

## Transcript – The Marriage Covenant and Observing Our Vows

Eric? Okay. All righty, Shabbat shalom to everyone here, and Shabbat shalom to those who will be watching this. So, if we can, on three, give a nice Shabbat shalom to our brethren around the globe. One, two, three, Shabbat shalom! All righty, very good. Believe it or not, a lot of people like that. They like the opportunity to hear that and know that there's people here with us in Israel and praising Yahweh from His set apart Land.

All righty. The message I'm going to give today is called *The Marriage Covenant and Observing Our Vows ... The Marriage Covenant and Observing Our Vows*. It's a very important topic, I think, especially in the days we live in, for many reasons. The marriage covenant to begin with, but just in general keeping our word, when we give our word out and different reasons like that.

Probably within the next month I'm going to do a follow up to this message on people coming into the Congregation that are in situations maybe where they've had multiple marriages or things of that and what Scripture says that we should do. But for right now, this one is just going to be on the marriage covenant and observing our vows.

And we will be starting in about two months our covenant class. We will be doing a whole class on covenant relationships. So, we'll be talking about everything from the ancient blood covenant ... The blood covenant is the most sacred of all covenants. Not every covenant are blood covenants, but the blood covenant is the most sacred covenant of all. Marriage is a blood covenant, as we'll see shortly. And next to your vow of immersion when you become a believer, marriage is the most sacred vow you could make as a human being.

So, it's something that Yahweh takes very seriously. He expects us to; His Word says that He expects us to. So, we're going to talk about that today. Again, **covenants are binding, sacred agreements between two parties** ... they're binding, sacred agreements between two parties. And like I said, the most sacred of all covenants is the blood covenant, that only death can break a blood covenant.

And the Hebrew word for covenant, berith, literally the word picture is the sealing of the work of the family of the Most High. **The word picture for berith—covenant—in Hebrew is the sealing of the work of the family of the Most High.** And again, except for marriage vows ... which even in America today, and I think most of the world, people still take marriage vows.

I'm going to go over a little bit here a marriage ceremony, part of a marriage ceremony, that we do in Congregation of Yahweh; and it's probably fairly similar to most marriage ceremonies in certain ways. But I think besides the marriage ceremony, we are not really accustomed in the world today to sacred vows.

In ancient times it was amazing. Everyone knew what a covenant was. People would make covenant agreements between clans, between neighbors, all different kinds of things. And like I said, we're going to have a whole class on that, and we'll be going in depth on the covenants of the Bible, covenant relationships, what that means.

But in the West, where you're living in a condominium complex, and you don't even know the person who lives right next to you, we're really not accustomed to sacred vows and what that means. But Yahweh is accustomed to it. And that's why I want to show you today from His Word how serious and how sacred the marriage covenant and just observing our vows in general are. I want to start in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3 ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3 and starting in verse 1. It says:

**2 Timothy 3:1-4** *But know this, that in the last days ... Think everybody believes we're in the last days to one degree or another ... disastrous times will be upon us. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, braggarts, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, wicked, without natural feeling, addicted to lust, slanderers, without self-control, savage, haters of good, traitors, hasty, boasters, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Elohim.*

So, some actually say truce breakers. We have in our translation traitors, because that's really what it is. When you break covenant, you're a traitor. Adam—Adam was a traitor in the Garden of Eden. And we will go over that when we get into more of our class on kingdom principles. We'll see that, that like I always say, Adam did not lose a religion, he lost a kingdom. And it was a treasonous act, what he did, by going against Yahweh.

And again, we have to think about this, that literally when you make a vow, and you break that vow ... And we're talking today about the marriage covenant because it's the most sacred vow next to your immersion process, your baptism. But anything, we'll see, that comes out of your mouth that's a vow ... it's actually treasonous. **It's treasonous to break a covenant and given your word to Yahweh.**

And I've had people before come up to me and making all different kinds of vows, from "Oh, Elohim told me to give you this, or to help you with this." And I always tell people, "Don't say it. If you're going to do it, do it. But until you do it, don't say it. Because why cause your mouth to cause you to sin?"

And I can't tell you how many times people that write for our book ... We don't sell our book. We give it for free ... and I'm telling you, thousands of letters that say, "I can't give anything now, but I'm going to give you later." And probably not even 1% ever do. I'm thinking, "Oh, why say it?" We're not asking for money. We're giving it as a gift. Just take it as a gift.

But once it comes out of your mouth, and you say, "I'm going to give you this later" and you don't do it, you're literally before Yahweh now that you've broken a vow that you've made. So, we see, though, in the end times we shouldn't be suspect that this problem is here because it's prophesied. It's prophesied that this was the kind of people that was going to be.

Now what's interesting about this is we could say, "Yeah, it's a real bad world out there, and these people out there are evil." But yet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3 ... This is the scary part ... it's talking about the Congregation. This isn't talking about the world. **He's talking about in the Congregation, in the end times, that this is the kind of people we'll be dealing with.** And it's a pretty sobering fact to think about it that way.

So, end time people are going to be truce breakers. And again, like I said, whether that means I'm going to help the widow move her furniture this Sunday, or whether it means I'm going to vow to be with my wife until the day I die, it makes no difference what it is. **Whatever comes out of my mouth**, as we're going to see here in a few minutes, **I am before Yahweh obligated to perform** ... before Yahweh I'm obligated to perform.

But again, today people will change at the drop of a hat ... at the drop of a hat, they'll change. And like we said, even with some of the people that were here last year, that somebody came and said, "Yahweh brought me here to this school." And then, all of a sudden, in like 10 days, "Nope, Yahweh wants me to leave." And I remember one of the people here saying that scared her.

**Yahweh's not double-minded. Yahweh doesn't change.** And if today we think Yahweh is leading us one way, and tomorrow it's something totally opposite, wow! We better start looking into our heart and see who's leading us because it certainly isn't Yahweh. Because Yahweh, again, His character He doesn't change; and we have to make sure we understand that.

There's a big thing today ... As you know in America, there's a big problem with the housing market. The problem really isn't that people can't pay their mortgages. Of course, there's some people who can't pay. The problem is **people don't want to pay their mortgages.** And the reason being is because when somebody bought a house that was \$200,000, and they borrowed \$180,000 on the house, and now, two or three years later, that house is maybe worth \$100,000, and they owe \$170,000. And people are saying, "Why should I pay for something that isn't worth the money on it?"

And I saw a thing on 60 Minutes about a year ago. And the commentator was saying, "But, don't you feel obligated? You signed a contract." And people, mostly young people, "Oh, I don't feel obligated. Why should I work for 20 years paying off a loan that I'll never see the money back?" And they felt nothing that this bank—this institution—lent them money, that they signed their name on a contract, that they obligated to pay it. And yet, because they call it "underwater," that the house is worth less than the mortgage, that a fair percentage of people just decided they're not going to pay their mortgage anymore. "Why pay for something?"

But is that the kind of person that is going to be in the Kingdom of Yahweh? As we're going to see, no! We'll see when we read Psalm 15 that we need to keep our word to our own hurt. And if we make our commitment to something, even if it's something that later we decide, "You know something? Wow! I shouldn't have committed to that." Happens to me sometimes dealing with so many people, so many things, sometimes I over commit to things. But whether I do or not, I'm

going to make sure I'm going to keep that commitment, Yahweh willing. As long as He allows me to, I'm going to try to perform anything that comes out of my mouth.

