,
one of his wives with him."**

~ Journal of Discourses 1:50



The first 7
Mormon prophets
had at least
136 wives

Joseph Smith 34;	Brigham Young 56
John Taylor 18;	Wilford Woodruff 10
Lorenzo Snow 9;	Joseph F. Smith 6
Heber J. Grant 3	



"... for a tree is
known by it's fruit"

~ Matthew 12:37 ~