
Official Declaration 1 — The Manifesto

Issued by President Wilford Woodruff and accepted by the Church in General Conference at Salt Lake City, October 6, 1890 — declaring the end of the practice of plural marriage.

This is the Manifesto — the formal declaration by which President Wilford Woodruff, in 1890, ended the Church's practice of plural marriage. It is not a section of revelation in the form of "thus saith the Lord," but an official, canonized declaration: a prophet announcing to the Church and to the world that the practice commanded for a season (see Section 132) was now to cease, and that the Saints should submit to the laws of the land.

Hebrew Word Studies

manifesto / declare ("manifestus (Latin: caught in the act, made plain)") — **"a public, authoritative making-plain of one's position" the declaration.** "Manifesto" comes from the Latin manifestus — "plainly apprehended, made visible" — the same root behind "manifest." A manifesto is a public, formal making-plain of intent, issued so there can be no mistaking where one stands. The form fits the moment: amid press dispatches and false charges (v. 2), President Woodruff answers not with private instruction but with a public declaration "in the most solemn manner," that "the whole world" might know the Church's position. It is the prophetic counterpart to the Hebrew idea of a thing "declared" (Heb. נִגַּד, "to make conspicuous, to announce") — a word set openly before the people so they may sustain it by covenant. The Saints' raised hands on October 6, 1890, made the manifesto theirs, not merely the President's.

From the Chapter's Architecture

``cross-references D&C 132; D&C 134:5; D&C 124:28–41; D&C 128:15–18; D&C 138; Jacob 2:27, 30; 2 Sam. 12:7–8; Official Declaration 2; D&C 21:4–6; Num. 23:19. ``