

The Servant King

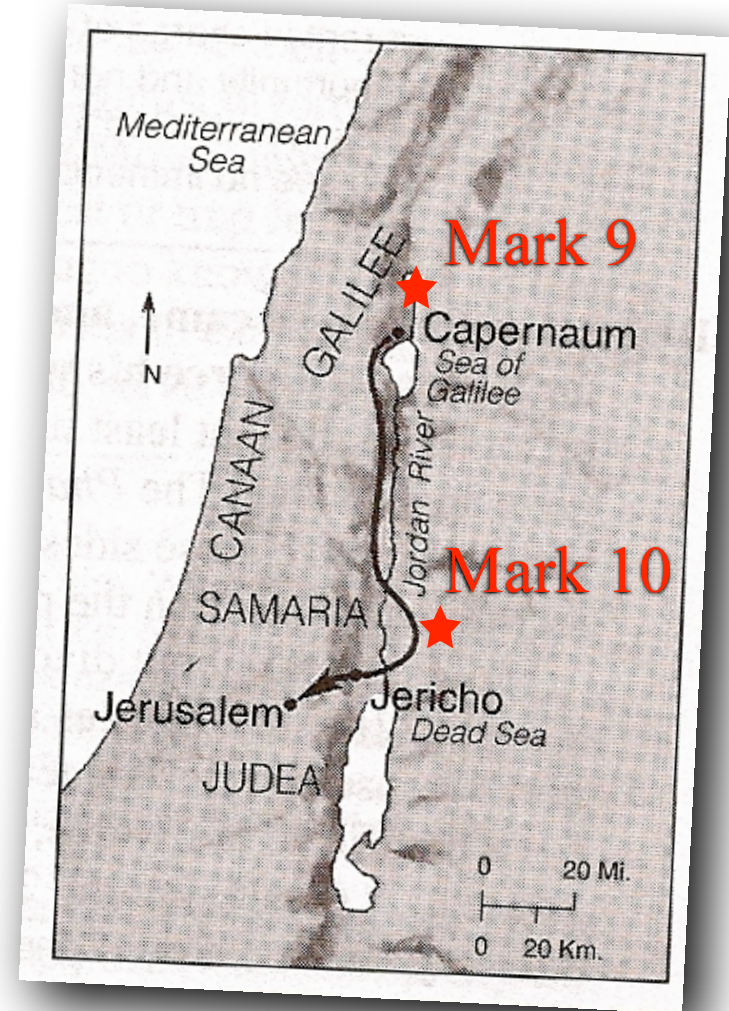


The story of the *King*... who came to *serve*.

Part 29

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

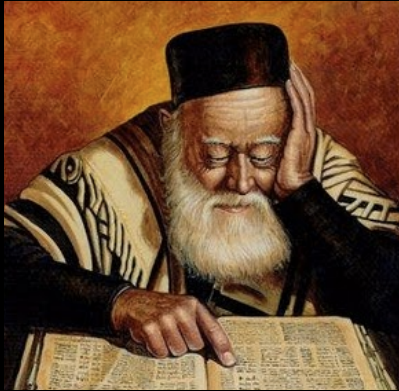
Mark 10:1 – 12



Deuteronomy 24:1 – 4

If a man marries a woman and she does not please him because he has found something offensive in her, then he may draw up a divorce document, give it to her, and evict her from his house. (NET Bible)