Now, again, we've talked about this. Life is only a test to see how faithful we'll be. That's all it is. So, again, whether you live 20 years or 80 years, whether you get married or you're single, whether you have great-grandchildren or no grandchildren, all that stuff is peripheral. The bottom line is you're born because Yahweh is testing each of us to see if we can be faithful with eternal life. That's what it is.

Now, every one of us is going to have a different test. We have different life circumstances, different situations. We live in different parts of the world. To some people the test is going to have too much money; some people the test is having no money. Some people the test is sickness; some people the test is whatever. But **life is a test to see how faithful we'll be**, and that's all it is. **That's all it is, just a test to see if we will be faithful so that we can be the bride of Messiah for eternity. That's the goal of every one of us.**

Anybody here don't understand that in the Kingdom we'll all be part of the bride of Messiah, one way or another? Right? So, today, if you're single until that day happens, if you're married, if you're widowed, if you're divorced, whatever your situation is leading up to that, it's really immaterial. Because **when Yahshua returns, if we're faithful, we're going to be His bride for eternity.** And that's what He's checking on.

And that's why He allows the marriage covenant. Because He wants to see if I can be faithful to my wife here, who is a human being and imperfect ... we're both imperfect ... then I can be faithful to Him forever and be perfect. But if I can't be faithful to my wife now, in this day and age, how will I ever prove to Him that I can be perfect to Him forever? So, again, life is a test; and the marriage covenant is simply a test of our faithfulness. If you're single, it's a test of your faithfulness as a single. Because I always thought this way.

I got married, I don't know if I'd say later in life, but I think 33-34 years old. But as a young believer, 18-19 years old, I went many years without a wife. But in my mind, I thought to myself, I'm going to be married someday. So, the fact that I didn't meet my wife yet didn't make me not be faithful to her. Because what I was saying to Yahweh is, I know she's out there somewhere, but if I can be faithful without even knowing her, then I'll be faithful after I meet her.

And even if I never met my wife in this life, I knew that I'd be marrying Yahshua someday. So, I was preparing the same way, whether I would physically marry a woman in this life or it didn't happen. I knew ultimately the preparation was to marry Yahshua someday at His return. And that's what the preparation is for. And it, really, it doesn't depend on anybody else but me.

I have to prepare for that because I'm only responsible for me. I'm not responsible for my wife, or anybody else. Each one of us has free moral agency. Each one of us has to make decisions in life, and I can only be responsible for myself and the decisions that I make. It talks about that in the book of Ezekiel 18. *The sins of the father don't go to the children; the sins of the children don't go to the father.* But each one is responsible for the things he does and the vows that he makes.

Deuteronomy 23 ... Deuteronomy 23 and verse 21 ... Deuteronomy 23 and verse 21. It says:

**Deuteronomy 23:21, 23** *When you vow a vow to YAHWEH your Elohim, you shall not delay to perform it; for YAHWEH your Elohim will certainly require it of you, and it shall be sin to you ... That which has gone out of your lips, you shall keep, and shall do it. According as you have vowed as a freewill offering to YAHWEH your Elohim, do even that which you have spoken with your mouth.*

So, very, very clearly, *when you vow a vow to YAHWEH your Elohim, you shall not delay to perform it; for YAHWEH your Elohim will certainly require it of you, and it will be sin to you.* Why do we say ... that it says in the book of James, whenever you say I'm going to do this or I'm going to do that, we always say, Yahweh willing. Because you might have the greatest intentions to do it, and you might die. So, we have to say, Yahweh willing.

“Will you help me to do this next Thursday?” “Yahweh willing.” Because I don’t know ... My heart may be there, but who knows, maybe I could be dead by that time, or maybe I could be hurt, or something else. So, we always say *Yahweh willing* because we don’t know if He is going to will to do that. But, again, **whatever comes out of our mouth, we must perform.**

Numbers 30 ... Numbers 30. And just on a side note, I’m not going to go there, but in Matthew 5:33-37 some people look at that, where Yahshua says *In the ancients it said when you make your vow, make it before Yahweh; but I say don’t vow at all for whatever comes out of your mouth, let your yes be yes, and your no be no*, and there’s people that think that Yahshua is saying ... your oaths, actually. It didn’t say vow, but your oaths ... that we’re not allowed to vow.

Well, how many people here are married? How many people have been immersed—baptized—in the name of Yahshua? If we’re not allowed to vow, then we’re all sinners because we all made a vow to Yahweh when we were baptized. We all made a vow to our spouse. So, Yahshua is not saying we’re not allowed to vow. What He’s saying is let your words be yes, yes and no, no; that **anything that comes out of your mouth is a vow.**

See, in ancient times, what would happen is because of the scripture I just read to you in Deuteronomy 23, *if you make your vow to Yahweh Elohim perform it quickly*, what people would say is if they were going to do something and they vowed in the name of Yahweh, then they would do it. But if they didn’t vow in the name of Yahweh, then they felt like they weren’t required to keep their word.

So, in Matthew 5, by far Yahshua’s not saying we’re not allowed to vow, although we should be very cautious of what we do vow; what Yahshua is saying, **every word out of your mouth is a vow. Anything that comes out of your mouth, you must perform.** So let your yes be yes, yes or no, no. Anything else is of the evil one. So, if you’re only going to perform it if you say it in the name of Yahweh, then we’re hypocrites. Anything we say, anything we vow to, we should be willing to perform. In Numbers 30 ... Numbers 30. Another scripture that talks about this. Just two verses, 1 and 2:

**Numbers 30:1-2** *And Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, This is the thing which YAHWEH has commanded: When a man vows a vow to YAHWEH, or has sworn an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word; he shall do all that has gone out of his mouth.*

And, again, we see, swearing an oath and vowing a vow are not the same thing. **An oath is a sacred vow in the name of a deity, in the name of an Elohim. A vow is just a solemn agreement ... a solemn agreement.** So, it’s two different things; **swearing an oath and vowing a vow are not the same thing.** We read it right here. If you either vow a vow to Yahweh or swore an oath, two separate things.

Again, it’s not the purpose of the message here, but you could look the words up yourself in a dictionary. But a vow and an oath are two different things. Again, one is a sacred agreement by a deity; and one is simply a solemn promise ... a solemn promise, such as when we make our marriage commitment.

How important is this? Well ... Matthew 12, verse 34 ... it’s extremely important. Matthew 12 and verse 34 says:

**Matthew 12:34-37** *Generation of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man out of the good treasure of the heart puts forth good things. And the evil man out of the evil treasure puts forth evil things. But I say to you, that every vain word, whatever men may speak, they will give an account of it in Judgment Day. For by your words you’ll be justified, and by your words will be condemned.*

Again, extremely important ... extremely important. And we, as the people of Yahweh—the children of Yahweh, ambassadors for Him—we have to get this in our mind: that **anything that comes out of our mouth, we are responsible before Yahweh to perform.** And again, it should be to each other too, that we can trust each other. How can we ever build trust if we’re going to say things to each other and then not perform it? If we’re going to not be true to our word? You know the old expression “my word is my bond.” You don’t see it so much today, but we should see it within Yahweh’s Congregation.

Now, let’s get into specifically, though, now the marriage covenant. I think I set the stage to show that covenants, vows, are extremely binding in the mind of Yahweh. But **the most sacred vow you could make, besides your covenant relationship with Yahweh at baptism, is the marriage covenant.** It’s the most sacred vow you could make in the world.

