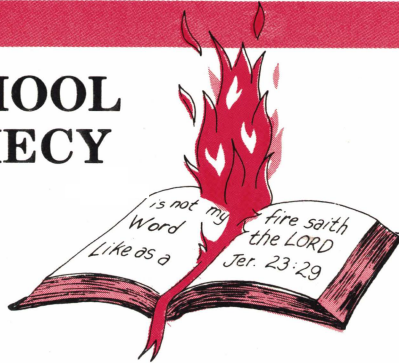


BIBLE STUDY COURSE

LESSON NO. 14

— FROM —

BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY



"SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS"

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.



THE FAMILY: MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

The Bible School of Prophecy

Lesson No. 14

INDEX

	Pages
DECLARATION.....	3
LESSON EXPOSITION.....	4
PART I. GOD'S FAMILY PLAN.....	9
Parental Responsibility — The Divine Order.....	10
Parental Responsibility — Discipline.....	11
Parental Responsibility — Love.....	12
Parental Responsibility — Salvation of Family.....	13
PART II. DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE & HOME.....	17
Divorce: Who Caused It?.....	18
Divorce: Legitimate Reasons.....	18
Marrying & Divorcing Intemperately.....	20
How Many Marriages Will God Accept?.....	20
Divorce: For Hardness of Heart.....	21
Remarriage: The Factors.....	22
Mixed Marriages.....	22
Sex is Dynamite.....	25
PART III. LOSS OF POSITION & HONOR.....	26
A Bishop's or Elder's Qualifications.....	26
A Deacon's Qualifications.....	26
Qualifications of a Bishop's or Deacon's Wife.....	26

BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY

LESSON NO. 14

THE FAMILY: MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

DECLARATION:

“God setteth the solitary in families.” Psalm 68:6. **The smallest unit of government in the world, ordained of God, is the family!** The first family was created and united by God Himself in the Garden of Eden — their names: Adam and Eve. First there were two, man and wife; then there were three, and then more as children were born into that first family. The home and family is a divinely-founded institution for the stability and disciplining of earth’s inhabitants that lends continuity to an orderly transfer of responsibility from one generation to each succeeding generation.

Another declaration is: God hates the destruction of a home by divorce and remarriage; however, another truth must be acknowledged from the Bible — **Divorce and remarriage are not the unpardonable sin!**

INTRODUCTORY SCRIPTURES.

Realizing that this subject is a very divisive one, it will be discussed frankly, but with full corroboration of the Holy Scriptures, “Precept upon precept. . . Line upon line. . . here a little, there a little.” Isaiah 28:9-13. No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation (II Peter 1:20), so every available scripture passage that sheds light and understanding on this difficult subject will be used. There are many pros and cons on this grave issue that so many are in doubt about or in error about — but this lesson will present an in-depth study with total objectivity — that is, void of prejudiced or brain-washed views.

(1) **“Marriage is honourable in all [or for all], and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”** Heb. 13:4.

(2) **“Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away.”** Mal. 2:15-16.

(3) **“And he [Jesus] answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain [two], but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”** Matt. 19:4-6.

(4) Jesus declared: "It hath been said [i.e., in the Old Testament], whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, **saving for the cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." Matt. 5:31-32.

LESSON EXPOSITION.

Obedience to God's laws ever leads men to true happiness, especially God's morals laws relating to immorality, marriage, and divorce.

Social orders in every age have prospered and been made strong by men's adherence to legalized marriages, resulting in the home, and family. Moral and spiritual decay always results at the dissolution of marriage and the home thru divorce and marital cheating.

Every marriage is not a success nor every divorce and remarriage a tragedy. Some marriages are performed for convenience, others to satisfy sexual lust alone; yet other marriages result from social or peer pressure, and some for money or position, void of the one ingredient that holds the marriage and home together — REAL LOVE! Any happy and lasting marriages must be built upon mutual love and respect.

MOST MARRIAGES ARE FAILURES — MOST HOMES UNHAPPY!

Does God join every couple together in marriage who say "I do," when it is evident the marriage vow was not sacredly regarded from their "I do...?" Jesus' declaration about matrimony was, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt.19:6. The big question arises, "Did God put that particular marriage together that ended in divorce, the break-up of that home, and a subsequent remarriage?"

COMPLICATIONS.

Many marriages and the homes that result are a tragedy to one or both husband and wife, and often the children also. We should hate divorce and remarriage, but love the victims of Satan's insidious plot to destroy. Quite often, children are saved from delinquency and ruin because of a divorce and remarriage. Why? Because the first marriage and the home was a literal hell on earth for those in its confines. However, more often than not, the break-up of the home and marriage on the "rocks of Reno", does irreparable harm, and the toll in loss is incalculable.

DIVORCE — A LICENSE TO FREEDOM?

