

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE—WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY? (1)

By Keith Greer

Do you remember what the children of Israel did not long after they entered the Promised Land? "When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths." (Judges 2:10-13)

God's children had no doubt seen the many wonderful works of God. How could it be that the next generation did not know the Lord or the works He had done for Israel? Could we be guilty of doing the same, and not teaching our children God's truths?

Many of our brethren want to discuss "MERCY", and believe, or at least teach, that God will accept any marriage because of the "present distress." Where is the authority that proves that

God has ever tolerated sin? I believe in God's mercy, yet, not to the limits of compromising God's word, and have men remain in sin!

When the children of Israel forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashtaroth, what did He do? "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed." (Judges 2:14,15) Would we charge God with showing "no mercy?"

During their history, the children of Israel continually transgressed God's Law, and in Ezra 10: 10-11, "...You have transgressed and have taken pagan wives, adding to the guilt of Israel.

Now therefore, make confession to the LORD God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives."

Do you think those men loved their wives any less than we love ours today? Could Erza be charged as a "HOMEBREAKER" or did he "DIVIDE" Israel because he taught them the will of God? Who made the choices to take those strange wives?

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, said that fornication is the only cause for divorce and anyone that marries one who has been put away commits adultery. This verse will stand when the earth is no longer here, no matter how much some of our brethren don't abide by it! Will you stand before the judgment seat of God and accuse Him of having NO MERCY because He expects purity from His people?

"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." (Revelation 20:12)

God's marriage Law was "from the beginning". We may do a lot of "justifying" to others, but we had better make sure that our robes are white when we stand before God. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10: 31)

We will continue this subject over the next few weeks and examine God's teaching and the teaching of many in the brotherhood – which is contrary to the scriptures! ***