

The Bride and the Tramp

Deuteronomy 21:10-14

- 10) When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the LORD thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive,
- 11) And seest among the captives a beautiful woman, and hast a desire unto her, that thou wouldest have her to thy wife;
- 12) Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house; and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails;
- 13) And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.
- 14) And it shall be, if thou have no delight in her, then thou shalt let her go whither she will; but thou shalt not sell her at all for money, thou shalt not make merchandise of her, because thou hast humbled her.

Doing Things Right

The Jewish scholars of antiquity referred to the teaching in these passages as “The Law of The Beautiful Captive Woman.” This law was put in place by Moses to anticipate the ravaging probabilities and unfortunate influences of the upcoming conquest of Canaan. This providential edict, like the one put in place by Moses concerning divorce, was a realistically glaring admission to the inevitableness of man’s fallen and debased nature despite God’s overall initial, written and revealed, moral precepts to the contrary. The teaching is straightforward.

This was an effort by Moses to mitigate and prohibit the sexual assaults against women inherently accepted and engaged in by other nations during times of military conquest. God’s mandate was that all men were to be killed or driven out or made to pay tributary to stay in the seven nation land called Canaan’s land, as part of God fulfilling His covenant regarding a promised land for His people. Unfortunately, due to failure on man’s part, this aspect of the conquest of land for Israel was not fully accomplished and realized in its entirety until the reign of Solomon.

Requisites for the Bride

The beautiful captive woman was offered citizenship by way of an initial betrothal agreement, with a subsequent potential marriage to follow, but only after a 30-day waiting process, whereby the sages claim she was to firstly clean herself up physically. Secondly, change her garments. Then begin complete assimilation and immersion into Jewish culture. This required her to refute and put away all of her strange gods, accept Jehovah as the singularly Supreme Holy One, and forfeit all former and legal family relations.

Essentially she must become brand new by the process of a thoroughly complete identity change. This 30-day period of a radical physical, emotional, and spiritual makeover, whereby she fully renounced her past life, was referred to as her time of “mourning.” At the end of the 30-day probationary period, the soldier was allowed to marry her and receive her as his wife, or else he could release her from the betrothal agreement unto another man.

However, if he was predisposed to release her, he was prohibited from engaging her in any sexual relations prior to her release, not to humiliate her. Again, the law was to protect the woman from abuse and purge the land of the sins of the Canaanite men (Lev. 18). Upon a potential release, if no man desired the woman for his wife, the Torah is silent about what became of these rejected captives. Nevertheless, the woman could never be sold into slavery and was considered legally fatherless. She ultimately became Jeremiah’s description and usage of the term fatherless in Lamentations 5:3—“a non-person.”

The Wedding Bells of Redemption

The Law of the Beautiful Captive Woman does not require intense theological gymnastics to recognize yet another Old Testament analogy of God’s redemptive plan for the Gentile people and, ultimately, the New Covenant Church. Interwoven in the conquest of Canaan was God’s plan to become a father to the fatherless prophetically. God’s desire for Israel to possess an inheritance in Canaan by way of war was the manifold grace of God in action. The land was filthy and polluted and had to be restored to righteousness.

The women were severely abused to the point of exceeding perversion. God’s provision for the captive woman was intended to save and deliver the woman, also sanctifying the land in the process. Her newborn status as fatherless, seeing she now had no husband, nor parents, would allow God to become her head; thus, the Israelite man under subjection to God was allowed and given by her new father a wife of God’s approval.

Excitement or Exiled?

Again, scripture is externally silent regarding the historical position of the multitudes of captive or foreign women without a national identity, of whom were deprived of a Jewish husband that allowed her an assimilated and honorable place in society.

Without any official headship in her life, she was considered unacceptable throughout the culture, and few, if any, had many legal dealings with them. This biblical silence only leaves Jewish sages for centuries to rely on oral history.

We do see in Nehemiah, however, a glimpse of the issue again. All of the strange wives were commanded to be put away. The mourning process was violated as the Jews returned to the land after decades of captivity in Babylon. The captive wives were not assimilated lawfully, and God was not pleased. The land was defiled, so God consequently had to purge it again.

Where did the captive woman disappear to? How did she assimilate and survive in this culture as an invisible non-person? We are only left to speculate. However, history suggests that the oft-reported perversion and immorality during the frequent and long seasons of backslidings and idolatry by God's people could be traced back to this tribe and pedigree of captive women. They were easy prey for the lust-filled, backsliding idolatrous-minded Jew.

The lack of a husband to provide proper sustenance for her, along with the absence of a legal head for the captive woman, was the perfect storm. The cycle was practically unending. Again, the fall of Jerusalem found Jeremiah lamenting their new national status in the book of Lamentations 5:3. "We are orphans and fatherless (a non-person), our mothers *are* as widows." As newly acquired captives in Babylon, the prophet felt the pain of the captive woman going from a bride to a tramp.

