

“1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, 2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place. 3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; 4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. 5 For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies. 6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them: 7 Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother. 8 Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink. 9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride. 10 And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God? 11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; 12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me: 13 Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour. 14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. 16 Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. 17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. 18 And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things. 19 O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. 20 Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods? 21 Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD.” (Jeremiah 16:1-21 KJV)

“1 Then the word of the LORD came to me: 2 “You must not marry and have sons or daughters in this place.” 3 For this is what the LORD says about the sons and daughters

born in this land and about the women who are their mothers and the men who are their fathers: 4 “They will die of deadly diseases. They will not be mourned or buried but will be like dung lying on the ground. They will perish by sword and famine, and their dead bodies will become food for the birds and the wild animals.” 5 For this is what the LORD says: “Do not enter a house where there is a funeral meal; do not go to mourn or show sympathy, because I have withdrawn my blessing, my love and my pity from this people,” declares the LORD. 6 “Both high and low will die in this land. They will not be buried or mourned, and no one will cut themselves or shave their head for the dead. 7 No one will offer food to comfort those who mourn for the dead—not even for a father or a mother—nor will anyone give them a drink to console them. 8 “And do not enter a house where there is feasting and sit down to eat and drink. 9 For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Before your eyes and in your days I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and to the voices of bride and bridegroom in this place. 10 “When you tell these people all this and they ask you, ‘Why has the LORD decreed such a great disaster against us? What wrong have we done? What sin have we committed against the LORD our God?’ 11 then say to them, ‘It is because your ancestors forsook me,’ declares the LORD, ‘and followed other gods and served and worshiped them. They forsook me and did not keep my law. 12 But you have behaved more wickedly than your ancestors. See how all of you are following the stubbornness of your evil hearts instead of obeying me. 13 So I will throw you out of this land into a land neither you nor your ancestors have known, and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.’ 14 “However, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ 15 but it will be said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors. 16 “But now I will send for many fishermen,” declares the LORD, “and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks. 17 My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes. 18 I will repay them double for their wickedness and their sin, because they have defiled my land with the lifeless forms of their vile images and have filled my inheritance with their detestable idols.” 19 LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our ancestors possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good. 20 Do people make their own gods? Yes, but they are not gods!” 21 “Therefore I will teach them— this time I will teach them my power and might. Then they will know that my name is the LORD.” (Jeremiah 16:1-21 NIV)

Another important lesson the word of God from *Jeremiah 16* gives us and directs us in the matter of marriage and the preparation for Godly marriage. The Lord instructed Jeremiah, *2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place. “2 You must not marry and have sons or daughters in this place.”* The command of God to Jeremiah not to marry is a strange thing, but God had reasons to say that.

At the time of Jeremiah the people of God were indulging in idol worship and had departed much from the word of God and from the ways of the Lord, *“11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; 12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every*

one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:” The fathers and their children forsook the Lord and did all the evil things that God hates, and they went after the imaginations of their hearts, and after their own ambitions and will, that contradict the word of God and the will of God.

Now for Jeremiah to marry he needs the followings:-

1- To get a godly woman that would raise up in a godly family: Now if the land so corrupted with idol worship and wrong practices then the possibility to find a godly person is so difficult or not available and that made the Lord instructed him not to marry.

2- To have stability and settlement for the marriage and the family to function: At that time Judah and Jerusalem was invaded with the Babylonians army and God allowed them to do that because he was punishing His people for their various sins and for their idol worship. Famine, sword, death and plagues were around and threatening the people. Therefore marriage is out of a place in such circumstances.

3- To have a Godly church that will be the base for a godly society that the family should be linked with: Now when the foundation is destroyed and the church is corrupted including the priest and those in leadership then God will interfere by bring His judgment to discipline His people in order to bring them to repentance. As you have read in *Jeremiah 16*, when God will start to do that then the chances of marriages is decline because God is in the process of cleansing and in the process of renovation and building people and families in Godly way. Therefore those who are committed to the Lord when the church is passing through the same of what Jeremiah was passing through, then their marriages will not be an easy process because of the multiple hindrances and for the lack of the Godly environment and the resources that are needed to raise up Godly offspring.

