

Marriage Relationships: The Wife

'Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her...And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi (Husband); and shalt call me no more Baali (Master)' –Hosea 2:14-16.

***Viewing our wives and relating with them as Christ views/relates with His Church (God's relationship with Israel)**

-The old testament portrays God as a husband deeply desirous of His wife (Israel) in spite of her constant unfaithfulness (the book of Hosea; Ezekiel 16, etc.)

-The fulfilment of this marriage relationship is in Jesus Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelations 19:6-9, etc)

*In the portrayals of God's love for His people (His bride) in the old and new testaments, some attributes of God are evident (which we must have towards our wives)

-His patience and longsuffering (Numbers 14:18-19)

-His tenderness (Hosea 2:14)

-His everlasting/unchanging love (Jeremiah 31:3)

-His faithfulness (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

*Our wives as:

-Helpers (like the Holy Spirit): Genesis 2:18 (John 14:16)

-Partners and joint heirs as we are to Christ: 1 Peter 3:7 (Romans 8:17)

-Our complement (1 Corinthians 11:11-12; Ephesians 5:31)

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 then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate (Matthew 19:5-6)

