

## Chapter 16

# HIS KINGDOM BEGINS TO TOPPLE

With the dance process completed, the way was now open. Any day now we would be able to travel back to Kirtland and enter the library. We would be able to get the sword for Jeff's great purpose and we would be able to obtain the records of our forefathers for the restoration of all things. We were finally pleasing and acceptable before God. Jeff had taken upon him the name Jesus, but not "the Christ." He was the physical messiah, of sorts, but not the Messiah of spiritual salvation. Only the Eternal God could fill that position. Yet, Jeff was to take upon him "every form of godliness," therefore, he was to be like Christ, in taking upon himself the sins of flesh.

"Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, shewing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind, in every form of godliness. And the office of their ministry is, to call men unto repentance, and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father which he hath made known unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him." (Moroni 7:30-32)

Angels were to appear to us at the day of our redemption and also when we received the library records. It had been determined through division that angels were really the prophets throughout time and Keepers of the records. As the seer, Jeff would be able to identify exactly who was to be present (angel/prophets) so that we would be prepared.

"And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the Brother of Jared and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the Brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear. And the Lord saw that the Brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him, why hast thou fallen? And he said unto the Lord, I saw the finger of the lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood." (Ether 1:69-71)

The Brother of Jared did not know that Christ would take upon Himself flesh and blood, along with revelations of other things he needed to know (this was to have been around 2200 B.C.). Therefore, he was not completely prepared to

enter god's presence. For this reason, he "fell" (associated with the "fall of mankind"), and god told him to arise.

The term "arise" became a common cliché among us and it was always associated with redemption from the great fall.

"And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will." (Genesis 4:9, *Inspired Version*)

The next verse explains a little more about the fruit of Adam's redemption—the opening of one's eyes to see God.

"And in that day Adam blessed God, and was filled, and began to prophecy concerning all the families of the earth; saying, Blessed be the name of God, for, because of my transgression my eyes are opened and in this life I shall have joy, and again, in the flesh I shall see God." (Genesis 4:10, *Inspired Version*)

Through this process, Adam was to have received a language "pure and undefiled."

"And then began these men to call upon the Lord; and the Lord blessed them; and a book of remembrance was kept in the which was recorded in the language of Adam, for it was given to as many as called upon God, to write by the spirit of inspiration; And by them their children were taught to read and write, having a language which was pure and undefiled." (Genesis 6:5–6, *Inspired Version*)

This language, as noted before, was identified as the pattern, and the pattern was to be seen within the house of god. "Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern" (Ezekiel 43: 10). "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to made the tabernacle; for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shown to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5). The RLDS temple in Kirtland bears no resemblance to any Israelite temple, or to the tabernacle of Moses. It's just a nice building that became confused as the pattern of God. With all these things done, God's people gathered, taught the language which was to be pure and undefiled, followed the seer's instruction even to the rebuke of five and by the placement of sin upon him by way of the strange act (dance). We were now ready to establish Zion.

Woman was flesh of man's flesh, bone of man's bone (Genesis 2:23). Jeff, as the seer, was provided as a flesh and bone representation of the eternal salvation through Christ. Like John the Baptist, he was to be another Elias—a

wild man from the wilderness. The lesson was learned, in part, from Joseph Smith's account of Enoch.

“And it came to pass, that Enoch went forth in the land, among the people, standing upon the hills, and the high places, and cried with a loud voice, teaching against their works. And all men were offended because of him; and they came forth to hear him upon the high places, saying unto the tent-keepers, Tarry ye here and keep the tents while we go yonder to behold the seer for he prophesieth; and there is a strange thing in the land, a wild man hath come among us.” (Genesis 6:39–40, *Inspired Version*)

As the TV newsman would later say, it all became real to us in a sewer of logic sort of way. Like a form of mental, emotional and/or spiritual osmosis, we had long been bathed in a sewer of logic and saturated with warped and deceptive imitations. Our senses had become altered, moral values and even conscience had become redefined. Jeff had performed all these things, thereby fulfilling the command to be of “strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness” (Moroni 7:31).