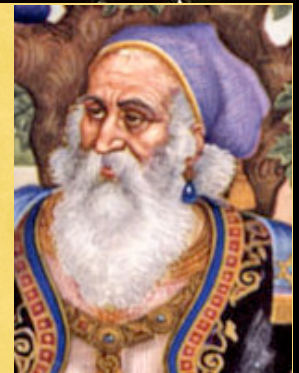


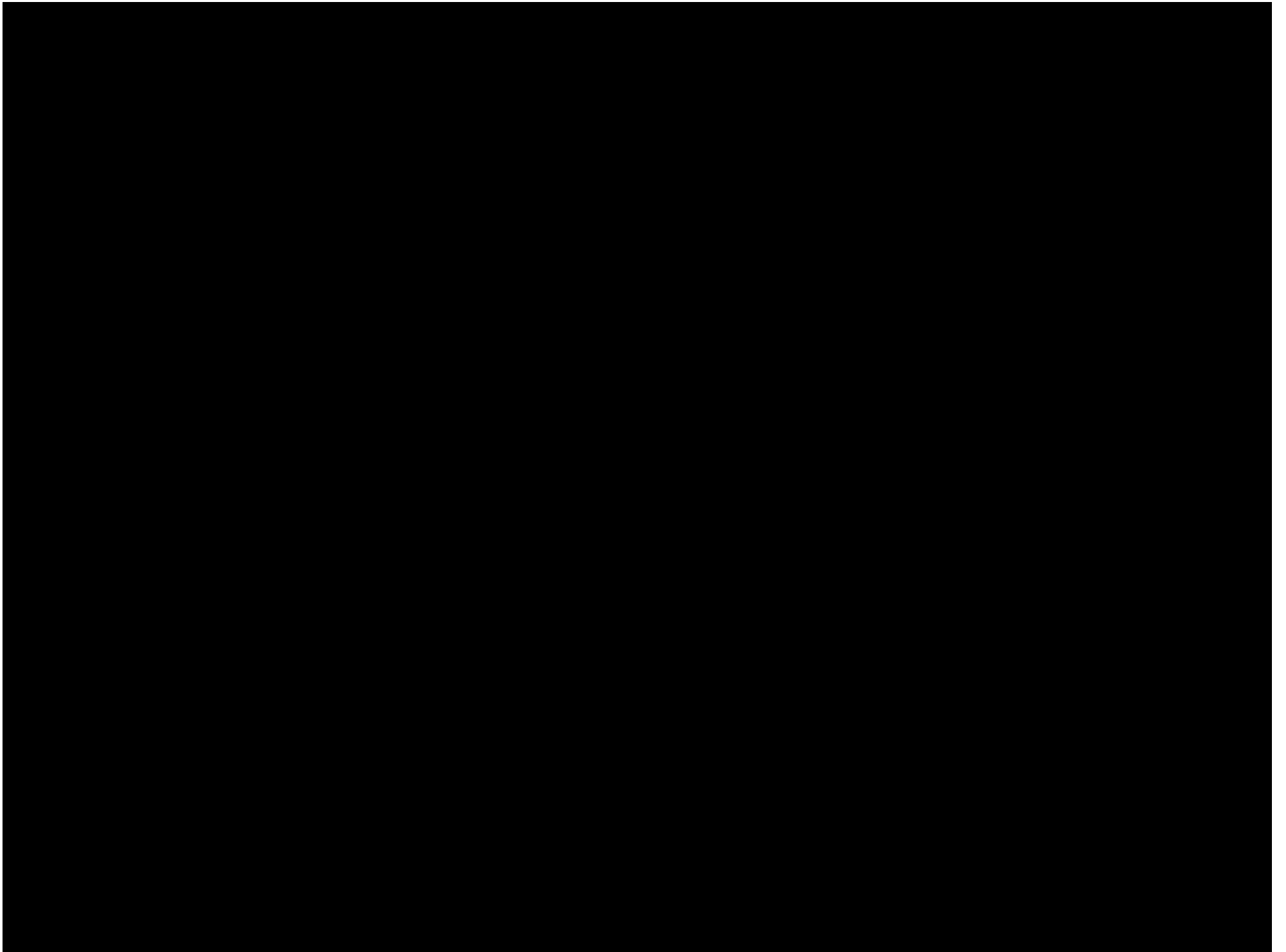


Rabbi Hillel - a man
can divorce his wife
for almost any reason.