Beauty is Only Skin Deep

So while we find no written Old Testament history in scripture, we, however, can recognize the spiritual reflections in the New Covenant Church. In the O.T., we see captives transformed into beautiful brides. In the N.T., we see beautiful spiritual brides with a glorious Heavenly Father reduced to the spiritual lifestyles of fatherless tramps. An entire spiritual entity inside God's economy, but yet seemingly outside the camp due to no spiritual headship. The lack of lawful spiritual authority creates another church within the church. The First Church of Tramps—captive women without headship.

How to Identify Tramps

In Ephesians 5, Paul deals with this ever-increasing problem of authority and headship in the home, i.e., the church, when he says, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." He also addresses the women, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your 'OWN' husbands..." Why did he not say, wives submit yourselves unto your husbands and omit the word "own."

The Ephesians was having trouble with proper loyalties to lawful headship. They were submitting to another authority, thus creating another law within the church by circumventing the proper headship. Going around their husband's authority would only ultimately lead to a circumventing of pulpit authority.

Where Are They Now?

We see this ongoing concerning issue in Ephesians reflected later in his letter to the newly installed pastor at Ephesus, Timothy. Paul was increasingly troubled about the spirit of the situation and wanted to warn his beloved son in the gospel. He recognized the inevitable end-time demonic nature of lawlessness and iniquity fueled by a headless church absent of authentic apostolic authority. In his last treatises to Timothy, Paul would warn him in 2 Timothy 3:1-8 of perilous times to come.

His warnings centered around future seducers and deceivers trespassing and violating the unity within the church. In verse 6, we find a group within the church that can be interpreted as both literal and spiritual. “For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.”

Red Light Districts

That led “captive silly women.” The word silly is defined in Strong’s in its most basic definition as weak-minded. However, Greek lexicons that offer broader commentary define it better as “empty-headed.” The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) takes into account the earliest usage of the word silly, as in the KJV. Under number 2, it defines silly after the original Authorized Version in antiquity from the year 1611. “Powerless, and defenseless.”

The publisher comments that it is an empty-headed type understanding of the word silly that cultivates a susceptible person with no protection against perpetrators and violators. In scriptural context, however, it is a headless non-person that has been reduced to a powerless, and defenseless posture due to no headship.

From a protected, blessed bride to a non-entity worthless tramp, these are the spiritual tramps referenced as silly women laden with sins, of whom the deceivers lead away due to the deceiver's lust (not the silly women’s lust.) Again, the deceivers lead away through their divers lust the silly captive women. Brides reduced to tramps due to no spiritual authority in their lives become the target of spiritual chaos and confusion in the church. Entire churches without a strong pastor in the pulpit. No lawful spiritual leadership in the home. No strong man in the pulpit. Captive silly churches.

These are those of whom we are warned about in scripture. The end-time perils of spiritual sorcery will be increasingly challenging in the last days. Verse 8, “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth...” Spiritual chicanery and fakery. Fake authority produces a false church preaching a false doctrine. Paul elaborates, “But they shall proceed no further...” The end-time acts of the tramp church sorcery that attempts to impress or even intimidate will be overcome through spiritual power by a truth living, truth-loving authentic holiness and beautiful bride of Christ.

From a Bride to a Tramp

Finally, we see in Jude, these same people:

13) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

“Wandering stars - “The word ‘wandering’ is defined in Strong’s as ‘a roving tramp.’”

Later in verse 19, there are further warnings concerning these same roving tramps.

19) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20) But ye, beloved (bride), building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Moses said to the people concerning Dathan and Abiram, separate your tents from them. They are with us but no longer of us. They have become a law unto themselves. We are moving away from the headless tramps because they have separated as a law unto themselves.

According to Adam Clark's comments on Job 2:9-10, Job's wife declares that due to all of her children being taken from her, she has now become akin to a spiritual nomad or a wandering woman going from house to house with no purpose in life. Assuming her husband was next on God's hit list of judgment, she felt no need to sit and wait any longer for him to die. Thus the words, curse God now and get this over with. We have been abandoned without loving oversight, so we must seek our own providence. She wanted to find another man to start her new family and a new life with, seeing Job was soon to die anyhow. Job's response: you speak as one of the foolish or silly women who is headless. God is still over us. We are submitted in full faith and trust to Him no matter the current dilemma.

One Father One Bride

God has a beautiful holy bride as His church. The devil has a deceived captive tramp church. We must not give heed to the seducing spirits of The First Church Of The Apostate Tramp. We must keep ourselves through sanctification or separation from them.

Come out from Among Her

In Proverbs 23:10-12, we are taught not to fellowship the roving tramp as we are employed to remain steadfast in our old way of sanctification and righteousness unto holiness by remaining faithful to the truth. For God, Himself will lead captivity captive by His redemptive process. Let God be true and every man a liar.

10) Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

Let God in this hour deliver and redeem His bride from captivity as He sees fit.

11) For their redeemer *is* mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

We must save ourselves from this untoward generation.

12) Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

Pastor Bill Pitman