

POLYGAMY (#2)

Request: “Does the Bible teach against polygamy? How do we explain why so many of the spiritual leaders of the OT were either bigamist or polygamist?”

Since I haven’t taught on the subject of polygamy in all the years of my ministry, I thought I should complete this study with a second part.

I would like to come back to the second legal case of the Mosaic Law regarding polygamy or bigamy recorded in **Deut.21:15-17**. This law dealt with the unloved wife and firstborn son.

Today’s lesson will study six aspects of the reasoning behind the bigamy or polygamy or plurality of marriages of some of the spiritual leaders.

1. I stated last week that I believe Moses permitted bigamy or polygamy for the same reason as divorce.

“He (Jesus) said to them (the Pharisees), ‘because of your **hardness of heart**, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.’” (Matt.19:8; Deut.24; Gen.2)

Hardness of hearts regarding marriage was apostate reversionism. “Take care, **brethren**, lest there should be in any of any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.” (Heb.3:12)

“Today if you hear His voice, **do not harden your heart**, as when they provoked Me.” (Heb.3:15)

2. Satan’s strategy is to attack the plan of God through the divine institution of marriage.

He did it in the Garden of Eden against the first marriage (Gen.2-3) (2 Cor.2:11)

He does it with a believer who is in conflict with the will of God who turns to negative volition and apostate reversionism of OMCD (Eph.4:17-20) “Because of **the hardness of heart**; they become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.” (Eph.4:18b-19)

- A clue to the conflict with the will of God regarding a believer choosing plurality of marriages over monogamy is given in Deut.21:15-17 (Matt.19:6) [“What God has joined together.”]

3. The law of Deut.21:15-17 was created because of the unfair treatment of the unloved wife and the children of this dysfunctional marriage.

We will study one case from biblical history that illustrates this point - Jacob and Leah and their children (35:23).

This marriage got off to a bad start and went down from there (Gen.29:30) [1st adjustment], 7 (children), 12 (routines), 21 (empty nest), and 31st (last chance). Whose fault was it? (Gen.29:26) [Laban?]

- Whose is in charge of the affairs of a believer’s life? (Prov.16:3-4, 6, 9, 33; Gen.29:31)
- First three sons were conceived to fix a troubled marriage (Gen.29:32-34).
- Note how these three sons are described as adults (Gen.49:3-7 (Gen.34 / rape of Dinah).

4. Polygamy conflict usually arose in monogamous marriage when the wife was barren.

Usually a second wife was chosen to resolve this problem by OM rationalism rather than NM divine viewpoint thinking.

Let me see if I can reconstruct a possible argument of **old man rationale** for a second wife by a believer.

- Argument #1 Doesn't the Bible teach us to be fruitful and multiply (Gen.1:28)?
- Argument #2 Isn't the seed of Christ the most important doctrine of shadow Christology (Gen.3:15)?
- Argument #3 How can there be a firstborn son if my wife is barren (Heb.12:22-24)?
- Argument #4 We will be blotted out of the messianic genealogy Book of Life (Ps.69:28)?
- Argument #5 What other choice do I have? [What does the Bible say?]

Old man doctrinal rationalism (2 Cor.5:7) [sight] becomes cosmos diabolicus when we act volitionally against the revealed will of God regarding the conflict.

5. All of the patriarch wives were once barren and unable to fulfill the seed promise of the Abrahamic covenant. What should we do? [What does the Bible say?]

- Abraham and Sarah (Gen.12:2-3; 15:2-6; 16:1-6) – OM in conflict with promise of word of God.
- Isaac and Rebekah (Gen.25:21) – **NMDV no conflict with the will of God.**
- Jacob and Leah and Rachel (Gen.29:31-30:1, 22-24) – OM in conflict with the will of God.

Who gave the promise? If the promise came from God than the fulfillment must come from God.

“(as it is written, ‘a father of many nations have I make you.’) in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.” (Rom.4:17)

“And being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Rom.4:21)

6. Isaac did it right! “And Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.” (Gen.25:21)

In the midst of great struggle, Hannah finally did it right!

- “And she, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.” (1 Sam.1:10) “And it came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him **Samuel**, saying, ‘because I have asked him of the Lord.’” (1 Sam.1:20)

Eve had it right – “I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord.” (Gen.4:1)

- The Lord opens and closes the womb (1 Sam.1:6; Gen.3:16; 20:18; Ps.113:9).

Abraham finally did it right

- “As it is written, ‘a father of many nations have I made you’ - in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.” (Rom.4:17)
- “In hope against hope he believed.” (Rom.4:18a) “And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body and Sarah’s womb as dead.” (Rom.4:19)
- “Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Rom.4:20-21)