If a man marries a woman and she does not please him because he has found *something offensive* in her, then he may draw up a divorce document, give it to her, and evict her from his house. (NET Bible)

Rabbi Shammai - a man
can divorce his wife only
if she is unfaithful to him.

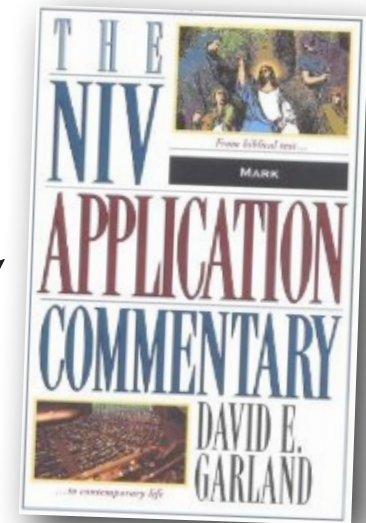






Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses command you?” (verse 3)

Jesus’ question uncovers their sinful hearts hidden behind the mask of legal correctness.





“commanded”

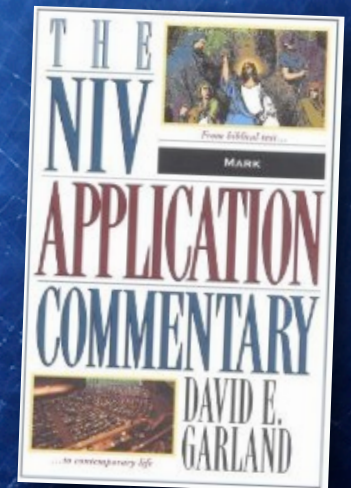
“Well, he permitted it,” they replied.

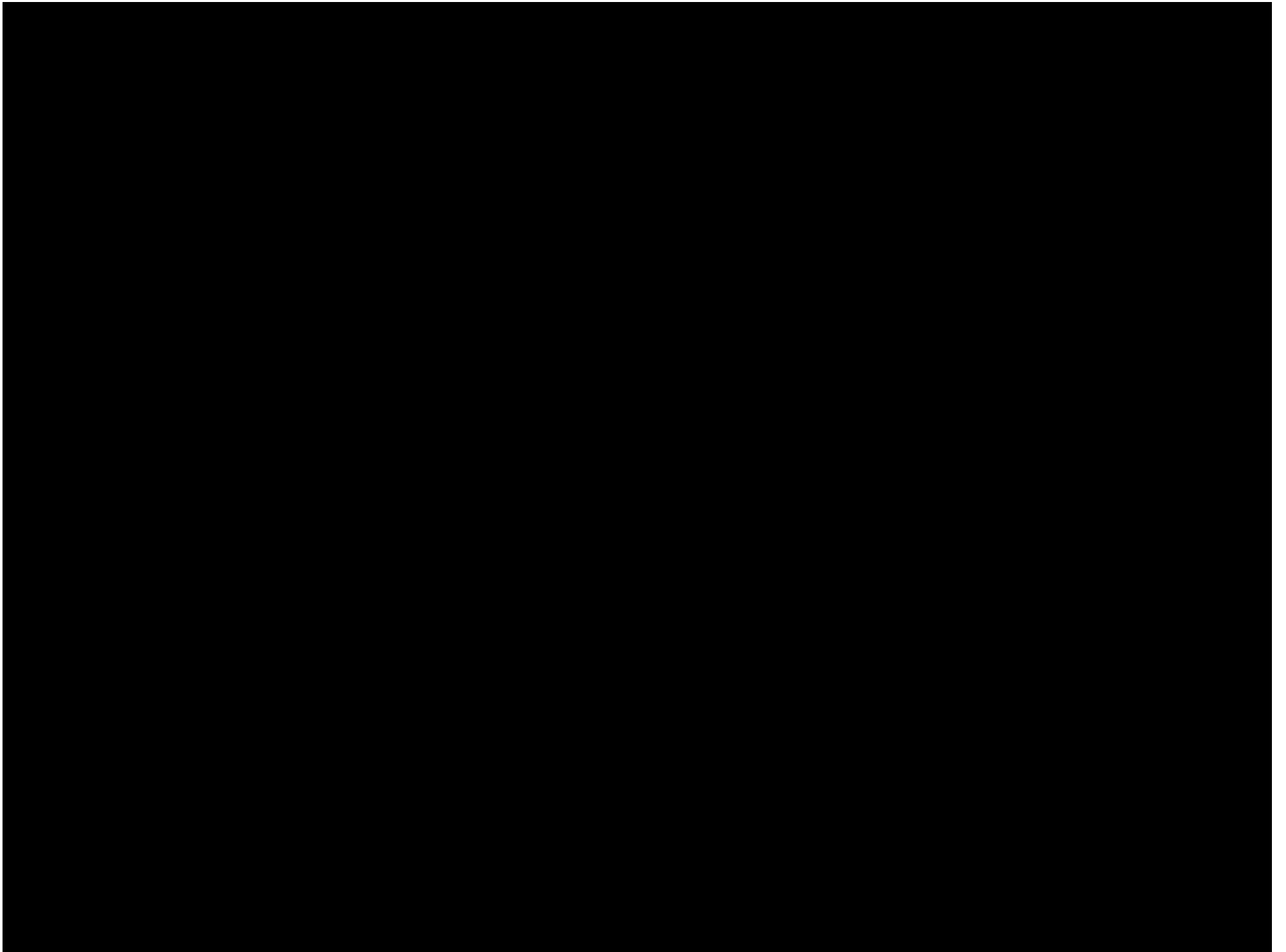
“He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.” (v. 4 NLT)

