

## **Marriage Divorce and Relationships Part 1**

EW Bullinger 1916

### ***The Context is Always Essential to the Interpretation of Words.***

#### ***i. The Importance of the Context Shown.***

*We have already seen something of this in the consideration of the Structure of the Word and the Words of God.*

*The order of the words is as perfect as the truth revealed by them, and contained in them.*

*This order is Divine: and it is nothing less than a crime for any human hand to subvert that order, either by ignoring it or changing it.*

*Beware of any teacher to whom the context is not manifestly essential. Beware of any teaching that is not based upon it.*

*Some passages of Scripture derive their chief importance from some remarkable words employed; others derive their chief importance from some wonderful truth revealed; while others derive their chief importance from the place where we find them. Every passage has its own importance in this last respect. When we find a passage in its own particular place, there is a Divine reason why it is there, and also why it is not in any other place.*

*It is essential to our understanding of the "words" to find out why they are where we find them. It is essential to our enjoyment of the words that we should discover not only what they mean, but why they are not in any other passage. If we would find the words and the Word of God to be a delight to us, instead of a perplexing jumble, we must have special regard to the Context.*

*If this be disregarded, then a word, a sentence, or a verse, may be taken out from its context and interpreted of something quite foreign to its original intent.*

*We have all heard the proverbial saying that "the Bible may be made to prove anything." Exactly so; but this, very often, is only when, and because, a verse is taken apart from its context: **otherwise it could never be made to teach anything different from the context in which God has set it.***

*Every sentence and every verse has something going before it and something following after it. We call this the context. This is regarded as being essential even in the case of human writers. How often are complaints made by public speakers and writers that only a part of what they have said is quoted; whereas, if the whole had been given, or even the sentence that preceded or followed, quite a different complexion would have been given to the point referred to.*

*If this be so important where man is concerned, how essential it must be when we remember that, in the case we are considering, it is God's context and not man's. How great must be the presumption if we disregard or disturb that context. Yet this is constantly done in order to prop up some tradition."*  
*End of quote!*

### **Malachi 2:15-17**

15 But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. 16 **FOR I HATE DIVORCE,**" says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the Lord of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not **deal treacherously.**"

17 You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"

**Proverbs 6:16-20**

16 There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:  
17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that run rapidly to evil,  
19 A false witness who utters lies,  
And one who spreads strife among brothers.  
20 My son, observe the commandment of your father  
And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;

**Nehemiah 13:23-28**

Mixed Marriages Forbidden

23 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. 24 As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people. 25 So I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin. 27 Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?" 28 Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

## **Malachi 2:1-17**

### Priests to Be Disciplined

1 "And now this commandment is for you, O **priests**.

2 If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says the Lord of hosts, "then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart. 3

Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. 4 Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi," says the Lord of hosts. 5 "My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them

to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. 6 True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. 7 For

the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. 8 But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the Lord of hosts. 9 "So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in the instruction.

10 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? 11

Judah has **dealt treacherously**, and **an abomination has been committed** in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord which He loves and **has married the daughter of a foreign god**. 12 As for the man who does this, may the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the Lord of hosts.

13 "This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

14 Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have **dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.** 15 But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one **deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.** 16 **FOR I HATE DIVORCE,**" says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the Lord of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not **deal treacherously.**"

17 You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"

### **Genesis 2:16-17**

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

18 Then the Lord God said, "**It is not good for the man to be alone;** I will make him a helper suitable for him."

### **Genesis 2:20-25**

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, **and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.** 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.