Divorce does not necessarily make a libertine out of a person. Respect for the sanctity of marriage and home does not always make for a success story. On this point in question the Bible declares: "But if the unbelieving [husband or wife] depart, let him depart. A brother

or sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace." I Cor. 7:15.

In every great matter or area of a Christian's life, maintaining peace is a vital objective. Cf. Col. 3:15. Notice also: "If an irate wife or husband leaves a true Christian, the truly believing Christian is not left in bondage — and, the opposite of bondage is Freedom! He or she is free to marry "in the Lord."

LIMITED FREEDOM BY DIVORCE!

How many chances does God give a Christian to sober up, settle down, and build a vital institution so important to society and church as is a happy marriage and home?

God has commanded: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers..." II Cor. 6:14. A Christian is out of God's will from the beginning of a romance and marriage with a person of diverse beliefs about the Bible and Salvation — and especially with an unsaved person. **Hear this carefully:** "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But [and here's the margin of God's longsuffering] and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned [i.e., a divorced person]; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you." I Cor. 7:27-28. There is never a just cause with God for a Christian to marry a non-Christian or another Christian with diverse beliefs. Remember this vital scripture: "House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: **and a prudent wife is from the Lord.**" Proverbs 19:14.

A Prudent wife (or husband) is from the Lord! How about a non-Prudent one?

A PRESUMPTUOUS SIN.

Divorce and remarriage will not be accepted by God or forgiven if committed **presumptuously**. The only acceptance of a Christian by the Lord after divorce or a permanent separation, would be celibacy or unmarried and pure!

What should a Christian do if warned by the Holy Ghost not to leave her husband or his wife? Let the Bible answer this perplexing question, to wit: "**For if we sin wilfully [i.e., presumptuously] after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries . . . and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Heb. 10:26-29.

When the Holy Ghost warns and warns a married Christian or a man and wife of their reckless course leading into separation and divorce — and these warnings are rejected — the resulting divorce and

remarriage could very well be blasphemy of the Holy Ghost, of which sin “it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” [Matt. 12:31-32] Jesus declared.

LIVING IN ADULTERY? NOT NECESSARILY

There is a contemporary doctrine among some Christian churches which declare that divorced Christians who do not have a “Biblical” reason or excuse, live in adultery if they remarry. There is no Biblical proof of such a condition, especially if the consenting couple have repented of their sin against God, their family, and society. **The Bible declares there are 3 ways to commit adultery, to wit:**

(1) **Look and lust:** “Whosoever looketh on a woman [or man] to lust after her [or him] hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Matt. 5:28. Note that no overt act is committed in this sin, just desire.

(2) **Divorce Without Being the Exception:** “Whosoever shall put away his wife [or husband], saving [or except] for the cause of fornication [immorality], causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.” Matt. 5:32. This illegal or disapproved act by God constitutes an act of adultery — not “living in adultery,” if the sin is confessed, and forgiveness is granted by the Lord, that is, the sin of breaking up the home and marriage vow.

(3) **The Overt Act of Adultery:** “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Matt. 19:16-19; Rom. 13:8-10. Any sex act out of wedlock is adultery.

LIVING IN ADULTERY? YES! IN AN AFFAIR!

Men and women who dishonor God, reject His laws regulating sex and marriage, and defile their bodies in living together without the sacred rites of matrimony, are truly living in adultery, to wit: “Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: **For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband:** in that saidst thou truly.” John 4:16-18. Notice that this woman had lived with 5 men who Jesus declared were legitimate husbands — but, the one she was just “living with” presently was not a real husband — she was living in adultery. **God honors publicly witnessed ceremonies and government issued marriage licenses.** This holds true to both saint and sinner — for “God hath called us to peace” (I Cor. 7:15), not to civil war, and if we may so say, not to be “hell-raisers,” as many married couples are.

GOD HONORS MARRIAGES — HOW ABOUT DIVORCES?

God does not honor divorce and remarriage, but he is longsuffering, merciful, and He even tolerates it. God hates any sin or lewdness or

lust or disobedience. **Just because God hates a certain sin, does His mercy fail to proffer forgiveness if confessed with true penitence?** **Answer: Of course not!** God has mercy on those who fall into the sin of adultery when committed in any of the 3 ways Jesus declared to be possible. Many thousands who are victimized by a broken marriage mourn because of the tragedy — and it is evident that carelessness, prayerlessness, sin, and disobedience to God are the causes. **Are these causes not the same in the committing of any other sin? Yes!** We're still on the subject of a sin that is not the "unpardonable sin."

WAS THE MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN?

Jesus said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:6. Often the question is asked, "Was that man's or woman's first marriage really made in heaven or were they joined together by God at all?" A question well put if just a bit repetitious!

"What God hath joined together!" My, what a powerful declaration. Every marriage is not made in heaven, and every marriage vow is not said from the heart. Preachers preach, are ordained, they pastor, baptize, perform marriages, funerals, etc. — but as God has declared of most: "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied." Jer. 23:21. Cf. also Ezekiel 13:3-6; II Cor. 11:13-15; II Peter 2:1-3.

