

# BEMA

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2025-09-27

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# BEMA

Notes on the Christian faith from a Jewish perspective, based upon the works of rabbis such as Ray Vander Laan and Marty Solomon.

[BEMA Discipleship](#) - Marty Solomon

[That the World May Know](#) - Ray Vander Laan

**Part I**

**BEMA**

# 1 RVL Israel

God's people are called to be city gates, standing stones, and at the crossroads

Mashal - Hebrew Parable (Strong 4911)

Jesus stops funeral procession.- cf Elisha "A prophet has awakened in Israel"

## 1.1 Cities

- Always found on untillable land
- Req water source - Place king can store food
- Defensive position
- Place of safety
- Rich lived in cities
- Surrounded by daughter villages

Don't weep for me, weep for yourselves. The enemies will throw your babies against the wall

You are a city on a hill

4000 extant parables from biblical times, but only two involve cities:

- Hillel
- A certain man when down to Jericho

### 1.1.1 Gezer

- Located on Via Maris near coastal plain and Aijalon Valley
- 4000BC Glassade
- 2000BC Cannanite
- 1300 DC Joshja
- City not taken by Joshua. Egyptian king gave Gezer as dowry 950BC
- Destroyed
- Destroyed again by Babylon
- Conquered 15 times in 3500 years

### **1.1.2 Hazor**

- City in Northern Israel along Via Maris - Fortified by Solomon

### **1.1.3 Jaffa = Joppa**

- Chief seaport to float cedars of Lebanon to Jerusalem for the temple

## **1.2 Trade Routes**

- Via Maris along coast
- Kings' Highway east of Jordan Valley - more difficult than Via Maris

## **1.3 Gates**

- Defensive
- Define relationship to the world
- Unusual to breach the gates
- Place of commerce
- Place of justice (mishpat) Boaz went to city gates
- Lot - an elder in Sodom and Gomorrah
- Crucifixion just outside city gates
- After Babylonian captivity, Jews separated from wider society
- Nehemiah rebuilt the gates

## **1.4 Canaanite cosmology**

- World is conflict between chaos and order (Ma'at)
- Yamm is Canaanite God of primordial chaos
- Genesis - in the beginning it was chaos, and the spirit of God hovered over the earth
- Plagues: 10 gods addressed by 10 plagues
- Fall: return to chaos
- Jesus: I am the gate
- Care for the poor in your gate (**BibleNIV?**, Deuteronomy 15:7)



## 1.5 Levant Geography

Coastal - Philistines Foothills

- Can't farm due to chalk in soil
- Shephelah

Judean Mountains

- Farmed in terraces

Back Slope

- 12 miles
- Wilderness

Desert

- Rift Valley

Valleys - Run East West

- Aijalon - Joshua made sun stand still (**BibleNIV?**, Joshua 10:12-13)
  - Pass of Beth Horon - Macabees victory
  - Road to Emmaus (**BibleNIV?**, Luke 24:13-35)
- Sorek
- Elah - David and Goliath
- Lachish

Adullam - Story of two caves

Lachish

## 1.6 Religious Movements **RVL**

### 1.6.1 Pharisees

- From Hasmodian freedom fighters of Maccabee era
- 6000 middle-class merchants
- Accepted oral interpretation of OT
- Supported synagogue for Torah study and interpretation
- Strict, detailed obedience to Torah and oral law

### 1.6.2 Saducees

- Descended from Zadok, Solomon's highest priest
- Formed 200BC
- Priests who were wealthy, aristocratic, and Hellenistic
- Only Torah as God's law
- Temple was the only path to God
- No bodily resurrection
- Dominated Sanhedrin

### 1.6.3 Essenes

- Resisted Maccabees claim to high priesthood in 170BC
- Preferred isolation in wilderness
- Ritual cleansing
- Unclear if origin from Pharisees or Saducees

### 1.6.4 Zealots

- Formed in opposition to Roman census 6 AD lead by Judas the Galilean
- Extreme Pharisees living in Galilee
- Similar theology to Pharisees, but only God could rule
- Slavery was worst evil
- Taxes due only to God (refused to pay Roman tax)
- Adhered to Torah interpretation