“permitted”

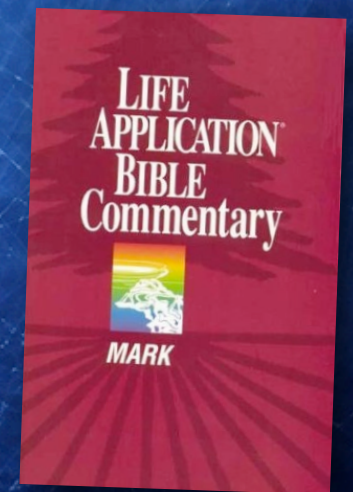
The legislation on divorce protected wives from abandonment. It freed a wife from the accusation of adultery when she, out of necessity, remarried; and it prevented the first husband from destroying her new marriage by trying to reclaim her . . .

The law was therefore intended to keep the social upheaval associated with divorce to a minimum.





This was a radical step toward civil rights, for it made a man think twice before sending his wife away. Moses' words gave protection to the wife and limited the abuses of divorce.





“Hard-heartedness”

But Jesus responded, “He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts.” (v. 5 NLT)

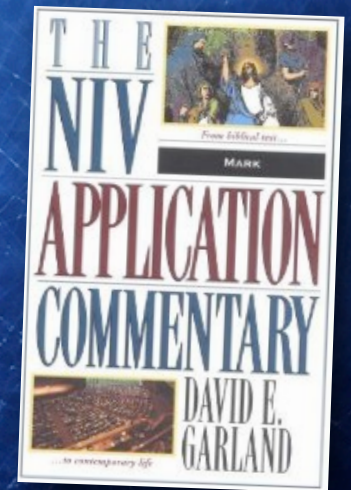
a stubborn, willful attitude



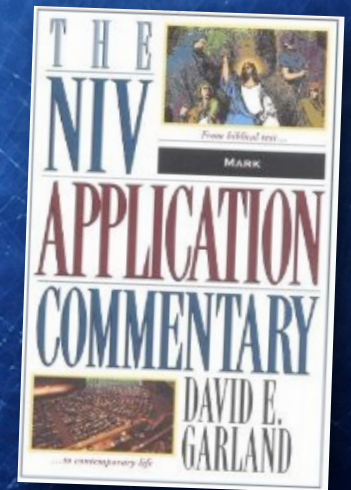
⁶ “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’

