

Veritas Class
Covenant Righteousness for the Glory of God
February 8, 2015
Deuteronomy 24:1–5

A. Safeguarding the Well-being of Women in Difficult Marital Situations (24:1–5)

Introduction

- a. The Structure of Chapter 24
- b. The Links between vv. 1–4 and v. 5

Safeguarding a Woman in the Context of Divorce (vv. 1–4)

Introduction

- a. The Importance of this Text
- b. The Context of this Text
- c. The Traditional Interpretation of this Text

P _{1a}	When a man takes a woman
P _{1b}	and marries her,
P _{2a}	if she finds no favor in his eyes
	because he has found some indecency in her,
A _{1a}	then he may/must write her a certificate of divorce
A _{1b}	and he may/must put it in her hand
A _{1c}	and he may/must send her out of his house.
P _{2b}	If she departs out of his house,
P _{2b}	and if she goes
P _{2b}	and if she becomes another man's wife,
P _{3aα}	and if the latter man hates her
P _{3aβ}	and if he writes her a certificate of divorce
P _{3aγ}	and if he puts it in her hand
P _{3aδ}	and if he sends her out of his house,
P _{3b}	or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife,
A _{1d}	then her former husband, who sent her away,
	may not take her again to be his wife,
	after she has been declared defiled,
M ₁	For that is an abomination before YHWH,
M ₂	And you shall not bring sin upon the land
	that YHWH your God is giving you as a grant.

Five Problems with this Interpretation:

- d. An Alternative Interpretation

The Problem	If a man takes a woman, and marries her, but if she does not find favor in his eyes, because he has discovered in her a defect,
The Prevailing Practice	and he writes for her a certificate of divorce and he puts [it] into her hand, and he releases her from his house,
The Complication	and [if] she departs from his house, and she goes, and becomes the wife of another man, but the latter man rejects her, and he writes for her a certificate of divorce, and he puts [it] into her hand, and he releases her from his house, or if the latter man, who took her to be his own wife, dies,
The Proscription	the first husband, who released her, is not permitted to return to take her to be his wife after she has been declared defiled,
The Rationale	because that would be an abomination before YHWH; You shall not contaminate the land, that YHWH your God is giving you as a grant.

1. The Problem (v. 1a)

- a. With the Man
- b. With the Woman

What does “indecent” mean?

2. The Prevailing Pattern (vv. 1b–2a)

Stages in Ancient Divorce Proceedings

- a. Writing up a Bill of Divorce
- b. Handing It to the Woman
- c. Expelling Her from His House

3. The Complication (vv. 2–3)

4. The Proscription (v. 4a)

5. The Rationale (v. 4b)

- a. It is an abomination to God.
- b. It causes the land to sin.