Many profess to be saved, but their experience was not performed from heaven, to wit: "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him." Titus 1:16. Also: "He that saith, I know him [Jesus], and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4.

Many legally performed and licensed marriages are only for convenience or to salvage some self-respect.

Many organized churches on earth are proclaimed by the founders and members to be God's or Christ's church, but most of these are only man-made organizations, and they surely are not made or recognized in heaven by the Lord.

However, these religious institutions and marriage institutions, although not ordained in heaven, make a contribution to the order and stability of our Society.

REALLY LIVING IN ADULTERY — REPEATING!

They call it "living with" or "shacking up"! This practice means that a man and woman are living together as man and wife without a marriage license or a wedding ceremony with nuptial vows. **This constitutes the fact and experience of "living in adultery."** This scripture bears repeating: "Marriage is honourable in all [i.e., for

everyone], and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Heb. 13:4. Consider this: Suppose one of a couple co-habiting without a legal marriage was truly saved and left the unlawful and unholy partnership — the other member not consenting to a legal marriage — could the saved one out of the unholy union now be free to marry legally? The answer must be clear and decisive! Complicated? But Yes!

Illegitimate children could easily result from such sinful experiences! Would an unwed, but immoral person of an illegal “live in” be free to marry after such immorality? What about the children in such a case? Answer: God would forgive such a person who truly repents, and marriage could follow within God’s grace — even the children could be salvaged for the Lord. **Now God did not approve of all this sin and shame, but He would forgive and cleanse those who turn from their sin and receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord.** “Marriage is honourable in all.” And, “If they marry, they have not sinned.” This longsuffering and mercy of God applies to one and all who repent to God, and receive the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Cf. Acts 20:21; Esp. I Tim. 2:3-5.

PART I. GOD'S FAMILY PLAN.

Summary

The Apostle Paul fully understood that God's plan for man and woman from the creation in Eden until the consummation of this age of man was as follows:

(1) "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." I Tim. 5:14.

(2) **Marriage and Family** — This is God's perfect law, perfect plan, perfect order, perfect method for replenishing the earth, and to effect the right respect for law and order. The truly, divinely instituted home and family consists of a husband, a wife, and children that are God-centered and Bible-disciplined.

(3) **God Himself performed the first wedding ceremony:** "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him... And he took one of his [Adam's] ribs... And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man... And they were both naked, **the man and his wife**, and were not ashamed." Gen. 2:18-25.

(4) **Jesus Christ declared marriage to be approved of God.** "Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage." Luke 20:34.

Also: Jesus and His disciples attended a marriage in Galilee, and blessed it. John 2:1-2. Sex, outside of a legal marriage, performed with vows of love and responsibility, is condemned by the Lord as a terrible sin to be severely judged by Him.

(5) **A MARRIAGE APPROVED BY GOD MUST HAVE A PUBLIC DECLARATION.** The Old Testament is alive with records of romances, plans for marriage, and even the wedding ceremonies. Engagements were very solemnly observed with dignity and respect — and all plans and events leading into marriage were highly publicized among kin and friends. Parents were the planners and very often chose the bride for their sons. The marriage vows were regarded as binding to both bride and groom, and divorce resulted only from the most extreme causes. **Judeo-Christian ethics and values regarding marriage, the home, and divorce have survived thru the centuries of man's history because of the Bible.** Publicly announced marriages and public ceremonies are still respected and practiced in every civilized nation on earth today.

Even if the custom was that the groom went into the tent or room where the bride was awaiting him on their wedding night, there were eye witnesses to publicly verify the marriage.

FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Gen. 29:21-30 Ex. 2:21 Deut. 7:2-4 Esther 2:17-18
 Gen. 41:45 II Chron. 24:3 Ruth 4:1-13 Deut. 22:28-29

A. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY — THE DIVINE ORDER.

(1) “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” I Cor. 11:3.

(2) “Unto the woman he [God] said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; **and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**” Gen. 3:16.

(3) Responsibility and Authority in the Home & Family is in this order: (1) God, (2) Christ, (3) The Husband, (4) The Wife, (5) The Children.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. **Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, So let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it.**” Eph. 5:22-25.

(4) “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. . . Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. **Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.**” I Peter 3:1-7.

(5) **GOD’S WORD FURTHER REVEALS & COMMANDS:** “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. **But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.** For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” I Timothy 2:8-14. The reason for God’s family law and order is vividly declared in this scripture of Divine Revelation.

(6) God has commanded mature, married Christian women to be “teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, **obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.**” Titus 2:3-5.

(7) **The Husband and Father**

“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.” Prov. 20:7.

Also: “But if any provide not for his own, **and specially for those of his own house**, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” I Tim. 5:8.