It was done, culminating with a class stating that none of us would be “lost.” Up to this point, any of us were scared to die without being “redeemed.” But now, we were finally moving forward with an open door before us. Jeff actually seemed relaxed among us, as though we were no longer so much of a burden to bear. Tension in the group seemed to decline, but with fall weather just around the corner, temperatures were soon to decline as well.

One day I went to the quarry area in order to do some exercising. This was not a common practice, as our activities were generally more group oriented and supervised. But continual individual preparation had been urged by Jeff so on this particular day, Susie had been able to come with me. As I ran, she sat down on the grass to enjoy the solitude and calmness. Later on, while I was running, I noticed that I could no longer see her. I became panic-stricken. I had heard the sound of motorbikes in the area earlier, and my mind began racing with thoughts of her being abducted or harmed. I guess we had simply been through so very much and my view of the outside world was so alien, that in my mind, we were quite literally at war. The entire world was a dangerous enemy. I didn't really fear this enemy, but with Jeff's continual threats, feared losing Susie or our children. My mind had become full of such scenarios by way of the sessions that had long been a part of our learning process. Eventually, I found Susie sitting on the ground of a sloping hillside and surrounded by high grass. I had been calling for her, but she couldn't hear me. She had felt the desire to sit there and sing. And she sang songs about God that we had once known and enjoyed a “lifetime” ago. Today our relationship has been severely crushed, if not permanently destroyed, primarily due to our inability to heal together as a family, from all that we have been through. The problem evolved from poor communication, to miscommunication, and finally to no communication at all. But I know there was a time when Susie possessed a childlike innocence and her heart was full of prayer toward God.

Perhaps it still is, but not all that now comes from her heart is true. However, on this particular day, I think perhaps our True and Living Heavenly Father had His ear inclined to her voice and the heartfelt praises she sang. It was too late for the Avery family, and for the abuses we had endured and long term effects of all that had occurred. It was too late for the rest of us, but Jeff's kingdom was beginning to topple. Many loving friends and family members had been praying for us, and the destructive nature of Jeff's doctrine was bound to destroy itself in the end.

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WHEN WE WERE LIVING IN KIRTLAND, Jeff and Alice had taken Greg and I to a park in southern Ohio. I don't recall exactly where it was, but it had a canyon running through it with several huge sinkholes. Despite the covert planning employed by Jeff, behavior such as this makes me think that he actually believed his lies. We, in turn, by being his disciples, undoubtedly served to strengthen his self-delusion.

Our baptismal font would be one that Jeff determined to be at one of the very locations where the flood waters of Noah's day had receded.

“For behold, they rejected all the words of Ether; for he truly told them of all things, from the beginning of man; and that after the waters had receded from off of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord.” (Ether 6:2)

This prophet named Ether would speak of the unique blessedness of this land and how a New Jerusalem would be established here in the last days, no doubt as a result of the choice seer.

“And that a New Jerusalem should be built up on this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there had been a type... Wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built up on this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance.” (Ether 6:6,8)

And when the end comes, when earth and heaven pass away.

“Then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel.” (Ether 6:10)

There is a great deal of emphasis in Mormonism upon the “spiritual” lineage of the Old Testament Joseph who was sold into Egypt. But for us, the coming newness was the time when all things would be restored. Therefore, even the place of our baptism would need to be identified. While not an immediate concern to us, with cold weather coming, it soon would be. When would the day come for Jeff to take us to the library? It never would. As David had gone

into the wilderness in hiding from Saul, we, too, were to find refuge in the rocky areas of our current abode, and where we would be baptized. Ether had done the same. “And as he dwelt in the cavity of a rock he made the remainder of this record... Wherefore it came to pass that in the first year that Ether dwelt in the cavity of a rock” (Ether 6:15,19). But though our minds were full of the numerous types of our distorted reality, things were beginning to crumble.