And a matter of fact, if you just think about it, like I said, in the West we're not accustomed to sacred vows. It's not ... nothing part of our society. **And even today in the West, most people still vow when they get married. So, that has to show you, if 5,000 years after the fact, almost 6,000 years from the Garden of Eden, that people are still doing this sacred ceremony in front of witnessing and actually vowing, then it has to be important.**

It has to be more than just, "Ah, well. He lied to me. He said he was going to provide," and "Oh, she burned the macaroni." Come on! You're doing this in front of witnesses. Most people, even when you go to the Justice of the Peace if you're not having a religious ceremony and all, it still has to be bound before witnesses. It's legal. It has to be signed.

So, more than any other vow, even in the secular world today, there's no other vow that people make like the marriage vow. And they know it. You really think that people don't know it when they're making this vow? Of course, they do, as we'll see in a little bit as we read the vow itself.

Hebrews 9 ... Hebrews 9. I'll just read 15 through 18, just to show you the New Covenant was a blood covenant. And again, a very sacred covenant, of course. It says:

**Hebrews 9:15-18** *And for this reason He ... Yahshua ... became the Mediator of the New Covenant, that He might by His death be redemption, to them who had transgressed the first covenant; so that they, who are called to the eternal inheritance, might receive the promise. For where there is a testament, it shows the death of him who made it. For a covenant is affirmed over those dead, since it never has force when he who has made it is living. For this reason not even the first covenant was confirmed without blood.*

So again, like we said, the most sacred covenants that you can make are blood covenants, without a shadow of a doubt. And we will go over ... our class will go over the sacred nine step of the blood covenant, what they did in ancient times. We'll see it from the Bible. But that's ... will be in our covenant class. We'll go over that on another day.

Deuteronomy 22. We will see that the marriage covenant certainly is a blood covenant. Deuteronomy 22 and verse 13. It says:

**Deuteronomy 22:13-14** *If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and hates her ... Deuteronomy 22:13 ... then makes against her shameful charges, and brings up an evil name on her, and says, I took this woman, and when I came near her, I did not find in her the tokens of virginity.*

**Comment:** Everybody knows what that means when he's talking about that? In ancient times, and it's amazing that in Africa they still do this today, that on the wedding night, because the woman is a virgin, and on the wedding night when the hymen is broken the blood covenant is consummated. So, what would happen is they would take the sheet with the blood and they would give it to the mother of the bride, and she would keep those tokens of virginity as proof that her daughter was a chaste virgin in Israel.

And, you know, when I read this the first thing that hit me was, wow ... wow! I mean, not only is it sin not to be a virgin when you get married, but it's the death penalty. That there's nothing that is more vile to Yahweh than fornication and giving up your chastity before marriage. And I know it varies from country to country, but in the West today maybe 1% ... **maybe 1%** ... are virgins when they marry.

So, right off the bat, when I was studying this years, and years, and years ago, I said to myself, "You know something? I can't listen to anybody. I can't listen to society. I can't listen to anybody's advice, what they're going to tell me on this. **I have to just go by what Yahweh says.**"

Because, our society as a whole, how can they give advice? Sixty percent divorce rate. And the only reason it's not higher is many, many people today are living together. That's the only reason. Divorce rate would probably be closer to 75% or higher if you just didn't have people living together. Even people in churches will live together. They live together in fornication, and then they go to their church on Sunday.

**And this scripture here showing every single human being, male and female, should come together on their marriage night—because this is a blood covenant—and both parties need to be chaste up to that point.** And I say for the younger ones that aren't married yet, let me tell you, **this is only one gift you can give in your life to somebody—only one—and that's your chastity ... only one. Once it is given, that's the end of it. You can never give it again.** And really, to our

children we have to ingrain this in them that **that is the greatest gift on earth that they can ever give to a partner**; and that's male and female, it makes no difference. That before Yahweh, we need to think this way.

So, the fact that we're so corrupted, and the fact that maybe 1% of the people are this way, then all of us should really listen hard and clear to a message like this, maybe two, and three, and four times. And don't think right away that you know what Yahweh says on the marriage covenant. Don't think we know right away what Yahweh says on divorce and remarriage. Because if we did, we wouldn't be in this situation with almost 60% divorce rate. We wouldn't be in a situation with 99% fornication rate. It just wouldn't be that way.

And I think we really, really need to look—**all of us, even the ones that are believing this way**—at the seriousness of the marriage covenant. Because it shows what? It's not showing me and my wife; **it's showing the mystery of the Good News** ... the mystery of the Good News, the bride of Messiah that was not revealed in the Old Covenant. It was not revealed until Yahshua's death and resurrection. **But this is what the whole marriage covenant is all about. It's about the bride of Messiah.** So, let me go on here. Verse 15.

**Deuteronomy 22:15-17** *Then the girl's father and her mother shall take and bring the girl's token of virginity to the elders of the city at the gate ... the sheet from the wedding night ... And the girl's father shall say to the elders, I have given my daughter to this man for a wife, and he hates her. And, behold, he has laid shameful charges, saying, I have not found in your daughter the tokens of virginity. And yet see these tokens of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the garment ... the sheet ... before the elders of the city.*

**Deuteronomy 22:18-21** *And the elders of that city shall take that man and punish him. And they shall fine him a hundred pieces of silver, and give them to the girl's father, because he has brought an evil name on a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days. But if this thing is true that tokens of virginity have not been found for the girl, then they shall bring the girl out to the door of her father's house. And the men of her city shall stone her with stones, and she shall die; for she has done folly in Israel, to commit fornication in her father's house. And you shall put away the evil from among you.*

Serious stuff ... serious stuff. Death penalty. Like I said, one of the four sins in the Torah that you could not have forgiven, even on Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement. Death penalty because of what it represents. Mark 10 ... Mark the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter, 1 through 12.

**Mark 10:1-4** *And rising up from there, He came to the borders of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And again crowds came together to Him, and He again taught them as they were accustomed. And coming near, the Pharisees asked Him if it is lawful for a man to put away a wife, tempting Him. But answering, He said to them, What did Moses command you? They said, Moses allowed to write a bill of divorce, and to put her away.*

**Mark 10:5-9** *And answering, Yahshua said to them, With respect to your hardheartedness he wrote this command to you. But from the beginning of creation YAHWEH made them male and female. "Because of this, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh;" so they are no longer two, but one ... That's my first question. How on earth if Yahweh has put something together can man separate it? He can't, as we see ... **Therefore, what YAHWEH has yoked together, man cannot put apart.***

**Comment:** It's that simple. You can go down to the City Hall. You can go down to the judge. **No human being has the authority to change Yahweh's Sabbath to [should be from] Saturday to Sunday, and no human being—from Scripture—has the authority to give a bill of divorce.** It's just not there, very, very clearly.

**Mark 10:10-12** *And again, in the house His disciples asked Him about the same thing ... They were a little mystified ... And He said to them, Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.*

Very, very clear. Does Yahweh sanction divorce? No! Absolutely not! We don't see it in Scripture. We see that when two people make this sacred vow before Yahweh, He makes them one; and that's it. They're one. You can't pull them apart. It's like taking two pieces of metal and soldering it together and molding it together. Once it's molded together, there's no way to pull them apart. It's one at that point. It's absolutely one. Very clear.

