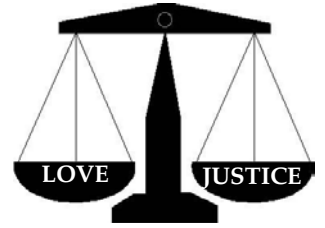


Y e s h u a M I S H P A C H A H

UPHOLDING HUMAN
DIGNITY



Matt. 25:31-46

A NEWSLETTER TO THE FAMILY OF JESUS FROM RESTORATION MINISTRIES

The Hebraic family is not simply an individual or private matter. Rather, it is an institution in which the whole community has a stake. Thus, the Hebrew word "mishpachah," meaning family, not only refers to parents and children, but to the whole extended family worldwide in the body of "Yeshua"— our Jesus.

You Will Rule

Dear Friends,

When have you last stopped to consider how Adam and Eve's decision to sin has devastated billions since? Most of us, to our own detriment, ignore that tragic reality. Yet, our fuzzy understanding of Eden's consequences is destroying many households today.

People talk about "The Fall" and the subsequent curses from God, but do you really know what the curses are? Do you know how to counter the effects of the curses in your own life? Before we explore these issues, anchor this one fact:

If you were Adam or Eve, you would have done the same thing.

Where There is Judgment There is Also Hope

Most Bible versions entitle Genesis 3 "The Fall of Man." It's a hard chapter to read because none of Adam and Eve's children ever got to experience God's intimate companionship in the Garden. Yet out of His great mercy, and despite the severity of their willful disobedience, our Father *didn't* curse the ones He'd made in His image.

In Genesis 3:14-19 God spells out the painful impact of the first family's sin. To the disguised serpent Satan He proclaims a dusty, ground-bound existence, adding a curse and prophetic outcome of destruction:

Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! ...And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

The crushing blow came, of course, in Jesus' victory at Calvary!

Eve was tempted by the beauty of the forbidden fruit, but the issue that pushed her to sin was this: She wanted to be like God.

[Satan speaking] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (Gen. 3:5,6).

Because of her decision to sin, God pronounced against the woman not a curse but an introduction to suffering in the otherwise blessed circumstance of giving birth: *"I will greatly increase your pains in child-bearing; with pain you will give birth to children."*

Because Adam chose to listen to his wife rather than obey his Creator, a second curse proceeded from God, not against the man but upon His creation. Man's labor would be changed from the joyful occupation of tending a willing and productive Garden to an ongoing battle with the earth to provide his needs — and ultimately finding his demise under the same dust on which the serpent must crawl.

God's Divine Alignment For Developing Generations of Spiritual Successors

Father (Luke 11:2)

Jesus (Phil 2:9-11)

Husband (1 Cor. 11:3; 7-9)

Leads his wife into deeper Covenant union

Wife (Col. 3:18)

Children born into the union are destined for either heaven or hell

Responsibility to raise them to become God-honoring adults (Mal. 2:15)

Sons for heaven (Eph. 6:1-3)

Responsible

Respected

Daughters for heaven

Submissive/non-contentious

Without fear or worry

Grown children reproduce heaven-bound cycle again for succeeding generation

Father
Jesus
Husband
Wife

Preparing the Family of Jesus for the Dark Days to Come

Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

“He will rule over you.”

Look at the second half of Gen. 3:16: *“To the woman he said, “...Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you.”*

- Is a husband’s rule over his wife the consequence of their sin?
- Or, is this a declarative statement that affirms the authority that had been given to Adam earlier in Genesis 1:28?

Let me explain why I believe the latter to be true. **“And he will rule over you”** is supported in the Newer Testament as Christian wives are reminded to **“submit to your husbands as to the Lord”** (Eph. 5:22). Paul further instructs, **“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God”** (1 Cor. 11:3).

While a wife will desire her husband in loving relationship, she’ll also desire the *position of authority* that God has given him! As we have seen earlier, she wanted to be *like God*.

That covetous longing for the role God has given to her husband will be a source of unending contention over his position in the family unless a wife lives with a repentant heart and within the Spirit-empowered plan for wives that permeates the Bible.

The issue of the “husband’s rule” has been watered-down in contemporary literature on marriage. So many deceived writers emphasize marriage as a democracy rather than the responsible rule of a

husband in his family.

Yet, Godly rule is exactly what our Lord commands a husband. To the degree that he fails to carry out this directive is the extent that apprehension and chaos saturates his marriage and family for generations to come.

“Rule” is God’s means for a man to exercise the authority entrusted to him. There is no curse in this. God requires this leadership of a man in order to hold him ultimately responsible for peace and well-being in his home.

I truly believe that if Adam had asked God forgiveness for his disobedience instead of blaming his wife (Gen. 3:12), a merciful Father would have never burdened us with generation after generation of blame-foisting, excuse-making men, and deception-vulnerable women bent on usurping the role God gave husbands.