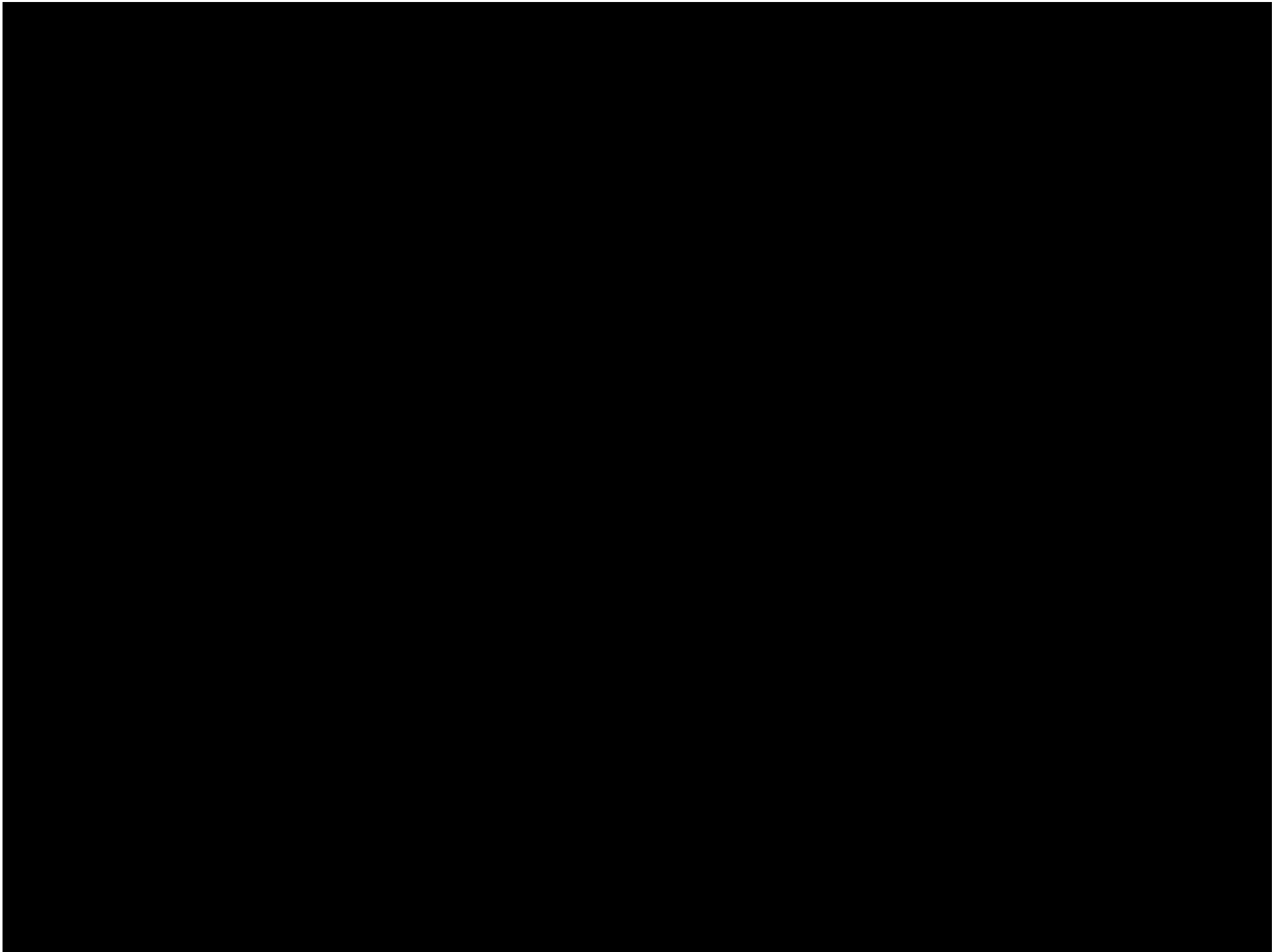
⁷ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸ and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (vs. 6 - 9)

One does not find God's true intentions for marriage in Deuteronomy 24 but in Genesis 1 & 2, which is also a "book of Moses."



