



A Strange Thing in the Land

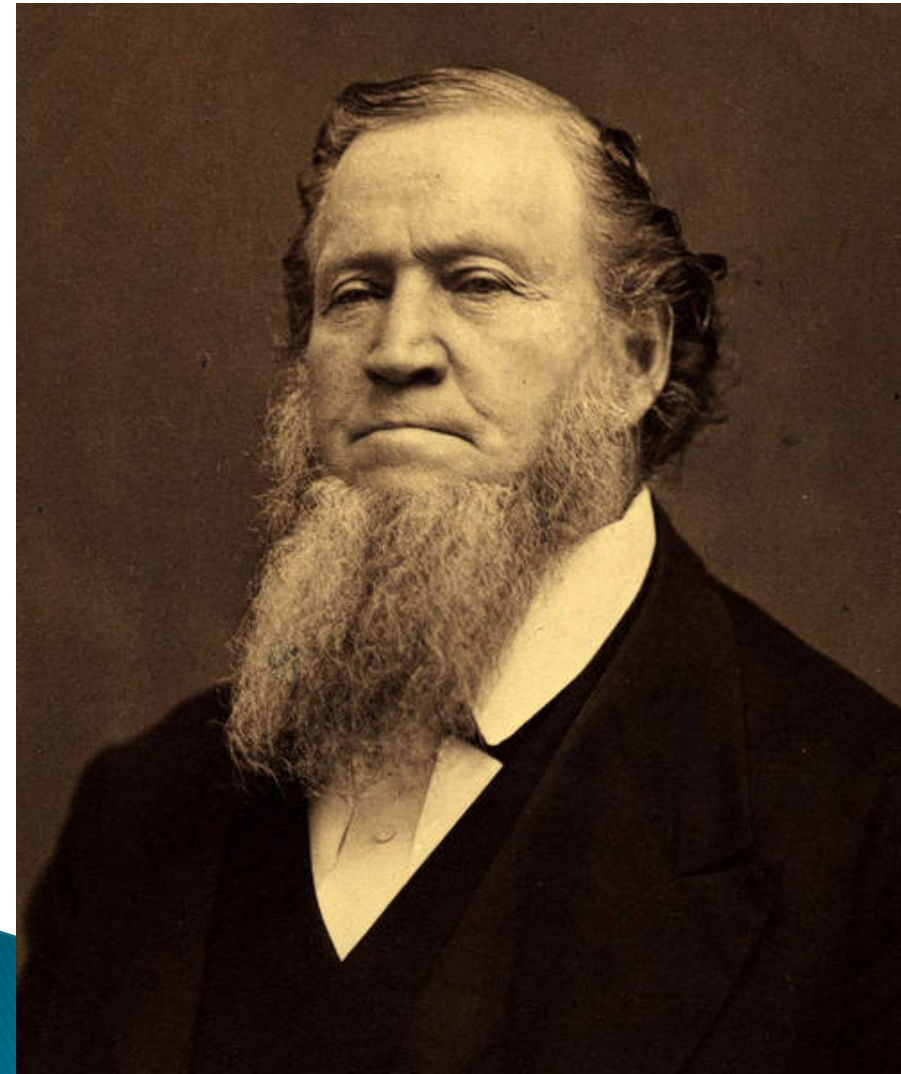
Thomas B. Marsh

Sept 1857

- ▶ The next question is, “How and when did you lose the Spirit?” I became jealous of the Prophet, and then I saw double, and overlooked everything that was right, and spent all my time in looking for the evil; and then, when the Devil began to lead me, it was easy for the carnal mind to rise up, which is anger, jealousy, and wrath.
- ▶ I could feel it within me; I felt angry and wrathful; and the Spirit of the Lord being gone, as the Scriptures say, I was blinded, and I thought I saw a beam in brother Joseph's eye, but it was nothing but a mote, and my own eye was filled with the beam;
- ▶ but I thought I saw a beam in his, and I wanted to get it out; and, as brother Heber says, I got mad, and I wanted everybody else to be mad.
- ▶ I talked with Brother Brigham and Brother Heber, and I wanted them to be mad like myself; and I saw they were not mad, and I got madder still because they were not.
- ▶ Brother Brigham, with a cautious look, said, “Are you the leader of the Church, brother Thomas?” I answered, “No.” “Well then,” said he, “Why do you not let that alone?”
- ▶ Well, this is about the amount of my hypocrisy—I meddled with that which was not my business.



Brigham's Response



I presume that Brother Marsh will take no offense if I talk a little about him.

If he had good sense and judgment, he would not have spoken as he has. He has just said, I will be faithful, and I will be true to you.

He has not the wisdom enough to see that he has betrayed us once, and don't know but what he will again.

