

CHILD BEARING.



INTRODUCTION: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him **an help meet for him...** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and **shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**”(Genesis 2:18,24)

In view of the fact that Christ is not only “**longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any**

should perish, but that all should come to repentance..”(2Peter 3:9) but that he also “**wants to see happy marriages, happy firesides.**” (AH 99.4), then Whatsoever He asks us to do, we can be sure that it is for our own good in this life and in the life to come.

Those Before the Flood...

“ And it came to pass, when men [and women] began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That **the sons of God[the descendants of Seth] saw the daughters of men[the descendants of Cain] that they were fair[with allurements]** ; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said[**in response to the unhallowed unions thus formed**] , **My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh:** yet his days [of probation] shall be an hundred and twenty years...And GOD saw **that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,**

and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them... The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”
(Genesis 6:1-3,5-7,11-13)

That the world at the time of Noah became corrupt and confused because of the **ungodly marriage relations between the children of God and the children of men** is evident. We read...

“Unhallowed marriages of the sons of God with the daughters of men resulted in apostasy which ended in the destruction of the world by a flood..”

(5T 93.1)

“Polygamy was practiced at an early date. It was one of the sins that brought the wrath of God upon the antediluvian world. Yet after the Flood it again became widespread. It was Satan's studied effort to pervert the marriage institution, to weaken its obligations and lessen its sacredness; for in no surer way could he deface the image of God in man and open the door to misery and vice.”(PP 338.1)

The only perfect way which the great Deceiver could use to destroy God's image in man is by perverting **“the marriage institution”** which is holy unto the Lord

“But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it

was the base crime of amalgamation[union] of man[the sons of God with the daughters of men] and beast [among themselves] which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere. God purposed to destroy by a flood that powerful, long-lived race that had corrupted their ways before him.”(1SP 69.1)

The sexual relations that existed between believers and unbelievers destroyed all holiness and purity in such a way that **children who were born out of this were confused and corrupt, with no proper knowledge of God. Thus, the image of God in man was defaced, and wickedness spread everywhere.**

Amalgamation Continues Today...

“Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will

turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. ” (Deuteronomy 7:3-4, see also 2 Cor 6:14-17)

The Lord has clearly instructed His people in regard to the steps they are to take when entering into marriage, but in spite of these clear heavenly words, many are turning their backs on God **by uniting with unbelievers and those whose character does not in any way show that they are converted men and women.** Thus the problem which existed at the time of Noah exists today still .

Now Since one can marry “**only in the Lord**”(1 Cor 7:39), who is the source of all that is pure and holy and true, then “ **To connect with an unbeliever is to place yourself on Satan's ground. You grieve the Spirit of God and forfeit His protection..**”(5T 364.2)

It was Satan who deceived the Children of Seth into thinking that they would have holy successful marriages only but uniting with the worldly daughters of Cain and the result was all the evil that was seen afterwards both in them and in the children they brought forth. Similarly, **“He [Satan] is busily engaged in influencing those who are wholly unsuited to each other to unite their interests. He exults in this work, for by it he can produce more misery and hopeless woe to the human family than by exercising his skill in any other direction.”**(LYL 29.1)

Do you, brother, sister, realize the impact which your spouse can have on you and on your children? Do you remember that

“Children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property..”(CCh 147.1)?

Do you know that it's **not only Environment and bad company** that can affect your children's

behavior, but **also the traits they get from you and your partner as well as from prenatal influences?**

If you cannot look for the partner who's united with you in Faith, **“one who possesses pure...traits of character, one who's diligent, aspiring and honest, one who loves and fears God”**(LYL 24.2) while you **“keep thyself pure”**(1 Tim 5:22), then why should you get married and still be in harmony with God's principles at the same time? Why should you even have children?

Even though God intended that each man have one woman and vice versa, yet **“It will be far better not to marry at all, than to be unfortunately married.”**(LYL 37.2). Yes, **Celibacy** is better than the marriage which Heaven cannot approve.

Inheritance....

