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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Marriage, A Divine Institution (#1)

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Date: 7/14/15
Text: Gen.11:29-31
File: D150714

MARRIAGE IS A DIVINE INSTITUTION

We are starting a new series of lessons entitled, "Marriage is Divine Institution". It is a spin-off from our recent study entitled, "Ministering to a Spiritual Declining Nation".

We will study the **marriage of Abraham and Sarah** primarily from Genesis Ch.16. Gen.Ch.16 reflects a critical point in their marriage, their spiritual life and ultimately, their Divine Destiny in Time.

Our lesson text begins with their wedding and call to foreign mission work. We are not given their ages at time of marriage or the length of time from being married to leaving Haran for the mission field. We are told Sarah was his half sister (Gen.20:12).

We are told that Abraham was 75 at the time of leaving for the land of Canaan (Gen.12:4); and that Sarah was 10 years younger than Abraham (Gen.17:17; 12:11/ beautiful at 65 yrs by world standards).

Today's lesson will introduce our new series of lessons on Marriage is a Divine Institution.

1. Marriage was instituted by God not man in (Gen.2:18-25). It began with Adam and Eve.

"Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female (Gen.1:26-27), and said, 'for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but **one flesh**. What God has joined together, let no man separate (Gen.2:24; 1 Cor.6:15-7:2) [It attacks the One Flesh of marriage; (Eph.5:31) crossing dispensations.'" (Matt.19:4-6)

It is 1 of 5 Divine Institutions, established by God for the social order of the human race recorded in Genesis.

- Freedom (Gen.1:26-27)
- Employment (Gen.2:15; 3:17-19)
- Marriage (Gen.2:18-25)
- Family (Gen.1:28; 3:16; 4:1)
- Nation (Gen.10-11)

2. The first attack upon marriage as Divine Institution was NOT gay marriage.

It was Satan in paradise of God of (Gen. Ch.3) who attacked the first marriage instituted by God. Satan attacked the marriage of Adam and Eve because they were followers of The Lord God and His Word.

Satan attacked Adam and Eve because they were messenger carriers of the (Savior) Seed of Christ (Gen.3:15; Gal.3:16; 2 Cor.11:2-3). He attacked Abraham and Sarah for the same reason in a different dispensational period (Gen.16). This pattern is worth noting (2 Cor.2:11).

3. Satan attacked the (Savior) Seed lineage several times.

When the (Savior) Seed was launched into biblical history (Matt.1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38) [begat], Satan attacked the messianic seed **"in the days of Noah"** with the attack of the nephilim (Gen.6-9 (Mtt.24:32-44). "Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen.6:5b)

Satan attacked it with David and Bathsheba's illegitimate son, attempting to corrupt the lineage of Christ (2 Sam.12:13-14; Deut.23:12).

Satan also attacked marriage as a Divine Institution (DI) by divorce "for any reason" or what we call today "no-fault" (Matt.19:3; Deut.24:1-4).

Our generation of western civilization has entered the **days of Noah** (Gen.6:1-7, 11-13). Now Satan is attacking the Second Coming of Christ and the coming Judgment upon this present world (2 Pet.2:1-10; 3:3-14).

4. The attack upon marriage as a Divine Institution (DI) is because the church is the bride of Jesus Christ (Eph.5:22-32; Gal.3:16; Rev.19:7; 21:9).

The world does not know better unless the church tells them the truth.

(1 Cor.1:18) "For **the word of cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**" (Rom.1:16)

(1 Cor.1:21) "For since in the wisdom of God **the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**"

The world under Cosmos Diabolicus (Satan's domain of darkness) regards the word of God as foolishness no matter how devastating it is to society just like in the days of Noah and in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The unbeliever is without the Indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit and cannot understand spiritual truth (1 Cor.2:2-9, 14-3:1). Understanding of biblical truth requires being saved by grace through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

URGENT: Both Noah and Abraham were deeply concerned for the welfare of family and close family friends because of **the coming judgment**. Abraham was concerned for Lot and his family. Lot became concerned for his family and his daughter's boy-friends (Gen.18-19/ 19:14-15, 26).

Like Noah, the Church Age Believer must be a preacher and practitioner of the God's Righteousness. (2 Cor.5:21). We must tell our relatives, neighbors, co-workers, school-mates, anyone who has ears to hear to get into the security of salvation in Jesus Christ [Remember the Ark] (1 Pet.3:20).

(**Gen.6:9**) "These are the records of the generation of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; **Noah walked with God.**" (Heb.11:7; 1 Pet.3:20; Ezek 14:14; 2Pet.2:5).

URGENT: We are in the Days of Noah and the coming judgment upon this world (2 Pet.2:4-10; 3:3-13).

(2 Pet.3:9) "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."