## 1.7 Standing Stones **RVL**

- Matzevah = Testament to what God has done
- Both lawful practice and pagan
- I Peter 2- You are living stones
- Jacob - Beth El - God has been here. Sets up standing stone
- Joshua sets up standing stones in Jordan river (**BibleNIV?**, Joshus 4:3-9)
- Moses sets up 12 pillars in (**BibleNIC?**, Exodus 24:4)

## **2 Chronology**

### **2.1 Babylon**

-Captivity 586BC - Origin of Scribe, Torah Teacher, Hasidim, Synagogue

### **2.2 Persia - Post Exilic 500BC**

- Return from captivity
- Temple rebuilt
- Ezra, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel
- Saducees

### **2.3 Greece - 333 BC**

#### **2.3.1 Ptolemies 333-198BC**

-Jews left Judiasm -> Hasidim renewed Torah Study

#### **2.3.2 Selucids - 198BC**

- Hellenism by force
- Resisted by Hasidim

#### **2.3.3 Maccabees 167- 37 BC**

- Hasmodian family led revolt in 167 BC
- Supported by Saducces
- Became Hellenistic

### **2.3.4 Rome 63 BC - 325 AD**

- Pompey subdued area in 63BC. Made treaty with Antipater of Idumea -> Herod becomes king

## **2.4 Negev**

### **2.4.1 Jericho**

- City of palm trees (**BibleNIV?**, Deuteronomy 34:3)
- Herod's palace

### **2.4.2 Masada**

- Eliezer Ben Yair and 960 people fled here in 70AD
- Possible place where David fled (**BibleNIV?**, I Samuel 23)
- Stronghold referenced in I Chronicles 12:8

## **2.5 En Gedi**

- "Fountain of the Goat"

## **2.6 Avdat**

## **2.7 Arad**

## 3 Pre-Assyrian Prophets

Prophetic Themes

- Idolatry (Source A)
- Injustice (Source B)
- Hope in the midst of judgement

### 3.1 Amos - Plumbline (and ripe fruit)

Prophet to Israel

### 3.2 Hosea - Prostitute

Prophet to Israel

### 3.3 Micah - Judge {BEMA50}

Prophet to Judah

God is looking for tzedekah, but instead finds Tze'ekah

Hope: Surely I will gather you, Jacob, I will bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture. The place will throng with people. The one who breaks open the way will go up before them. They will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass before them, the Lord at their head.

Hezekiah is a King of Judah who repents (and God spares Judah)

### **3.4 1 Isaiah - Vineyard {BEMA51}**

### **3.5 Jonah - Potential {BEMA52}**

### **3.6 Nahum - Diyn {BEMA53}**

Diyn - retributive justice (against Ninevah)

vs mishpat = restorative justice

### **3.7 Zephaniah - T'shuvah (return) {BEMA54}**

Prophecizes against the priests who set up a Molech sacrificial center (in Valley of Hinnon)

### **3.8 2 Isaiah - Woe {BEMA55}**

Isaiah 13-39

#### **3.8.1 Taunt against the King of Babylon**

12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! 13 You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;[c] 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ 15 But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. 16 Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, 17 who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’ 18 All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb;[d] 19 but you are cast out, away from your grave, like a loathed branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a dead body trampled underfoot. 20 You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have slain your people.

This passage has been applied to Satan, but context (before and after) states it relates to the King of Babylon

cf Hezekiah 28

## 3.9 Isaiah 36

Format changes from poetry back to prose (like Kings)

## 3.10 Jeremiah - Weeping {BEMA56}

Babylonian prophet

### 3.10.1 Valley of Slaughter 7:30

Gehenna used 12 times in NT, 11 by Jesus. Derived from Geehenom = Valley of Hinnom. Actual valley outside Jerusalem. Also known as Topheth

7:30 “For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the Lord. They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. 31 And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. 32 Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere. 33 And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away. 34 And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the land shall become a waste.

8 “At that time, declares the Lord, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs. <sup>2</sup> And they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped. And they shall not be gathered or buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. <sup>3</sup> Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the Lord of hosts.