Both the Johnson’s Suburban and our Plymouth had broken down. The Suburban engine was completely shot, but the only thing that needed repair on the Plymouth was the distributor. But since Jeff wanted them both sold for scrap, that’s what we did. This left us considerably lacking in transportation, but this was not an issue to us. The horses had been more of a burden than a benefit and since we needed more money, Jeff decided to sell them, too. Kathy was more experienced with horses than anyone else in the group, so she was always involved with plans where they were concerned. Contact was made with the owner of a trail ride operation in the area. Though he wasn’t in the market for them, he said he would check around. With no Suburban, we had nothing powerful enough to pull the horse trailer. Jeff’s little pickup could manage it through the hills, but only while empty and it was difficult even then. So, Jeff had also sold the horse trailer. The trail ride owner came to transport the horses to his ranch with his own truck. He had apparently promised not to ride the horses, or use them on his trail rides. But when Kathy checked on them over the days that followed, she noticed that they had, indeed, been ridden. Jeff got upset about the horses being used, but there was no way to get them back to camp so he decided to take Kathy and a few of the rest of us with him and walk them back. This turned into a fiasco, with the seer getting lost. It was quite a long distance. Some of us stayed with the horses overnight, but when we thought we were at the final stretch, Jeff and Kathy didn’t show up—and Alice was furious. In retrospect, Alice’s behavior was quite inconsistent with her own acceptance of Jeff’s teachings.

Only a few weeks prior to this episode with the horses, a class was taught concerning the “enlarging of Jeff’s tent.” Tonya was to have been Jeff’s second wife and Alice expressed no problem with this. The morning that Jeff and Tonya were supposed to consummate their marriage, Alice sat at the table quietly. Like Sarah sending Hagar to Abraham, she was in conformity with the wifely position (which is not to suggest that Hagar’s going in to Abraham was ever proper conduct before God). We were told that nothing ever actually happened and within weeks, Jeff gave Tonya back to Dennis. But where Kathy was concerned, Alice was not in conformity. She did not hesitate to express her disapproval.

When Jeff and Kathy finally returned in late afternoon of the following day, Alice was enraged. These outbursts of rebellion caused Alice a great deal of grief during the months to follow. As I see it, she helped to create a monster, and the monster was out of control. However, this was not the only situation that would heighten Alice’s concerns about Jeff and Kathy. Follow-

ing the “dance,” Kathy apparently expressed concern regarding Tonya’s husband, Dennis. Tonya was living in Jeff’s tent at the point of the dance although clearly identified as being Dennis’ wife. Yet Kathy’s concern was that Dennis had no wife to dance on his behalf at that point. Since the women were to dance for the benefit of their children and themselves, and not their husbands, it seems odd that Kathy would have that as a concern in the first place. Besides, neither Damon nor Danny had wives to dance, so that was clearly not the issue. Jeff had been working on Kathy for a long time and what I’m about to explain was merely a part of Jeff’s plot to take Kathy from Keith. By her expression of this unnecessary concern for Dennis and offering to dance a second time for his benefit, Kathy was in essence offering to “intercede” for him. This topic of “intercession” had already been taught, in preparation for the dance. Everyone knew what the term meant. It was when a woman would go to the seer to have sex with him, as a sacrifice of herself in order to appease God’s wrath toward some other person. This is how women were used in ways that tore them away from their husbands. This is clearly a disgusting topic, but everything had become redefined in accordance with Jeff’s tastes of sexual preference. Kathy’s concern for Dennis and offer to dance, was interpreted as an offer to intercede. But there was no need for intercession. Jeff had not expressed that Dennis needed to be interceded for. Nevertheless, the words had been spoken so it was “sealed” as having to be done.

A strong sense of legalistic process was our lifestyle. Jeff made claim of how he searched the scriptures for an avenue of which to annul the offer that had been made. But of course, none could be found. The day came for the dance to take place. Alice was visibly upset, so Jeff told Greg and me to go with her while she walked outside the camp, which we did. Much as two sons comforting their mother, we tried to keep her calm until Jeff came out from the tent. By that time, Alice was actually quite calm. This forgiving, or accepting attitude, despite all that Alice truly knew about Jeff’s plans and abuses, makes me think that he did have some type of control over Alice. Yet by all the other evidence it appears that her love for him was the only source of that control. I don’t understand how she could have known what she knew and still loved him so much. Having searched out the matter, I do know exactly how the rest of us became so hypnotized by his leadership. There were no limits of our subjugation to Jeff.