“You Belong to Me”

Many have responded with positive comments about our July 2003 *Mishpachah Yeshua*, **“You Belong To Me”**, in which Sue addressed wives and their loving responsibility to submit to their husbands. Sue, and other Godly women who read her article, admit that women are “mavericks” at heart. They desire to avoid the rule of men. But men must rise up to loving obedience in Jesus and walk in the role God calls them for the sake of the next generation.

Sue is writing our October 2003 newsletter, **“So You Want To Be Like God?”** We trust that this extension of her July 2003 newsletter will give further insights for women to consider before they destroy their homes through control, manipulation, and divorce.

Fellas, no matter what Sue writes to the women, you have the ultimate responsibility to conform your marriage to what our Father requires. He will help you, but you must be *determined* out of love for

Him and for the sake of your wife and family.

Godly Marriages During A Time of Judgment

A wife desires to rule because she thinks that she’s the one who can best serve her family by controlling and overseeing them. But every man who marries is faced with the task of undoing the consequence of Eve’s sin. You have the responsibility to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in obeying God’s Word and guiding your marriage into the Covenant union He intended it to be.

If you don’t take the required biblical steps to transform the relationship between you and your wife into Covenant union, you’ll see your marriage, your family, and generations that follow imprisoned by marital tension. You need to be victorious in determining to rule justly with love and reliance on Jesus!

I praise God for the man who finds a wife who has been raised in a Bible-based home and has a submissive rather than contentious spirit. If you are a single man waiting to find such a woman, you’ll most likely die single. There are far too few fathers who carried out their responsibility to prepare their daughters to be Godly wives.

Many husbands today find themselves in a position of needing to complete what their wife’s father never finished. Sadly, so many husbands and wives flounder in unreadiness for the responsibilities and loving cooperation that marriage calls for. They’re clueless about their distinct, God-given roles as husband and wife. Paternal neglect in raising Godly daughters has contributed to why over 85% of divorces in the US are initiated by women. Rather than being taught (and role-modeled by their mothers) a submissive spirit, too many women leave home with a contentious spirit and false expectations of an “egalitarian” marriage.

In *Restoring the Early Church* we paraphrased Carle Zimmerman's classic, *Family and Civilization*, to illustrate that this nation is in the Atomistic Stage of destruction:

A civilization in the throes of the Atomistic period resembles a swarm of antagonistic insects engaged in mortal combat. Individuals become obsessed with their own desires and concerns, disregarding the needs or suffering of others. Commitments and responsibilities are looked on as infringements on personal freedom.

The characteristics of an atomistic society.

- Marriage loses its sanctity as a *stable, committed institution*. The inviolability of marriage as a *covenant* is lost. The relationship is often broken by relatively easy, "no-fault" divorce.
- Feminist movements abound as *women lose their inclination for childbearing and child nurturing*. The birth rate decreases. *Daycare facilities replace intimate parenting* as mothers are no longer motivated or encouraged to raise their own children in the security of the home.
- *Public disrespect for parents, parenthood, and authority* in general rises. *Parent-hood becomes more difficult* for those still trying to rear children with biblical values. The *media denigrate* time-honored values and traditions.
- Young people are *increasingly disrespectful* of their parents and others in authority. Juvenile delinquency escalates, as do promiscuity and rebellion. Neither the legal system nor educational institutions are able to deter such unrighteousness.
- *Adultery* is accepted and even promoted in many circles. *Alternatives to marriage*, such as cohabitation, are increasingly accepted.
- *Sexual perversion* of all kinds (homosexuality, rape, incest, pedophilia) move from toleration to proliferation.

No civilization has ever survived the Atomistic Stage. We are in a time of chastisement and judgment on this nation, but out of this will arise a remnant who will live true to Jesus.

God's Path for Husbands

In your quest to fulfill your God-given rule as a husband, you must die to yourself and to any selfish inclinations you have for why you married

your wife. You need ample humility if you're going to not only love your wife as our Lord commands, but also do whatever it takes to help her live in Covenant union with you. As your suitable-for-you helper, she is the other half of the union that physically represents your Covenant with our Father through Jesus.

You must lead her into living out a Covenant with you that bespeaks Jesus. Only as you fully uphold your role can you ever expect her to yield and walk in her Biblical role as your helper and intimate companion. The man who blames his wife for the failures in their marriage gets himself into the same predicament Adam found himself. As you lovingly do whatever is necessary to guide your wife in the Covenant union God desires, remember what *she* must overcome: *her generationally inherited nature will be to usurp your rule.*

You young married husbands, we realize that there are few role models who can or will guide you. The uninformed senior generation that seeks heaven-on-earth leisurely retirement are heading for destruction. Don't esteem their goals and motives! The seniors of today birthed the Atomistic society that is now wallowing in its own disintegration. Prepare yourself now while you're young to be light both during and after the Dark Days of Chastisement that are coming on the US.

