

## ***The Duties of the Priest Part 2***

### ***Preparation for a Godly Marriage***

***“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.” (Jeremiah 29:5-6 KJV)***

God has called us to care for families and to show evidences of Biblical and practical foundation for a Godly marriage in order to build up parents as royal priests, who are called to raise Godly offspring who will carry the truth of God’s Word to the next generation of priesthood. Generally, marriage preparation varies from place to place, from time to time, and from culture to culture. But the Word of God clearly contains correct principles for the preparation of a Godly marriage, or marriages that are solemnized as God has planned, prepared, and approved.

The life of the family, how the husband and wife function as parents, is a vital aspect for the church to focus. **Nowadays, family affairs are kept private or hidden away from the church. Many churches are neglecting or are silent about keeping holiness in marriage and family affairs. In fact, a church that indulges in many social gatherings and activities and programs is not at all a healthy or growing church. It is rather a dying church because the priestly families are not preserved.** Let us consider how the Levitical lineage of priesthood is preserved until the coming of our Most High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the first day to the sixth day of Creation, God has planned and prepared a family to commune with Him. In the Garden of Eden, God placed the first man and prepared him to be responsible before instituting the first marriage:

***“8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. 13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. 18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his***

***ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” (Genesis 2:8-25 KJV)***

God arranged the following things before the marriage of the first man, which are the same things the church should see and prepare before approving or officiating any marriage:

***1. God set up a proper place for living:*** God did place Adam in the Garden of Eden, a proper place with good provision and complete facilities for the man to live and enjoy life with his wife, in the presence of the Lord. ***“9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food;” (Genesis 2:9 KJV)*** There, all things were available and the place was well-equipped for good living before the woman was created for the man. **Consequently, a proper and comfortable place or accommodation for the family must be prepared before asking God for a partner to marry, and before officiating any marriage.**

***2. God sustained resources:*** God made rivers to sustain the Garden of Eden for Adam and his wife to live. ***“10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. 13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.” (Genesis 2:10-14 KJV)*** As God placed the four rivers and gold reserves near the garden, there must be also other resources to sustain a pleasant and proper place for the man and his wife. After marriage, they may have a house to live in but can they afford to pay the water and electricity bill? Have they conserved provision to sustain and back them up in times of need?

***3. God provided job and instruction:*** God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work on it and care for it. God assigned a work for the man to do before mentioning about what he will eat. **In the same manner, the man must have a proper job so that he can provide food and other basic needs for his family.** Moreover, God gave a clear instruction and commandment to the man: ***“15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:15-17 KJV)*** **Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.** While preparing for a Godly marriage, the proper understanding of who God is and what God’s Word requires needs to be fully achieved by the man and the woman. God’s purpose for marriage is to raise Godly children, and to illustrate the love of Christ for the church through the husband and wife relationship. God’s Word should be heard and obeyed both by the husband and the wife. They must be spiritually mature so that the purpose of God will be accomplished in their family.

4. **God's time frame:** The thought of a Godly marriage should be fulfilled in God's proper time. The LORD God said, *"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* God said this in *Genesis 2:18*, but He did not fulfill at once because there are more things needed to be prepared and accomplished. **There should be no hurry in getting married. God has a time for everything, and God makes everything beautiful in His perfect time. Hurry and haste make a mess, missing the right choice of God.**

5. **God gave responsibility and authority to the man:** The Lord tested the maturity of the man, and He checked if he was a responsible person before He brought the woman to him. *"19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."* (*Genesis 2:19-20 KJV*) God asked the man to name the animals and birds, and he did. The man proved to God that he was mature and responsible, so God thought that he would bring him the woman. The husband is the head of the wife. **So before marriage a man should prove that he is able to fulfill his role as a husband and father to his Godly offspring. He should be mature in the knowledge of God, a person with authority and able to direct his family to achieve the purpose of God.**