Let's go to Genesis 2, and we'll read a little bit about this. Because this is what Yahshua goes back to. He goes back to Genesis. And sometimes people will make comments like, "Well, so and so, one was a believer and one wasn't a believer." But really, it has no bearing because Yahshua is going back to Creation; and at Creation there weren't believers and non-believers, there were simply people. That simple. So, Genesis 2, verse 18. Then I'll drop down to verse 21. It says:

**Genesis 2:18** *And YAHWEH Elohim said, It is not good, the man being alone. I will make a helper suited to him.*

**Comment:** Now, this is really interesting. Because when Yahshua is giving the example that we just read in Mark, right, why do you think He would go back to Genesis 2? Why would He go back to this point? Because **this is the only marriage in the world where literally they were one. Eve was taken out of Adam.** So, again, when the man was there, originally, he was complete. He was there. He was together. But when the woman was taken out of him, there are characteristics that were taken out of Adam, given to Eve, that he didn't have anymore. And now they were codependent on each other.

And there's no other situation I've ever heard in the world where that's ever happened, where literally the wife was part of the person and taken out. And it's interesting even when you look at the ribs of a man and a woman, how the man has one less rib. Because this is literal. It's not just a story or an analogy; it's literal.

So, when Yahshua's going back here and saying once this happened, once Eve was created, she's part of Adam. There's no way you can break this up. What Yahweh has put together, **yoked together** is the word ... and you know what a yoke is, right? It's when you have two cows plowing, the yoke that kept them together, that was on both of them. And again, they'd have to go in the same direction or they couldn't plow.

But He's saying what Yahweh has yoked together, man cannot separate. No man on earth could have separated the codependency of Adam and Eve to each other. It was impossible because they're one. They're from the same body, the same human that Yahweh took out for the other one. And verse 21.

**Genesis 2:21-25** *And YAHWEH Elohim caused a deep sleep to fall on the man, and he slept. And He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh underneath. And YAHWEH Elohim formed the rib which He had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. And the man said, This now at last is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; For this shall be called Woman, because out of man this has been taken. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one (echad) one flesh ... one flesh ... And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.*

So, again, **it's the responsibility, the duty in a marriage for the husband and the wife to literally cleave to each other ...** literally cleave to each other. Supernatural union. They're no longer two but one. What Yahweh joined together, man cannot separate.

So, what do we see by this, in Genesis 2? We see three things. Number one, marriage is monogamous. That was Yahweh's will. It's heterosexual; it's between a man and a woman. And it's a complete union of the two people ... complete union of the two people. **That was Yahweh's intention for the marriage covenant: to be monogamous, heterosexual, complete union of the two people.**

If we go to Ephesians 5, we'll see this in the New Covenant. Because there's something that is just unbelievable about this union that started with Adam and Eve that Yahweh reveals through Yahshua in the New Covenant. Ephesians 5, verse 22.

**Ephesians 5:22** *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to our Master,*

**Comment:** So again, why? Because the wife is part of the husband, the same as Yahshua is over the Congregation.

**Ephesians 5:22-23** *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to our Master, because a husband is head of the wife, as also Messiah is Head of the Congregation, and He is the Savior of the body.*

**Comment:** What's very interesting, though, is if you look up the word for helpmeet, literally the word for helpmeet is a form of the word for savior, showing that the wife is supposed to be the savior of the man. And they say, behind every good man is a good woman, and it's true. That the woman, a helpmeet, it's like a hand in a glove. It fits perfectly; that the woman ... and the word that's used for helpmate is only used two other times in the Bible: for Yahweh to His people, as

like a Savior; a helper in time of need ... that's what the wife is supposed to be. So, Messiah is the Head of the Congregation. He's the Savior of the body.

**Ephesians 5:24** *But even as the Congregation is subject to Messiah, so also the wives to their own husbands in everything.*

**Comment:** Again, simple judicial order, that the wife is supposed to be following her husband the way she would follow Yahshua. And then the:

**Ephesians 5:25-28** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Messiah also loved the Congregation and gave Himself up for it ... As husbands, are we loving our wives the way we should be? ... that He might sanctify it, cleansing it by the washing of the water and by the Word, that He might present it to Himself ... the Congregation ... as the glorious Congregation, not having stain or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it be holy and without blemish. So, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies, (he loving his wife loves himself),*

**Comment:** They're one ... they're one. Can't separate.

**Ephesians 5:29-31** *for then no one hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as also our Master does to the Congregation. For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. "For this, a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh (echad)"*

**Comment:** Once again, same thing we just saw in Genesis. Same thing Yahshua said in Mark is the same thing Paul is saying here. They're one. Impossible to separate.

**Ephesians 5:32** *This is a great mystery, but I speak as to Messiah and His Congregation.*

**Comment:** Whoa! Now we're understanding it. It's not just about a man and a woman. It's not just about two people. **It's about the test of showing our faithfulness to Yahshua for eternity through another human being.**

**Ephesians 5:33** *Nevertheless, let everyone of you so love his wife as himself, and the wife, that she give reverence to the husband.*

So, again, the mystery is a miracle union. But it should not just exist, it should grow in love ... **It should not just exist, but it should grow in love.** And clearly, we see that the test is to see if we'll be faithful. So, again, whenever you see a situation in a marriage that's not going right, or there's divorce, what inevitably is going to happen? The wife is going to blame the husband, the husband's going to blame the wife.

**But the bottom line is knowing that this union is representative of Yahshua and His Congregation.** When you take your marriage vow as a believer in Yahshua, you understand this. **It's a three-way vow. You are making that vow between your spouse with Yahweh.** So, you know what? **It really doesn't matter if my spouse is not fulfilling their part of the agreement. I have to fulfill my part of the agreement because I made it before Yahweh.**

**And if I can fulfill my agreement, even when my spouse is not fulfilling theirs, wow, is that proof to Yahweh that I can be faithful for eternity.** So, the fact of your spouse not being faithful, in any way, does not give you carte blanche to go out and do something else against the marriage covenant.

**And the Bible literally says, if I left my wife and I never remarried again until the day I die, and she goes and remarries, I'm accountable for her adultery because I forced her to commit adultery by leaving her.** That's what Yahshua said. That's what He said in the book of Matthew. So, again, I am accountable to my wife even if I never remarry. I am going to be accountable for adultery because I forced her to do it.

The bottom line is this: **The bottom line is I made a vow before Yahweh, and I'm bound by that vow until the day I die.** And it doesn't matter what the circumstances are, because we all have circumstances in life, I am bound by that vow according to Scripture. And if I cannot keep that vow that I made, knowing that this represents Yahshua and His Congregation, I risk losing out on being the bride of Messiah. It's that simple.

So, it doesn't matter what another person does, it doesn't take your responsibility away from the vow. And, you know what? Whatever good, bad, or indifferent is going to happen in this life, so too it will pass. And I'm not about to give up



my eternal brideship to our Savior Yahshua over something that somebody else is going to do or not going to do; there's just no way on earth. So, again, this is what is expected of us.

