

MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN

What is a Marriage Made in Heaven? There is a secular and a Scriptural view.

- **The Secular view** would be something like being happy, compatible, companionship or partnership.
- **The Scriptural view** is the subject of our lesson.

We will study six aspects of the Scriptural view of a Marriage Made in Heaven.

1. A Scriptural view of Marriage Made in Heaven would begin with two believers married “in the Lord”.

(1 Cor.7:39) “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, **she** is free to marry to whom she wishes, **ONLY IN THE LORD.**” (1 Cor.9:5) [Believers]

(Prov.18:22) “**He** who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor (ratsah) [grace] from the Lord.”

2. Soul love and compatibility is another issue.

Christian Marriage is a spiritual - partnership, fellowship, harmony, commonality, and agreement - In THE LORD. (2 Cor.6:14-16)

The key to Christian marital compatibility is the **consistent exercise** of the grace operating assets provided by God in a believer’ “Christian Way of Life”.

Here are just six grace operating assets:

- Spiritual growth, the product of a consistent inhale and exhale of the Word of God) (2 Tim.3:16-17)
- Walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17) (1 John 1:9)
- Walking by use of the Faith Cycle (2 Cor5:7)
- Putting off the Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly thinking)
- Putting on the New Man Divine Viewpoint thinking (Eph.4:17-24)
- Recognizing and functioning in one’s spiritually gifted ministry,
 - In and out of local church body (1 Cor.12)
 - Evangelism, local, national, and throughout the world (Acts 1:8)

The example we will study of a Marriage Made in Heaven is Jacob (Gen.29:16-30). Unfortunately, he rejected the doctrinal concept.

3. It began with Jacob entering a seven-year dowry contract agreement with Laban for his younger daughter, Rachel. (Gen.29:18-20). Such a dowry was a sign of wealthy family.

(Gen.29:20-21) “So, Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days **because** of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her.’”

Now Laban is in a contractual pickle because of the Mesopotamian marriage custom of the first-born daughter must be married first. The first was Leah not Rachel.

4. **But Laban's seven-year gamble with Leah getting married didn't work.**

How was it possible that he could not find one suitable suitor for marriage to Leah? Leah was an all-Mesopotamia girl. Who could believe it?

No matter how hard he tried nothing worked except Jacob. Laban had forgotten that marriage was a Divine Institution created by God for mankind (Gen.2:18-25).

(Gen.2:18) "The the Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone; **I will make for him a helper suitable for him.**'"

This is one reason, as a believer, YOUR Marriage was Made in Heaven. Therefore (Prov.18:22) is important in the selection of a mate and in your marriage.

5. **So, Laban hatched a new secret scheme to fix the problem.**

Laban's thought process: "Jacob is all I have! Maybe I can kill three birds with one stone".

However, he ignored that they were real people with real feelings and real futures, shooting blind-folded and hoping to hit the bull's eye. He substituted Leah for Rachel on Jacob's wedding night! (Gen.29:23)

It never dawned to Jacob until the next morning!

(Gen.29:25) "So it came about in the morning that, '**Behold, it was Leah!** And he said to **Laban**, '**What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?'**"

6. **The tragedy of this arranged marriage is that Laban looked out for himself and only for his feelings. He threw everyone else, under his authority, under the proverbial bus.**

Leah, on her special once in life-time honey-moon night, became part of her father's and family deception. How will she and Jacob deal with being MARRIED in the morning?

- Maybe she prayed that Jacob would come to understand God's immutable perfect timing and accept it as of the plan of God.
- Maybe she prayed that God would help Jacob see her as the gift of God's grace like in **Prov.18:22** and **Gen.2:18**.

Unfortunately, Leah's feelings will NOT be considered by anyone in this story UNTIL four children later!

(Gen.29:35) "And she conceived again and bore a son and said, '**This time I will praise the Lord.**' Therefore, she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing."

Then she came to her senses like the prodigal son **and returned to God to find inner peace, contentment, and true happiness in God alone** (Luke 15:17; Gen.29:31).

(Phil.4:6-7) "**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."