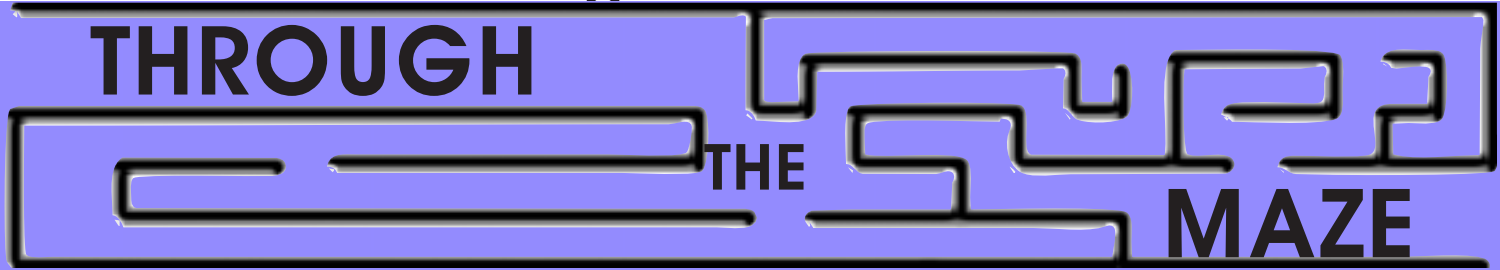


**"Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft"**

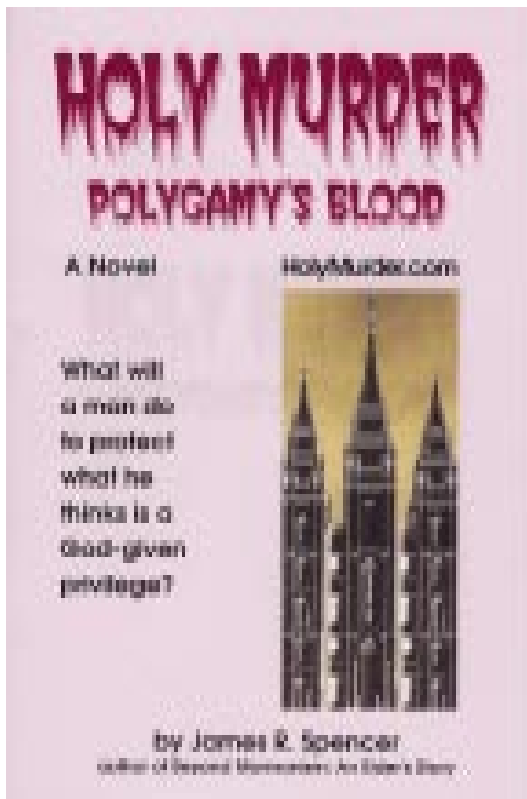
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## Ready to ship



This project has taken four years. I thank all of you who have helped me bring *Holy Murder* to publication. What timing. When I began this book polygamy, though important in Utah, was not on the national radar. Today it is.

I view books, newsletters, videos, and audiotapes as tools to reach out to Mormons and to educate Christians so *they* can reach out to Mormons. I think this

Continued on back page

## A matter of the heart



I am writing this on Wednesday, the day before I have heart surgery. Not the spiritual kind this time, the physical—a double bypass.

Margaretta, my wife and personal trainer, and I were finishing a vigorous two-mile walk when I experienced some shortness of breath and a very mild pressure in the neighborhood of my diaphragm. It was not the first time I had felt that pressure during our walks, but it was never what you would call pain, just a very little pressure.

Anyway, when we got home I sat down, and knew I was in trouble. To make a long story short, Margaretta called 911 and I spent the night in the hospital. EKGs were normal; no heart damage, thank God. But, to be safe, we scheduled a stress test. (The kind you do on a treadmill.) “Inconclusive.” So we scheduled an angiogram. That one *was* conclusive. All my arteries were great, except one. That one had two occlusions. The medical team decided these particular sites would not be easily handled by angioplasty.

I feel greatly blessed that we discovered this disease when we did. Had we not been vigorously exercising, we would not have known for months that there was a problem. By

Continued on back page

# The Origins of Mormon Polygamy

Where did the practice of Mormon Polygamy come from?