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SOON AFTER THIS, the geographic boundaries of Jeff’s small dominion would greatly expand, by way of a helicopter visit. It didn’t land, nor even really try to communicate, but circled around the camp several times just above the tree-tops. Later, we would be told it was an investigator hired by family members of Dennis and Tonya. But at this immediate time, we thought we could be under attack. As with the assault on Mt. Carmel in Waco, some form of heli-

copter reconnaissance is often the prelude to a ground assault. Greg was sent out to the road where the cars were parked, in order to look for signs of any activity there. The helicopter made a few wide sweeps in order to keep track of where Greg had gone, but he soon returned with news that no one was in the lot. However, Jeff seemed pretty certain that we were under threat, so the women and children were sent to a predetermined area of safety. I was to escort them there without being seen, but this was impossible to do and the attempt only made us appear peculiar. I had changed to camouflage gear by this time, presumably not visible by the helicopter. We dashed from one group of trees to the next, none of which offered much cover. We finally made it to our hiding area and soon the other men joined us with whatever ammunition they could carry. Of course, the fifty-caliber had been brought. The ATV trailer, pre-loaded with ammunition stood ready for just such an encounter. However, it didn't work well, in that no trail was prepared. An earlier day, Jeff had decided to take the fifty-caliber to the quarry and shoot it. As it turned out, the gun was quite well made and gave very little recoil. I was allowed one shot with it that day, and even as a novice, I had no difficulty. I throw that in here to illustrate how Jeff was not well prepared. At least not in the testing of his own "armor" (1 Samuel 17:39).

So there we were—waiting for the world to come against us. I'm thankful today that no one did. By this experience, I feel that I can understand the unyielding dedication of those who were in the compound at Waco. To me, the issue of Waco has more than one facet of concern. There is the issue of constitutional freedoms and the protection of one's home. But what occurred prior to that? What created the scenario in the first place and formed the actions that would be assumed by the compound members that first morning of the assault? We were on "holy ground" with the choice seer, who was, in our reality the god of the earth. Had anyone come against us that day, I'm convinced that there would have been bloodshed. That is, of course, unless Jeff was to surrender, and I find that an absurd possibility. But as before and many times over, our minds were locked into the command. If the command had been to stand our ground, we would have done so. As it was, there was no necessity to do so. The helicopter finally left and we took precautions to ensure that no one was in the camp, and to change where the vehicles were parked. Eventually, the area was determined to be safe and we moved everything back into camp.

While still in the safety area, Jeff began talking about finding a way to send Alice and their three younger children to her parents in Missouri. He cited the occasion where Moses had done similarly (Exodus 18:2). Therefore, plans were made for their departure. Alice was not pleased with this episode, as she saw it as a ploy to get her out of the way so he could make further advances on Kathy, and she was right. I was frustrated that, after so much failure and so much sacrifice, she continued to fight against the command of god, through His seer. Yet what I didn't know was the very thing she most definitely did know; that Jeff was nothing more than a fraud, working his way through each of the wives and in fact, lives, of the entire group. As the plans

were made, he told me he wanted to send Susie and our two children with Alice. At first he wanted me to escort them on the trip, but later decided that I would not. The small pickup was loaded with whatever items they were to take with them. I kissed Susie and our children good-by, and they were on their way. It was a very emotional scene from Jeff. In times past, he would shed tears while recounting an experience or revelation of some sort to us. However, this night he wept bitterly and continually at their departure. He also promised me that I would be back with my family in no more than two weeks, although more than twice that time would elapse before I would see them again. We had been through so much, and even though integrated into the group as a whole, we were always together. As each day passed, I missed them more.

