

BRIGHAMITE DOCTRINES.

A delineation of some of the FALSE doctrines of Brighamism, in extracts from sermons and teachings of Brigham Young and some of his colleagues.

CONDITION OF THE WOMEN.

President Brigham Young, in a sermon delivered Sept. 21st, 1856, reported in the Deseret News, Vol. 6, said:

“Now for my proposition; it is more particularly for my sisters, as it is frequently happening that women say that they are unhappy. Men will say, ‘My wife, though a most excellent woman, has not seen a happy day since I took my second wife;’ ‘no not a happy day for a year,’ says one; and another has not seen a happy day for five years. It is said that women are tied down and abused; that they are misused and have not the liberty they ought to have; that many of them are wading through a perfect flood of tears, because of the conduct of some men, together with their own folly.

“I wish my women to understand that what I am going to say is for them, as well as all others, and I want those who are here to tell their sisters, yes, all the women of this community, and then write it back to the States, and do as you please with it. I am going to give you from this time until the 6th day of October next for reflection, that you may determine whether you wish to stay with your husbands or not, and then I am going to set every woman at liberty, and say to them: now go your way, my women with the rest, go your way. And my wives have got to do one of two things: either round up their shoulders to endure the afflictions of this world and live their religion, or they may leave, for I will not have them about me. I will go into heaven alone, rather than have scratching and fighting around me. I will set all at liberty. ‘What, first wife too?’ Yes, I will liberate you all.

“I know what my women will say; they will say, ‘You can have as many women as you please, Brigham.’ But I want to go somewhere and do something to get rid of the whiners; I do not want them to receive a part of the truth and spurn the rest out of doors.

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“Let every man thus treat his wives, keeping raiment enough to clothe his body; and say to your wives, ‘take all that I have and be set at liberty; but if you stay with me you shall comply with the law of God, and that without any murmuring and whining. You must fulfill the law of God in every respect, and round up your shoulders to walk up to the mark without any grunting.’

“Now recollect, that two weeks from to-morrow I am going to set you all at liberty. But the first wife will say, ‘It is hard, for I have lived with my husband twenty years or thirty, and have raised a family of children for him, and it is a great trial to me for him to have more women;’ then I say it is time that you gave him up to other women who will bear children. If my wife had borne me all the children that she ever would bear, the celestial

law would teach me to take young women that would have children.

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“Sisters, I am not joking; I do not throw out my proposition to banter your feelings, to see whether you will leave your husbands, all or any of you. But I do know that there is no cessation to the everlasting whinings of many of the women in this territory. And if the women will turn from the commandments of God and continue to despise the order of heaven, I will pray that the curse of the Almighty may be close to their heels, and that it may be following them all the day long. And those that enter into it and are faithful, I will promise them that they shall be queens in heaven, and rulers to all eternity.”

President J. M. Grant, in a sermon delivered the same day, and reported in the same paper, page 235, said :

“And we have women here who like anything but the celestial law of God; and if they could, would break asunder the cable of the Church of Christ; there is scarcely a mother in Israel but would do it this day. And they talk it to their husbands, to their daughters, and to their neighbors, and say that they have not seen a week's happiness since they became acquainted with that law, or since their husband took a second wife. They want to break up the Church of God, and to break it from their husbands, and from their family connections.”

April 2, 1854, President Heber C. Kimball said in the Tabernacle—See Deseret News, Vol. 4, No. 20 :

“There are some of the ladies who are not happy in their present situation; but that woman who cannot be happy with one man cannot be happy with two. You know all women are good, or ought to be. They are made for angelic beings, and I would like to see them act more angelic in their behavior. You were made more angelic and a little weaker than man. Man is made of rougher material—to open the way, cut down bushes, and kill the snakes—that women may walk along through life, and not soil and tear their skirts. When you see a woman with ragged skirts you may know she wears the unmentionables, for she is doing the man's business, and has not time to cut off the rags that are hanging around her. From this time henceforth you may know what woman wears her husband's pants. May the Lord bless you. Amen.”

Oct. 6, 1855, page 274, Kimball said :

“If you oppose any of the works of God you will cultivate a spirit of apostacy. If you oppose what is called the spiritual wife doctrines, the patriarchal order, which is of God, that course will corrode you with apostacy, and you will go overboard: still a great many do so, and strive to justify themselves in it; but they are not justified of God.

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“The principle of plurality of wives never will be done away, although some sisters have had revelations that when this time passes away, and they go through the veil, every woman will have a husband to herself. I wish more of our young men would take to themselves wives of the daughters of Zion, and not wait for us

old men to take them all. Go ahead upon the right principle, young gentlemen, and God bless you forever and ever, and make you fruitful, that we may fill the mountains, and then the earth, with righteous inhabitants."

