

## ***Violations in the Office of Marriage Part 9***

### ***Marrying with Non Believers***

### ***The Reformations of Nehemiah***

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 pertain not to intermarry with non-believers.

Speaking about marrying from the nations that God forbade the Israelites to marry from, Nehemiah similarly spoke about Solomon and how his heart was turned away from His God, through marriages with strange wives that God forbade him to marry. Earlier in *Nehemiah 13* the following written about the Moabites and Ammonites, ***“1 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever; 2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. 3 Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.” (Nehemiah 13:1-3 KJV)*** The people of God at that time were under a vibrant leader who was not willing to compromise; therefore they excluded from their assembly those whom God ordained for them to be excluded. Nehemiah also thrust out Tobiah from the chamber in the house of God, ***“4 And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: 5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests. 6 But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king: 7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. 8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff to Tobiah out of the chamber. 9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.” (Nehemiah 13:4-9 KJV)*** Tobiah was cast out from the temple of God and treated in such a way because he was an Ammonite, and also was among those with Sanballat who opposed the rebuilding of Jerusalem, ***“10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?” (Nehemiah 2:10, 19 KJV)*** Such a leadership like Nehemiah is needed now to clean the church today from the abominable practices and unlawful marriages.

The chaos that we see today in God’s churches also the same happened in the past and God raised leaders to cleanse His church properly. Even today, God would raise leaders to deal with sin radically and uproot all the roots cause of such wickedness and defilement.

Later in *Nehemiah 13*, Nehemiah brought to remembrance what the wrong marriages of Solomon had brought havoc to Solomon’s life and the worship in Jerusalem. Nehemiah based on those bad experiences from Solomon’s marriages, waged a campaign of reformation when he found unlawful marriages with wrong matches, with strange wives that had chosen from the nations God had forbidden his people to intermarry with. ***“23 In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: 24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. 25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. 27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives? 28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites. 30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business.” (Nehemiah 13:23-30 KJV)*** Wrong marriages and yoking with non-believers result in children who do not know God and do not know His Word. Such children when they are included in the church with their non-believer father or mother, sure they will introduce foreign gods and idols, and cause the church sooner or later to drift away from God and start to worship idols as had happened to the Kingdom of God through the wrong marriages of Solomon.

After the death of Solomon God brought division and removed ten tribes from Judah as disciplinary action to what Solomon performed and gave them to his official, Jeroboam, as we can read here, ***“26 And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king. 27 And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father. 28 And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. 29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: 30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces: 31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: 32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:) 33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father. 34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes: 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes. 36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light***

*always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. 37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.” (1 Kings 11:26-37 KJV)*

The persistent of Israel and Judah in idol worship was the reason for God to thrush them from His presence and sent them in exile to Assyria and Babylon, “**9 And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. 10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: 11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: 12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. 13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. 14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. 15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. 16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. 17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. 18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. 19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. 20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.” (2 King 17:9-20 KJV)** The Israelites were sent to Assyria and were not restored. The people of Judah were sent to Babylon and stayed there seventy years, and were brought back to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was the one who rebuilt the wall around the city of Jerusalem, and when he finished the rebuilding of the wall, he put the gates and dedicated the wall to God. Therefore when he found out about the issue of the unlawful marriages with foreign wives, he concluded that idols and idol worship will follow and will be introduced once again into Jerusalem as was introduced during Solomon’s life through his marriages with strange women. Therefore Nehemiah rose up and made an end to that. He was furious with them for he saw the destruction that will come upon the city of Jerusalem because of these marriages with strange wives.

Nehemiah did the following reforms in pertain to these unlawful marriages:

**1. Nehemiah contended with them:** He faced them with their sins he rebuked them, proclaimed to them the curses that they will receive in disobeying God in marrying such women. Nehemiah even smote some of them, pulled their hair, and made them swear that they should not do that again, “**25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall**

**not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.” (Nehemiah 13:25 KJV)** Unlawful marriages should be faced and dealt with. Those who do such should be receiving a rebuke from the church and explained to them the bad consequences that they will receive from such marriages. They are not destroying their own lives, but they are destroying the church that God had placed them in.

**2. Nehemiah taught them the Word of God:** Nehemiah explained to them their sins from God’s Word, “**26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. 27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?” (Nehemiah 13:26-27 KJV)** When we deal with unlawful marriages we should use the Word of God and explain the Scriptures properly in executing the discipline needed.

**3. Nehemiah removed workers and drove them away from him who did such shameful things:** “**28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.” (Nehemiah 13:28-29 KJV)** We need to deal with those who sin and take them away from the ministry they are doing. They are bad examples to others and they should not be allowed to do any ministry unless they show real repentance, accompanied by appropriate actions, and with full realization of their sins.

**4. Nehemiah cleansed them from the strange wives and their children and put things in order in God’s temple:** “**30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business.” (Nehemiah 13:30 KJV)** In the same way, after we cleanse the members from unlawful marriages, we should put back principles in order in God’s church in the way that God would be glorified and His Word to be honored.

Previous to that, after they rebuilt the wall and set the gates, the people of God came to a written agreement that contained various commitments to bring the reformations that God declared in His Word, and one of these points is the commitment not to intermarry with the people of the land, “**30 And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, not take their daughters for our sons.” (Nehemiah 10:30 KJV)** So when the issue of the strange wives was discovered, the people’s mind was prepared to the action that the leaders of God’s people will be going to take.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Let us now heed the warning that we received in this message about not to marry with non believers and how it can bring much troubles and havoc in the life of the church and God’s people. Let us learn from the good example of Nehemiah and his leadership to bring reforms in the life of the church and the people of God. Let us be willing to stand to deal with those who willfully went ahead and yoked themselves with non believers. Let us be willing to stand firm to implement discipline to deal with such marriages, and put principles and to teach the people to prevent marrying with non believers to happen again.

Let us pray . . . .

**My Prayer:** *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching that I received in this message that taught me the dangers of marrying with nonbelievers and how to deal with such a sin.*

*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 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. Confess and renounce your fear of man and your non willingness to face people with their sin and your non willingness to be persecuted. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to stand against the sin of marrying with non believers. Lord I am willing to go and face those who had done such, Lord I am willing to implement discipline and put the principles from your Word so this sin will not be repeated. Lord I am willing to teach your people the dangers and the bad outcome of such marriages. Lord strengthen me, protect me, 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 to cleanse your church and your people from such a sin of marrying with non believers and reward them for all the rejection and the persecution they will receive because of their good stand for you.*

*Lord help us as your church and sustain us to continue to deal with those who had done such a sin and to implement the discipline and the principles from your Word that will prevent such shameful marriages. Lord protect us from persecution and prove your Word to those who mock us and despise your Word. We come against all the works of the devil and demons against us, and we cast them away 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 lead 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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