Also: “**And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**” Eph. 6:4. Study carefully the following Scriptures: Prov. 31:10-31; Col. 3:18-21.

B. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY — DISCIPLINE!

Summary

The Divine Order of the Family organization in the Home is as follows: Mama submits to Daddy, the children submit to Mama and Daddy, and Daddy submits to God’s Word and Christ who is the head of the man!

The disciplining of the children is to be according to God’s Book on this vital subject as follows:

(1) **“Fathers [or parents] bring them up in the nurture and admonition [disciplining] of the Lord [i.e., God’s Word].”** Eph. 6:4.

(2) **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord:** for this is right. Honour thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Eph. 6:1-3.

(3) **“Train up a child in the way he should go:** and when he is old [or older], he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6. Let God’s Word be True!

(4) **God said this: “He that spareth his rod hateth his son [or daughter]: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [many times].”** Prov. 13:24. Child psychology books don’t say this, but God’s Book does!

(5) **“Chasten thy son while there is hope [i.e., before he gets too big], and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”** Prov. 19:18. If the parent loves him, he will!

(6) Now hear this, frustrated parents:

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child [yes, even your child]; **but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.**” Prov. 22:15. Parents, it is not a sin to whip your rebellious or disobedient child — it is a sin not to whip him!

(7) DELIVER YOUR CHILD FROM HELL, PARENTS!

“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. **Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.**” Prov. 23:13-14.

FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Prov. 23:17-26	Ecc. 11:9-10	II Tim. 3:15	II Tim. 1:5
Prov. 29:15, 17	Ecc. 12:1	Titus 2:6-8	Luke 2:42, 51

C. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY — LOVE!**Summary**

This lesson is not an animated study of sex and affectionate love between a man and his wife, but rather a study of the basics and foundation of a happy and successful marriage and home. God’s Book has enough intimacy detailed in His directions to His called and chosen Elect for a completely fulfilled life experience — if observed and obeyed! To wit:

(1) “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church.” Eph. 5:25. My, what love!

(2) “**It is good for a man [unmarried] not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication [immorality], let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.** Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence [i.e., love and affection]; and likewise also the wife unto the husband. . . Defraud ye not one the other [i.e., don’t keep yourself from showing love by affection and sex], except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency [or lack of self-control in your sex drive].” I Cor. 7:1-5.

(3) A BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSION OF LOVE.

“Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; **let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.** [And God’s warning follows:] And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman [i.e., with any one you’re not married to], and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.” Prov. 5:18-22.

(4) “And it came to pass, when he [Isaac] had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.” Gen. 26:8. **“Sporting” meant that Isaac was picking and feeling around on Rebekah!**

Now, these affectionate advances are right and wonderful in marriage — they are taboo outside of marriage, as in dating — to be avoided by all means until marriage and honeymoon time! This would be immorality outside of wedlock — and a grave sin against God!

(5) **So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.** He that loveth his wife loveth himself. . . For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. . . Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; **and the wife see that she reverence her husband.**” Eph. 5:28-33. This wonderful Divine Order ever leads men and woman to fulfillment and happiness!

D. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY — SALVATION OF FAMILY!

Summary

God’s Family Plan to parents is as follows: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house [or family].” Acts 16:31. **Noah is our example of a righteous husband and father who obeyed God and saved his whole family, to wit: “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear [the Fear of God], prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”** Heb. 11:7. **By faith and obedience to God’s Word, parents can still save their home and every one in it. (Lot and his wife are vivid examples of foolish Christian parents, who lost their family. Cf. Gen. 19:1-29.)**

A Warning By the Lord.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge [i.e., from God’s Word], I will also reject thee. . . seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, **I will also forget thy children.**” Hosea 4:6.

(1) **Parents are responsible for their children’s salvation!** Jesus exclaimed to a group of women followers: “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.” Luke 23:28.

Again, Jesus tearfully declared: “And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in

thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation [i.e., they didn't believe what Jesus taught them]." Luke 19:44.

(2) BLESSINGS OR CURSES UPON CHILDREN — PARENTS CAN DETERMINE WHICH LEGACY.

Moses warned Israel: "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil. . . I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou [parents] and thy seed [your children] may live: That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days." Deut. 30:15-20.

AND FURTHER:

God Himself has warned: "I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity [i.e., lawlessness] of the fathers [i.e., parents] upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:5-6.

Remember: God still judges this universe by His moral law, for He has declared: "I am the Lord, I change not." Mal. 3:6. Parents are responsible for their children's salvation, not just for their social and physical needs. **If parents really and truly serve the Lord, their children and grandchildren will be blessed and saved.**

BE SURE TO TEACH THIS TO YOUR CHILDREN!

(1) Your body must be kept Holy.

"Neither be partaker of other men's sins: **keep thyself pure.**" I Tim. 5:22.