Now, what I want to do is I just want to read you, here for a minute, just a part of the wedding ceremony that we do. And it's, again, a little bit different of course in the Congregation, but it's fairly similar to probably most wedding ceremonies you'll hear. And I'm just reading, like I said, part of it. And it says:

*Thus each time a man and a woman come together for the purpose of marriage we illustrate the marriage supper of the Lamb of Yahweh's incredible, boundless love for us, His bride. The Father has heard the heartfelt earnest cry of "Mary and Bill" for a suitable life partner, and for this reason the Father supernaturally put them together.*

*The Word of Yahweh teaches that marriage is a **permanent relationship** of one man and one woman who freely commit to each other their love and devotion. They are companions for life. The Bible tells us that for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave ... **cleave, hold on to** ... his wife. They are to become one flesh.*

*Marriage is a joyful union, creating years of pleasure and companionship. But it is also a serious commitment to one another that should not be entered into lightly. It is not a trial relationship, where the partners are free to leave if they disagree on certain matters. Whom Yahweh has chosen and joined together, let no man put asunder.*

*Each of the partners brings unique gifts, talents, and strengths, and yes weaknesses, to the union. Then Yahweh has ordained that "Mary and Bill" are joined so that their particular qualities fit together in so close a fashion that one is not truly whole without the other. These special characteristics of each other are to **compliment** the special needs of the other. **From this day forward, one will not be complete without the other.** With these words of Yahweh's counsel, I will now ask each of you to make your personal commitments to each other.*

And like I said, 99% of wedding ceremonies you see this. Both parties now will make the commitment.

**To the groom:** Will you, "Bill," take "Mary" to be your lawful wedded wife? Will you love, honor, and cherish her in sickness and in health, in bounty and poverty, for better or for worse, **forsaking all others** for as long as you shall live?

**To the bride:** Will you, "Mary," take "Bill" to be your lawful wedded husband? Will you love, honor, and cherish him in sickness and health, in bounty or poverty, for better or for worse, forsaking all others **for as long as you both shall live?**

*Since "Mary and Bill" have made this commitment **vow** before Yahweh and these witnesses that by the authority of our Master and Savior Yahshua the Messiah, I declare you husband and wife. What, therefore, Yahweh has joined together, man cannot separate.*

Pretty simple, like I said. These aren't new words. We've heard it before. That's what I ask, when people are telling me about divorce and remarriage, "but this is my reason." I ask a simple question: Did you make a vow to this person until death do you part? "Well, yeah, but ... she burned the spaghetti." "He's out of work." "He's doing this." That's not the point. When you see in the marriage covenant, no matter who it is, like I said, in the Christian churches it's the same, even people that are non-religious, 90% of people take this vow. And they're saying that I will stay with this person until death do us part.

And I'll ask, "Well did you say that you'll stay with them until death do you part **if** they don't commit adultery?" "Well, no. That wasn't in our wedding ceremony." Okay, then why are you saying now that this person committed adultery that you can do this? Did you say that you would only stay with them until death do you part if they continue to love you the way you think is love? "Well, no. I didn't say that."

Well, what exactly did you say? You made a vow before Yahweh that you would stay with that person till you die. And like I said, because human nature in the end time is selfish, looking toward the self, boasterous [should be boastful], proud, covetous, and all these other things, people don't want to stay with their commitment.

And you know, I say this, that ... anybody in here who's married you know this ... that marriage isn't something that just happens. Love isn't something that just happens. And probably from television and all this fantasy, what it's doing is it

makes people really get the wrong impression of what marriage is. Marriage simply is one thing: It's a commitment ... **it's a commitment**. And there's going to be good days, and there's going to be bad days. But it's that simple that when you make that commitment before Yahweh, that you have to fulfill it now.

You look in the Bible, there were some bad marriages. Look at Abigail, who wound up marrying David, was married to Naboth [should be Nabal]. She didn't say, "Because I'm married to this worthless guy, I have the opportunity to leave him." No, she did the right thing. She stayed with her husband. When the husband died, then she went and she legally married David from that point.

Marriage is commitment. And you know something? Love is a choice ... **love is a choice**. And most of the time love can solve 99% of marriage issues. And most of the time when there's a marriage issue it's because either one or both of the parties are not showing the love of Yahweh. And that's the simple thing. And when we look at 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3, we really have to start looking at ourselves and saying, "Am I portraying maybe some of these characteristics of being selfish, self-seeking, or whatever it is?"

Because if we're loving our spouse the way Yahshua loves the Congregation, can that change a marriage! If we're the spouse, if we're honoring our husband the way we would honor Yahshua ... Doesn't mean your husband's always going to be right. But, again, if you can honor your husband, if you can honor men, us, that are imperfect, what are you showing Yahshua? Wow! If you can honor that guy, then you certainly can honor Me.

Same with the husband. If you can love your wife, even if she doesn't deserve it, what are we showing Yahshua? Well, if you can love someone imperfect, then you certainly can love Me who's perfect. It doesn't change our responsibility of the vow we made before Yahweh, what the other person does or doesn't do. It's that simple ... it's that simple.

Let's go to Matthew 14. This is a really interesting scripture to hear when people say, "Well, I can leave my wife or my husband because they're a non-believer and I'm a believer," or "They said they were a believer, and now they don't believe the same as me." And to be honest with you, I just don't see that anywhere in the Bible. I don't see in the Bible where it says "because my wife is not a Sabbath-keeper, I can leave her;" or where my wife is a Sabbath keeper, "if she doesn't use the name Yahweh, I can leave her;" or "my wife uses the name Yahweh, but she doesn't believe in this;" or "she thinks the color of the tassel is different than me."

Because if we're looking for an excuse, you can find one. No two people in the world agree on absolutely everything. But I don't see that. But this is a really interesting scripture in Matthew 14 because look what it says. It's from the John the Baptist, and he's before Herod. Right? And it says:

**Matthew 14:3-4** *For seizing John, Herod bound him and put him into prison, because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John said to him ... verse 4 ... It is not lawful that she be a wife to you.*

Now what's really interesting on this ... What is the situation? Herod took his brother's wife, right? And John came and said it's not lawful to do that. And we might think, "Yeah. Sure, we can all agree with that. It's not lawful to take somebody else's wife." You know something? Josephus talks about this. And do you know that when this happened, they were already divorced? They were divorced. **Philip and Herodias were divorced already. And John the Baptist, after they were divorced, is telling Herod it is not legal to take your brother's wife.**

Does Yahweh honor divorce? No way ... no way! I don't see it anywhere in Scripture where Yahweh honors divorce. You make that covenant, the two become one. It's impossible to separate. So, right here in the New Testament is clear proof that even though they were divorced in man's eyes, John the Baptist is saying it's illegal; she's your brother's wife.

It's really interesting too ... Do you know ... Notice how many times ... Do a word study on Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite, and you'll see how many times that Bathsheba is still called Uriah's wife because of what David illegally did at that time. And it was a grave sin! I mean, it wasn't something that was taken lightly, and nearly cost David his eternal life. Very close to it. And if it wasn't for everything else in his life, that could have been the thing to take his eternal life. Romans 7, a really, really beautiful scripture showing this again. Romans 7 and verse 1. It says:

**Romans 7:1-3** *Do you not know, brethren, (for I speak to them who know the Torah) ... So, we know the Torah. So, he's speaking to us. This is not to non-believers, but he's speaking to people who understand the Torah ... that the Torah has authority over a person for as long as he lives? Just as the married woman is **bound by the Torah** to the living husband;*

**but if the husband dies, she is set free** from ... the instruction or ... the Law of her husband. So then, if the husband is living, she will be called an adulteress if she should be married to another man. But if the husband dies, she is free from the Law, so as for her not to be an adulteress by becoming another man's wife.

**Comment:** Very, very simple that as long as a woman has a living husband, she will be called an adulteress if she marries another man. There's no doubt about that. Now, what's really interesting about this is the next verse, verse 4. Because people misinterpret it, that it's saying that Yahshua freed us from the Torah. But that's not what it's saying. Verse 4 says:

**Romans 7:4** *So then, my brothers, you also were made **dead** to the penalty of Law through the body of Messiah, for you to become another's, to the One raised from the dead, so that we may bear fruit to YAHWEH.*

And if you really think about that, man, is that a powerful verse. Why did Yahshua have to die the death He did? Because He had a bridegroom [should be bride], and His bridegroom [should be bride], the nation of Israel, was unfaithful. She was an adulteress. **So, legally, Israel had to pay the penalty of an adulteress wife. What did Yahshua do? He came and paid the penalty.** It's until death do us part.

