

Do We As Watchmen Have Time To Squabble With Our Wives?

For Average Joes From An Average Joe
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In recent years there have been many discussions pro and con as to whether men are permitted by Scripture to have more than one wife at a time. Please allow this Average Joe to share his thoughts on this controversial, and potentially imprisoning, topic of debate.

Some say that Torah permits a man to have multiple wives, while others argue that the Renewed Covenant forbids a man to have multiple wives. Scripture cannot contradict Scripture so, obviously, both arguments cannot be true.

I myself cannot imagine why any man would want more than one wife. e A woman who is unable to have children may be offered as an excuse for an additional wife, but then again there are ways to adopt children and plenty of children who need homes. It is said that two women cannot live under the same roof. I would be inclined to agree with this assessment. I have enough problems keeping my wife of 35 years happy without multiplying that attempt by two, or three, or.....Oh my..... אַײַז (Yahuah) forbid I ever be that stupid.....But then, I cannot speak for other men.....Shall we examine the pros and cons of this multiple marriage issue giving both a fair assessment?.....

The fact is, the Torah as given to the children of Israel by Moshe (Moses) clearly **acknowledges the existence** of multiple marriages.

Deu 21:15-17 THE SCRIPTURES--**"When a man has two wives**, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and the unloved, and the first-born son is of her who is unloved, then it shall be, on the day he makes his sons to inherit his possessions, he is not allowed to treat the son of the beloved wife as first-born in the face of the son of the unloved, who is *truly* the first-born. "But he is to acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the first-born by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength – the right of the first-born is his."

Exo 12:49 **"There is one Torah for the native-born and for the stranger who sojourns among you."**

These passages would appear to support the pros, **but**, in fact, **do they?** There is, though, no mention here of Our Mighty One **approving** of multiple marriages, or of Him **encouraging** men to take for themselves more than one wife. Allowing something to take place **in no way implies approval** of what is taking place. These passages do, however, make it clear that He was fully aware that men within the commonwealth of Israel had more than one wife. Since there is one Torah for all Israel then the passages above would apply to all Israel.

1Ti 3:1-13 The Besorah--Trustworthy is the word: If a man longs for the position of an overseer, he desires a good work. An overseer, then, should be blameless, **the husband of one wife**, sober, sensible, orderly, kind to strangers, able to teach, not given to wine, no brawler, but gentle, not quarrelsome, no lover of money, one who rules his own house well, having his children in subjection with all reverence, for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how shall he look after the assembly of Elohim? Not a new convert, lest he become puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment of the devil. And he should even have a good witness from those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise attendants are to be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for filthy gain, holding to the secret of the belief with a clean conscience. And let these also be proved first, then let them serve, if they are unprovable. Wives in the same way: reverent, not false accusers, sober, trustworthy in every way. Let attendants be **the husbands of only one wife**, ruling children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as attendants gain good standing for themselves, and much boldness in the belief that is in Messiah **וְיָאֵל**.

The Renewed Covenant, on the other hand, contains **no clearly spoken command** stating that men in general are to have but one wife. This also would appear to be a pro, **but**, in reality, **is it?** The only statements pertaining to the subject of multiple marriages are in regards to basic eligibility criteria for leadership positions within the body of Messiah, namely Bishop—Overseer, or Attendant—Deacon. These positions, we are told, are to be filled by **men** who have **only one wife**, but the listed criteria also covers a much wider range of requirements than the number of spouses a man has.

We must take honest note of the fact that nothing whatsoever is stated, as we read the passages above, in regards to the average man who is **not seeking** (being considered as a candidate) a position of leadership within the body of Messiah. Any other interpretation is to read into the text information it does not give us directly or by logical deduction.

Is there truth which can be gleaned from these passages, not spoken, but clearly evident if we were to apply logical deduction? Yes, there is.....The fact that the passages of Scripture in Timothy above make it a point to address the issue of criteria for men being considered for positions of leadership in the body of Messiah **in itself testifies** that there must have been **men** within the body of Messiah **who had more than one wife** and therefore **did not meet the criteria for such positions which would require great commitment and responsibility on their part**. Shaul (Paul) clearly recognized that these men had already committed themselves to a great task and responsibility: Managing their multiple wife families. Once again, allowing something to take place **in no way implies approval** of what is taking place. For us to come to any other conclusion at this point in our quest for an answer to this dilemma would be to take the same road of error many in the Church have followed, jumping to wild assumptions and drawing wrong conclusions such as teaching that all believers are to abstain from alcohol simply because these passages state that men considered for these positions are not to be "given to much wine."

