

## Violations in the Office of Marriage Part 8

### Marrying with Non Believers

We continue to discuss in this message the violations in the office of marriage

**G. God warned them not to intermarry with non-believers:** We continue in this message to speak about the violations in the office of marriage and in certain not to intermarry with non-believers.

**B. The marriage of Judah to a Canaanitish woman:** “1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her. 3 And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er. 4 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan. 5 And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah: and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.” (Genesis 38:1-5 KJV) The story said, “that Judah went down from his brethren.” (Genesis 38:1 KJV) The Hebrew Word for ‘went down’ is ‘Yarad’, and the meaning of it is to sink or to bring down. The moving away of Judah from his brothers was a down descend and deterioration in his spiritual status that caused him to be trapped in a marriage with a Canaanites woman. Judah’s friendship with a non-believer, Hirah the Adullamites, is a good factor for him to be deceived and got attracted to marry that woman. The Hebrew meaning for Hirah is ‘noble family’. **Friendship with non-believers sometimes the people of God do because they are attracted to the fame to which these people belong to. However, whatever the fame of their families and background, the Lord does not want us to be yoked with them for the bad effects they will impart to us.**

The name of that woman was Shuah which means ‘wealth’. It might be that woman was wealthy and Judah was deceived with her wealth and married her. **Many are deceived with worldly wealth and go ahead and yoked themselves with marriages that ultimately will bring turmoil in their lives. Such kinds of marriages will bring the individual and even the church to sink in a valley of darkness and troubles.** Judah had three sons from that woman, Er, Onan and Shelah, and God slew two of them because of their wickedness, “6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar. 7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him. 8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. 9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. 10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also. 11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.” (Genesis 38:6-11 KJV) The Hebrew meaning for Er is ‘awake’. The Hebrew meaning for Onan, is ‘strong’, and the Hebrew meaning for Shelah is a ‘petition’. It sounds like good names, but still, God will not bless deeds that do not go along with His Word and His will. **Many who marry in such a shameful way and give good Christians names for their children and from the Bible, but the Lord shall not bless such attempts. God cannot be mocked with such behaviors. He is not a God of emotion, but He is a God who is watching for His Word to be fulfilled.**

**C. The marriage of Simeon to a Canaanitish woman:** “15 And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman: these are the families of Simeon.” (Exodus 6:15 KJV) Simeon got his son Shaul from that marriage. **The Scripture is particular to bring up to the surface the wrong thing that the people of God did to warn us not to do the same.** Simeon married that woman, very probably after the death of his first wife, by whom he had these five sons “**Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin,**” or she was his concubine.

According to one commentary this Shaul was Zimri, who did that evil deed with the Midianitish woman at Shittim, “14 Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.” (Numbers 25:14 KJV) But this possibility is far to be correct because the distance of time will not admit to it. **But the point here is that when there is wrongdoing in marriage then any wrong outcome will be related to such marriages. Even with the far time distance to believe that Shual was the same Zimri, such marriage with a non-believer, as what Simeon did, can bring the same evil outcome of what Numbers 25 narrates to us.**

**D. King Solomon in marrying many women of nations whom the Lord had forbidden his people to intermarry with them:** “1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: 2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. 7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. 9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. 11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. 12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. 13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.” (1 Kings 11:1-13 KJV) The Word of God says, “**and his wives turned away his heart.**” (1 Kings 11:3 KJV) **So any marriage as such with a non-believer partner will turn the heart of the person away from God. Some people say I am strong and I will not forget God. However, such marriages are a clear sign of departure from God and His Word and commands.** The Hebrew Word used for ‘turn away’ in verse 3 is ‘Natah’, which means to stretch and turn aside. Exactly as a car that is moving in a certain street and suddenly when it faces ditch or something blocking its way it needs suddenly to turn away. The multiple

marriages that Solomon did in his life with women that God had prohibited them to marry turned away his heart toward their idols and gods, ***“4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.” (1 Kings 11:4 KJV)*** They were the hindrances between him and God and ultimately made his heart imperfect; that he failed to do his responsibilities toward God. Notice here what the Scriptures says, ***“when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods,”*** here the Word of God linked the turning of the heart of Solomon with his old age. **This point is important. When a man is strong at his young age, he can control better the affair of life and the people whom he is dealing with. But when he is old and his strength had gone and became weak, then it will be more difficult for him to control the influence of others and the pulling factors that those around him do upon him. So marrying non-believers, in old age can bring more bad influence on the life and the heart of the believer.**

***“5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.” (1 Kings 11:5 KJV)*** The meaning of Ashtoreth is ‘star’, the principal female deity of the Phoenicians worshipped in war and fertility. Ashtoreth is also known as: Asherah, Ashtoreth, Ashtaroth, Ishtar, Astarte, Ashtoret, Ashtarot, Astartu, Uni-Astre, Ashtart, Athtart, or the queen of heaven, is the same god that the people worshipped at the time of Jeremiah, ***“25 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.” (Jeremiah 44:25 KJV)***

Ashtoreth is frequently associated with the name of Baal, the sun-god, their chief male deity, and with both the children of Israel got infected with. ***“6 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him.” (Judges 10:6 KJV)*** ***“4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.” (1 Samuel 7:4 KJV)*** ***“10 And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.” (1 Samuel 12:10 KJV)***

***“5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.” (1 Kings 11:5 KJV)*** The Hebrew meaning of Milcom is ‘great king’. Milcom was the god of the Ammonites. It is mentioned also in other places in the Scriptures; as at the time that was removed by King Josiah, ***“13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.” (2 Kings 23:13 KJV)***

***“7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab.” (1 Kings 11:7 KJV)*** The Hebrew meaning of Chemosh is ‘subduer’, and it is the national deity of the Moabites and a god of the Ammonites. It was also identified with Baal-peor, Baal-zebub, Mars, and Saturn.