“As a rule, children inherit the dispositions and tendencies of their parents and imitate their

example so that the sins of the parents are practiced by the children from generation to generation. Thus the vileness and irreverence of Ham were reproduced **in his posterity, bringing a curse upon them for many generations....**On the other hand, **how richly rewarded was Shem's respect for his father;** and what an illustrious line of holy men appears in his posterity!.”(1MCP 142.2.3)

“Disease never comes without a cause. The way is prepared and disease invited by disregard of the laws of health. **Many suffer in consequence of the transgression of their parents. While they are not responsible for what their parents have done, it is nevertheless their duty to ascertain what are and what are not violations of the laws of health.** They should avoid the wrong habits of their parents and by correct living **place themselves in better conditions.**”(1MCP 143.4)

““And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to

pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?’(Judges 13:12.) The words spoken to the wife of Manoah contain a truth that the mothers of today would do well to study.

The child will be affected for good or for evil by the habits of the mother.

She must herself be controlled by principle, and must practice temperance and self-denial, if she would seek the welfare of her child.

If before the birth of her child she is unstable, if she is selfish, peevish, and exacting, the disposition of her child will bear the marks of her wrong course....

But if she unswervingly adheres to the right, if she is kind, gentle, and unselfish, she will give her child these traits of character.

And fathers as well as mothers are involved in this responsibility.

Both parents transmit their own characteristics, mental and physical, their dispositions and appetites, to their children....

The inquiry of every father and mother should be, ‘What shall we do unto the child that shall be born unto us?’

The effect of prenatal influences has been by many

lightly regarded; but the instruction sent from heaven to those Hebrew parents ... shows how the matter is looked upon by our Creator. **The mother who is a fit teacher for her children must, before their birth, form habits of self-denial and self-control; for she transmits to them her own qualities, her own strong or weak traits of character.** The enemy of souls understands this matter much better than do many parents. **He will bring temptations upon the mother, knowing that if she does not resist him, he can through her affect her child.** The mother's only hope is in God. She may flee to Him for grace and strength. She will not seek help in vain. **He will enable her to transmit to her offspring qualities that will help them to gain success in this life and to win eternal life.** “(FLB 262.1-6)

In no other clearer way can Inspiration set forth these facts before God's people than in this way. **The image you're seeing in your husband and in your wife especially will surely be reproduced in**

your children. Will you bring into this world children who will be as corrupt as the children of the antediluvian commandment breakers or children who will resemble the Babe of Bethlehem? **Are you then trying to purify yourself also by obeying the truth?** Again, the behavior of the mother during pregnancy largely affects the character of the unborn baby. Her short temper and selfishness may be reproduced in the child.

“If you do not govern your children and mold their characters to meet the requirements of God, **then the fewer children there are to suffer from your defective training the better it will be for you, their parents, and the better it will be for society.** Unless children can be trained and disciplined from their babyhood by a wise and judicious mother who is conscientious and intelligent, and who rules her household in the fear of the Lord, molding and shaping their characters to meet the standard of righteousness, **it is a sin to increase your family. God has given you reason, and He requires you**

to use it. “(AH 164.1)

It is sinful, you see, to have children whom you can't take care of. How can you explain your case before God regarding your lost children?

No one need to laugh at those who are barren, especially if they didn't just bring it upon themselves. Do you think they are not blessed? if the Lord allowed some of them to be like that so that they can serve Him well, are they not more advantaged than most of married women out there who don't even understand the true principles of marriage?

In fact “He[God] **maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD..** “(Psalm 113:9)

“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: **for more are the children of**

the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.”(Isaiah 54:1)

Neither therefore is barrenness nor bearing children sinful if God’s will is followed. **Yes, the barren ones can be joyful. And even if they happen to have no children in this age but they walk in the footsteps of the Saviour by helping the fatherless, the widows, widowers and the oppressed, eternity of bliss awaits them.** In the heavenly mansions, no one will remorsefully say “Ahh I’m barren.”, for all will be as joyful as the Saviour himself and the angels.

Zion Shall Bring Forth Children...

“ And I looked, and, lo, a **Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.** And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the

voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song **but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.** These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And **in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.** ” (Revelation 14:1-5)

The 144,000, you must remember, are God’s final servants who are sealed “**in the closing work for the church**”(3T 266). Since they are sealed “**of all the tribes of the children of Israel..**”(Revelation 7:4), then we can in no wise escape the conclusion that **at the time of their sealing, they are found in the Church of God, even the SDA church - the**

Israel of today. She[the SDA Church] is their mother so to speak, and **the meat - the present truth for their spiritual growth, is found only in her midst.**

Evidently, then, by the statement “**These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins..**”(verse 4) we can see that not only are they not mingling with other Churches[women or mothers beside the SDA church which is their own mother] but also that their doctrines are different from those found in these churches. Thus “**They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith.**”(COL 406.3)

Children in the flesh are affected by the character of their parents, the food they give them and their environment. **Similarly, children in the spirit are affected by the character of their Church systems [parents - mothers] the doctrines they get and the environment they find themselves in.** For the 144,000 to escape the corruptions of this age

thereby stand “**without fault before the throne of God.**”(Rev 14:5), they must necessarily “**follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.**” (Rev 14:4) by walking in His ever advancing truth which seals them in the Church.

