

February 11, 2018

God's Purpose in Marriage (5)

- God joined the man and the woman in the covenant of marriage as His means of declaring His uniqueness to the creation.

The Uniqueness of God's Being

- God is not only unique because He alone is God (**Deut. 6:4; Is. 45:5**), but there is also a plurality within the one Being of God.
- God is translated by the plural *Elohim* 2607 out of 2845 times.

In the beginning, God [elohim] created the heavens and the earth...

Ex. 20: 2 I am YHWH your God [**Elohim**], Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods [**Elohim**] before Me...

- There are four Old Testament passages in which God refers to Himself in the plural:

Gen 1:26 Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, after **Our** likeness...

Gen 3:22 Behold, the man has become like one of **Us**...

Gen 11:7 ...let **Us** go down and there confuse their language...

Is. 6:8 Whom shall I send, and who will go for **Us**...

The Plurality of One

- *Echad*: Not an absolute singularity but a compound unity:

Gen. 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one [*echad*] flesh

Gen. 11:1 Now the whole earth used the same [*echad*-a single] language and the same [*echad*] words

Gen. 11:6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one [*echad*] people, and they all have the same [*echad*] language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them

Gen. 34:16 Then we will give you our daughters and take your daughters for ourselves. We'll settle among you and become one [*echad*] people with you

Ex.24:3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one [*echad*] voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!"

- The Hebrew word for absolute oneness is *yachid*

Gen. 22:2 And He said, "Take now your son, your only [*yachid*] son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

Judges 11:34 Now she was his one and only [*yachid*] child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter

Zech.12:10 And I [YHWH] will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only [*yachid*] son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born

Three Distinct Figures as YHWH

- The Old Testament not only presents YHWH as a plurality, it also recognizes this plurality as three distinct Divine Figures known as YHWH:
 - YHWH
 - The Angel of YHWH
 - The Spirit of YHWH

YHWH

Ex 3:15 *God [elohim] also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'YHWH, the God [elohim] of your fathers, the God [elohim] of Abraham, the God [elohim] of Isaac, and the God [elohim] of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is **My Name forever**, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations...*

The Angel of YHWH

- The Hebrew for *angel* is *mlak*, which means *messenger*.

1 Sam 23:27 *...a messenger [mlak] came to Saul...*

2 Sam 11:25 *David told the messenger [mlak]...*

- However, the phrase *the Angel of YHWH [the LORD]* is used 57 times and in each use, the context reveals *the Angel* as a Divine Figure.

Gen.22:11-15, Numbers 22:22-35, 2 Kings 1:3

Genesis 16:7-13

Exodus 3:2-16

Judges 13

The Spirit of YHWH

- Mentioned 27 times in the O.T.

2 Sam 23:2-3 the Spirit of YHWH speaks by me; His word is on my tongue. 3 The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me...

Is. 61:1-2 The Spirit of [YHWH elohim] is upon me, because YHWH has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn...

Isaiah 48:12-16