

The Right Time for Marriage Part 3

The Instruction of God to Jeremiah in Pertain to Marriage

“1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, 2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place. 3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; 4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcases shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. 5 For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies. 6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them: 7 Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother. 8 Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink. 9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride. 10 And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God? 11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; 12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me: 13 Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour. 14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. 16 Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. 17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. 18 And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcases of their detestable and abominable things. 19 O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. 20 Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods? 21 Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD.” (Jeremiah 16:1-21 KJV)

Another important lesson the Word of God is giving to us from *Jeremiah 16* and is directing us in the matter of marriage and the preparation for Godly marriage. The Lord instructed Jeremiah, *“Thou shalt not take thee a wife.” (Jeremiah 16:2 KJV)* Not because it was unlawful; for it was lawful for prophets to marry, and they did; but because it was not advisable, on account of the calamities and distresses which were coming upon the nation of Israel; it would be more bearable for Jeremiah to be alone, than if he had a wife, which would increase his care, concern, and sorrow. The Lord also instructed him not to have children, *“Neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.” (Jeremiah 16:2 KJV)* The purpose of marriage is to have Godly children. If the circumstances are not suitable for that then it is ungodly to marry and end up with ungodly children. So in times of calamities, wars, and distresses, in times of terrible and dreadful poverty and scarcity, and in times of plagues and pandemics, it is not the time to get married and not the time to have children because you will neither have the resources nor be able to raise them in the fear of God.

God forbade Jeremiah to marry at that time and in that place, as He told him, *“in this place”*, which he meant with, either in his city, Anathoth or in Jerusalem or the whole land of Judah. So here clearly God’s restriction for Jeremiah not to marry was linked to the bad situations that the land of Judah was passing through and sure if Jeremiah was in other place God would not tell him such. When you are in a place where the situations are bad and there is neither stability nor settlements in it then it is not advisable for you to get involved in marriage and have children while you still in that place, unless the situations will be changed or God shall lead you or take you and move you to other places where God had prepared a proper partner for you.

God further warned Jeremiah with the following: *“3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; 4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcases shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.” (Jeremiah 16:3-4)* God’s warning here to Jeremiah was clear that death will be the outcome for the children, the sons and the daughters that will be born in that places, as well as death will reach their mothers who bare them and their fathers who begot them. When such an outcome is possible then heed the voice of God and listen to His instruction of His Word and abide to avoid falling into troubles in the coming future.

* The command of God to Jeremiah not to marry might looks a strange thing, but God had reasons to say that, therefore this Scripture of *Jeremiah 16* is not a strange matter, but the grace of God to us so we can understand the time that man passing through in a better way. * Though nothing is more desirable than to build up the family and to have children, to bear and continue the man’s name in the future, yet in times of public calamity, the family will add afflictions, and will not yield Godly children, because they will be corrupted with the huge bad influences of the people around them.

God also said to Jeremiah the following: *“5 For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies. 6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them: 7 Neither shall men tear*

themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother. 8 Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink. 9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.” (Jeremiah 16:5-9 KJV) God commanded Jeremiah not to go to any house of those who mourn for the dead because God will take away his peace, mercy and the loving kindness from the people for God will be the one who will allow death in the land for all, small and big and will not let them be buried and will not allow people to lament them nor mourn for them nor to comfort those who lost their loved ones. Also God commanded him not to go to the house of feasting because He will be the one to cut gladness from the land even the voices of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride because God was punishing all of them for the widespread idol worship that they were doing in the land, *“10 And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God? 11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; 12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:” (Jeremiah 16:10-12 KJV)* So it was very clear the voice of God to Jeremiah not to marry in that place, and if he would go and disobey God then it will be very grievous to him and God will discipline him and allow all those troubles that He mentioned to come on him.