(2) Your Body Is Made For God to Live In!

"Now the body is not for fornication [or immorality], but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. . . Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." I Cor. 6:13-18.

(3) **God will destroy any person who desecrates and defiles his body.** "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Cor. 3:17. **Also:** "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. . . Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:9-11.

FOR FURTHER VERY CAREFUL STUDY.

Psa. 103:17-18

Gen. 19:14

Mark 13:12

II Tim. 1:5

Gen. 18:17-19

Psa. 128:1-6

Prov. 4:1-7

Eccles. 12:1, 13-14

(3) TO BE SUCCESSFUL PARENTS DO THIS! SAVE YOUR FAMILY!

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: **And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deut. 6:5-7.

ALSO, Parents, serve God with this resolve and sincerity:

“Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth. . . And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . [then Joshua made this earth-shaking declaration and resolution before a crowd of wavering people of God] **but as for me and my house [my family], we will serve the Lord.**” Joshua 24:14-15.

Here’s the results of that valorous, heroic, determined resolution by this man of God, husband, and father of great faith: “And the people [including his whole family] served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the works of the Lord.” Judges 2:7.

(4) OUR EXAMPLES.

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning [i.e., these examples recorded in the Old Testament]” Romans 15:4.

Also: “Now these things were our examples. . .” I Cor. 11:6, 11.

A bad example: God destroyed the High Priest Eli’s family because he refused to restrain his sons from doing evil, to wit: “For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; **because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.** . . when I begin, I will also make an end.” I Samuel 3:13, 12.

ROMANCE.

A Christian-style romance consisting of purity, respect for one’s perspective partner in marriage, a retaining of self-respect, and conscience that’s clean and pure, ever makes for a happy marriage and home. Please read of a beautiful romance and marriage, approved by God, and recorded in God’s Book for our learning: Ruth 1-4.

WHO’S IN CHARGE?

A wife and children cannot rule the Home, and Success and Happiness be the result, any more than a parent can jump on the far end of his or her own shadow, to wit:

PART II. DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE & HOME.

Summary

The First Factor of this tragic experience is: God hates Divorce and Remarriage.

The Second Factor: Divorce and remarriage is not an unpardonable sin.

The Third Factor: Every Christian and true minister of Jesus Christ should hate divorce and remarriage — and strive to prevent the break-up of the home.

The Fourth Factor: No one really knows which of the married couple is at fault...that is, knows all the facts — pros and cons!

The Fifth Factor: God is merciful and forgives if the causes of the divorce are confessed and forsaken, which is sin, especially pride, and often lust.

WHO KNOWS BUT GOD!

Marriage needs no-fault insurance or rather no-fault assurance!

Who knows all the factors and variables that cause the destruction of the home that leads to divorce and remarriage? Who sinned? Was the husband or the wife guilty? Which one was the innocent victim? In 99% of separation and divorces, no one will probably know these answers except God alone. In about 98% of divorce and remarriage, both husband and wife are guilty of causing the split-up. What if the percentage was not 50-50, but let's say it was 70-30, and you are the victim who contributed only 30% of the cause of divorce — does this fact make you share equal blame? Yes! Even if you were only 10% of the blame!

Remember: "For by the law [God's Commandments] is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:20.

GRACE.

Moses law permitted divorce to hardhearted people of God, Jesus declared — how much more does God proffer mercy and forgiveness under the dispensation of grace in which we are now living, to wit: "For he [God] shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; **and mercy rejoiceth against** [or over] **judgment.**" James 2:13. Many Christians and preachers cry out to the poor unfortunate ones, who are doubly married but have come to Christ and found mercy, "Look out, you're living in adultery," until — until they fall victim to the same traumatic experience, or until their children fall into Satan's trap and suffer the tragedy of a broken home and marriage. Then their cries of foolishness cease, and they too seek forgiveness and understanding from the Lord for themselves and children.

A. DIVORCE: WHO CAUSED IT?

It has been said, “**Most broken homes begin over a burnt piece of toast!**” **The little things!** God’s Word warns about the incidence of little things that destroy love: “Take us the foxes, the little foxes [i.e., trifles], that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.” Songs 2:15. Youthful love is tender and fragile — it can be destroyed easily.

(1) NO REAL LOVE.

Most marriages are not a result of love — they usually result from lust, physical attraction, or for social position. **Divorce is almost always a result of lost love or an absence of real love.** What is real love? Here is God’s definition, to wit: “For love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave. . . Many waters [i.e., many difficulties and problems] cannot quench love [i.e., real love]; if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned [scorned].” Songs 8:6-7. (See back cover for an even fuller definition of love.)

Also: “Hatred stirreth up strifes [i.e., fighting and quarreling]: but love covereth all sins.” Prov. 10:12.

“My little children [i.e., Christians], let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” I John 3:18. Husbands and wives should show devotion and love to each other by kindness, courtesy, and affection.

