

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,
M₁ For that is an abomination before YHWH,
M₂ 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 “indecency” 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.

Veritas Class
Covenant Righteousness for the Glory of God
March 29, 2015
Deuteronomy 24:10–15

Maintaining Righteousness in Social and Economic Relationships (24:6–22)

A. The Righteous Treatment of the Poor (Part 1): Depriving a Person of Access to Food (v. 6)

B. The Righteous Treatment of the Poor (Part 2): Depriving a Poor Person of Life Itself (v. 7)

[Parenthesis 1: The Righteous Treatment of Serious Skin Diseases (vv. 8–9)]

C. The Righteous Treatment of the Poor (Part 3): Depriving a Poor Person of Clothing (vv. 10–13)

Exodus 22:25–27	Deuteronomy 24:10–13
<p>If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.</p> <p>If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall restore it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.</p>	<p>When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not go into his house to collect his pledge. You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you.</p> <p>And if he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in his pledge. You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before YHWH your God.</p>

1. The Issue: A Loan of any Sort
2. The Concern: Respecting personal space
3. The Nature of the Pledge

Proverbs 20:16

Job 22:6

Amos 2:6–8

Mezad Hashevyahu Ostrakon

4. Incentives for Compliance
 - a. The debtor will bless the lender.
 - b. YHWH will acknowledge the creditor as righteous.

D. Depriving Hired Hands of Their Rightful Due (vv. 14–15)

1. Who is the potential victim of abuse?
2. What is his status?
3. How shall the hired hand be treated?
4. Why should he be treated this way?
 - a. The Effects of Non-compliance on the Worker
 - (1) The man is destitute (*ʿānî*)
 - (2) The man is dependent on it
 - b. The Effects of Non-compliance on the Land-Owner
 - (1) That the hireling not cry out to God against the land-owner.
 - (2) That the land-owner not be guilty of sin.