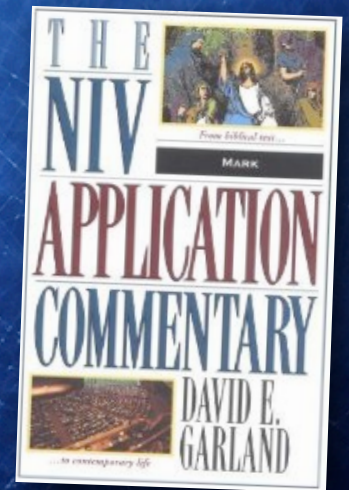
Jesus' opponents have consequently misunderstood both Scripture and God's will for marriage. God created male and female and joins them into a one-flesh relationship. Since God is the one who joins the two together, he is the Lord of the union. Who are males to make themselves the lords of the marriage by ousting an unwanted wife as they might discard a piece of used goods? God abandons no one; the husband is not to abandon the spouse even if it has legal precedent.





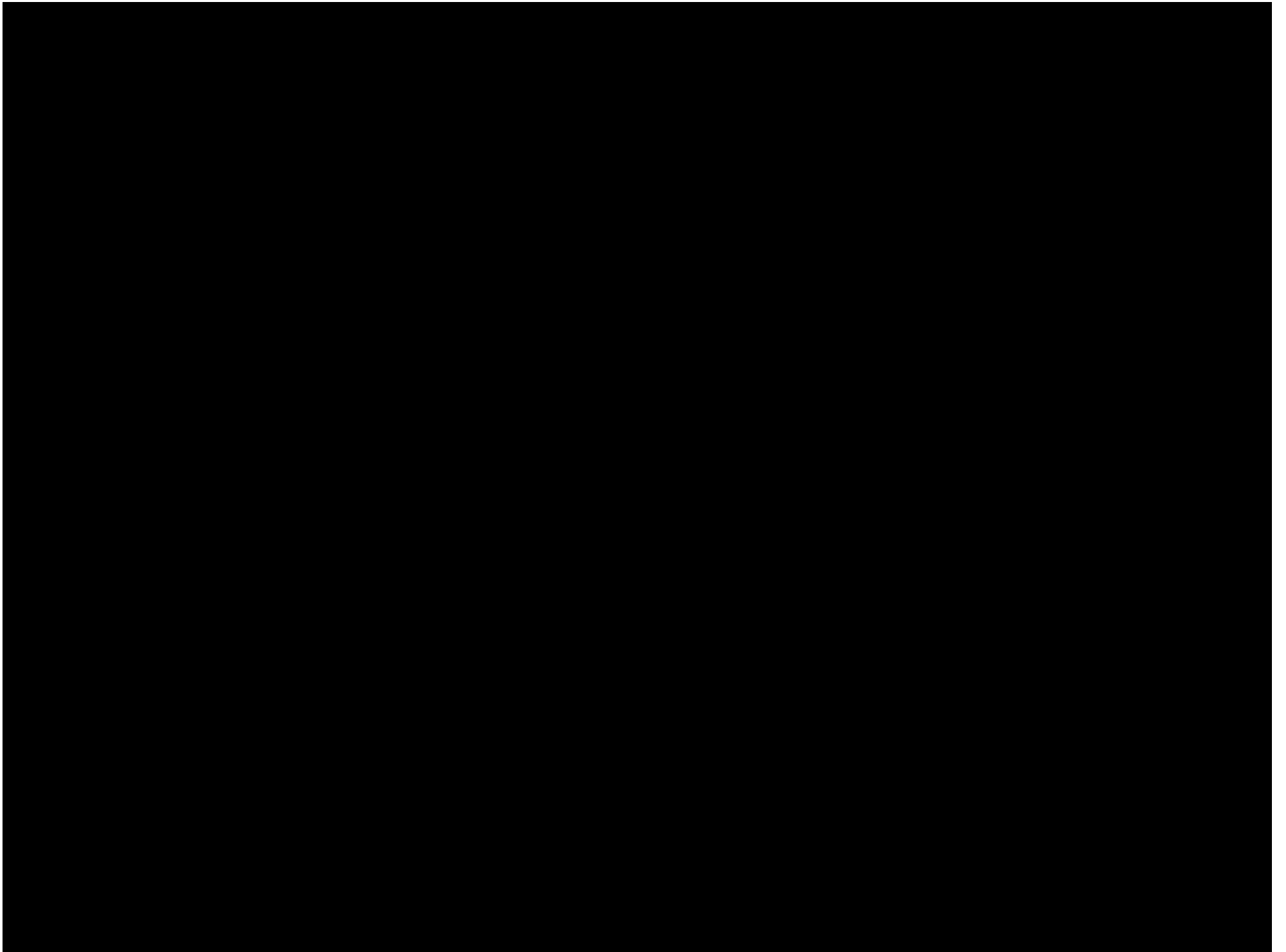
implications

We can no longer deal with God based on what Moses may have “permitted” and where the pettifoggers might find loopholes. God’s will, as Jesus reveals it, invades *all areas of life*, including what is *culturally accepted* and *legally allowed.*”



implications

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. (1 Peter 2:11 & 12, NLT)



implications

1. It does away with the notion of same-sex marriages.

From its inception in Genesis, marriage is *one man and one woman*, united in a *monogamous, sacred, permanent union and partnership*.