19 Thus says the Lord, “Go, buy a potter’s earthenware flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests, <sup>2</sup> and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you. <sup>3</sup> You shall say, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. <sup>4</sup> Because the people have forsaken me and have profaned this

place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents,<sup>5</sup> and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind—<sup>6</sup> therefore, behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when this place shall no more be called **Topheth**, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.<sup>7</sup> And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will cause their people to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the earth.<sup>8</sup> And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its wounds.<sup>9</sup> And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.’

### 3.10.2 70 Years of Babylonian Captivity

**25** The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),<sup>2</sup> which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem: <sup>3</sup> “For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. <sup>4</sup> You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the Lord persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, <sup>5</sup> saying, ‘Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever. <sup>6</sup> *Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands.* Then I will do you no harm.’ <sup>7</sup> Yet you have not listened to me, declares the Lord, that you might provoke me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.

<sup>8</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, <sup>9</sup> behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the Lord, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. <sup>10</sup> Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp. <sup>11</sup> This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. <sup>12</sup> Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that



nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste. 13 I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. <sup>14</sup> For many nations and great kings shall make slaves even of them, and I will recompense them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

Jeremiah predicts the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, and draws the connection that Judah persisted in idolatry

Chronicles 36:20 comments on that prophecy

<sup>20</sup> He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, <sup>21</sup> to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. *All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*

Chronicles draws the connection that the Babylonian captivity was related to failure to keep the Sabbath (and the other OT economic policies, including Shemitah and Jubilee)

## **4 Roman History**

### **4.1 Augustus Caesar (Octavian)**

Adopted some of Julius Caesar, assassinated in 44BC.

Defeated Mark Anthony and Cleopatra in maritime battle of Actium 31BC

Title Augustus conferred in 27BC by Roman Senate

### **4.2 Tiberius Caesar**

Succeeded Augustus in 14AD

### **4.3 Caligula**

Succeeded Tiberius in 37 AD but was mentally unstable

### **4.4 Claudius**

Rose to power in 41 AD and invaded Britain in 43AD

Expelled Jews from Rome in 29 AD

### **4.5 Nero**

Came to power in 54 AD as 17-year old stepson of Claudius

Blamed Christians for Great Fire of Rome in 64AD.

Paul and Peter were executed by Nero during the Romano-Jewish war of 66 AD

## **4.6 Vespasian**

Came to power in 68AD after Nero's suicide

## **4.7 Titus**

Came to power in 79AD. Destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD to end Jewish war

# 5 Acts

Peter's Speech

3000 added that day - callback to Mount Zion - 3000 died after Golden calf

Jesus is raised on First Fruits. 50 days later is Shavuot

Between First Fruits and Shavuot, no harvesting of the corners of the fields

## 5.1 Ascension

Ananias and Sapphira

Problem wasn't holding back the money, but lying to the disciples.

At the beginning of a move of God, there are examples of judgement to communicate that it needs to be done right:

- Achan
- Touching the ark of the covenant
- Collecting wood on the Sabbath

## 5.2 Acts 5 - Peter's healing powers

12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, **that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.** 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

### 5.2.1 Isaiah 32

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. <sup>2</sup> Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, **like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.** <sup>3</sup> Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. <sup>4</sup> The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.

<sup>5</sup> The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. <sup>6</sup> For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. <sup>7</sup> As for the scoundrel—his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. <sup>8</sup> But he who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands.

Isaiah 32 speaks of the messiah. Perhaps the “great rock” is Peter (Petros).

Marty Solomon: Jews are looking for a messiah who ushers in the Kingdom.

## References

**Part II**

**Life Church**

## 6 Catching Foxes - Chapter 1

Pre-engagement counseling - start working on critical issues now, and plan to resolve them prior to engagement

History (of yourself and spouse) provides context:

Gives you perspective

Allows you to understand each others' vulnerabilities

### 6.1 Personal History

Gospel is the power of God for salvation Rom 1:16

Scripture allows us to :

- Interpret our history truthfully
- Respond to our history triumphantly
- Behold the glory of Christ shining through

God uses our experiences for our good

- Experiences do not control us
- God controls our life and destiny

II Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

History does not determine who you are, but has influenced the way you think, feel, and live and have impacted your view of the world.