During the time in history when these passages—whether Original or Renewed Covenant—were written multiple marriages were not uncommon, and more importantly they were considered permissible by the law of the lands in which these early believers lived. Life was much harsher then, especially for women who had no one to care for them. A woman without a husband to provide food, clothing, and shelter for her, and perhaps her children, would very likely face starvation for herself and her family, with begging or prostitution as her only alternatives. From this particular viewpoint, it could be argued that in circumstances such as these marrying a woman in such need would be an act of kindness. Truthfully, it would be a very loving, selfless, and honorable thing **for an unmarried man** to do. What if the man were already married to at least one wife? He would be taking upon himself the additional responsibility of caring for her and her children. He would be entitled to the rights due a man. She would be entitled to the rights due a woman. The man's time, attention, and abilities to provide food, clothing, and shelter, would be divided between his wives and, if there were children, two families. The women would now have to **share** the love, affection, and provision of one man. If you happened to be the first wife, you would be **sacrificing** any thoughts, hopes, or dreams of your husband being yours and yours alone, with each successive wife sharing similar emotions as future wives were joined to the communal family. Again, allowing something to take place **in no way implies approval** of what is taking place.....

Thousands of years have past, and laws have changed in many lands. So, how do we address the issue of multiple marriages today? The Renewed Covenant instructs us to obey the laws of the land in which we live.....Jews the world over, for centuries, have always sought to obey the laws of the land in which they live **unless** those laws demand that they disobey the Torah of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah). The apostle Shaul (Paul) was a Jew. Perhaps this influenced his thinking when he penned these words.....

Rom 13:1-2 THE SCRIPTURES--**Let every being be in subjection to the governing authorities**. For there is no authority except from Elohim, and the authorities that exist are appointed by Elohim. he who opposes the authority withstands the institution of Elohim, and **those who withstand shall bring judgment on themselves**.

This would seem to indicate to this Average Joe that if the nation or state in which you reside permits multiple marriages, then having more than one wife would be **acknowledged** by Torah, but if the nation or state in which you reside forbids such marriages, then you had best be happy living with **one wife and only** one wife regardless of what Torah **acknowledges**. I believe we can count this one as a con.

It appears that אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) has left it up to our local authorities to voice His thoughts as to whether multiple marriages were ever a part of His Perfect Plan for mankind. **Acknowledged** by Torah? Yes. His desire for a nation of set-apart priests? Not likely.....

Those who have dreamed of having their own personal harem may, as yet, be unwilling to give up their quest for more than one wife. They may argue that the laws of the land are unfair and unjust and hence, we must obey אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) rather than obey the law of the land. This sounds very righteous, but this argument will not hold water. Why? Torah **acknowledges** the fact that men **may choose** to have multiple wives, and addresses how these wives are to be treated, but **no where in the Torah is it to be found where אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) commands a man to marry more than one wife.** What, exactly were His words in regards to a man taking a wife?.....

Gen 2:24 THE SCRIPTURES--For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and **cleave to his wife,** and they shall become one flesh.

We do not see the word **wives** in the passage above. This would appear to be a con. From the first pages of Scripture it was never אַיָּהּ (Yahuah's) intention for men to have more than **one wife**, just as it was never His intention for a man to put his wife away with a letter of Divorce.

Mat 19:3-9 THE SCRIPTURES—And the Pharisees came to Him, trying Him, and saying to Him, "Is it right for a man to put away his wife for every reason?" And He answering, said to them, "Did you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them **male and female**, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and **cleave to his wife, and the two** shall become one flesh?' "So that they are no longer **two**, but one flesh. Therefore, what Elohim has joined together, let man not separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Mosheh command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "**Because of the hardness of your hearts, Mosheh allowed you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**" "And I say to you, whoever puts away his wife, except on the ground of whoring, and marries another, commits adultery. And whoever marries her who has been put away commits adultery."

Messiah ׀ׁׁׁׁ (Yahusha) makes it perfectly clear that Our Heavenly Father intended for the institution of marriage to consist of **one man and one woman**, intending for them to be together as one for **as long as they both live**. We find no mention in the these passages of one man marrying two or three women and the three or the four becoming one flesh. Clearly, this is a con.