implications



1. It does away with the notion of same-sex marriages.

2. Marriage is the highest relationship possible in life and takes priority over all other relationships.

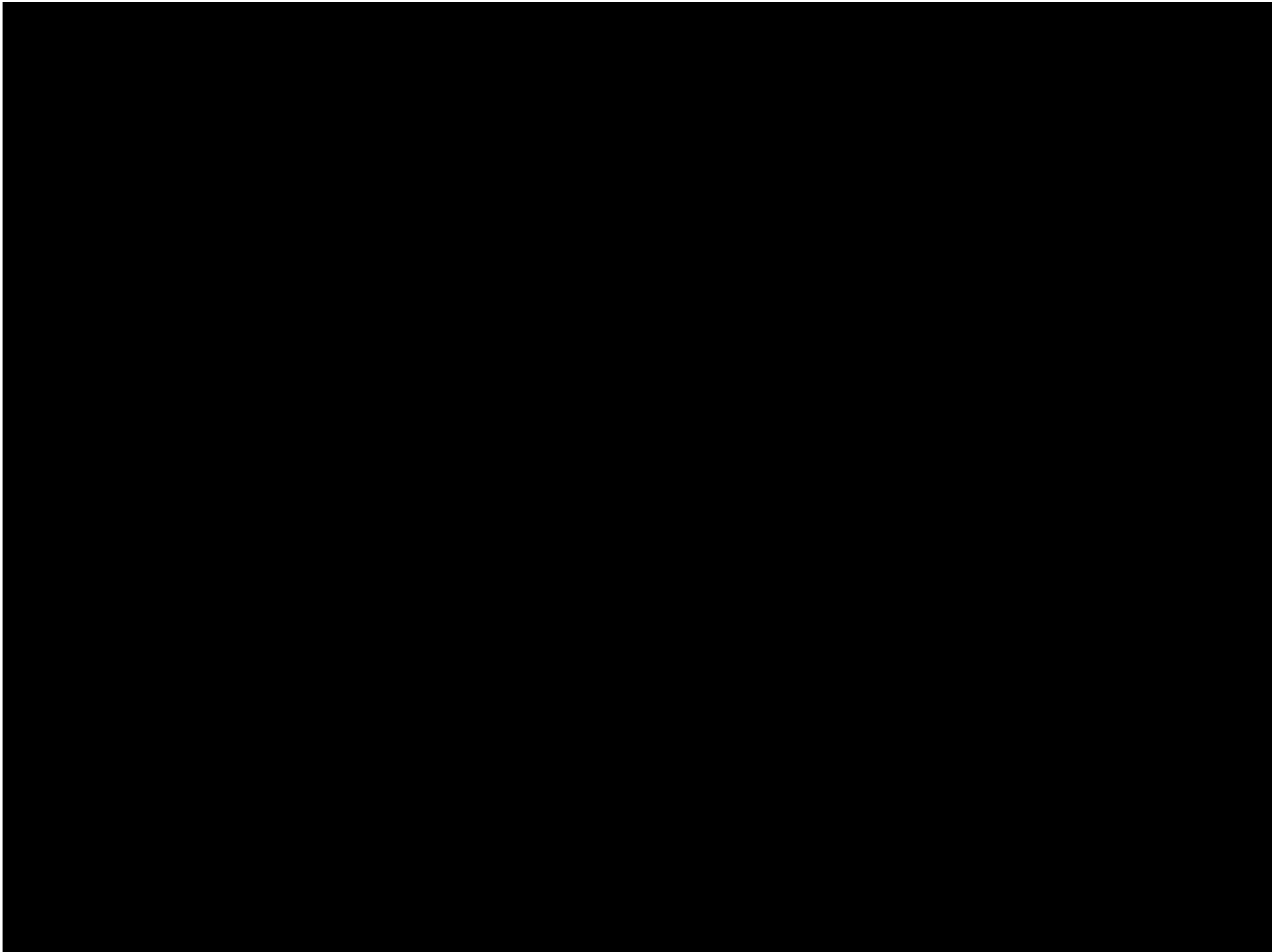
3. People are to become husbands and wives before they become fathers and mothers.



⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:6 & 7





implications

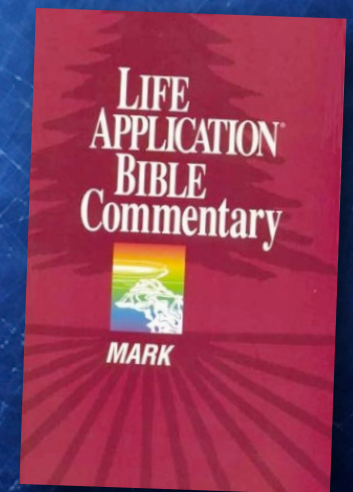
4. Marriage is about being the people God wants *us* to be.

5. Marriage is the foundation of civilization.



God created marriage to be a sacred, permanent union and partnership between husband and wife.

When both husband and wife enter this union with that understanding and commitment, they can provide *security* for each other, a *stable home* for their children, and *strength* to weather any of life's storms or stresses.



implications



4. Marriage is about being the people God wants *us* to be.

5. Marriage is the foundation of civilization.

6. God does not hate the divorced person.



implications



7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.



implications



7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.

Our time will surely go down in history, at least as far as the West is concerned, as the age of the God-shrinkers . . . the God-shrinking trend has long prevailed.



implications



7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.

Its result is that belief in God's sovereignty and omniscience, the majesty of his moral law and the terror of his judgments . . .



implications



7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.

... the retributive consequences of the life we live here and the endlessness of the eternity in which we will experience them ... is nowadays so eroded as to be hardly discernible.



implications

7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.

For many in our day, God is no more than a smudge.



implications



7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.

But the plan of salvation, which tells me how my Creator has become my Redeemer, sets before me in fullest glory the transcendent majesty that the churches have so largely forgotten.



implications



7. God is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.

It shows me a God who is infinitely great in wisdom and power . . . and who is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed.