With the loss of the Suburban and the Plymouth, our sources of travel were greatly decreased. And now that the pickup was gone too, the only vehicle we had left was the two-seated Honda, but a hatchback area allowed for cramped travel of two more. By this time, we had long been told that our money situation was worsening. I never knew how much money we actually had, nor really even saw any, other than small sums given to me for errands from time to time. Jeff had apparently been selling off personal effects, due to our sin. So Jeff was sacrificing his things (bought with our money) in order to care for and feed us. Jeff and Alice had taken items to a flea market in Elkins a couple of times. I recall spending a few hours there myself one day, as I was taken along to run some other errands. It was at this flea market that the gun that Jeff used to kill the Avery family was sold. Jeff may have deluded himself to the point of thinking otherwise, but I believe he took these precautions for the purpose of concealing forensic evidence. It also clearly demonstrates his innate lack of confidence toward divine intervention. Losing weapons was a major offense to Jeff. Therefore, the selling of this one and others had to be due to our sin. During this process of selling things, Jeff met a man who offered cash payment for some work he needed done. Only a few days after Alice left with Susie and the kids, Jeff made the arrangements and four of us were able to work a few days removing some large trees that had already been cut down. The man was a caretaker for a number of summer homes by a manmade lake. The level of the lake would be reduced through the winter season, and a number of floating docks extending from the lakeshore property needed to be brought ashore and stored. Jeff had already instructed us to accept additional work, so, when approached to do more, we said we would. After a day or two, Jeff went to town and called Alice to ensure they had made it safely to her parent's house. She and Susie, along with the all the children, stayed in Mack's Creek, Missouri, until other plans could be made.

It was here that Alice reported back to us of intercepting a call where the caller thought he was speaking to Alice's mother, and so Alice found out who had been in the helicopter that day. She also filled Jeff in on what some of our family members around the area had been saying and the concerns they had. They had made it back to Missouri, but only barely, as they had very little



money and only overdrawn credit cards with which to make the trip. Susie and I were allowed to talk for about two or three minutes once, when Jeff called Alice (which was daily). Over the four or five week period apart, this was all the communication we had. As an attempt to drive Susie and I further apart, it would fail, but it wasn't due to a lack of effort on Jeff's part. Despite our extremely deluded thinking and sheer wickedness of our actions, Susie and I never diverted our eyes from one another by way of our affections. This seemed to be the approach through which Jeff managed to sway some of the other women. He would use his position of authority along with the humiliation of husbands to exert power with affection. Some of the women confused these emotions. Jeff promised my family and I we would be together again within two weeks, but when the time came, I was told I would have to stay at the camp. Nevertheless, Jeff told me that I could write a letter that he would deliver when he returned. Imagine needing permission to write a letter to one's spouse. My letter never made it to Susie, nor did I ever receive the one she had written to me. Apparently, the seer wasn't capable as a mailman. I have little doubt that the letters were read—just not by Susie or me.

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DURING THE FIRST WEEK AFTER ALICE AND SUSIE LEFT, Jeff took Greg and Kathy into town with him to buy groceries and search for a buyer for the horses which had still not been sold. While they were gone, the same helicopter came back that had previously hovered around the camp. As Alice had the truck with her in Missouri and Jeff was gone with the Honda, they probably wondered where all the vehicles were. The women who were in the camp went about their chores as usual, but most of the men stayed hidden as they were in battle gear and had been told to remain unseen. When Jeff returned and received a report of what had happened, he decided that we needed to split up the camp. I think Jeff wanted to put a little distance between himself and the most likely place for authorities to appear—but the reason he gave was to intensify the preparation of his three witnesses. His plan was that he would take me, Damon, Greg, and Greg's wife Debbie, deeper into the woods in order to expedite our readiness to get the records. Time was running out and we needed to be ready. But Jeff also had another plan in mind which involved bringing along one other person—Kathy. He said he wanted to talk to me, so I walked with him and Greg back to the car. It was clear Greg already knew what he was about to tell me, as he explained how he had done a lot of soul searching. That statement was a new one to me. Up to now, if it wasn't strictly by division, it didn't exist. However, he also went on to tell me of how he had divided a number of passages concerning David and Bathsheba, and had discovered that Kathy was his Bathsheba. Apparently, he had framed most of this at quite an earlier point. Later Tonya would speak of how he had approached the same topic with her, but then used the "enlarge his tent" issue to confront the group with it. Most of what he said had been covered in previ-