In opposition to this evidence, the pros will quickly point out that many men of the Original Covenant had multiple wives. This is true. What is also true is that **there is not one single passage of Scripture stating that אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) approves of such marriages,** only that He **acknowledges their existence**. Let's look at a marriage from the Original Covenant.....Shall we? Abraham and Sarah are a perfect example of Our Mighty One's Perfect Plan for a man to have **only one wife**.....

Gen 12:7a The Besorah--And אַיָּהּ appeared to Abram and said, "**To your seed I give this land.**"

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) promised Abram—Abraham--that his seed would inherit the promised land. Abram was 75 years of age when this promise was given to him. Up to this point in their lives and marriage, even though Sarah to date was barren, Abram had never sought another wife, though multiple marriages were common during his day. His heart belonged **only** to Sarah. Abram at this time had resigned himself to the fact that he and Sarah would go to their graves without an heir.....

Gen 15:2 The Besorah—And Abram said, "Master אַיָּהּ, what would You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eli'ezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "See, **You have given me no seed, and see, one born in my house is my heir!**" And see, the word of אַיָּהּ came to him, saying, "**This one is not your heir, but he who comes from your own body is your heir.**"

Gen 15:6 The Besorah—And **he believed in אַיָּהּ,** and He reckoned it to him for righteousness.

The Scriptures tell us Abram believed the promise of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). He believed that somehow אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) would provide him an heir. Sarah too, most likely, believed this promise to Abram, after all the Mighty One could do anything.....Well.....Almost anything.....Anything except give her children of her own. Sarah had been barren all her married life. She desired with all her heart to see her husband have an heir, a child, a son, no matter the cost.....Or so, she thought. Blinded by this desire, she was unable to see any connection between herself and the promise made to Abram: The **one flesh** connection which would dictate that she would bear Abram's seed as the fulfillment of the promise. As we shall see, Abram did not understand this either.....

Gen 16:1-5 & 14-16 The Besorah--And Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no child. And she had a Mitsrite female servant whose name was Hagar. **And Sarai said to Abram, "See אַיָּאֵל has kept me from bearing children. Please, go in to my female servant.** It might be that I am built up by her." And **Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.** And **Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her female servant, the Mitsrite, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife,** after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Kena'an. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. And Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong be upon you! I gave my female servant into your bosom. And when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes. Let אַיָּאֵל judge between you and me." And Abram said to Sarai, "See, your female servant is in your hand, do to her what is good in your eyes." And Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.....That is why the well was called Be'ér Lahai Ro'i, see, it is between Qadēsh and Bered. And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Yishma'el. And Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Yishma'el to Abram.

The result of this union and conception—Abraham and Sarah taking matters into their own hands—was the birth of Ishmael. The jealousy and resentment spawned by this union continues to foment within the hearts of the descendants of Ishmael today as they direct their inherited anger towards seeking the destruction of Israel. אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) had nothing to do this, but He did not prevent it. He had a Perfect Plan; one which He fully intended to carry out in His own time, in His own way. Sadly, men often take it upon themselves to meddle with the Perfect Plan of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) and then spend the rest of their lives living with the consequences. This is an excellent example of one such time. It was never in אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah's) Perfect Plan for Abraham to have more than **one wife**. One more time, allowing something to take place **in no way implies approval** of what is taking place.....I think we can rate this as a con.....

Gen 17:15-19 THE SCRIPTURES--And Elohim said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, do not call her name Sarai, for Sarah is her name. "And I shall bless her and also give you a son by her. And I shall bless her, and she shall become nations – sovereigns of peoples are to be from her." And **Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Is a child born to a man who is a hundred years old? Or is Sarah, who is ninety years old, to bear a child?"** And Abraham said to Elohim, "Oh, let Yishma'el live before You!" And Elohim said, "No, Sarah your wife is truly bearing a son to you, and you shall call his name Yitshaq. And I shall establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

We see in the passages above that at this point in their lives—Abraham 100, Sarah 90—Abraham literally fell on his face laughing at the idea, of not only him siring a child but, of Sarah—barren all their married lives—bearing a child. **They had** already **caused** the promise to come true—prophecy to be fulfilled—by taking matters into their own hands. אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) had promised a son, now Abraham had one, Ishmael. Surely, **this** was the promised heir. How often do we take it upon ourselves to do אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah's) work for Him. How often do we settle for less, when if we had only waited we would have received so much more?.....