Yes, your task is difficult, *but not impossible*. A woman who has been raised in even the most difficult of families can be transformed into conformity to the union God prescribes. For us husbands, it takes love and guts to serve our God and lovingly lead our wives, even confronting them when necessary to maintain peace in our homes.

Your role as husband and father has many things working against it: a lawless society, independent-spirited women, and church and education systems that nullify God's ways

and commands. But look at the Ethiopian Eunuch. After he was baptized by Philip (Acts 8:26-40), he went on his way with God, His Word, and the Holy Spirit. These powerful realities are still available to *you* as a husband and father! [This Ethiopian brother in Jesus has special significance for me. The only opportunity in which I publicly shared during our stay in Israel was with a group of believing Ethiopian Jews living in Ashkelon. They are spiritual descendants of the eunuch who brought the faith to Ethiopia.]

As a husband and father, don't underestimate your ability to raise children who will do more than you can imagine for God. If a eunuch can impact generations to come, so can you!

Remember, every child who is born to you has been given life because our Father wills it. Because of Adam and Eve's decision to disobey, our Father also knows that every person born is destined for hell unless they embrace the Covenant Gospel that ultimately brings them to salvation at the Judgment Throne.

Men, bringing them into the world isn't your foremost responsibility to your children. It's *preparing them to spend eternity* with their heavenly Father that really counts. The prophet Malachi offers God's perspective on the family: *"Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith [fail in your responsibilities] with the wife of your youth"* (Mal. 2:15).

Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of all who put their trust in Jesus because *"he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him"* (Gen. 18:19). The child(ren) God gives you

are given to you for the same purpose: *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4). Abraham kept before him God and His Word. He trusted His Lord. All you need is what Abraham had. Don't squander it!

- What are your goals for your children after they leave home?
- How are you preparing them for lives of obedient trust?
- Given your current involvement, will they be prepared before they leave?
- How will you determine when they are fully responsible?

Common Hindrances to the Hebraic Restoration

Sue and I are approaching 10 years of sharing the facets of the Hebraic Restoration. We've become aware of several common hindrances that keep people from life choices that made the early Church so spiritually powerful and relationally intimate. Here are a few:

- The vast majority of husbands lack the humility to love their wives as God requires. Ego gratification, both within Nicolaitan-ism and outside it, hinders his ability to lovingly and sacrificially lead his wife.
- Ego gratification hinders the hearts of fathers from fully turning to their children. They relegate their God-given responsibility to their wives, daycare, schools, and church programs.
- So many men have pet sins, “safe sins” which they refuse to give up before God. Their failure to repent not only hinders their own prayers from being answered, but indulges unrighteousness in their homes. Thus they lose regard for the importance of righteousness in their family's fellowship with other families.

Redemptive Support to Help Married Couples

Sue and I are very aware that the facets of the Hebraic Restoration are being sent forth by our Father into a nation that is already under His judgment. Yet, our Lord longs to be merciful to those who will turn to Him in trust and keep His commands. It's a matter of *your* level of determination! No one else can carry out your responsibility but you. As our Lord says, *“Anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him”* (Heb. 11:6b).

Few of you reading this letter were raised in a God-fearing home in which the type of marriage God calls for was fully lived out. You were probably raised in the Nicolaitan system, which has less than a 23% success rate in raising children who keep the faith of their parents. Think about it: Less than one-in-four follow in the faith of their parents. Can you risk this type of marginal success?

Our Father knows the responsive ones with whom Sue and I are sharing the Hebraic foundations. You may have been raised in a home that did not honor God or His Word. You may be divorced or the child of divorce, more familiar with how to fracture a marriage than maintain one. Or you may have a marriage that has little spiritually going for it.

But take hope! Your concerned heavenly Father sees your condition. That's why He has sent building blocks to help you restore the spiritual power and relational intimacy that the early Church once experienced. We call this the **“Hebraic Restoration”**, the name God gave us for it in Israel.

Our Father knows you need these truths if He's going to be glorified in your life during this difficult time. Nicolaitanism frowns on your spiritual and moral failure, but the Hebraic perspective sees the future glory our Father receives when you

wholeheartedly turn to Him in repentance and begin to put into practice the responsibilities He requires. With your obedient trust comes His grace and His empowerment to fulfill His purposes.