ous classes, and continued to work under the guise of the “key of David” (Revelation 3:7). As he explained, Kathy really wasn’t Keith’s wife but in fact, was really Jeff’s wife. If he’d forgotten the earlier incident when he assured Keith and me that our wives were truly our wives, we hadn’t. Would I accept or reject this new plan? I had noticed that Kathy was spending more time with Jeff than with Keith, even before Alice left. Therefore, this revelation did not come altogether as a shock to me. Apparently, Alice was aware of Jeff’s plans for Kathy, which explains why Alice was so jealous of her. Why this jealousy didn’t seem to be as strong where Tonya was concerned is something only Alice could answer.

Keith and Kathy had over twelve years of marriage together and four sons. Yet, by the time Jeff was finished defining the situation Keith had been living in, the four boys were illegitimate. Jeff destroyed what had once been a happy family, living together on a Missouri farm until they got the call to go to “the Ohio.” If I rejected the precept of Kathy as Jeff’s wife, I would be rejecting its source (Jeff, as seer) and to reject its source was to reject all that he had ever taught. So much had happened and five people had been killed. How could I reject his teachings now? Keith was faced with the issue at gunpoint. The plans to split camp were carried out in such a way as to pile all the weapons each of us had onto the table. With the other men surrounding the table, Keith was unarmed in the event he decided to retaliate. Whether or not he would have, if able, is not the point I wish to make here. The point is more to the effect that Keith very nearly died that night, just as Dennis Patrick’s life had long been under threat before that. Yet Keith did not leave. Whatever gear Jeff planned to take deeper into the woods to a new campsite was gathered onto the ATV and trailer and the remainder had to be hand carried. I don’t recall any sort of watch being posted on Keith as we left for the new campsite. Though he had his four boys with him, he never left camp. He reminded Jeff how assured he was that Kathy really was his (Keith’s) wife and asked Jeff how he was ever supposed to continue to believe him. At this, Jeff told him that he simply was going to have to. Though every fiber of Keith’s being was surely screaming out that this was all a lie, I’m just as certain that his mind was saying it was true. Jeff moved us to an area up river that he had spoken of before where he knew of a hunting cabin.

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THE MOVE TO THE NEW LOCATION WAS MISERABLE. It had been raining earlier that evening and continued through most of the night. Like a king with his new queen, Jeff rode off in the ATV with Kathy nestled closely behind him. The rest of us followed along carrying what we could, while keeping the overloaded trailer intact. We were instructed that no artillery should be found at the main camp, so what we didn’t take with us to the cabin area was to be wrapped and hidden per instruction from Jeff to Danny. The camp was to appear completely passive in the event authorities came to question or search.

The cabin was in need of cleaning and as we had no idea whether the hunters who owned it would show up, we slept in our tents as usual—well, not quite as usual. We only brought two tents to this location. Jeff and Kathy slept in one tent while four of us slept in the second. However, we did use the cabin for storing food supplies and a few guns which we had brought with us. The next morning finally arrived after a long rainy night. After breakfast, Jeff received a report from the other camp. I recall it was Dennis who brought the message that Keith had spent the night dividing the word and had concluded that Jeff was in error. He also concluded that Jeff needed to repent of what he had done in taking Kathy. What adds to the pathos is that even then, it never occurred to Keith that Jeff was really not a seer, and that the “pattern” was merely a word game. Any confrontation on the matter, based upon those terms alone was a lost battle from the start. Jeff set a time to meet with Keith at a location between the two camps. This was done and Keith explained what he had divided. Jeff wasn’t the least bit interested, but rather told Keith that he was in violation of “counseling” and that he had a choice of either repenting or dying. Keith repented. I know that most of the men present, myself included, would have killed, if so commanded. Death is a hideous and repulsive thing to me and the last thing I wanted was to perform it again that day. All I seemed to know evolved around whatever Jeff taught. Having repented, Keith was re-accepted by each of us as one of the brethren. But complete trust did not exist within Jeff, so he had Keith and his boys moved to the previous campsite. This raised a lot of tough questions from Keith’s sons about why their mother wasn’t staying in their tent anymore. Keith was instructed to tell them just what Jeff had told him—that their mother was really Jeff’s wife. Another tough question, which I hope Kathy will someday face, is why she had no problem with the serious possibility that the husband and the father of her four boys could have been killed. I’ve faced many similar questions as to my own involvement and have found some answers. With the exception of Tonya, Kathy is the only woman of the group that was never incarcerated, yet she’s the only one that still believes in Jeff as the seer. If she finally breaks free, the reality of her deception and abuse may be overwhelming. Some people remain as casualties in various ways, for the rest of their lives. Therefore, although she’s “free,” she is yet more of a slave than any of us.