These three gods, Ashtoreth, Milcom, and Chemosh, Solomon introduced for worship into Jerusalem and honored them to honor his wives by building high places for them. These high places remained and the people continued to worship in them till they were destroyed by King Josiah, approximately after 358 years from the death of Solomon, ***“13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.” (2 Kings 23:13 KJV)*** So we can see now, what are the grievous effects of such marriages that God forbid because it dishonors Him and brings death and destruction into the family, into God’s church, and to God’s people and over several generations. Careless marriages with a lack of preparation, lack of understanding, and wrong matching can bring disasters over the years. Therefore, we need to be careful and understand what God’s will is, before we embark ourselves and bless marriages not ordained of God.

King Josiah exactly did what God instructed Him to do in the law of Moses, ***“1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: 3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. 4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. 5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. 6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” (Deuteronomy 7:1-6 KJV)*** **The church today is in front of a great challenge to reform the office of marriage. The church needs to go back to God’s Word and start to correct the wrong principles the people following today and had introduced and infected the church. The church should implement what God speaks in His Word about marriage.**

King Solomon his first wife was an Egyptian woman, and this is what the Lord said to His people about the Egyptians, ***“7 Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land. 8 The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the LORD in their third generation.” (Deuteronomy 23:7-8 KJV)*** So King Solomon and all the people and priests with him knew that the children who are to be born to Solomon from his Egyptian wife will not be allowed to enter into the congregation of the Lord till the third generation. So Solomon was the king, and after him, one of his sons should be in his stead to lead the people of God. So with such a marriage, there will be no one Godly to lead in the next generation the people of God.

King Solomon marriage with the Egyptian woman was not pleasant to God; he knew that his Egyptian’s wife will bring defilement to the ark of God, ***“11 And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her:***



for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come." (2 Chronicles 8:11 KJV) The question now is this: Why no one was there to tell him not to do that? Or it became a light thing for them to break the Word of God and to let it go as if it was not written for them to read and follow?

Moreover, regarding his marriages with the Ammonites and the Moabites, this is what the Word of God states about them: "3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever: 4 Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. 5 Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee. 6 Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever." (Deuteronomy 23:3-6 KJV) Rehoboam his mother was an Ammonitess, "13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess." (2 Chronicles 12:13 KJV) If they would follow God's Word, then he should not be the King over Israel. Notice how it was light to them to break the Word of God, either out of defiance, or ignorantly, or in compromises, or underestimation due to their tolerance and insensitivity to sin that God's Word shuns.

Someone may ask, 'How about Ruth?' Ruth before she came back with Naomi accepted the God of Naomi and entered the land as a believer in the God of Israel. Ruth did not come back with Naomi seeking marriage but seeking the God of Israel and willing to suffer and do His will, as it is very clearly stated here, "15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. 16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her. 19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?" (Ruth 1:15-19 KJV)

Let us read this Scripture of how to describe marrying a captive woman from the enemies that God gave into the hand of the Israelites: "10 When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the LORD thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive, 11 And seest among the captives a beautiful woman, and hast a desire unto her, that thou wouldest have her to thy wife; 12 Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house, and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails; 13 And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife." (Deuteronomy 21:10-13 KJV) Here the illegibility of the captive women from the enemies of the Israelites God allowed it to happen after the annihilation of her people, and the death of her father and mother. So here the woman had left without father or mother and no family to rely on or to live after. So, here after her marriage cannot pull her

husband to her old religion, and she will not be able to turn his heart to her previous idol worship. Shaving the hair and paring the nails was her subjection to the new life that is called to live, and in the new place that she was called to stay. She will be given one month to adjust and to adapt to the new life and the new atmosphere, and after that, she will be the wife of the man who brought her into his house. So here marrying a non-believer woman is permitted when the woman had taken out from her old life and had been alienated from her old life, atmosphere, and religion.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Let us heed the warning that we received from the Word of God about not to marry or approve marriages with non believers. Such will bring the wrath of God on us and He will take His blessings from us. Let us commit ourselves as a church and as individuals to refrain from such and so we secure a peaceful life and the good future for the next generation. 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 warning and the correction that we received from your Word.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your approval for marrying with non believer. Confess your marriage with a non believer. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with many friends and your bondage with the world, the Media and the material things. Confess and renounce your lust and immoralities. Confess and renounce your compromises and all the sinful practices and the idols of the world and their feasts that had entered God's churches and you are practicing. Confess and renounce doing your own will and not the will of God. Confess and renounce your tolerance to various sins and your non willingness to serve God as He ordained in His Word and your non willingness to suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to go against marrying with non believers, and to teach your people the dangers and the bad outcome of such. Lord I commit myself to move away from any form of idol worship and the feasts of this world. Lord I commit myself to serve you and do your will and live my life for you. Lord strengthen me and provide my needs and give me good health to continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves and are willing to live their lives according to your Word and your will. Lord use them and their testimonies to attract others to you. Lord lead them to the places that they need to go and use them to bring people out from the darkness into your light.

Lord help us as your church and sustain us to continue to teach and implement your Word and your will in preparing people for Godly marriages. Lord deliver people from the power of darkness. Lord protect us from persecution. We come against all the works of the devil and demons, and we rebuke them all in the name of Jesus. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord help us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. 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 communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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