Nov. 9, 1856, Vol. 6, page 291, Kimball said :

"I have no wife or child that has any right to rebel against me. If they violate my laws and rebel against me, they will get into trouble just as quickly as though they transgressed the counsels and teachings of Brother Brigham. Does it give a woman a right to sin against me because she is my wife? No, but it is her duty to do my will as I do the will of my Father and my God. It is the duty of woman to be obedient to her husband, and unless she is, I would not give a damn for all her queenly right and authority, nor for her either if she will quarrel, and lie about the work of God and the principle of plurality.

A disregard of plain and correct teachings is the reason why so many are dead and damned, and twice plucked up by the roots, and I would as soon baptize the devil as some of you."

President Heber C. Kimball, in a lengthened discourse, delivered in the Tabernacle, on the 6th day of April, 1857, took occasion to say :

"I would not be afraid to promise a man who is sixty years of age, *if he will take the counsel of Brother Brigham, and his brethren, he will renew his age.* I have noticed that a man who has but one wife, *and is inclined to that doctrine, soon begins to wither and dry up,* while a man who goes into plurality looks fresh, young and sprightly. Why is this? *Because God loves that man,* and because he honors his work and word. Some of you may not believe this; but I not only believe it, but I also know it. *For a man of God to be confined to one woman is small business,* for it is as much as we can do now to keep up under the burdens we have to carry, and I do not know what we should do if we had only one woman apiece."

President Heber C. Kimball used the following language in a discourse instructing a band of Missionaries, about to start on their Missions :

"I say to those who are elected to go on Missions, go, if you never return, and commit what you have into the hands of God—your wives, your children your brethren, and your property. Let truth and righteousness be your motto, and don't go into the world for anything else but to preach the gospel build up the kingdom of God, and gather the sheep into the fold. You are sent out as shepherds to gather the sheep together, and remember they are not your sheep; they belong to him that sends you; then don't make a choice of any of those sheep, *don't make selections before they are brought home and put into the fold:* You UNDERSTAND THAT. Amen."

B. Young, July 14, 1855 said: "If any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so I promise that you will be damned." Journal of Discourses p. 266. Vol. 3.

From a sermon of Heber C. Kimball, in the Journal of Discourses, the following remarks are extracted :

“You may go to work and reckon it up, and twenty-five years will not pass away before Brother Brigham and I will number more than this whole territory.” Here his language was very obscene. Then he said, “that is the principle I love to talk about, and I would just as soon talk about it here to-day, before you, as in the chimney corner. Some say that I am vulgar.”

THEFT AND ROBBERY.

In a sermon delivered by Heber C. Kimball, Sept. 15, 1857, after proclaiming the coming overthrow of their enemies, and their subjection, he continues:

“‘Now,’ says the Lord, ‘take that spoil, I consecrate it unto my people.’ The Lord will provide for the saints when necessary, and in his own way.”

SHEDDING BLOOD FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

I read to you from a “Discourse” of President Brigham Young, delivered Sept. 21, 1856:

“There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness in this world, or in that which is to come, and if they had their eyes open to their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to have their blood spilt upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven as an offering for their sins, and the smoking incense would atone for their sins; whereas, if such is not the case, they will stick to them and remain upon them in the spirit world.

“I know, when you hear my brethren telling about cutting people off from the earth that you consider it is strong doctrine; but it is to save them, not to destroy them.

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“It is true the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall, and those committed by men, yet men can commit sins which it can never remit. As it was in ancient days, so it is in our day; and though the principles are taught publicly from this stand, still the people do not understand them; yet the law is precisely the same. There are sins that can be atoned for by an offering upon an altar as in ancient days; and there are sins that the blood of a lamb, of a calf, or of turtle doves cannot remit, but they must be atoned for by the blood of the man. That is the reason why men talk to you as they do from this stand; they understand the doctrine, and throw out a few words about it. You have been taught that doctrine, but you do not understand it.”

“Discourse of Pres. J. M. Grant, delivered March 12, 1854.” He is speaking of what he calls “covenant breakers”—those who leave the Brighamite church—and he says:

“Then what ought this meek people who keep the commandments of God do unto them? ‘Why,’ says one, ‘they ought to pray to the Lord to kill them.’ I want to know if you would wish the Lord to come down and do all your dirty work? Many of the Latter-Day Saints will pray, and petition, and supplicate the Lord to do a thousand things they themselves would be ashamed to do.