As with the previous night, we left a few of the guns in the cabin. This gave us more room in the tent and the guns were kept drier. But in the pre-dawn hours, we awoke to the sound of a truck pulling in and Jeff yelling to us. The hunters who owned the cabin had come to clean it and check out the area for the approaching fall hunting season. Our guns were in the back room, so while they were loading their supplies through the front door, Damon and I were passing the guns out the back window to Greg. They didn’t seem to mind that we had stored our food supplies in the cabin, but Jeff didn’t feel it would be wise to let them see the guns. However, the quantity of ammunition we had might have been more alarming than the few guns we had. It was only

a weekend venture for them, so they weren't there long, but by the next weekend, we had moved once more to avoid contact with them a second time.

This was supposed to have been a time for expediting the readiness of Jeff's witnesses. But even the standards of preparation that had been typical of us were not met. There was always class, and usually sessions for chastisement of sin. But Jeff didn't appear as involved as in the past. Actually, he was quite involved, but only with his new "wife," Kathy. They seldom left the tent. During this time, Jeff told me to prepare a class. I prepared a division and then went through it with the others. Jeff was present to ensure I taught nothing varying from that which he had taught, but by this time he no longer really seemed to care. As he had taken Kathy as a second wife, the topic of a duality of wives had to be taught again at this time, and was. I taught a class on this myself, though it was outlined by Jeff. Actually, I guess everything was outlined by Jeff in our thinking, anyway.

It's easy to sit in judgment, but I never had any desire for another wife. No matter what it is, if temperance is not applied, it soon loses its value and ceases to be precious. What was precious to me, in the form of the relationship Susie and I had, was now being labeled as sin. All men of God were to have two wives. This was the great "mystery" that Jeff was revealing to us. This meant that the relationship I had with Susie would eventually have to be shared. This all worked as a means to drive a wedge between Susie and me, in that she was quite likely his next target if time would have allowed. The destruction of these types of relationships is the power that people like Jeff feed on. He had already retracted his assurance to Keith that Kathy was truly Keith's "flesh of his flesh." It would have been "supposing" to consider that he might do the same to me. My mind no longer seemed capable of individual thought.

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DURING THIS WEEK AND INTO THE NEXT, we worked for the caretaker I mentioned earlier. Jeff had promised me that I would be back with my family at the end of two weeks, but his promises were no more truthful than his prophecies. Kathy called her brother in Missouri and he was very happy to hear from her. She called to see if he would be interested in buying the horses, or knew of anyone else who would. He was interested in the horses, but was also very interested in us. Due to our disappearance, all our various families had become deeply concerned. His church congregation had pooled a little money to help us out in the event any contact was made. He had gone on to say that there were people willing to open up their homes to us and perhaps even offer us some employment. Jeff perceived this information as an open door invitation and made plans to go to Missouri.