Gen 18:10-15 The Besorah--And He said, "I shall certainly return to you according to the time of life, and see, **Sarah your wife is to have a son!**" And Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age, and **Sarah was past the way of women.** And **Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my master being old too?"** And אַיָּאֵל said to Abraham, **"Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I truly have a child, since I am old?' "Is any matter too hard for אַיָּאֵל?"** At the appointed time I am going to return to you, according to the time of life, and **Sarah is to have a son.**" But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

Neither Sarah, nor Abraham truly grasped the concept that Our Mighty One אַיָּאָל (**Yahuah**) is a specialist: **He specializes in the impossible.**

Gen 21:1-3 The Besorah—And אַיָּאָל visited Sarah as He had said, and אַיָּאָל did for Sarah as He had spoken. So Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the appointed time of which Elohim had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Yitshaq.

The result of אַיָּאָל (**Yahuah's**) Perfect Plan: Isaac, the son of promise, the son of one flesh, **one wife.**

So, why does Torah **acknowledge** the existence of multiple marriages within the commonwealth of Israel, yet contains no clear statement **of approval** of such relationships.....? Remember when you were a kid.....? Remember asking for that last slice of watermelon after your parents had already told you that you'd had enough and were going to be sick if you ate anymore.....? Remember asking and asking, begging and begging, until finally one of your parents said, "go ahead, I told you it is going to make you sick, but you do not believe me. You want it? Okay, so eat it. Be sick and find out for yourself. But don't run complaining to me when you get the bellyache and start puking all that good watermelon up!" This is exactly what happened when the children of Israel came back time after time to Moshe (Moses) asking for the same things over and over and over again, though they had been told those things were not good for them, were not for them as Israelites—a nation of priests—and would cause them harm in the long run. Albeit, they continued asking regardless of the warnings and the consequences, being clearly warned these things were not the way of אַיָּאָל (**Yahuah**). Our Mighty One would not speak instructions which go against His very Nature, Character, and Perfect Plan for mankind. He instead chose to say nothing and simply allowed (Moses) to give them the desires of their hearts to stop the incessant begging of foolish children in His ears. Does Scripture support what I am sharing with you?.....

Psa 106:15 KJV—And he gave them their request; but **sent leanness into their soul.**

The children of Israel wanted everything their hearts desired and lusted after, rather than seeking the face of אַיָּאָל (**Yahuah**) to inquire of Him what was pleasing to Him and best for them.

1Sa 8:4-20 The Besorah—And **all the elders of Yisra'ël gathered together and came to Shemu'ël at Ramah, and said to him,** "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now **appoint for us a sovereign to rule us like all the nations.**" But the word was evil in the eyes of Shemu'ël when they said, "Give us a sovereign to rule us." So Shemu'ël prayed to אַיָּאָל. And אַיָּאָל **said to Shemu'ël, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from reigning over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Mitsrayim, even to this day – forsaking Me and serving other mighty ones – so they are doing to you too. And now, listen to their voice, but you shall certainly warn them, and shall make known to them the ruling of the sovereign who does reign over them."** And Shemu'ël spoke all the words of אַיָּאָל to the people who asked him for a sovereign, "This is the ruling of the sovereign who does reign over you: He shall take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and they shall run before his chariots, and appoint commanders over his thousands and commanders over his fifties, or to plough his ground and reap his harvest, or to make his weapons, and equipment for his chariots. "And your daughters he is going to take to be perfumers, and cooks, and bakers. "And the best of your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive-trees he is going to take and give them to his servants. "And a tenth of your grain and your vintage he is going to take and give it to his officers and servants. "And your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys he is going to take and use for his own work. "A tenth of your sheep he is going to take, and you are to be his servants. **"And you shall cry out in that day because of your sovereign whom you have chosen for yourselves, but אַיָּאָל is not going to answer you in that day."** However, the people refused to listen to the voice of Shemu'ël, and said, "No, but let a sovereign be over us. Then we shall be, we also, like all the nations, and our sovereign shall rule us and go out before us and fight our battles."

We see in the passages above a perfect example of אַיָּאָל (**Yahuah**) allowing His people to do things which were not within His Perfect Plan, but He kept silent and instructed Samuel to listen to the people and give them the desires of their hearts, admonishing them of the consequences that would be the result of their decision. Samuel faced a situation similar to what Moshe (Moses) faced when dealing

with the children of Israel over matters such as multiple marriages and divorce, they desired what they desired and there was no reasoning with them as to the error they were falling into and the harm they were bringing upon themselves and their children.