* * * * *

“When a man prays for a thing, he ought to be willing to perform it himself. But if the Latter-Day Saints should put to death

the covenant-breakers, it would try the faith of the 'very meek, just, and pious' ones among them, and *it would cause a great deal of whining in Israel.*

"Then there was another odd commandment. The Lord God commanded them *not to pity the person whom they killed*, but to execute the law of God upon persons worthy of death. *This should be done by the entire congregation* SHOWING NO PITY. I have thought there would have to be quite a revolution among the Mormons, before such a commandment could be obeyed completely by them. The Mormons have a great deal of sympathy. For instance, if they can get a man before the tribunal administering the law of the land, and succeed in getting a rope around his neck, and having him hung up like a dead dog, it is all right. *But if the Church and Kingdom of God should step forth and execute the law of God, O, what a burst of Mormon sympathy it would cause! I wish we were in a situation favorable to our doing that which is justifiable before God, without any contaminating influence of Gentile amalgamation, laws, and traditions, that the People of God might lay the axe to the root of the tree, and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit might be hewn down.*

"What! do you believe that people would do right, and keep the law of God by *actually putting to death the transgressors?* Putting to death the transgressors *would exhibit the law of God, no matter BY WHOM it was done.* That is my opinion.

"You talk of the doings of different Governments—the United States, if you please. What do they do with traitors? What mode do they adopt to punish traitors? Do traitors to that Government forfeit their lives? Examine also the doings of other earthly governments on this point, and you find the same practice universal. I am not aware that there are any exceptions. But people will look into books of theology, and argue that the people of God have a right to try people for fellowship, but they have no right to try them on property or life. *That makes the Devil laugh, saying: I have got them on a hook now; they can cut them off, and I will put eight or ten spirits worse than they are into their tabernacles, and send them back to mob them.*"

Pres. J. M. Grant said, Sept. 21, 1856, see Deseret News, vol. 6, page 235:

"I say there are men and women here that I would advise to go to the President immediately, and ask him to appoint a committee to attend to their case; and then let a place be selected, and let that committee shed their blood."

BRIGHAM BOASTS OF THEIR WICKEDNESS.

Pres. Brigham Young said, Nov. 9, 1856. See Deseret News, vol. 6, p. 291:

"Some of the elders seemed to be tripped up in a moment if the wicked can find any fault with the members of this church; but, bless your souls, I would not yet have this people faultless, for the day of separation has not yet arrived. I have many a time, in this stand, dared the world to produce as *mean devils* as we can—we can beat them at anything. We have the greatest and smoothest liars in the world, the cunningest and most adroit

thieves, and any other shade of character that you can mention.

“We can pick out elders in Israel, right here, who can beat the world at gambling; who can handle the cards; can cut and shuffle them with the smartest rogue on the face of God’s footstool. I can produce elders here who can shave their smartest shavers, and take their money from them. We can beat the world at any game.

“We can beat them *because we have men here that live in the light of the Lord*—that have the holy priesthood, and hold the keys of the kingdom of God. But you may go through all the sectarian world and you cannot find a man capable of opening the door of the kingdom of God to admit others in. We can do that. We can pray the best, preach the best, and sing the best. We are the best looking and finest set of people on the face of the earth; and they may begin any game they please, and we are on hand, and can beat them at anything they have a mind to begin. They may make sharp their two-edged swords, and I will turn out the elders of Israel with greased feathers, and whip them to death. We are not to be beat. We expect to be a stumbling block to the whole world, and a rock of offence to them.”

BRIGHAM’S THREATS.

Brigham Young, in a discourse in the Tabernacle, Aug. 31, 1856, see *Deseret News*, vol. 6, p. 219, said:

“Mormonism is true, and all Hell cannot overthrow it. All the devil’s servants on the earth may do all they can, and, as Brother Clinton has just said, after twenty-six years’ faithful operation and exertion by our enemies, what have they accomplished? They have succeeded in making us an organized Territory, and they are determined to make us an independent State or Government, as the Lord lives. (The congregation shouted Amen.)

“I say, as the Lord lives, we are bound to become a sovereign State in the Union, or an independent nation by ourselves.

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“I have frequently told you, and I tell you again, that the very report of the church and kingdom of God.

“The sound of Mormonism is a terror to towns, counties, States, the pretended republican governments, and to all the world.

“Why, because as the Lord Almighty lives, and the prophets have ever. This work is destined to revolutionize the world, and bring all under subjection to the law of God.”

BRIGHAM’S SUPREME GOVERNMENT.

January, 14th, 1854, Brigham caused to be passed the following law, which is still in force. See revised laws Utah, page 260:

“That all questions of law, the meaning of writing other than laws, and the admissibility of testimony shall be decided by the court; and no laws, nor parts of laws, shall be read, argued, cited or adopted in any court during any trial except those enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of this Territory, and those passed by the Congress of the United States when applicable; and no report, decision or doings of any court shall be read, argued, cited or adopted as precedent in any other trial.”