(2) THE GUILTY ONE.

If there is a broken home and marriage, and only one of the couple is to blame, the man or wife who does not love the other is the guilty culprit!

B. DIVORCE: LEGITIMATE REASONS.

Summary

Many divorces are legitimate and right — accepted by God and by what God’s Word reveals. Now whose Word or judgment must we accept — the convictions or opinions of preachers and well-meaning Christians, or shall we submit our will and judgment of Divorce and Re-marriage to the light we have available from the Book of Books, the Bible? Of course, we’ll “let God be true, but every man a liar. . . That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” Rom. 3:4. Amen and Amen.

(1) Jesus declared that a man can put away his wife, (or a women her husband) for the cause of fornication, or immorality. Matt. 19:9; 5:32.

(2) “But if the unbelieving [wife or husband] depart, let him depart. A brother or sister [i.e., a Christian] is not under bondage in such

cases: but God hath called us to peace." I Cor. 7:15. If a Christian is not under bondage, then he or she is free — free to marry in the Lord's will the next time!

UNQUALIFIED SCRIPTURES:

(3) The following scriptures are given from the Lord without qualification — so we must qualify them by the light of the other scriptures on this vital subject:

a. The Apostle Paul exhorts, "I say therefore to the unmarried [not presently married] and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. **But if they cannot contain** [i.e., cannot control their sex drive], **let them marry, for it is better to marry than to burn.**" I Cor. 7:8-9. What does "to burn" mean? There are two interpretations: One is that a person may burn with an insatiable desire for sex; the other is that a person will burn in hell because of his strong lust! The latter interpretation is the correct one.

b. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Heb. 13:4. Marriage is the honorable way out of lust, loneliness, and a lack of self-control — from sinning against God! **And marriage is legal and right for everyone, especially Christians who have been forgiven from their sin of divorce and remarriage, and all sins that led into the sad experience.**

c. FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE.

For the sake of peace and for the sake of love, a home should be a little bit of heaven on earth, especially for the children's sake. Could the following conditions as the scriptures describe, if with continuous intensity, provide legal grounds for separation, divorce, and remarriage? It seems quite reasonable to assume that the scriptural implication does mean to be so, to wit: **"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house."** Prov. 21:9.

Also: "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." Prov. 21:19.

And: "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." Prov. 14:1.

(4) A SAFETY VALVE.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you [or is in your power to control circumstances], **live peaceably with all men.**" Rôm. 12:18. How can a wife or husband live in peace when the other one "raises the devil" or "raises hell" continuously? Do the children deserve those environmental conditions to grow up under? Can anyone expect them to be normal and God-fearing? NO!

(5) FORGIVENESS & MERCY.

“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him; A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” Prov. 6:16-18. Does God forgive those who repent of lying, murder, pride, adultery, and sins of every variety — even though He hates every one of these sins? Answer: Yes! Then does He forgive those who stumble into the sin of breaking up a marriage and home (if they truly repent), and attempt to build a happy life in remarriage? The answer is yes, whether you or I like it or not!

(6) FORBIDDING TO MARRY.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times [that’s now] some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy. . . **Forbidding to marry. . .**” I Tim. 4:1-3. A godly society cannot remain godly with the perverted teaching that some can marry while denying others the freedom to do so. **Homosexuality, adultery, lust, and carnality always result. “Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.”** (I Cor. 7:2), **and thus avoid the sin of immorality and God’s resulting judgments!**

INTEMPERATE MARRYING.

A very discerning and novel sign was given by Jesus as an indicator to Christians that our days are the last days or the endtime: “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, **marrying and giving in marriage. . .** So shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:37-39. Intemperately eating and drinking! Eating and drinking is natural and right **except** when practiced excessively, which is gluttony! **Marriage is normal and right, but excessive marrying as a sign** of the last days and of Christ’s return, means marrying and divorcing, marrying and divorcing — men and women never satisfied with their present spouse.

(7) HOW MANY MARRIAGES WILL GOD ACCEPT?

All “excessive” sinfulness is forbidden and will be severely judged by the Lord. If a Christian has made shipwreck of his life “on the Rocks of Reno,” it is very likely that only one more chance will be granted him by the Lord to correct the tragedy of a broken home, and the factors (sins and weaknesses) that caused the tragedy. **One more chance! Think of it!**

a. God destroyed the old world of Noah’s day because of excessive sinfulness, especially divorce and remarriage!

b. **God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah**, a great city of multiplied thousands, because of their excessive sin of moral perversion including the destruction of the home and marriage. “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord **exceedingly.**” Gen. 13:13. These conditions are also given by Jesus as signs of His return — “Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” Luke 17:30; also study II Peter 2:4-6 as a warning!

c. **DIVORCE: FOR HARDNESS OF HEART.**

Summary

In the dispensation of the law, Moses granted a writing of divorcement because of their hardness of heart (Matt. 19:7-8). **This grant by Moses’ law made divorce and remarriage legal and accepted by God, but not with God’s approval.** As Jesus declared, “But from the beginning it was not so [i.e., it was not God’s will from the very first marriage in the Garden of Eden].” Matt. 19:8. Cf. verses 3-6 for further clarification.