Eze 20:25 THE SCRIPTURES—Wherefore **I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live.**

Simply put, Our Mighty One became weary of His children asking for that last slice of watermelon even though He had clearly warned them that they did not need more watermelon, had eaten enough, and another slice would make them sick with the consequence being their face would go pale, then green, and at long last they would puke their guts up while crying, "**Father, help us!**" Add another con to the growing list of cons.

Mat 19:3-9 THE SCRIPTURES—And the Pharisees came to Him, trying Him, and saying to Him, "Is it right for a man to put away his wife for every reason?" And He answering, said to them, "Did you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them **male and female**, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and **cleave to his wife, and the two** shall become one flesh?' "So that they are no longer **two**, but one flesh. Therefore, what Elohim has joined together, let man not separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Mosheh command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "**Because of the hardness of your hearts, Mosheh allowed you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**" "And I say to you, whoever puts away his wife, except on the ground of whoring, and marries another, commits adultery. And whoever marries her who has been put away commits adultery."

Messiah **וַיְהִי** (**Yahusha**) also confirms to us here that it was never His Father's Perfect Plan for a man and a woman to Divorce, but rather His Father allowed Moshe (Moses) to give unto the people the wicked desires of their hearts, giving them their desires, but sending leanness into their souls. As Shaul (Paul) said, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that also shall he reap." Do we also lust and desire for things which are not good for us? Have we negated the Perfect Plan of **יְהוָה** (**Yahuah**) in order to fulfill our own plans and schemes? Are we justifying our desire for an additional wife by picking and choosing passages of Scripture to support our line of reasoning, rather than applying the **whole counsel** of the Scriptures to address a very serious topic with lasting consequences for everyone involved?.....Shall we search further for the answer to this question before arriving at a conclusion?.....

Eze 3:17-18 THE SCRIPTURES--"Son of man, **I have made you a watchman for the house of Yisra'el.** And you shall hear a word from My mouth, and shall warn them from Me. "When I say to the wrong, 'You shall certainly die,' and you have not warned him, nor spoken to warn the wrong from his wrong way, to save his life, that same wrong man shall die in his crookedness, and **his blood I require at your hand.**

A watchman is a Natsarim (or Natsarene) as was our Messiah. Shaul (Paul) was referred to as a ringleader for the sect of the Natsarim.

Act 24:5 THE SCRIPTURES--"For having found this man a plague, who stirs up dissension among all the Yehudim throughout the world, and **a ringleader of the sect of the Natsarenes.**

Messiah **וַיְהִי** (**Yahusha**) and Shaul (Paul) were both watchmen for the House of Israel, shouting the "Good News" of the coming Kingdom of **יְהוָה** (**Yahuah**) for all who would turn from sin, repent, walk in the Covenant, and choose life eternal rather than destruction on the Day of **יְהוָה** (**Yahuah**).

We today are also called to be watchmen for the House of Israel, called to shout the same warning, called to rescue those held prisoner by false teachings and pagan traditions from the flames that await them on the Day of **יְהוָה** (**Yahuah**). We are not of this world, but we do by necessity at present live upon it, working and raising families. There is so little time and so much to be done; such a great field to harvest, yet so few workers. This reality presents a very real and serious question as to how we should

conduct our married and family lives here upon this earth: **Is polygamy for us as Natsarim, as Watchmen?** Do we have the time and resources to carry out the charge given to us by Messiah and manage caring for and pleasing more than one wife?.....

1Co 7:29-33 THE SCRIPTURES--And this **I say, brothers, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none**, and those who weep as though they did not weep, and those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, and those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the scene of this world is passing away. And I wish you to be without concern. He who is unmarried is concerned about the *matters* of the Master – how to please the Master. But **he who is married is concerned about the matters of the world – how to please his wife.**

Now, is Shaul (Paul) speaking against the institution of marriage? No, not at all, but he is saying clearly that we as believers have an enormous task to accomplish with very little time in which to accomplish it. We need to know ourselves, our strengths, our weaknesses. We must keep our vessels—body and spirit—in set-apart, tip top, condition—hull scraped, deck swabbed, sails mended, mast and rigging in good working order—to enable us to achieve the best possible speed on our journey to deliver the “Good News”, stocking our vessel with all necessary provisions to sustain us both physically, emotionally, and spiritually for the duration of our voyage.....We must be alert and aware of the dangers of sailing in treacherous waters, and be willing to lighten our vessel upon encountering ravaging winds and stormy seas, salvaging our precious cargo at all costs.....Paul is saying that as captains of our vessel, if married, we will naturally have our hearts and minds focused on **our wife** at home and **her needs** rather than being fully focused upon Messiah **וְיֵשׁוּעַ (Yahusha)** and **the urgency of our mission** to deliver the “Good News” to every man, woman, and child upon this earth before the Day of **יְהוָה (Yahuah)** arrives.....