**Now by His death, not only did He free Israel, He freed Himself. He could legally now go and be another's.** Because till death do us part, and **His death fulfilled the Old Covenant.** What does He do because of His love for His bride? He goes back to the adulteress woman. **He goes back to Israel. He didn't take a new wife.** Like I said, every covenant: It's the same land, it's the same Torah, it's the same people.

And what does Yahshua do by showing us that? He shows us that, that the love that a man should have for a woman, not even adultery should be able to break that ... not even adultery. **That that love is binding. It's forever. And how beautiful example that He set for us—us; we're all Israelites—that we might not be in this room if He didn't have that eternal love.** One man, one woman forever.

Let's go to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7 because this is very much a scripture that's misunderstood. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7. And I'm not going to go over the whole chapter, but I will go over part of it here. If we look at the first six or seven verses, Paul is just basically saying that, again, because of immorality let each person have its own husband or wife so that fornication doesn't come into play, how the husband and the wife, they're one, even our very bodies don't belong to ourselves. But I'll start in verse 10. So, he says:

**1 Corinthians 7:10** *But I command the ones being married (not I, but our Master), let not the wife be separated from her husband.*

**Comment:** Does it sound like Paul is teaching divorce and remarriage? Not at all! Very simple. Because we're going to see he's going to talk to the married, he's going to talk to the widows, and he's going to talk to the virgins, the ones that have never been married. And you will never see once in Corinthians 7 where Paul is ever condoning divorce. The total opposite. As he sums it up in the end, we'll see this. But here he says, but he commands the ones being married, *let not the wife be separated from her husband.*

**1 Corinthians 7:11** *but if indeed she is separated, remain unmarried, or be reconciled to the husband; and a husband not to desert his wife.*

**Comment:** So, again, there **are** situations ... There could be abuse that's involved. There could be child abuse. There could be physical abuse. There could be all kinds of things. There is a situation where a spouse has to leave the other spouse for the safety of your children, for your own safety. But, very clearly, Paul's not saying divorce. He's saying separate for a time until you can be reconciled again.

Because we just saw from Romans, when Yahshua separated from Israel, it was only until He could pay their penalty and redeem them back. He never forsook them completely. And it's the same with us. Once you're one, you're one! There's no way out of it until death do you part. So, again, clearly, he's not talking about divorce and remarriage. He's saying if the situation is just unbearable, yes, you can separate. But then you either stay separated or you come back together, one or the other. Now if we get into verse 12.

**1 Corinthians 7:12-13** *But to the rest I say, not our Master, but if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she consents to live with him, let him not leave her. And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not leave him.*

**Comment:** So, again, the fact that one of our spouses is a non-believer or believes a little different than us, it is not, again, justification for leaving that spouse.

**1 Corinthians 7:14-15** *For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified by the husband; else, then, your children are impure, but in such cases they are pure ... Again, the believing one makes them pure ... But if the unbelieving one separates, let them be separated; the brother or the sister is not in bondage in such matters; but YAHWEH has called us to peace.*

**Comment:** And people take this verse to believe they can go out and divorce and remarry. I don't see that. I don't see that, whatsoever. What is Paul saying? *If the unbelieving one separates, let them be separated; the brother or the sister is not in bondage in such matters.* What did I tell you before? I said if I left my wife, and even if I stayed single the rest of my life till the day I die, and she remarried, according to Scripture I am accountable for her adultery.

But here, when it's a non-believer and you have no control over it, Paul is saying if they leave and they're not going to stay to you and they marry somebody else, you're not in bondage. You're not accountable for their adultery at that situation. Very simple. But not at all is the word divorce, remarriage, or anything ever used here. Simply, he's saying that I would not have the bondage of what? If my wife left me on her own, and she was a non-believer and she went and remarried, I would not have the accountability of her adultery on my back then.

**1 Corinthians 7:16** *For what do you know, wife, whether you will save the husband? Or what do you know, husband, whether you will save the wife?*

**Comment:** Like I said, Yahshua's been at this with the house of Israel for more than 3,500 years and hasn't given up on us. Who are we to give up on another human being? And I've seen every situation. I've seen people that one was converted and the other wasn't, and it switched around. I've seen people that were so against the truth and, in the end, they became the believer. You never know what's going to happen with Yahweh.

So, again, we make that covenant. That covenant is not dependent on who's a believer and who's not a believer. It just isn't. You don't see that here. And who knows in the end that, like it says, by our good behavior can maybe the other spouse come into the truth. But clearly, we see, whether you're a believer or non-believer, the marriage covenant and the binding of one goes back to Genesis 2.

So, it does not give the person the ability to think, "Oh, now I'm a believer." What example is that going to be? "Okay, I came into this new religion, and now I'm leaving my spouse and going to go marry somebody else." Yeah, that's a great example of what we represent. Of course not.

**1 Corinthians 7:17-20** *Only as YAHWEH has divided to each, each as the Master has called, so let him walk. So I command in the congregations. If a man was circumcised when he was called, let him not adhere to the party of uncircumcision. And if he was uncircumcised, when he was called, let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of YAHWEH's commandments is everything. Let each one remain in the station of life in which he was called.*

**Comment:** And then the question comes up, what if somebody comes into the Congregation and they're already on a second marriage or a third marriage? There's been people that vehemently try to get me to preach you have to leave that second spouse and go back to the first one. I don't see it in Scripture ... I don't see it in Scripture. I see that multiple marriages in Scripture was not the will of Yahweh, but it wasn't something that He called sin.

If He did, then we're in trouble. Because our Savior was born out of Bathsheba, who was the fourth or fifth wife of David. So, if Yahweh did not make David and Bathsheba one, then our Messiah was born out of fornication; and I don't believe He was. So, again, if you made this covenant with two people or three people and you become a believer, you don't have to leave your second or third spouse to go back to the first one.

But you are accountable according to Torah for all three spouses that you married. You're accountable to make sure they're cared for. You are accountable for your children. And it's not much different than alimony we have today in the West. That you can't just say, "Oh, well. Hey, that was then; this is now, and they're on their own." No way!

Whatever vow you made ... and it's almost like, what if you made two appointments at the same time? What if you say to two different people, you just slipped your mind, and you told both people you were going to help them at the same time? Now, what do you have to do? You try your best. You try your best to fulfill both commitments.

And if somebody married two women and then they come into the Congregation, I do not see any precedent that you have to leave the second spouse and go back to the first one. But I do believe that you're accountable before Yahweh for both of those commitments to make sure that anyone you made this vow to that you're going to care for, including the children that are involved.

And again, there's sticky situations. In Sudan, it's a country where multiple marriage is allowed because it's a Muslim nation. And there's all kinds of questions with the third wife, and the fourth wife, and if the second wife did this. I mean, it's complicated to almost spin your head. Praise Yahweh, in the West, that it's not even legal to have more than one wife.

But knowing that the will of Yahweh is one man, one woman forever, why would any believer ever want to take a second spouse once you know the truth? What would be the purpose of it? It's not even part of our culture. It's not like in olden days, where they took a second spouse or a third spouse because they were trying to have progeny, and they wanted to have 30 children, and it was protection, and it was to let their name live on, and it was to have a lot of people in the field, whatever reasons they had. Today we don't have those things, and it's not even part of our culture, whatsoever.