6. **God gave the suitable helper:** To find a helper meet to the man really seemed a big struggle for man; *"but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."* (*Genesis 2:20*) Only God can give the suitable helper. **Hence a man and a woman really need to wait upon God and be in fervent prayer so that God will show His plan for the Godly marriage. The need for a suitable partner will become a real need when the man or the woman is fully committed in achieving God's will and plan. And God alone can make and arrange a helper meet for the man:** *"21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."* (*Genesis 2:21-22 KJV*) The woman shall be God's handiwork so as to become a helper meet to the man. Suitable or meet for the man means appropriate, fitting, apt, proper, right, correct, right and proper, as it should be. Helper from help means assistant, aid, aide, collaborator, co-worker, colleague, partner, and the right match. Thus, **"help meet for him"** makes us understand deeply the value of God's hand in giving the right partner and perfect match for a Godly marriage. *"22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."* (*Proverbs 18:22 KJV*) If the woman is from the Lord then she is suitable and compatible and would be a true helper to the man who is really in need of a suitable helper. But if she is only the man's choice and not the Lord's, she will be *incompatible*, meaning unable to get along, antagonistic, contradictory, clashing, opposing, conflicting, discordant, contrary, mismatched, unsuited, unable to coexist, irreconcilable, or ill-assorted, instead of a **"help meet for him"**. And if she is only the man's choice, she will find herself *unhelpful*, meaning uncooperative, contrary, awkward, obstructive, unsupportive, not ready to give a hand, unaccommodating, disobliging, useless, not beneficial, not advantageous, unconstructive, impractical, unnecessary, a burden, negative, adverse, or of no use to the man.

**"14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD."** (*Proverbs 19:14 KJV*) If the woman is not from God she will carry another thought and vision, and she will move against or in the opposite direction of man. She will not be a helper but prove to be a burden in the ministry of priesthood. When God brought the woman to the

man, she was of the same material and they were compatible and in harmony. **"10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."** (*Proverbs 31:10 KJV*) The wife will be a suitable helper as long as God has taken her from the man. **"23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."** (*Genesis 2:23 KJV*) So then the woman becomes the help meet for the man who takes care of the garden or the things of God.

7. **God formed the priesthood family:** A marriage that is built on the principles of God shall stand the test of time and forever will carry on the priestly lineage of God's chosen people. Such a Godly marriage shall be a house that is built on the Rock who is Christ and His Word. *"24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."* (*Matthew 7:24-27 KJV*)

***My Dear and Beloved:*** We are challenged to build up Godly families. Let us keep the priesthood in the family of believers. The importance of preparing for a Godly marriage is invaluable. It is a great responsibility laid on the Church and on every priestly parent to keep Biblical principles in building up homes and families in accordance to God's plan. The aforementioned principles are to be practiced in building up a priestly family who will successfully carry the Word of truth to the next generation. Let us prepare for Godly marriages so that God's blessings will flow to our children and to our children's children. ***"9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."*** (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 KJV*)

Let us 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 dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that taught me the importance and the preparation for God marriage that is mandatory to raise Godly offspring. Lord thank you for the clarities and all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.

*Come now to God and confess your sins. Confess and renounce your wrong principles in initiating marriages built not on the Word of God but on worldly principles and emotions. Confess your lack of fear of God and your non willingness to do His will and His plan in your life. Confess and renounce your own will and plan and your stubbornness and delayed obedience. Confess and renounce your lack of the preparation for Godly marriage, your bad stewardship and lack of reading of God's Word and prayer and your non willingness to wait upon God's choice in your life. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your yoke and wasting time with non believers and friends, and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and doing His will. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins*

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*Lord I commit myself to the principles of Godly marriage, that I will apply in my life and in the life of my family and ministry and to teach others your Word and your will. Lord I ask you to sustain me and to continue to provide for me so I will continue to serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and committed themselves to apply the principles of Godly marriage. Lord use them to serve you and to reach others by your Word and instructions. Lord bless them and their families, children, and ministries, and reward them for their good examples, and let others see Christ in their lives, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord, bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to teach our families, children and disciples the principles of Godly marriage and apply them in their lives and in the life of your church. Lord we ask you to sustain all of our members and workers and provide our needs so we will continue to serve you. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts and the suitable talents that we need, and lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Duties of the Priest Part 2. Preparation for a Godly Marriage. Jeremiah 29:5-6. Genesis 2:8-25. Proverbs 18:22. Proverbs 19:14. Proverbs 31:10. Genesis 2:23. Matthew 7:24-27. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.

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