Th 4:1-8 The Besorah--For the rest then, brothers, we beg you and call upon you in the Master **וְיֵשׁוּעַ**, that as you received from us how you should walk and to please Elohim, you should excel still more, for you know what commands we gave you through the Master **וְיֵשׁוּעַ**. For this is the desire of Elohim: your set-apartness! – that **you should abstain from whoring**, that **each one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in set-apartness and respect**, not in passion of lust, like the gentiles who do not know Elohim, not to overstep and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because the Master is the revenger of all such, as we indeed said to you before and earnestly warned. For Elohim did not call us to uncleanness, but in set-apartness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but Elohim, who also gives us His Set-apart Spirit.

Act 27:14-19 THE SCRIPTURES--And not long after, a stormy head wind rushed down from it, called Northeaster. And when the ship was caught *in it*, and unable to head against the wind, we let her go and were driven. And having run under a small island called Klauda, we were hardly able to control the small boat. And having hoisted it, they used helps to undergird the ship. And fearing lest they should run aground on Surtis, they lowered the tackle and so were driven. And because we were exceedingly storm-tossed, the next day **they began to throw overboard. And on the third day we threw out the ship's tackle with our own hands.**

An interesting thought: If we are captains of our vessel, then **how many wives** are needed to keep us from **whoring**.....to properly provision us—**quench our carnal desires**—so that we may set sail upon our commissioned voyage to carry the “Good News” to all the world? If having a wife is a necessity for us to maintain our vessel with set-apartness, each of us knowing our needs and weaknesses, yet realizing that in doing so we are in truth **diminishing our commitment and focus** as captains, then how much more so will our **commitment and focus be diminished** if we take yet another wife, or another?.....Who will command our vessel while we—the captain—are distracted with thoughts, cares and worries of **a wife in every port?**.....Is such a captain **fit to undertake** such a mission, such a voyage?.....

Co 7:1-3 THE SCRIPTURES--And concerning the *matters* you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. But **because of whoring, let each one have his own wife**, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife what is her due, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

Though Shaul (Paul) undoubtedly was aware that many within the body of Messiah came to be believers with **previously established** multiple marriage wives, **we see no indication, or encouragement from him** for men or women, in their struggle to live pure and set-apart lives, to engage in multiple wife marriages. Is it possible that Our Mighty One אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) has set for us an example to settle this matter once and for all.....?

Eze 37:16-22 The Besorah--"And you, **son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it, 'For Yehudah and for the children of Yisra'el, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Yosëph, the stick of Ephrayim, and for all the house of Yisra'el, his companions.'** "Then bring them together for yourself into one stick, and they shall become one in your hand. "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Won't you show us what you mean by these?' say to them, 'Thus said the Master אַיָּאָל, "See, I am taking the stick of Yosëph, which is in the hand of Ephrayim, and **the tribes of Yisra'el, his companions.** And I shall give them unto him, with the stick of Yehudah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in My hand." ' "And the sticks on which you write shall be in your hand before their eyes. "And speak to them, '**Thus said the Master אַיָּאָל, "See, I am taking the children of Yisra'el from among the gentiles, wherever they have gone, and shall gather them from all around, and I shall bring them into their land. "And I shall make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Yisra'el. And one sovereign shall be sovereign over them all, and let them no longer be two nations, and let them no longer be divided into two reigns.**

This, of course is the Two Stick Prophecy of the Two House Restoration of the nation of Israel. The House of Israel—Ephrayim and the lost tribes—will be reunited as one nation, as they were in the days of king David, with the House of Yahudah—the Southern Kingdom and they will no longer be two separate nations, but will be one nation, **one Israel**.