Request a  
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of the entire  
12- page  
report  
(Ask for  
"Origins")



A commentary on  
Mormonism's  
132 Section of The  
Doctrine and  
Covenants

by  
James R. Spencer

Early Mormon leaders serve time for polygamy.  
(President George Q. Cannon sitting, middle, with white beard)

## 1. Joseph Smith's Promiscuity

Joseph Smith's sexual promiscuity could not have been a secret to his wife, Emma, but she did not know the extent of it. Smith, the founder of Mormonism, finally admitted to her that he had several plural wives. This was just a year before he was murdered.

Smith had been adulterous from the earliest days of Mormonism. We know for certain that he took Fannie Alger—a 17-year-old—to wife in 1833 even though he was married to Emma at the time. Outsiders simply cannot understand how Smith could justify practicing polygamy when, in 1830, he had "translated" the Book of Mormon, which clearly condemns it.

Smith bedded young women by telling them that God wanted them to become his secret wives. Keeping such a secret proved impossible. Finally, Emma confronted him.

## How Joseph Smith Sold Polygamy

Joseph Smith, after years of philandering, finally manufactured a false prophecy to cover his adultery

### 2. Joseph's Revelation

His response to Emma's confrontation was to "get a revelation from God"—Section 132 of The Doctrine and Covenants, Mormon Scripture. God, according to the revelation, not only told him polygamy was OK, but if Emma didn't go along with it, "she would be destroyed."

He shared the revelation with several of his high-level followers, bringing them into the practice of polygamy. Many of the leaders rejected the idea and were forced out of the Church.

## 4. Smith Murdered for Polygamy and other crimes

Things quickly unraveled for Smith after the destruction of "The Expositor."

## 3. Spiritual Wifeism

The last year of his life was a stormy one. Rumors of "spiritual wifeism" split the community of Latter-day Saints.

It all culminated in June of 1844 when William Law (a former Counselor to Smith) published "The Nauvoo Expositor," on June 7th. This was the first and only edition of the paper, and in it Law exposed the practice of plural marriage in Nauvoo. He also exposed the underground teaching of multiple gods.

Smith, both mayor of Nauvoo and General of the Nauvoo Legion, ordered Law's press destroyed and thrown in the Mississippi River.

The governor of Illinois personally came to Nauvoo in an attempt to mitigate the growing hostility between the Mormons and the surrounding Illinoisans. Smith gave himself into Illinois custody, having the governor's promise of safe custody.

**Continued on back**

#### 4. Continued. . . . Smith Murdered for Polygamy and other crimes

That custody, however, was not safe.

An angry crowd stormed the jail at Carthage, Illinois, where Smith and his brother Hiram (and John Taylor, a coun-

selor to Smith) were incarcerated. The two Smith's were killed; Taylor narrowly escaped death.

Later Taylor, as President of the Church in Utah (succeeding Brigham Young) would

be the last President of the Church to publicly defend polygamy, saying he would rather have his hand cut off than to sign a statement denouncing the practice.

### Timeline of Mormon Polygamy

**1830** The Book of Mormon repeatedly teaches *against* polygamy (plural marriage) calling it “abominable. (See Jacob 2:24, 27-28; Jacob 3:5; Mosiah 11:2; Ether 10:5)

**1831** Joseph Smith wrote (page 91 of the Book of Commandments): “Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shall cleave unto her and none else.” But later that year, on July 17th, Joseph Smith privately claimed God told him the opposite: “...it is my will that in time, ye should take unto you wives of the Lamanites and Nephites, that their posterity may become white, delightsome and just, for even now their females are more virtuous than the gentiles.”

**1834** In a letter from W. W. Phelps to Brigham Young written in 1861, Phelps said that in 1834: “...I asked brother Joseph, privately, how [men] could take wives from the “natives” as we were all married men? He replied, instantly “In the same manner that Abraham took Hagar and Keturah; and Jacob took Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah; by revelation—the saints of the Lord are always directed by revelation.””

**1835** Polygamy began to be practiced “in private” by Joseph Smith around this time, while still being publicly denounced right through 1844. The Mormon church denied the practice of polygamy in the 1835 edition of the Doctrine & Covenants but that was removed from the Doctrine & Covenants in 1876 when the doctrine of “plural marriage” (polygamy) was inserted as Doctrine and Covenants Section 132.

**1840** “In 1840 the doctrine [polygamy] was taught to a few leading brethren who, with the Prophet, secretly married additional wives in the following year.”

**1843** Joseph Smith allegedly received the revelation from God that permitted polygamy to be practiced. (Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants) This revelation was kept from the larger membership of the Church, but shared with Emma Smith to keep her in line. Smith also shared it with several other “inner circle” leaders (who likewise began to practice polygamy).

