

SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":

An In-Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-
PART XV - Malachi Chapter 2:10-16

"GOD'S VIEW ON THE BROKEN MARRIAGE COVENANT"

WEDNESDAY, April 22nd, 2009

- I. STATISTICALLY SPEAKING: The United States has the highest divorce rate in the world at almost 50%! Many other people are "Emotionally divorced" from their spouses but stay together because of one of the following reasons:
1. Economics;
 2. Children;
 3. Religious Belief.
- II. AMAZINGLY, 85 % of those who do divorce marry a second time within 5 years!
- III. This is NOT a recent phenomenon. In fact, 2,500 years ago, divorce was a ^{common} ~~recent~~ problem in JUDAH as men were divorcing the wives of their youth and marrying foreign ("strange") women. Consequently, God called Malachi to speak out against this degrading practice.
- IV. Malachi changed up his approach to the people here by first presenting God's indictment, THEN followed that up with 3 probing questions for the men of Judah:
1. "Have we not all one father?" (v 10)
(speaking NOT of Abraham, but of God)"
 2. "Hath not one God created us?"
("us" = Israel) * cf. Isaiah 43:1, 7, 21
 3. "Why do we deal treacherously, every man against his brother, by profaning the COVENANT of our father?"
("treacherously" is used 5 times within this passage and it's definitions begin to expose the root causes of the eventual collapse of marriage covenants within Judah. This word can mean 1) deceitfully OR 2) unfaithfully)
- V. Interestingly, the Hebrew word used for "married" (v. 11) is "baal" and is ALSO the name of the false god worshiped by the Canaanites and Phoenicians.
- VI. This was an old "TRAP" used against the nation by their Enemy.
EXAMPLE #1 - (NUMBERS : 25:1-4) BALAAH led the men of Israel into this temptation just prior to their entrance into CANAAN.

EXAMPLE #2 – (I Kings 11 : 2) Solomon was drawn into this same “trap” and the kingdom was eventually divided as a result.

- VII. God had strictly forbidden intermarriage by the Israelites in order to protect them from Idolatry (see Exodus 34 :11-16; Deut. 7 :3,4; Joshua 23 : 12,13)
- VIII. Both Old and New Testaments clearly teach that it has never been God's plan for Believers to marry UnBelievers (see II Cor. 6:14-16//note the 5 rhetorical questions within this great passage) (ALSO NOTE: The concept of “unequally yoked” has it's roots in Deuteronomy 22 :10)
- IX. Verse 12 gives us the consequences for any man who commits such SIN and “Abomination”. (Prov. 15:8)
- X. The men of Judah tried to mask their sin by bringing to the temple proper “Offering unto the LORD”. BUT God requires we deal with Him at the “Root” level” of our disobediences- so He did NOT accept their offerings.
- XI. Their marriage covenants were witnessed by God as much as by man! Much divorce is at least partially enabled by a fundamental misunderstanding of marriage as a contract rather than (as it REALLY IS BEFORE GOD) a covenant! (Prov. 2:17)
- XII. God's original plan for marriage is seen here in verse #15 and can be summed up in 2 words: “one flesh”
- XIII. The phrase “godly seed” speaks of God's purpose in creating only one “pair” of humans in the beginning: So that a godly couple would produce godly children so that they might establish a stable home environment in which to rear godly children - who would eventually grow up and do LIKEWISE!
- XIV. A husband is compelled by God to put up a guard over his eyes, his heart and his motives so that he will in no way be tempted to leave the “wife of his youth”.
- XV. God's position on divorce could not be any clearer: “...He hateth putting away...”(v 16). (cf Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6)
- XVI. According to Jesus (Matt. 19:7,8), Moses made a provision for divorce because of the “hardness” of their hearts. That is, Moses did not command divorce BUT established laws to regulate a permitted practice already in existence.
- XVII. According to the phrase “covereth violence with his garment”, we note that a man who divorces the wife of his youth “wears” both his character and his sinful act for all to see.