So, why on earth would anyone, once they understand the marriage covenant of Yahweh, ever will to take another spouse? But if you did it beforehand, it's no different than any other sin. It's no different than anything else. You come into the Congregation, everything becomes new. And like he says, *Let each one remain in the station of life in which he was called.*

**1 Corinthians 7:21-24** *Were you called as a slave? It does not matter to you. But if you are able to be free, rather use it. For the one called while a slave in our Master is a freed man of our Master. And likewise, the one called while a free man is a slave of Messiah. You were redeemed with a price; do not become slaves of men. My Brethren, let every man in whatever station of life he was called, remain therein serving YAHWEH.*

**Comment:** Now he's going to get into the virgins.

**1 Corinthians 7:25-28** *But about virgins, I have no command from YAHWEH. But I give judgment, as having received favor by YAHWEH to be faithful. Then I think it is good, because of the present necessity: that it is good for a man to remain this way ... to remain a virgin ... Have you been engaged to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Have you been released from a betrothal? Do not seek a wife. But if you also marry, you do not sin. And if the virgin marries, she does not sin. But such will have trouble in the flesh. But I am sparing you.*

**Comment:** So, what we see is, even in ancient times, during the betrothal, what would happen is if there was a young man and he wanted to marry a young lady, he wouldn't just come up to the woman and say, "Can I have your hand in marriage?" He would have to come to the father of the family, and he would have to sign a literal contract of betrothal; and during that betrothal period, it was as binding as the marriage as far as in the eyes of the people you were already married because you already signed the contract.

**But if there was unfaithfulness during the betrothal, before the actual marriage was consummated on the wedding night, then it could be broken.** And we know that from Joseph, in the book of Matthew, that Joseph and Mary were betrothed. They were called husband and wife, but they didn't get married yet, they were only in the betrothal period. And when Joseph thought that Mary was unfaithful, what did he say? He was going to put her away quietly.

But once you make that vow, and you say, "I do," then not even adultery would be able to break it up. But during the betrothal period ... That's what he's saying, if you were betrothed to a wife and for whatever reason it was broken off, Paul thinks you're better off staying single. But if you want to marry, you legally can because you never actually consummated a marriage yet. Then he says in verse 29:

**1 Corinthians 7:29** *But I say this, brethren, that the time has been cut short. Let the ones ...*

Well, I'll just skip that part because then he starts going into saying about the widows too. He believes if you're a widow, you're better off staying a widow. But again, if you marry as a widow, it's no problem as long as you marry somebody in the faith. But then we get down to verse 39.

**1 Corinthians 7:39** *A wife is bound by the Torah for as long as a time as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whomever she desires, only in the Master.*

*A wife is bound by the Torah for as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is free to be married. So, no contradiction here. No contradiction, whatsoever, in Corinthians. Paul is actually addressing every single situation you could imagine: from married, to widows, to divorced, to virgins, to everybody, a believer, a non-believer. **And you never see the word divorce and remarried at all ever even brought up.** It wasn't even a remote thought in that time for that.*

Joshua chapter 9 ... Joshua chapter 9, showing again the sacredness of vows once they come out of our mouth. We see ... chapter 9, starting in verse 3. I'll go to 3 to 9, then I'll drop down to 13. It says:

**Joshua 9:3-6** *And the ones living in Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai. And they acted slyly, and they went and acted like envoys, and took old sacks for their donkeys, and old wineskins, even torn and bound up; and old and patched sandals on their feet; and old garments on them. And all their provisions of bread was dry; it was crumbs. And they went to Joshua, to the camp of Gilgal. And they said to him and to the men of Israel, We have come from a distant land. And now cut a covenant with us.*

**Joshua 9:7-9** *And the men of Israel said to the Hivites, Perhaps you are living in our midst, and how shall we cut a covenant with you? And they said to Joshua, We are your servants. And Joshua said to them, Who are you? And from where have you come? And they said to him, Your servants have come from a very distant land, because of the name of YAHWEH your Elohim, for we have heard of His fame, and all that He has done in Egypt.*

**Comment:** And they were lying. They were deceiving him. But look what happens:

**Joshua 9:13-14** *And these are the wineskins which we filled new ... verse 13 ... and, behold, they are torn. And these garments of ours, and our sandals, have become old because of the exceeding greatness of the way. And the men took of their provision, and **did not ask at the mouth of YAHWEH.***

**Comment:** And I believe probably the biggest problem why there's so many problems in marriage today is for this reason. **When people are making that vow, are they asking at the mouth of Yahweh?** Are they asking at the mouth of Yahweh? What is the reason two people are getting married?

Now, it's really interesting. They did a study several years ago on divorce, and they asked people why they got married, and why they got divorced. And believe it or not, in many cases it was the same answer. "Oh, why did you marry him?" "Oh, he was so athletic." "Why did you divorce him?" "Oh, he was out every night at the racquet ball club." "Why did you marry him?" "He was the life of the party." "Why did you divorce him?" "He was an alcoholic." So, the same thing that attracted somebody to someone was the same thing that was the downfall.

And for a single person ... We have some single people here ... the very first thing in your mind if you're ever considering marrying another human being is ask at the mouth of Yahweh—first thing. **Ask at the mouth of Yahweh because Yahweh will never pick the wrong mate for you ...** Yahweh will never pick the wrong mate for you.

**Joshua 9:14-16** *And the men took of their provision, but they did not ask at the mouth of YAHWEH. And Joshua made peace with them, and cut a covenant with them, to keep them alive. And the leaders of the congregation **swore** to them. And at the end of three days after they had cut a covenant with them. And it happened that they heard that they were their neighbors, and they were living in their midst ... Verse 18:*

**Joshua 9:18-20** *And the sons of Israel did not strike them, for the leaders of the congregation swore to them by YAHWEH the Elohim of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the leaders. And the leaders said to the congregation, We have sworn to them by YAHWEH the Elohim of Israel; and now we cannot touch them. And we shall do this to them, and keep them alive, and wrath shall not be on us because of the **oath** which we have sworn to them.*

So, very clearly, **even when they were deceived by these Gibeonites, they were still bound to keep the word that they swore at the mouth of Yahweh.** Now, again, if they would have asked to Yahweh, Yahweh would have told them, “No, these people are lying.” Just like when David said to Yahweh, “Should I go out to war, or shouldn’t I go out to war?” And at times Yahweh said, “Don’t go,” and at other times He said, “Go, I’m with you.”

But by not asking at the mouth of Yahweh and then making this covenant they were bound. They vowed to these people. They made an oath to them, and even when they were lied to, they couldn’t break the oath. If we go to Acts the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, we’ll see a similar situation. Acts the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 1 through 5. And this is the story of Khananyah and Sapphira. Acts 5 and verse 1.

**Acts 5:1-5** *But a certain man named Khananyah, and his wife Sapphira, sold a property, and kept back from the price, his wife also aware of it, and bringing a certain part, he put it at the feet of the apostles. But Peter said, Khananyah, why did Satan fill your heart for you to lie to the Holy Spirit and to secretly keep back from the price of the land? Was it not yours before it was sold? And after it was sold, again you were in control over its proceeds. Why have you placed in your heart to do this spectacle? You have not lied in the presence of men, but in the presence of Elohim. And hearing these words, Khananyah fell down and died. And great fear came on all those who heard.*

Now, again, I don’t know if you’ve ever studied this story here, but the problem wasn’t that they didn’t give all the money. That was not the problem. The problem was that they **vowed** to give all the money, and then they held back. So, again, if ... What did he say? It was your land before you sold it; and when you sold it, wasn’t the money in your hand? If they simply wouldn’t have made that vow, they wouldn’t have been responsible before Yahweh.