Though their mother(the church) has turned back from following Christ her leader(5T 217), yet they are commanded to “**plead**” with her and to “**sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.**”(Ezekiel 9:4) while the false church members continue to practice the abominations “**until,**” said the angel, “**the Lord Jesus shall rise up from His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary and shall clothe Himself with the garments of vengeance and surprise them at their unholy feast, and they will find themselves unprepared for the marriage supper of the Lamb.**”.(5T 689.2)

They will be born all at once..

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child..”
(Isaiah 66:7)

The “**man child**” being the same as that one in Rev 12:5, we can safely conclude that he’s no other than Christ. In this way, we can see that the “she” mentioned here is pointing to the Old Testament Church through which Christ came into the world.

Since she gave birth to Christ “before she travailed[really expecting, knowing or wanting Christ]...before her pain came[that is she had no pain of delivering Christ]”, **it was thus that the Jewish church gave birth to the Savior though she knew him not.**

However regarding the Church in the last days we read...

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen

such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”(Isaiah 66:8)

Though it seems impossible for the earth to be made to bring forth in one day or for the nation to be born at once, yet as soon as Zion[the Church today] travails, **she will give birth to her children** in “one day” or “at once” - **very quickly.**

“Never till Zion travails for perishing souls can she see the working of the Holy Spirit in sinners born again. Christ is waiting to be gracious to those who will labor **with one spirit** and one mind to minister the truth for this tim.”(16MR 293.2)

As soon as the Church is aroused to her calling, as soon as **a thorough revival and reformation** is accomplished in the entire church, then the Church will be cleansed (Ezekiel 9: 4-6,Ps 1:5,Isa 52:1) and **Zion will bring forth her children**[the 144,000]

who stand on **Mount Zion** with the Lamb, and **many more children** from Babylon who shall be converted during the loud cry of the Third. Angel's message.

When one joins the Church, she becomes, as it were, pregnant for that member. **Just like the pregnant mother nourishes her unborn baby, so the Church nourishes new converts with the truth before they are born again [baptized].**

When the child is born, he continues to feed on milk, then strong meat until he reaches maturity(compare with Hebrews 5:12-14,6:1-6). So new baptized members continue to study the word and to walk in the light till they “**all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.**” (Ephesians 4:13)

This state of maturity or perfection , however, no

one has yet reached, “**for whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.**”(1John 5:18)

And since this type of birth[to be born of God] **prevents one from sinning**, then it is none other than the one which is pointed out by John The Baptist, which is made by the Spirit.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**”(Matthew 3:11-12)

Though Christ baptized through his disciples when he first came, yet he didn't baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire in the exact way which is

pointed out by John. When He comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (like he did on the day of Pentecost - Acts 2) he also **“will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire”** (Malachi 3:2,3) - The work which is but The Purification of the Church.

“But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and **He will thoroughly purge His floor.**” (5T 79.4)

And as this spirit is poured **“upon all flesh”** (Joel 2:38) - all at once, then only those who are worthy to receive it shall be given such an opportunity. **To be ready to receive this baptism of the Holy Spirit, we read...**

“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. **Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and **I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.**”(Ezekiel 36:24-27)

God’s people will be gathered to to be cleansed and to form the kingdom-Church. Thus shall they be made perfect and reflect the character of Christ fully. **It is in this sense that the 144,000 are brought forth by Zion at once, and in one day[within a short period of time] they shall bring the great multitudes from Babylon into a purified Church.**

Thus the Lord “**will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth..**”(Romans 9:28)

He who keeps himself pure , undefiled, firstly by **following God's plan for marriage and child bearing**, secondly by **not leaving the real mother(the SDA church)**, and thirdly by **following Christ wherever he leads with truth, sighing and crying for all the abominations that be done in the church**, will certainly receive the seal of the living God. Failure to do this will only end in destruction.

May the Lord help His people.

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