**1844** On Feb. 1st, Joseph Smith excommunicated Hiram Brown, an elder of the Mormon Church for “preaching” polygamy. William Law (former Mormon leader) exposed in his newspaper, *The Nauvoo Expositor*, the practice of plural marriage in Nauvoo, as well as Joseph Smith’s teachings on multiple gods. Joseph Smith was so enraged that he ordered the destruction of the newspaper. On June 25th, Joseph Smith was arrested for and charged with “riot” for the destruction of the newspaper office and he was thrown in the Carthage, Illinois, jail where he was murdered by an angry mob on June 27th.

**1852** The practice/doctrine of plural marriage (polygamy) was officially announced in August at a public meeting.

**1876** The revelation on polygamy first appeared in print.

**1880** The revelation was ratified by the entire Church in a General Conference.

**1890** The Mormon Church publicly vowed to stop sealing plural marriages and takes the practice underground to the deserts of Utah and Mexico.

## Ready to ship. . .

book will prove to be one of the best tools I have produced. Like my first book, *Beyond Mormonism: An Elder's Story*, this book is, I believe, *readable*. Not everyone is willing to slog through nonfiction volumes and scholarly works to understand Mormonism. So, a novel filled with historical and theological truth opens the subject up to lots of people who otherwise would not get the information.

As the characters move through life and death situations, I am able to explain what motivates men to take up the practice of polygamy; and what causes them to go to bloody extremes to protect the practice. The *true* followers of Joseph Smith continue to practice polygamy in the deserts of America's Rocky Mountain West. If it was true in the first place, the correctly reason, it is still true.

One of the chapters allows me to compare in detail the doctrine of Christ's Atonement and Mormonism's doctrine of Blood Atonement: "There are some sins," Mormonism says, "for which the blood of Christ cannot atone." In those cases, Mormon leaders have taught, "A man's own blood must be shed," if there is hope of forgiveness.

So, pray that this book will "get legs." That it will find its way into the hands of searching Latter-day Saints and dive them to ask why such things as polygamy and Blood Atonement have any place at all in Mormonism.

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After 25 years of ministry, I believe you and I are on the verge of our best days, our most effective days, days of conquest and rharvest.

Thanks for helping. Don't stop now, I'm not. ■

**W**hen Prophet Ronald Hansen III murders the wife of a journalist who is exposing the prophet's polygamous cult, the stage is set for a desert showdown. Jan Kucera, recently retired to his family's ranch in northern Wyoming, is facing the religious fanatic alone, except for his old friend, Sheriff Monster Broadbeck.

Prophet Hansen, wealthy, politically connected, and in command of a virtual army, has vowed to kill Kucera. At the same time, the prophet is losing connection with reality, and his own followers face the uncertain prospect of a Jonestown-style massacre.

Can Kucera summon the courage to face down the madman and rescue those caught in his prophetic grip?

**About the Author** James R. Spencer  
Christian author and lecturer. He pastored an evangelical church for nine years. Prior to entering ministry, Spencer enjoyed a broad business background, including working on several newspapers, and as a newswriter for the Associated Press. Recognized as an expert on the cults, Spencer is regularly interviewed on radio and television. He lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife, Margaretta.



Spencer is a former Mormon Elder and has written eight books, mostly dealing with the cults, including the Christian best sellers, *Beyond Mormonism: An Elder's Story* and *Heresy Hunters: Character Assassination in the Church*.

*Holy Murder*, is set in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, where Spencer was born and raised.

"Your novel hit a little too close to home. But like they say, "The truth hurts."...You definitely got a feel for the madness Mormonism turns into very quickly. All you need is a nut trying to live out the old ways."

—Heber LeBaron

Serving four life sentences in federal prison for his part in a dozen (Mormon) cult murders

"This story is impossible to put down and eerily familiar....I know that in reality things usually end up far more brutal and bloody (than this book depicts them)...the dream that things could be handled in this way gives me hope."

—Flora Jessop

A survivor of polygamy and founder of *Help the Child Brides!*

"This is as good as anything John Grisham has written."

—Ed Decker

Author, *The God Makers*

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## A matter of the heart. . .

then, things could have been much worse.

The greatest blessing of all, of course, is the absolute peace that comes from the only real source of peace. It truly passes understanding. The strongest emotion I feel in all this is gratitude; the gratitude that comes from knowing I am safe in the

hands of my Redeemer, whether I am here or there.

I draw water joyously and daily from the well of my salvation. (Isa 12:3)

Margaretta and I look forward to a speedy recovery. I should be going strong by the time you get this. Check my website