He decided to take Damon with him to help deal with Alice. He was planning to tell her that he had another wife. He knew things would get worse, but he didn't tell her that this new wife was Kathy, although she must cer-

tainly have suspected it. When he told her about it, he made it sound like a new revelation and that he didn't know yet who this woman was. Since the three of them, Jeff, Kathy and Damon, were traveling in the Honda, there was no room for me. Jeff told me he needed me to stay back at the camp anyway. We moved the two camps together prior to their departure. Jeff told me what time to expect his call at a certain pay phone in town each day. He also gave me "permission" to write the letter to Susie, mentioned earlier. Jeff never gave the letter to her, nor did he give me the one she wrote. In fact, I never even had her address, much less a stamp with which to mail a letter myself. But then, the thought to do so never entered my mind.

The trip took them a few days. Plans had been made to work for the caretaker one last day, but as I had been given instructions to stay at camp, Dennis went in my place. We had no money, so that day's earnings would have to supply us. I was going to shoot a deer so we'd have some meat, but I never saw one. I also spent time with Keith, trying to help him understand how Kathy was no longer his wife. But since I didn't really understand it myself, I wasn't of much help to him. The anguish wore heavily upon him. Damon stayed in Missouri with Alice upon Jeff's return. Kathy stayed with her brother on this trip, so Alice never knew that she had accompanied Jeff and Damon to Missouri. Because Jeff had to tell Alice about this new "dual wife" principle, Susie became aware of it, too. Her anxiety over it was no different than mine had been over the claim of "wife" that Jeff had on her due to the dance. It was all such a sickening "reality." The "god of Israel" was beginning to appear ferociously demanding. Yet, this gave a whole new dimension to the increasingly repugnant view that we were being shown. I felt myself to be far beyond the point of no return.

Upon Jeff and Kathy's return to camp, we received the bad news. Jeff had met with Kathy's brother and a number of people from his church. Whether Jeff shared his "doctrine" too freely with them, or due to his having been "god" for so long that his demeanor expressed blatant evil, I don't know, but they rejected him and his teachings. As an addict becomes accustomed to a specific drug, needing continually larger doses, in much the same way, Jeff had become "accustomed" to the power he had exercised over us in this isolated wilderness setting. Perhaps the signs of his "addiction" were what helped in the rejection of him. He had been entrapping the minds of followers for at least five years before the church in Kirtland relieved him of his duties of running the Visitor's Center and teaching Sunday School. It's too bad we are not equipped with some type of false teacher alarm that responds in the presence of people such as Jeff. The Holy Spirit directs us to all truth (John 16:13). But only then, to the extent that our view of God's Word is not based upon the precepts of man (Isaiah 29:13). Unfortunately, we all tend to believe that our own view of the truth *is* truth. Yet this is seldom the case, and only sincere humility can reveal any fallacy of our view to God's throne. For me, the view has admittedly been densely obscured.

I HANDED OVER TO JEFF the remainder of the last day's wages that the other men had earned. But it wasn't enough to last very long, and I'm fairly confident Jeff had more money hidden somewhere. Eventually, the time would come when we would have to break camp and move all our supplies out to the main road. Everything we moved to the camp had been taken the long way around, in order not to create a trail to the camp that others might follow from the main road. When we first made the move there I doubt any of us but Jeff knew how close to the main road we really were; as it was, only about a quarter of a mile. Then again, the "road" was not much more than a dirt trail itself. In preparation to leave, Jeff had us make a trail out to the area where we had parked the cars. Once this was done, one of the tents was set up near the parking area and we began moving things into it.

Alice was not handling the duality principle well. Jeff called Alice every day in order to maintain some degree of control, yet it wasn't working. Susie, on the other hand, had no communication from or to me. Even though she was equally disturbed by this latest doctrine, her greater fear was rebellion. The point here is that both women were dealing with the same issue, yet Alice was uncontrollable because she knew Jeff was a fraud. Susie held up through it all without any help or assurances because she was still subject to the ongoing behavior control and abuse. About two weeks after Jeff's return, he said another trip to Missouri was necessary. This time he took me with him. His kingdom had begun to topple. Like ripples upon a still surface of water, his lies, as well as his people, had begun to spread beyond his control.