**But once they vowed that this money was going to all go to Yahweh, and then they didn’t do it, that’s when Yahweh held them accountable for it.** So, again, the key that we learn though from Acts 5 is **when you break a solemn vow, you’re not lying to man but to Yahweh.** When we make the covenant wedding vow before Yahweh to this other person, and then we break it, we’re not lying to that person, we’re lying to Yahweh; and it’s a serious, serious thing when we do that, especially with the marriage covenant. Malachi 2 ... Malachi 2. We’ll see what Yahweh says. Malachi 2 and verse 14. It says:

**Malachi 2:14-16** *Yet you say, On what cause? Because YAHWEH has been witness between you and the wife of your youth ... Malachi 2:14 ... against whom you have dealt treacherously; and she is your companion and your covenant wife. And has He not made you **one**? ... How many scriptures have we read so far of the man and the woman being echad, one? ... Yet the remainder of the Spirit is in him. And what of the one? He was seeking the seed of Elohim. Then guard your spirit, and do not deal treacherously with the wife of your youth. YAHWEH, the Elohim of Israel, says, He hates divorce, and to cover with violence on the garment, says YAHWEH of Hosts. Then guard your spirit and do not act treacherously.*

So again, very, very clearly, Yahweh hates divorce. And He says, “What about the one?” What about the one? Malachi 3:6 ... Malachi 3:6. We always read the beginning of this:

**Malachi 3:6** *I am YAHWEH, I do not change ... but the second part is really important ... Because of this, you sons of Jacob are not destroyed.*

Second part is just as important as the first part. *I am YAHWEH, I do not change. Because of this, you sons of Jacob are not destroyed.* See, if Yahweh was the same way as human beings, then when human beings and when Israel sinned, what would He have done? He would have simply trashed them off and worked with another people. **But because Yahweh is a covenant Elohim, and He does keep His Word, and He doesn’t change, we’re here today.** Because all of us are the remnant of the sons of Jacob.

None of us would be in this room unless Yahweh was a covenant Elohim and kept His Word. Yahweh had every reason to destroy Israel, and didn’t destroy them simply because of the vow that He made to Abraham. Praise Yahweh for Abraham ... Praise Yahweh for Abraham. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2 and verse 13. Very interesting scripture. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2 and verse 13 says:

**2 Timothy 2:13** *if we believe not in Him, that One remains faithful; He is not able to deny Himself.*

*If we believe not in Him, that One remains faithful; He is not able to deny Himself.* And again, we’ll get into this when we get into the covenant relationships, and we go into the covenant that Abraham went into. But remember in Genesis 15? Abraham fell in a deep sleep, and who went into covenant relationship? Yeah, Yahweh and Yahshua. Abraham simply

went on the back of Yahshua into that relationship. He was smart enough to know He wasn't faithful enough to enter covenant relationship with Yahweh. But he entered through Yahshua; through the Melchizedek priesthood, he entered that relationship.

So, here we see it, that **even when we are unfaithful, Yahweh remains faithful. He's not able to deny Himself.** And it's the same way we have to think about in a marriage relationship. Even if our spouse was unfaithful, we want to stay faithful because we want to prove our faithfulness to Yahweh. We're doing it through our spouse, but we would never want to lose our eternal life because of a decision that somebody else made.

We don't want to mock the Spirit of grace by desecrating the most solemn covenant that Yahweh has next to our baptism. We're living in a world of truce breakers. It's a reality of the times we're living in; and actually, that is going to be the catalyst that brings the end, the destroying of this world, and the Kingdom of Yahweh here. Let's go to Isaiah 24, and we'll see this. Isaiah 24. It says:

**Isaiah 24:1** *Lo, YAHWEH empties the earth and makes it bare, and distorts its face, and scatters those living in it.*

**Isaiah 24:3-5** *The earth shall be completely emptied and utterly stripped, for YAHWEH has spoken His Word ... only time this can be is in the Day of Yahweh ... The earth mourns and languishes; the world droops and languishes; the proud people of the earth droop. And the earth is profaned under those living in it ... And now, here's why. This is why Yahweh is going to completely empty the earth ... because they transgress the Torah, they violate a statute, and they break the everlasting covenant.*

**Comment:** By people being truce breakers, by people breaking the everlasting covenant, this is what's coming.

**Isaiah 24:6** *On account of this a curse has devoured the earth; and they who live in it are held guilty. For this those living in the earth are consumed, and few men are left.*

So, here it is, the wrath of Yahweh coming on the earth. **And when this starts, like He says, don't pray in that day. He tells us don't pray in that day anymore.** When the Day of Yahweh comes, and 99% of the people on this earth will be consumed, He will not hear the prayers in that day. Because it'll be 6,000 years of judgment of people who are doing the things we talked about in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, people that are selfish, self-centered, truce breakers, and the like.

So clearly ... clearly to Yahweh, though, vows in general, and especially the marriage covenant and the vow we made to our spouse is of extreme, extreme importance. Last scripture I'm going to go into here is Psalm 15 ... Psalm 15. Because we see the wrath of Yahweh is coming on a rebellious, covenant breaking, evil world. And if people will break covenant with their own spouse and their own children, what would make us think they'd ever keep covenant with anybody else out there? Psalm 15, starting in verse 1.

**Psalm 15:1** *A Psalm of David. O YAHWEH, who shall sojourn in Your tabernacle? Who shall settle in Your holy mountain?*

**Comment:** So, this is the opposite. This is not the 99% of truce breakers out there. This is the 1% that's going to be there in His Kingdom. And look who it's going to be:

**Psalm 15:2-4** *He who walks uprightly and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart. He does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his friend, nor lifts up a reproach against his neighbor. In his eyes, the reprobate have been despised, but he honors those who fear YAHWEH: He has sworn to his hurt, and he will not change.*

*He has sworn to his hurt and he will not change.* Like I said, every one of us has bitten off more than we can chew. Every one of us have made commitments that we go, "Oh, why did I say I'd do that?" And yet, when it comes out of our mouth, we're bound to it at that point.

And we have to start getting to that point that, number one, **the first thing we have to do is we have to watch our words.** That's the first thing. **The second thing we have to do is ask at the mouth of Yahweh before we make a commitment.** But **the third thing we have to do is we have to fulfill our word.** We have to fulfill whatever comes out of our mouth.

Like I said, many times in a bad marriage a spouse only wants to blame the other spouse, but we must realize that we made covenant with the spouse. It was between us, our spouse, and Yahweh. Even if a partner is unfaithful, we need to



continue to be faithful as Yahweh is faithful with us. None of us are faithful, and yet Yahshua still does not put us away, but continues to work in us until the day He returns. Life is only a test to see if we will be faithful to be the bride of Messiah.

And like I said, even in worldly marriage ceremonies, most people take the vow "Till death do us part," even non-religious people. To leave your spouse and marry another is adultery in the eyes of Yahweh. And according to Scripture, no adulterer will inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh. Besides our baptism vow, there is no greater covenant relationship in life than the marriage covenant. By our words we'll be justified, and by our words we'll be condemned.