Heb 8:8-10 The Besorah—For finding fault with them, He says, "**See, the days are coming," says אַיָּאָל, "when I shall conclude with the house of Yisra'el and with the house of Yehudah a renewed covenant,** not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Mitsrayim, because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them," says אַיָּאָל. "Because **this is the covenant that I shall make with the house of Yisra'el after those days, says אַיָּאָל, giving My laws in their mind, and I shall write them on their hearts, and I shall be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.**

This, of course, is the Renewed Marriage Covenant offered to all who will accept it through the bloody sacrificial death, and resurrection of **וּוּיָאָל (Yahusha)** Messiah. Brick Parrish—author of Study of the Two House Restoration of Israel—shares with us in his article, Is The Renewed Covenant Totally In Effect Today, some interesting information about Covenants in ancient Israel.....

".....in ancient Israel, previously existing covenants were amended in a principle known as "stacking." Only the parts of the covenant that changed were affected. All other provisions of the Covenant remained the same. This is the situation with the Renewed Covenant Yahshua made with us. YHWH communicated His Covenant in a way that Israel could understand by following the outline of the ancient Suzerainty treaties. In it was stated the parties to the Covenant, the history, the terms and conditions, the duration and the witnesses.

"The covenant at Sinai was in reality, a marriage contract, or Ketubah in Hebrew. Yahweh's proposal to Israel is found in Exo. 19:3-7, and the people's acceptance is in verse 8. The duration was to be forever, and the two witnesses were the "heaven and the earth....."

"We are all aware that Yahshua, which I believe to be Yahweh of the Tanakh (Old Testament), came to earth as a man, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, shed his blood and died on a crucifixion stake as payment for our sins. He was raised from the dead by Yahweh the Father on the third day, and now has proposed to his bride, Israel. When we accept his proposal, the terms of the Ketubah are set, and upon our acceptance of them, we are then betrothed to him and are considered "born again." We become new creations....."

Jer 31:31 KJV—Behold, the days come, saith YHWH, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

“The word translated “new” is “chadash” in Hebrew. The “*Etymological Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew*” by Matityahu Clark gives the definition of this Hebrew word as “renewed.” It is a renewed or expanded covenant with all the provisions of the old with some changes. These changes are spoken of in Hebrews chapters 7- 10 and deal primarily with changes to the Priesthood.

“Another important thing to notice here is that the Renewed Covenant is made **ONLY** with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. If you do not belong to either of these two groups of people, there is no sense worrying about it. **It doesn’t pertain to you**. The “Church” does not replace Israel and must be grafted into Israel to have a part in this Renewed Covenant. This is done as explained in Romans 11.”

Why such a long, but interesting, excerpt? To make it undeniably clear that there is **one and only one Bride** of Messiah: **Israel**. Israel is to wed one Husband. **וַיְהוּשָׁע (Yahusha)** Messiah is to wed **one wife: Israel**. Our Messiah has no plans for a multiple wife marriage. He is setting the example for us to follow.....

1Jn 2:6 THE SCRIPTURES—The one who says he stays in Him **ought himself also to walk, even as He walked**.

I believe at this point it is safe and Scriptural to say that a man is free according to Torah to take as many brides as our Messiah Himself plans to wed.....**One**.....The King of Kings will rule the earth with His **one Bride Israel**.....

Time to tally up the pros and the cons.....Is there really any point? The evidence against multiple marriages is overwhelming.....If we have arrived at any other conclusion then, truly, we have been **“conned”** by those who are **“pros”** at conning people with false teachings.

For those whose gift of stubbornness surpasses their gift of sound reasoning this may not be the ear tickling answer they were hoping for as they began reading this article. We must all decide for ourselves what is right and what is wrong. In the meantime there are still the laws of this land to contend with and the penalties for violating them are severe.....If you are bound and determined to indulge in a multiple marriage there is a solution, at least for now.....Immigrate.....Yes sir, pack up your gear and move to where folks will say the things you want to hear and allow the things you want to do. In an attempt to help you on your way as best I can, I have placed a list of nations which allow multiple marriages below.....Oh, by the way.....You might want to convert to Islam before moving. It seems most of these nations are either Muslim or some other religion which does not honor, obey, or walk in Covenant with Our Mighty One **יְהוָה (Yahuah)**.....Who knows?.....**You may fit right in**.....

See List Next Page

Legal status of polygamy
Recognized under civil law

Afghanistan
Algeria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Brunei
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Chad
CAR
Comoros
Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Gabon
The Gambia
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Libya
Malaysia

Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Morocco
Myanmar
Niger
Oman
Pakistan
Palestine
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syria
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
UAE
Western Sahara
Yemen
Zambia