On the 2d of March, 1856, President Grant said, in a sermon delivered in the Tabernacle:

“Last Sunday the President chastised some of the Apostles and Bishops, who were on the grand jury. Did he fully succeed in clearing away the fog which surrounded them, and in removing blindness from their eyes? No, for they could go to their room and again disagree, though, to their credit, it must be admitted that a brief explanation made them unanimous in their action.

“Not long ago, I heard that in a certain case the traverse jury were eleven against one, and what is more singular, the one alone was right in his views of the case.

“Several had got into the fog to suck and eat the filth of a Gentile law court, ostensibly a court of Utah, though I call it a Gentile court. Why? Because it does not magnify the laws of Utah, as provided for in the ‘organic act,’ by which ‘act’ and laws, it alone exists as a court.

“A brief examination will soon convince a person, of any ordinary observation, that the laws of Utah are not administered in our courts, and that the judges must know that fact, and that they have been seeking, from the first, with but one exception, to overrule them.

“Our laws have been set at naught and walked under foot, and in lieu thereof a constant effort has been made to rule in common law, English law, and law after law totally inapplicable.”

Brigham Young said, March 2, 1856. See Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 226 :

“The time is coming when justice will be laid to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; when *we shall take the old broadsword, and ask, ‘are you for God?’ and if you are not heartily on the Lord’s side, you will be hewn down.*”

Brigham Young said, March 16, 1856, see Journal of Discourses, vol. 3 :

“There is not a man or woman who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it; and the judgments of the Almighty will come sooner or later, and every man and woman will have to atone for breaking their covenants.”

Brigham Young said, March 23, 1856, see Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 279 :

“You will find a great many ‘Mormons’ who have lived in the States ever since they were driven from Missouri; and who still have a wish to be ‘Mormons,’ but they mingle with the world, and some have joined the Methodists, some the Baptists, &c., so as to be on hand when this people go back to Jackson Co. * * They think that they are going to slip in with the crowd, but they will find themselves mistaken, for if any one presents them, saying, ‘Let this or that man in,’ I will reply, ‘He stayed in Missouri all the time that the saints were in the wilderness.’ *I should want to baptize such characters, and then send them to preach to the spirits in prison.* After they have been there a long time, we will then send them to make our farms, attend to our gardens, to our horses and stables, and to do all the drudgery.”

DEIFICATION OF ADAM.

Brigham Young said, April 20, 1856, see Journal of Discourses, page 319 :

“Though we have it in history that our father Adam was made of the dust of the earth, and that he knew nothing about his God previous to being made here, yet it is not so ; and when we learn the truth, we shall see and understand that he helped to make this world, and was the chief manager in that operation. He was the person who brought the animals and the seeds from other planets to this world, and brought a wife with him and stayed here. You may read and believe what you please as to what is found written in the Bible. Adam was made from the dust of an earth, but not from the dust of this earth. He was made as you and I are made, and no person was ever made upon any other principle.”

Heber C. Kimball said, June 20, 1856, see Journal of Discourses, vol. 4, p. 1 :

“I have learned by experience that there is but one God that pertains to this people, and He is the God that pertains to this earth and the first man. That first man sent his own son to redeem the world, to redeem his brethren, His life was taken, His blood shed, that our sins might be remitted.”

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

H. C. Kimball said, Nov. 2, 1856, see Journal of Discourses, vol. 4, p. 65 :

“Jesus said, ‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’ By this you shall know that you love Him. If you love Bros. Brigham, Heber, and Jedediah, please to keep our commandments that are given to you from day to day, and you will be blest and exalted.”

Brigham Young said, Nov. 2, 1856, see Journal of Discourses, vol. 4, p. 68 :

“We may have to live on roots and weeds again before we get the wheat.

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“If any man or woman complain of me or my counsellors, in regard to the lateness of some of this seasons emigration, let the curse of God be on them, and blast their substance with mildew and destruction, until their names are forgotten from the earth.

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“If the present system continues, this people will be found like the Kilkenny cats, which eat up each other clear to their tails, and they were left jumping at one another ; such operations will financially use us up.”

MORE QUOTATIONS may be found in THE TRUE LATTER-DAY SAINTS’ HERALD, as follows :

Vol. 1, p. 241, 242. On the shedding of blood.

Vol. 1, p. 247, 248. On the shedding of blood and polygamy.

Vol. 1, p. 259, 260. On Adam being God.

Vol. 1, p. 283, 284. “ “ “ “

Vol. 2, p. 141 On divorce and sealing.

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