We are aware that Jeremiah was allowed and given the option from the king of Babylon to stay in the land of Judah as he wished, but after he was granted that he was forcefully taken to Egypt by the remnant of the Israelites who left in the land after the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and Judah. Such an incident might explain to us why God told to Jeremiah not to marry, for God knows the future, because if he had married then bad things would be happening to his marriage, to his wife and to his children when he was forced to go down to Egypt. *Therefore heed the warning of God and wait for his timing because you don't know the future and what will take place but God knows and He wants to protect you so heed the instruction of God and His Word.* There are some Scriptures that narrate the activities of Jeremiah there in Egypt, and it confirmed also that the situation there was bad as we can read here:

“7 So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: thus came they even to Tahpanhes. 8 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, 9 Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah; 10 And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them. 11 And when he cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt, and deliver such as are for death to death; and such as are for captivity to captivity; and such as are for the sword to the sword. 12 And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captives: and he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace. 13 He shall break also

the images of Bethshemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire.” (Jeremiah 43:7-13 KJV) *“12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach. 13 For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: 14 So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.” (Jeremiah 44:12-14 KJV)* *“26 Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth. 27 Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them. 28 Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or their's. 29 And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil: 30 Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give Pharaohhophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.” (Jeremiah 44:26-30 KJV)*

Although history does not supply us beyond that and what had happened to Jeremiah and how his life was ended, but based on the available Scriptures we suppose that Jeremiah did not marry either in the land of Judah or in Egypt in obedience to God's instructions to him and for his own benefit.

At the time of Jeremiah the people of God were indulging in idol worship and had departed much from the Word of God and the ways of the Lord; their fathers and their children had departed from God and indulged in idol worship and idol practices: *“11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; 12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:” (Jeremiah 16:11-12 KJV)* The fathers with their children forsook the Lord and did all the evil things that God hates, and they went after the imaginations of their hearts, after their ambitions and will, and did all that contradict the Word of God and the will of God. Although God had blessed them much they used the blessings of God to spend on their own plans, wishes, and desires. Jeremiah noticed all that and he agreed with God when he wrote, *“20 Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?” (Jeremiah 16:20 KJV)*

My Dear and Beloved: Reflect on the message as we discussed the instructions of God to Jeremiah in pertain to marriage and apply in your life: *First*, give your heart and your life to God and come out from all the idol worship, the feasts and food offered to idols, the immoralities and the traditional and the cultural practices that contradict the Word of God

which you inherited from your parents and from the society of the people around you. *Second*, surrender your life and your will to God. *Third*, listen to Him and follow His will and His plan for you in your life and be willing to abide with His instruction. *Forth*, wait upon God and be patient until He come and accomplish what He promised you.

Come now to God and be willing to agree with God and stand with Him to declare His Word and His will to the people who are around you and be a good example to them by following His Word and doing His will. **Let us pray ...**

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that gives me clear warning to come out from sin and idol worship and not to conform to the pattern of this world and to follow your good plan for me in pertain to marriage.*

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your worldliness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce the fear of man. Confess and renounce your idols and your taking part in the feasts offered to idols and the worldly traditional practices that contradict the Word of God. Confess and renounce your lust and immoralities. Confess and renounce that you are insisting in doing your own will and plan in your life and not the will and the plan of God. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I surrender my life and my will to you. Lord lead me in the good plan that you have for me especially in pertain to marriage. Lord deliver me from the temptation of the evil one. Lord I commit my life to serve you and to suffer for your cause and purpose. Lord use me as an instrument in your hand to do your plan and to be a good example to others to follow.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and come out from their idol worship and surrendered their lives and will to you. Lord continue to give them patience and self-control to go along your plan and your will. Lord provide for them and preserve them and use their lives as good testimony to others to follow you.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to teach your people your Word and to prepare those singles among them for Godly marriages. Lord prepare us for your second coming, so when you come we are ready to go with you to Heaven. Lord I pray for more Godly marriages and more Godly families to be formed in our church. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to reach all the members, workers, congregations, the families of the church, and others who need your Word. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Right Time for Marriage Part 3. The Instruction of God to Jeremiah in Pertain to Marriage. Ecclesiastes 3:1. Jeremiah 16:1-21. Jeremiah 43:7-13, Jeremiah 44:12-14, 26-30.

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