Apostle Paul in His letter to the Corinthians he spoke about such things, *“24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. 25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. 27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. 28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.”* (1Corinthians 7:24-28 KJV) *“24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. 25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.”* (1Corinthians 7:24-28 NIV) Paul in verse 28 mentioned the following about those who are going to marry: *But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.* Marriage is not a sin, but those who will get marry will face troubles. Paul also mentioned in His writing to Timothy that there will be terrible times, *“1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers*

of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2Timothy 3:1-5 KJV) *“1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.”* (2Timothy 3:1-5 NIV) Jeremiah was living in the mid of such a terrible situation and place, therefore God instructed him not to take wife and marry in that place.

God had outlined to the prophet Jeremiah the sins in the land, the current situations and the hazards that are about to take place and the ultimate outcome of the marriage when He told him not to marry, *“3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; 4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.”* (Jeremiah 16:3-4) Now to marry is not a sin, but if you marry and the outcome of your marriage is ungodly children then that is sin, and you and the church should refrain from doing that. The circumstances and from what is going on around you, will make things clear to you that it is not God’s will that marriage will take place if the situation as that the same of what was around Jeremiah.

The Lord told us in His word, *“28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”* (Genesis 1:28 KJV) *“28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”* (Genesis 1:28 NIV) The Lord requires from us to increase and get multiplied but God wants us also to keep holiness and godliness in what we reproduce.

Now Jeremiah his heart and mind was set to serve the Lord, and to you the same who set your heart and mind to serve the Lord and do His will and accomplish His purpose; you are required to behave and act as Jeremiah the prophet and agree with God and go along with Him. The following outline will help you more to grasp the message of God:

1- Understand the circumstances and what the church is passing through: Jeremiah understood it well that he cannot make it into a family in that particular place and time. I am not telling to you not to marry. But when it is not applicable timetable and place wise, then you should understand that you cannot marry at this time and in that particular place.

2- Accept the condition of God’s calling in your life: Jeremiah complied with God’s will. Comply with God’s will and plan, for the Lord had a good plan for you and you need to work it out with Him. Accepting the condition of God’s calling will be your ministry and what God

wanted you to do, ***“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV) “10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)*** God will reward you for every service, ministry and sacrifice that you called to do for Him.

3- Work out with God to build the foundation in order to build up a church and a godly community that families can be kept secure and grow in a godly and holy atmosphere: The Lord spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and told him to speak to those who were sent into exile the following: ***“4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; 5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; 6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. 7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.” (Jeremiah 29:4-7 KJV) “4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:4-7 NIV)*** The Lord for those who were sent into exiles He directed them to build houses and settle and plant vineyard for living and provision and then to marry and have children and for children later on to be married. God who inflicted punishment on them for their sins and as they repented and accepted to bear the consequences of their sins, then the Lord put forward the plan of restoration and the foundation of godly community and marriages to form families and to raise up Godly children. God wants you to be patient and to cooperate with Him to build new things that will last forever. This good plan of God for restoration will soon take place especially if everyone understand and accept.

4- Do not be selfish: When everyone denies himself as Jeremiah did, then God’s plan will come true. Jeremiah accepted that he will not be marrying in that place and in that time for the reasons that God had put in front of him. God wants everyone to do the same. But when everyone behaves in a selfish way the plan of God will be delayed and the crises and the ungodly atmosphere will prevail and Godly marriages will be hindered. Those who are selfish they don’t have love to others, but even they don’t love themselves. Because those who go ahead against the will of God then themselves they will not be blessed even.

5- From my experience in this matter in the church that I am pasturing: there were several who left the church because they were called to do as Jeremiah told to do, to deny himself/herself, to accept what God proposed to Jeremiah till the foundation of Godly families and marriages will be restored to the church. They went ahead with their own plan of marriages. But what the blessing they got from such decisions if they are not with us doing the ***good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them?*** If they had stayed and patiently forbear accepted the principles of Godly marriages from God’s Word, then they would by now having Godly families and their families would be a part of a Godly

community, the Church of God, that others may take notice and would happily take part in and the church would increase and families would multiply in holiness and godliness.

My dear and beloved: God’s will ultimately will take place. With few or with many members God will perfect His church and prepare the atmosphere; even with few members, parents, families or singles who would understand, accept and dedicate themselves as Jeremiah did, God will accomplish His plan. I invite you to commit your life to this ministry, the ***good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*** in pertain to family and marriage as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I commit my life to follow and to take part in the the good works that you have ordained that we should walk in them in pertain to marriage and family. Lord I seek you and desire you more than other things. I am your servant and I trust that you have a better plan for me. Take hold of me and lead me to do your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

Jesus christ



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