Now is the time to honestly discuss secrets from your past - now is the time to be honest



## 6.2 Chapter 2

Framework:

Christ-centered

God-exalting

Spirit-dependent

Creation- Designed to display and share his glory

Ps 191-6 The heavens are

telling of his glory

Col 1:16-17

Man is made

God's

Image,

after his Likeness

P43

We exist to enjoy and glorify God

Whether eat or drink... to the glory of God

Our personal lives are part of

God's redemptive plan

I Cor 10:31

Ephl:4-6 He chose us ... holy and blameless

before him... to the praise of the glory

of His

grace

Chnst Jesus can

came to

save sinners,

among

whom

I am foremost of all... I found mercy, so  
that in me.. Jesus Christ  
honor and glory  
might

demonstrate

his perfect patience.. Now to Him be

I Tim 1:15-17

-> Paul was saved not only for his sake,  
but for God's glory and eternal purposes

In li15-17

Our salvation bears testimony to the

44

redeeming love of God

God.. made the world.. He

life

gives

to all people

and breath.. having determined their

appointed times and boundaries of their

habitation, that they would seek God

We are created to worship and enjoy God

## 6.3 Chapter 3

Preparation for Marriage-

CATCHING FOXES

Learn to seek God above all else

Learn to be satisfied in Jesus

understanding where you come from,

Need to grow in und.

who

GENI

You

are in Jesus Christ, and where you are going

•) we were purposed by God to exist

21 Gud created us in tis

image

3 God declared good His creation of humanity

=> Every person has God-designed beauty - dignity

FALLEN NATURE

We revolted

humanity died

We began running

Gen 3:6-7

from God rather than to God

Sinful nature is more than a history of sin

We have adopted a way of Life that devalues

God and exalts self placed ourself

as ruler and savior of our life.

Rom 7:21-25 I joyfully concur of the law of

God in

my

p51

Inner man, but another law in

the members of my body

Who loves you enough to tell you.

you're walking against Christ?

Lust (more than just sexual) James 4:1-2

Source of

quarrels: Lusts

Fear - an expression of

worship

(The things

we fear have power over us.

US)

Lust & Fear go

hand in hand longings <> fear of le

Inability to reconcile ourselves to God

w/8

leaves

Adam and Eve attempted to cover w/ Skins

Hiding From God -> Blaming

one another

Redemption. God provided temporary deliverend

through shedding blood

Righteousness of God made manifest

apart from the law Rom 3:21-22

Salvation is more than freedom from sin  
and death -> New peaceful relation w/ God

Love of Christ controls us »

live not

For ourselves but for God II Cor 5:14-15

->new creation

Maturation-

Eternal Death- Rev 20:11-15

Eternal Life Rev 22:1-5

Marrying

a sinner

-

f David Platt - Reed the Fire-

Discipleship is part of Great Commissions

Mentoring

## **6.4 Chapter 4**

Do you carry a zeal for the eternal purposes of God?

Purpose of Marriage

Marriage doesn't belong to the couple

No helper suitable for him

For this reason: Leave + cleave

Created to know, enjoy, worship God

Not good to be alone - God was part of a family

Adam had one to love/serve

AND There was no helper suitable for him

Everything created exists to glorify God  
Alone, Adam couldn't display the image of God  
Marriage is a gift from God (to be stewarded)  
Marriage is a covenant which pictures, embodies,  
and points to the eternal covenant between  
Christ and the church.  
Marriage exists as a means of multiplying  
Marriage exists to exhort the next generation  
But spiritual multiplication is primary ->  
Covenant  
Go and make disciples

## **6.5 Chapter 5 Covenant**

Noah ~ Rainbow was a sign  
Abraham ~ Circumcision  
Law as book of the covenant Ex 24:7  
New covenant foretold Jer 31:33-34  
  
Problem w/ living under the law and judging our  
Spouse under the law  
Take my yoke, which is easy and my burden light  
Col 3:12-13. put on  
on a heart of compassion,  
Kindness, humility, gentleness and patience  
bearing with one another  
Forgiving  
one another, whoever has a  
complaint against anyone - just as

the Lord forgave you,

As we grasp God's compassion for us -> We have compassion for others

Col 3:14 Let the word dwell within

you richly

→

->

teaching and admonishing

one another... Singing with thank-

fullness

Divorce breaks the covenant

I Cor 5:18

God... reconciled himself to

us and gave

reconciliation

us the ministry of

Christian marriage is different not by

absence of sin but by redeeming and

reconciling Grace

Matt 19:9-10 Whoever divorces a woman.