Men, take seriously the priorities shared on the next page. God is holding you responsible to live these out. He understands the woman you married and is well-aware of her father's failure to adequately prepare her for marriage to you. Now it's between you and your Lord to bring into conformity the Covenant union of your marriage. If you have access to older men whose marriages you esteem, great! But even if you don't, you still have no excuse. God knows the miracles He can accomplish through willing vessels. *Be one!*

Your brother who seeks to glorify our Father with you,

Mike

A Personal Note

Since we came West 3 years ago to work with Native Americans, we've become aware of subtle discrimination in Christianity. Some of you who haven't fully understood why we came to help have had the courage to tell us of your prejudice.

The Hebraic Restoration is first of all a re-establishment of *relationship*, both with *God and others*. Nicolaitanism is based on religious form and activity, and most of us were raised this way. Sue and I have learned much from the Native American about relating. This has subsequently helped us to assist non-Natives in understanding how to have *non-activity* based relationships. We recognize how the Native American will be used to restore the Hebraic facets in the Dark Days to come. Through James and Joyce Skeet we are helping the the Navajo appreciate the relational advantage they have going for themselves.

We've also learned how the truths we share are *trans-cultural*, equipping us to help others effectively share God's truths without the entrapments of European Hellenist religion.

Important, non-optional criteria for walking as God's Man *A Matter of Determination*

Your Relationship With God

- How important is God in your life? [Matt. 22:37]
- Does your family see your life bent on making Jesus foremost? Yes/No [Rom. 10:9,10]
- Ask your wife, family, and others who know you personally to appraise your devotion to God.
- Do you make extra time in the morning to pray and talk over your day with your Lord? Yes/No [Mark 1:35]
- Do you spend time during the day getting direction and guidance from the Holy Spirit? Yes/No [Eph 5:25,26]
- Do you eagerly spend time in the Bible? Yes/No [Heb. 4:12]
- Do you have a repentant heart? Yes/No [Psa. 51:17]

A Note to Husbands

If you don't fulfill your responsibilities to God on behalf of your family, you are failing them. Without our Lord Jesus being foremost, without reliance on His Holy Spirit, without letting His Word penetrate your soul, and without your intercession for your family, you fail both God and them. So many wives look to other sources of spiritual nurture because their husbands have neglected their spiritual responsibilities. Don't let your position as "head of your household" be a sham. Don't be a mere figurehead who is leading your wife and family down the broad path of destruction.

Leadership in Your Family

- Are you helping your wife learn to fulfill her God-given role as your God-given helper? Yes/No [Gen. 2:20]
- Does your marriage reveal an increased sense of Covenant union that others are attracted to emulate? Yes/No [Gen. 2:20]
- Do you fulfill your Biblical authority in a Godly manner as Jesus would? Is your home a sanctuary of peace, or is there apprehension and disorder?
- You have the responsibility to include or exclude, commend or correct elements that affect your home. How diligent are you in confronting those things that rob your home of peace and holiness?
- Is your marriage aligned with you as the head as God requires, or is there ongoing contention with your wife? Is your children's obedience divided between you and your wife because of emotional or decisional seams? If you have *ongoing, unresolved tension* in your home, have you taken your wife and/or children to the elders of your faith community to review your inability to maintain peace in your home? Don't go to Christian counselors about this — they only deal with interpersonal problems. Elders are the only ones permitted by God to deal with authority issues. Elders have the biblical prerogative to excommunicate, and, if need be, turn unrepentant family members over to Satan for the destruction of their sin nature so they can come to repentance and find forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Are you preparing your children for their adult roles? Will they leave your home before they are fully prepared? Are your son(s) prepared to be responsible to God not only for themselves but for the wife and family God will give them? Have you raised them to live in deep reliance on God?
- Have your daughters(s) learned a submissive spirit? Do they trust you, or do they contend against your authority? Do they display peace and joy, or are they full of fear or worry?

A Note to Husbands

Often we find ourselves acquiring new convictions to live by even as our children are growing or have already left home. Ask God, and your children, if appropriate, for their forgiveness for not knowing before, and begin to live by your new conviction. Don't let your fear for having not known in the past hinder your quest to live God's truth now and in the future.

Your Family's Fellowship With Others

- What are the criteria you use to determine your family's fellowship with others?
- Is upholding righteousness a primary concern in your fellowship with other households? Yes/No
- Have you established Biblical criteria for your faith community interaction, or is your fellowship based on reasoned preferences such as "good" youth group, lively worship, convenient child-care, entertaining programs, nonconfrontive sermons?
- Does your family have a chance to see you spiritually cooperate in meaningful ways with other men? Do they see you put your faith into action by serving others?

A Note to Husbands

If your fellowship with others is not based on upholding mutual righteousness, then you are leading your family to entertain *unrighteousness* in their own lives by your example. They will have no fear of God nor any fear of violating of His Word. You'll be following a 'god' of your own making, a permissive deity of lesser standards and lower ways than the only God of the Bible.