He has told me that he would be faithful, and that he would do this and the other; but don't know what he will do next week or next year.

I don't know what I shall do next year...you never hear me say that I was going to be true to my God; for I know too much of human weakness;

But I pray God to preserve me from falling away.

Seeds of Apostasy...

Moses 5:16



At Risk Groups

- ▶ The betrayed (Family, church leaders, Church History)
- ▶ World Dazzled
- ▶ Inadequately Taught
- ▶ Inadequately Prepared
- ▶ Contrarian/ Smartest guy in the room
- ▶ The Overwhelmed (Not finding joy)
- ▶ The Unworthy



One scholar, on returning to the church

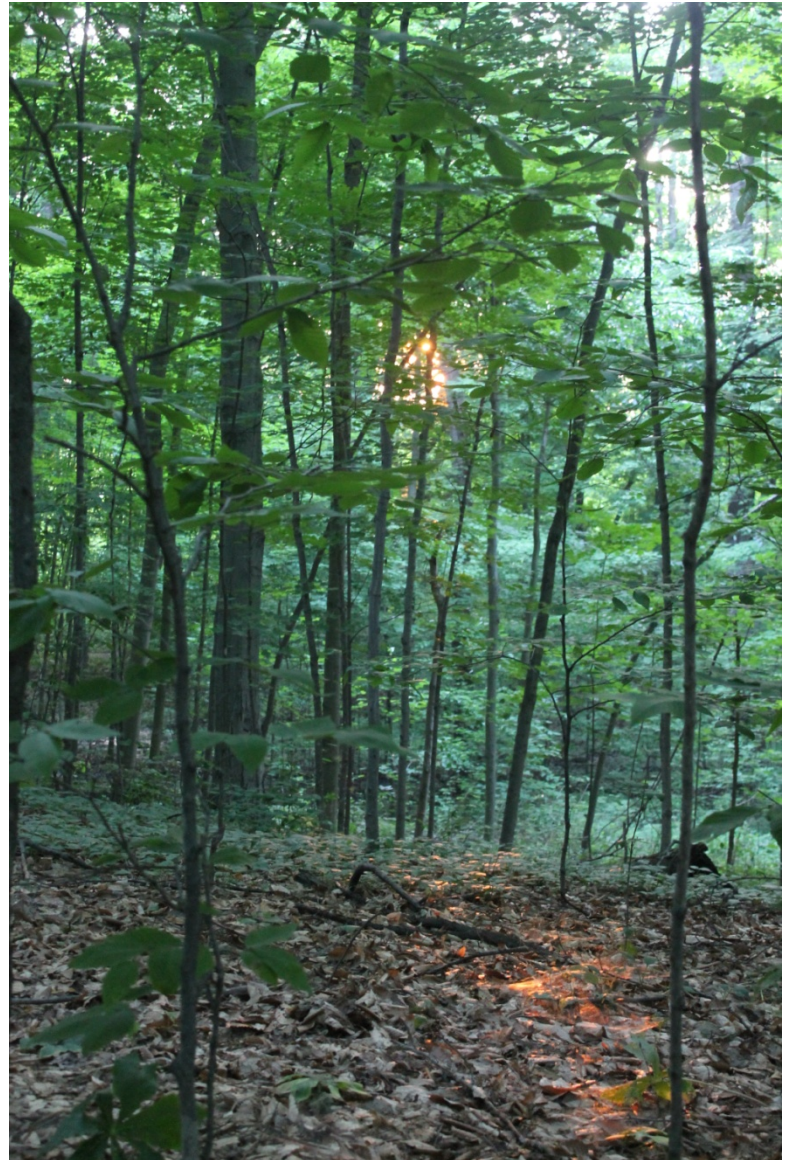
“It would be wrong to think that I am unaware of the weaknesses of the Mormon subculture,” he said. “But I pay no mind to them because they are not the basis of my faith.

I came back focused on everything that is ‘virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy,’ and determined to nourish the wheat until it choked the tares.”

Today he is continuing his research into Mormonism’s past, but he finds that “digging into Mormon history is ultimately favorable to faith.”

“The central claim of Mormonism is not that God spoke to a fallible human being in 1820. The central claim is that God can and will talk to fallible human beings today. When we reach out to him, we will find his hand reaching out toward us, waiting.”

Mormons navigate faith and doubt in the digital age
Joseph Walker , Deseret News Published: Friday, July 26 2013



What Do We Do?

This is a war for the heart...

Recognize your enemy and his tactics...

Such as:

Honest/well meaning Support

Dishonest Support

Online Communities

Partial Information

Unfair Comparisons

-Their best to our worst



Mahan Principle

Moses 5:29



Enoch's Vision

Moses 5:26

Enoch's

Response

Moses 5:31



Elder Holland

