

# Through

the

# Maze

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## Just what is wrong in Utah, anyway?

I have often cited the alarming statistics which signal social ill-health in Utah: divorce, child abuse, and child homicide are nearly always higher in Utah than they are nationally. As a matter of fact, checking the US Census Bureau's Internet website, I find that the latest information continues to list Utah as higher than the national average for divorce—twice the divorce rate of, for example, Massachusetts. Likewise, violent crime such as murder and rape is seemingly out of control in Utah.

This summer the Big Story in Utah has been polygamy. But Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley "doesn't get it." In a recent nationally broadcast television interview, Larry King repeatedly tried to get Hinckley to comment on the polygamy issue: "What should the governor do about it?" Hinckley's reply, "I don't know, we've distanced ourselves from it."

That is hardly an adequate answer, although it is a truthful one. But, Mormonism is the *source* of polygamy in Utah. It is true that the Church abandoned the practice in 1890. However,



**Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley** is "confused" about Mormon doctrine, has "distanced himself" from the polygamy problem, and has a "nontraditional Christ."

polygamy is the "new and everlasting covenant," Emma Smith, Joseph Smith's first (Continued on back)

### Blood atonement rampant Then, and now still practiced

From The Salt Lake Daily Tribune, January 25, 1876

#### "THE PRIESTHOOD ARRAIGNED"

...It is estimated that no less than six hundred murders have been committed by the Mormons, in nearly every case at the instigation of their priestly leaders, during their occupation of this Territory. Giving a mean average of fifty thousand persons professing that faith resident in Utah, we have a murder committed every year to every twenty five hundred of population. The same ratio of crime extended to the population of the United States would give sixteen thousand murders every (Continued on back)

### Statistics\* in Utah still reflect a discouraging social atmosphere

Latter-day Saints believe Mormonism produces emotional health. If that were true, Utah (which is two-thirds Mormon) should have the lowest rates of crime, divorce, and child abuse. That is not the case, as these figures indicate.

Divorces per 1,000 Population	Utah 4.60	Mass. 2.40	New York 3.20	New Jersey 3.00
Murder per 100,000 Population	Utah 3.90	New Hampshire 1.70	Iowa 1.70	North Dakota 0.90
Rape per 100,000 Population	Utah 42.70	New York 23.70	California 33.40	Virginia 27.20

\*Source US Census Bureau

## ...What's wrong

wife, was threatened with being cut off from the Church if she didn't allow Joseph to take other wives. All active Mormons know that, according to Mormon doctrine, polygamy will be practiced in heaven. Their capitulation to the United States government in 1890 was, in the eyes of Mormonism, a necessary evil. If they did not renounce it, Utah could never become a state and legislators from Utah could never be seated in the United States Congress.

So now, polygamy is rampant among the fundamentalist Mormon sects and the best Mormonism can muster is, "we've distanced ourselves from it." What about renouncing it as a great evil mistake which arose from Joseph Smith's and Brigham Young's lust, not from the mind and will of God? Hinckley, of course, can't say anything like that, because he doesn't believe it. He fully expects to practice polygamy in heaven

### Deception.

One of the root problems with Mormonism is that it has always been in an "us against them" mindset; not only Mormonism against the "gentiles," but also Mormon Leadership against Mormon rank and file (polygamy, remember, was practiced by a tiny elite within the Church.) When President Rutherford B. Hayes sent troops to Utah in attempt to bring law and order to the territory, Church leadership finally was forced to decide if the Church was willing to go down in flames (no pun intended) or if it would change course. So it sent polygamy underground and remained openly defiant.

Mormon leaders continue to deceive. For example, when *Time* magazine interviewed President Hinckley in 1997 this report was filed:

President Hinckley seemed intent on downplaying his faith's distinctiveness. The church's message, he explained, "is a message of Christ. Our church is Christ-centered. He's our leader. He's our head. His name is the name of our Church.

At first, Hinckley seemed to qualify the idea that men could become gods, suggesting that "it's of

course an ideal. It's a hope for a wishful thing," but later affirmed that "yes, of course they can." (He added that women could too, "as companions to their husbands. They can't conceive a king without a queen.") On whether his church still holds that God the Father was once a man, he sounded uncertain, "I don't know that we teach it. I don't know that we emphasize it... I understand the philosophical background behind it, but I don't know a lot about it, and I don't think others know a lot about it."

Of course Hinckley, like all active Mormons, has repeated (in his case probably thousands of times) the Lorenzo Snow couplet: "As God once was, man now is; as God now is, man may become." But when the world is watching, he isn't sure he knows a lot about it.

Likewise, his view of Christ—in the *Time* article seems to be a high one. However, those of us who know Mormonism, know Christ *exactly* the same kind of being we are. And exactly the same kind of being Satan is—Satan is Christ's brother.

But when Hinckley is away from the cameras and reporters, he is more candid. The official Mormon Church publication, *the Church news*, ran an article June 20, 1998, reporting on Hinckley's address to a group of Latter-day Saints in Paris:

In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the Church who say Latter-day Saints "do not believe in the traditional Christ. No I don't. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak."

Today all the errors of Mormonism continue to abound in Utah—polygamy, blood atonement, a non-traditional Christ, an oppressive priesthood. That climate is no healthier in 1998 than it was in 1876. The fruits of such an atmosphere are fear, bitterness, deception, sexual excess, and every manner of ill-health.

Only bringing Mormonism into the full light of day will end its oppression of its people. Pray with me that day is soon.

## "THE PRIESTHOOD ARRAIGNED"

year and to the British Isles 13,800 murders annually. The record of crime in these two countries shows a minute fraction of that ratio.

But these figures do not show the full enormity of the case. In every country a certain proportion of ignorance exists which takes revenge upon society with an outgrowth of violence and crime. But the efforts of the government in all these countries are directed to dispel this ignorance by the diffusion of education, and repress crime by punishing criminals. But in Utah the shedding of blood is urged upon an ignorant, fanatical people by teachers, who claim infallibility, as a religious duty. Federal Judges and other officers of the law who have honestly and fearlessly set about the task of bringing known criminals to justice, have been paralyzed with the discovery that the whole community were in sympathy with these offenders, and that no amount of evidence produced would induce juries to indict or convict. Such was Judge Cradlebaugh's experience when he held court in Provo, as the preacher shows in his narrative. And such was Judge McKean's experience when Mr. Baskin, acting as prosecuting attorney, procured indictments for murder against Brigham Young, Daniel H. Wells and other chief priests and rulers. Day after day the court house was thronged with armed and fanatical ruffians, whose object was by threats and intimidation to deter the court from proceeding with its duty. And at Beaver, during the trial of John d. Lee, the sympathy of the populace was openly with the prisoner. A swarm of glowering faces was present in the court-room during the trial, threats were made upon the street of violence to the United States Marshall and the chief witnesses for the prosecution, and the city of Beaver band serenaded the red-handed assassin in his cell.

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