Note this carefully: “When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and if it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. **And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man’s wife.**” Deut. 24:1-2.

(8) THE BACKSLIDER.

The spiritual condition of a backslider is as follows: “The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways [not God’s ways].” Prov. 14:14. **Is not the condition of a backslidden Christian about the same as a sinner? Answer: Yes!** Then too — does not a divorce and remarriage result from carnality and self-determination, which are attributes of a backslider or sinner? Answer: A big Yes! God forgave the Prodigal son, who devoured his father’s substance on harlots and riotous living, because he repented and was restored back into God’s grace. (Luke 15:11-32). **While backslid, the prodigal was dead and lost. When Restored, he was alive again and found.** Verse 32.

a. **RESTORATION.**

Restoration of a backslider means: “He is put back into a former or unimpaired condition.” How blessed!

Reconciliation of a sinner to God thru Jesus Christ means: “To be justified; just as if I’d never sinned.” The old past, the old records of all the guilt, the sins, all the sad hours, weaknesses, and lost

opportunities are all forgiven, the record removed by the Lord, and a new parchment sheet given him on which to write a record of a new past that will be a joy to look back to, and to meet at Christ's future judgment seat. (Rom. 14:11-12; II Cor. 5:10-11). Please study these reference scriptures.

b. UNBELIEVABLE!

When a sinner truly receives Jesus as Lord and Master, the old records of marriage and divorce are not held against that individual or couple — they begin as though the bad marriage never happened. II Cor. 5:17.

B. REMARRIAGE. THE FACTORS.

(1) "They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? Shall not that land be greatly polluted? Jer. 3:1.

(2) "When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and if it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement. and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. . . Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance." Deut. 24:1-4.

Esther, the virtuous virgin who was so wondrously used of God to save Israel from utter extermination by the wicked Haman's plot, was married to the King Ahasuerus who divorced Queen Vashti because of her flagrant insubordination. **And God not only approved, He was the matchmaker!** Cf. Esther 1 & 2.

It is sinful and evil for a true Christian man or woman to be divorced, remarry, and then get another divorce and marry again. There would be little or no hope of forgiveness — only living alone would merit God's forgiveness in almost all cases.

(3) MIXED MARRIAGES.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." II Cor. 6:14. A Christian woman is commanded by the Lord: "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord.**" I Cor. 7:39.

Also: "And unto the married [Christians] I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." I Cor. 7:10-11. **It is a sin for Christians to divorce and remarry except for fornication, as Jesus declared.**

and let not the husband put away his wife." I Cor. 7:10-11. **It is a sin for Christians to divorce and remarry except for fornication, as Jesus declared.**

(4) GOD HAS DECREED: DO NOT MIX!

Some religious sects require their members newly converted to Christ, to separate from their spouses who have been divorced — that is, to go back to their first spouse or remain unmarried. There is no Bible order to substantiate such an order. God separated men, their wives, and children over the mixed marriages of God's people with idolaters, to wit: "And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, **Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives**, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives." Ezra 10:10-11. The Bible condemns marriages of Christians with any person who is strange — strange in beliefs, looks, or genealogy, especially strange in religious beliefs.

(5) The Woman's Role is Well Stated In the Scriptures — What About the Man's Role?

Paul the Apostle declares in the Scriptures: "(I speak to them that know the law) how the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband **is bound by the law to her husband** so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from **the law of her husband**. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren [Christians], ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; **that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead**, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Rom. 7:1-4. "Law of her husband" is not the Law of God. **We Must Remember This: In Christ male and female have the same status — that is, have access to the same mercy without partiality.** Under the law, only the man could break the marriage vow at his discretion. Under grace, the privilege in Christ belongs jointly with the woman if a just cause exists. Christians who walk in the Spirit are dead to the law, therefore the new rule of grace is applicable: "If the unbelieving depart, let him [or her] depart. **A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases:** but God hath called us to peace." I Cor. 7:15.

Remember Further: The premise of this lesson's theme is God's long-suffering and mercy in broken marriages and subsequent remarriages. God still hates putting away, but loves those who fall victim to Satan's devices. **The second-chance-Christian must learn this quickly:** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." II Cor. 2:11.

C. SOWING & REAPING.

Summary

God's moral law of excess and deficiency — called sowing and reaping in the Bible, operates on every level in this universe. God has decreed: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing [i.e., living right]: for in due season we shall reap [yes, reap peace and happiness], if we faint not [if we'll wait for God's help]." Gal. 6:7-9. **He that soweth to the flesh — that is, lives fleshly and carnally, not spiritually, shall reap rotten flesh — heartache, sorrow, and even physical affliction!** There is also a loss of respect, integrity, honor; a loss of virtue, self-reliance, and reputation by a yielding to the flesh and suffering the shipwreck and loss of a marriage and home.

GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

In the experience and sin of a broken home, **Christians** may also experience forgiveness and restoration — but never will the same status be regained as they formerly enjoyed in position, honor and integrity. Jesus forgives, but the wounds and scars, and often the shame of publicly-known immorality, will not be removed. The pain can be lessened — but the man, the woman, and the children (if any) that were involved, will bear the effects of the trauma to their graves. There is a penalty of reaping of certain sins committed by either a Christian or a sinner. God can heal the guilt, but not the scars and memories.

(1) SEX IS DYNAMITE.

“But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; **and his reproach shall not be wiped away.**” Prov. 6:32-33, also verses 23-35. God has said, Don't play around with your emotions or affections, nor those of the opposite sex in this directive: “Rejoice with the wife of thy youth [your first wife]. Let her be as the loving hind [female deer] and pleasant roe [male deer]; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; **and be thou ravished always with her love. Any why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?...He shall be holden with the cords of his sins.**” Prov. 5:18-23.

FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Prov. 7:7-27

Prov. 9:13-18

Prov. 31:10-31

II Sam. 13:1-22

PART III. LOSS OF POSITION & HONOR.

Discussion

A Christian minister, teacher, or leader of God's people cannot qualify for such a position of honor, respect, and trust who has left the debris of a broken home or homes around the landscape — that is, ex-wives and children (who have several parents or don't know for sure who their real parents are), bad debts, bad reputation, etc. God forgives, but God doesn't erase the hatred, distrust, and jealousies aroused among family, relatives, and friends resulting from divorce, remarriage, and court orders!

Something is lost by these unwise and callous acts that are disgraceful — **and disgrace results in reaping**. There are qualifications of God's Word that apply to one and all for a position of public trust and leadership for ministers of God and church leaders of every position. To wit:

a. A BISHOP'S OR ELDER'S QUALIFICATIONS — NO EXCEPTIONS!

“**A bishop then must be blameless** [i.e., no sin in his life for men to point to], **the husband of one wife** [i.e., only one living, not one at a time as many practice], vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine [no alcoholic beverages], no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre [i.e., no money grabber]; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; **One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity** [seriousness]; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house [i.e., his home and family], how shall he take care of the church of God?) **Not a novice** [he must be a man of broad experience], lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. **Moreover** [note this carefully] **he must have a good report of them which are without** [i.e., outside the church]; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” I Tim. 3:2-7.

b. A DEACON'S QUALIFICATIONS.

“Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, **being found blameless** [i.e., you can't put your finger on his life for any sin].” I Tim. 3:8-10.

c. QUALIFICATIONS OF A BISHOP'S & DEACON'S WIFE.

“Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. **Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses** [homes] well.” I Tim. 3:11-12.

d. NO DOUBLE STANDARD WITH GOD.

Summary

Polygamy may have been practiced by some in Old Testament times with God's approval, but in this grace dispensation, "one wife, one husband" ever remains God's rule for legal sex satisfaction, propagation of the human race, and for maintaining an orderly social system. God does not ordain, call, and commission men to teach, and preach His Word who do not conform to Bible qualifications — those who do not qualify to be leaders of His Church! Jesus and His apostles warned that many mockers would arise in these last days and preach, leading many to walk in the flesh, walking after their own ungodly lusts. Cf. Jude 17-19; II Peter 2:1-18. These are not true men of God!

CHECK PREACHERS BY GOD'S WORD.

Preachers and teachers truly sent from God must be the husband of one wife, and that wife must be a sanctified and holy woman also — and both her and the children must be under subjection to the man of God who serves as husband, father, and pastor to his family. **Don't take a preacher or teacher at face value — check his qualifications!** If he is divorced and remarried, there is room for doubt about his calling from God that he professes. If his wife dresses like Jezebel or is a battleax, and his children are rebellious, he ought to plow corn and not to preach Christ. If God has plans for a man's life to be fully used as a Teacher and Man of God, He will watch over him from childhood to keep his lifestyle and integrity from shipwreck.

A BIG P.S.!

There is really no good or valid excuse for divorce for two Christians — a man and wife. The marriage began at the altar, and if both would go back to the altar and pray through about their marital infidelity, God would give the solution to the problem causing the separation. True love would be restored, and the devil's power broken and his destructive plan thwarted. Cf. I John 3:8.

FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Titus 1:5-10

I Peter 5:1-5

Prov. 22:15

I Tim. 6:6-12

Lesson No. 14

The Bible School of Prophecy

SONNET

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height to be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

— Selected

SONNET

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes
I all alone beweep my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;
For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

— Selected

This Lesson Prepared For
BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY
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