Mal 2:15 For I hate divorce and him who

covers his

garment

with

wrong

So take heed to

your spirit, that

do not

you

deal treacherously

FREE TO MARRY-

Gen 2:23

Matthew 19:1-10

Mark 10:1

1 Cor 7:10-16

## **6.6 Chapter 6 - Becoming a Husband**

Eph 5:25 Love your wives,

BECOMING HUSBAND

as Christ also loved the church and gave

himself up

for her

Eph 5:18-21

Filled with the spirit

- New creation

- Trusting/Honoring God

-Strengthened in his

power

- Not ruled by worldly desire

Results of being Filled

- Speaking in psalms
- Singing/making melody
- Giving thanks
- Being subject to one another

As Christ loved the Church

John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd

Heb 12:2 For the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame



Col 3:19 Husbands love your wives and do not be embittered against them

As his own body ...nourish and cherish...

With understanding and showing honor

I Peter 3:7 Live with your wives in an understanding way. Show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life

Leaving Parents

## **6.7 Chapter 7 - Becoming a Wife**

Temporal, visible, living picture of the eternal, invisible, living reality of Christ and His church

Wife- display attitudes, affections, activities that Christ should have towards the church

Eph 5- Be filled with the Spirit

We work out our salvation

Phil 2:12-13

It is God who is at work in you

Power for obeying comes from God

John 15:5 I am the vine

Submission + Headship starts in the Godhead

God is the head of Christ I Cor 15:28

...As to the Lord

...In everything - except Sin- Christ would not lead the church into sin...

Submission to Christ overrules submission to husband

.. As is fitting in the Lord = fitting to a Christian Woman

I Pet 3

Precious in the sight of the Lord

Chaste respectful gentle quiet

Ly refuse to use beauty to bring glory

and attention to yourself.

Women's source of hope and protection:

hope in God I Peter 3:5

Leaving Your Parents

Gen 2:24 Men are instructed to leave

their parents, but not women

(culturally) assumed that a woman leaves

her Family because and through marriage

Grooms need to leave and are not

given away'

Is this man someone you can entrust yourself

## 6.8 Chapter 8 - Conflict

Source of all conflict

James 4:1-4: What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

→

Idolatry - Desires that lead us to sin to fulfill them

1. Corrupt Words.
2. Rejection of correction
3. Acting as Two - Acting w/o regard for spouse
4. Trusting in our own eyes (vs God's word)
  - Cain
  - Jonah

## 6.9 Chapter 9

Humble yourself, and he will exalt you

Marriage conflict begins with our war with God

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to<sup>[c]</sup> his own glory and excellence,<sup>[d]</sup> 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

cf Unforgiving servant

Need hearts that love God

Ask yourself: What does my heart love so strongly that I am willing to fight for it?

Eager for forgiveness:

- w/o repentance, we can cover a transgression
- w/repentance-> cancel and bring restoration

Trusting the Lord: A trustworthy spouse is a gift, but we are called to trust God

Hands that serve cheerfully

whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant

Lips that edify vs Speaks rashly like a sword.

## 6.10 Chapter 10 Becoming One Flesh

Sexual perversion = false worship

Render the Affection Due

Obstacles-

- Immorality
  - Importance of confession/repentance
- Pornography
  - Job. I will make a covenant / my eyes.
  - Mt 5:28 Whoever looks upon a person

– Prov 7

- Past abuse

## **6.11 Chapter 11 Financial Stewardship**

Joseph as arch typical steward

Overseer... Is God's steward