

REVIEW

A. HISTORY

1. contemporary of Nehemiah (c.435-415 BC)
2. resentful disappointment after return, rebuilds (temple, Jerusalem; e.g., Hag.2:9)
3. defection in worship & life by priests & people (i.e., sacrifices, tithes, teaching, marriage, justice)
4. promises: eternal love, restorative repentance and timely salvation (1:1f; 3:1f)

B. STRUCTURE

1. letter to the church (compare Rev.2,3; see Mal.3:7; Rev.2:5)
2. disputations: talking back to God! (1:2,6,7,14,17; 3:7,8,13; note: satire; Mt.15:5; Rom.9:20; Is.29:16)
3. chiasm: center focus ([A] oracle; [B] righteous/wicked; [C] vain worship; [D] broken covenant X [D] broken covenant; [C] vain worship; [B] righteous/wicked; [A] law & prophet)

C. NEW TESTAMENT

1. Jacob/Esau (1:2,3; Rom.9:13)
2. My messenger (3:1; Mt.11:10; Mk.1:2; Lk.7:27)
3. send Elijah (4:5; Mt.11:14; 17:10f; Mk.9:11f; Lk.1:17; Jn.1:21)

THIRD DISPUTATION: COVENANT UNFAITHFULNESS (2:10&14; see 2:4,5,8; see 3:1)

BACKGROUND: INFINITE, ETERNAL & UNCHANGEABLE LOVE! (2:11; see 1:2,1-6; see Dt.7:7f; Rom.9:1f; Eph.1:4; 1Jn.4:19; Mt.22:37f)

I. THE COVENANT OF OUR FATHERS (2:10-12)

- A. ONE FATHER, ONE GOD: FAMILY LOYALTY** (10; see Eph.2:11f; 4:1f; Acts 7:26)
- B. TREACHERY: COVENANT UNFAITHFULNESS** (10; see 1Chr.12:17; Ps.73:15; Is.16:3; Mt.10:4,21)
- C. COVENANT OF FATHERS: PEOPLE OF GOD** (10; see Ex.6:7; 19:5,6; 24:8)
- D. THE TREACHEROUS *IDOLATRY* OF MIXED MARRIAGES** (11, 10a; 1Kngs.11:1f; vs. Rahab, Ruth)
 1. betrays God (11, 10a; see Ezk.44:6f; 1Kngs.11:1f; 16:31; Neh.13:26; see Mt.22:37)
 2. betrays brothers (10; see Ezr.9:1f; Neh.13:25f, 1Cor.5:1,6f; 7:39; 2Cor.6:14; see Mt.22:39)
- E. PRAYER FOR LIFESAVING SURGERY** (12; see Ezra 10:3f; Neh.13:23f,28; 1Cor.5:5f,13)
- F. THE ABOMINATION OF UNREPENTANT WORSHIP** (12b; see 1:6f; Is.1:15; 59:3f; Mt.15:3f; 23:23f)

II. THE COVENANT OF YOUR WIFE (2:13-16)

- A. SECOND WITNESS** (13; see Dt.19:15,etc.; see Mt.22:39)
- B. THE ABOMINATION OF UNREPENTANT WORSHIP** (13f; see 12b; I.F. above)
- C. THE POINTLESSNESS OF UNREPENTANT WORSHIP** (13b; see 1:9,10; Ps.66:18)
- D. TALKING BACK TO GOD** (14; see 1:2,6,7,14,17; 3:7,8,13; see Rom.9:20)
- E. THE TREACHEROUS *IMMORALITY* OF DIVORCE** (14-16; see 11(I.D.); see 1K.11:1f vs. Rahab, Ruth)
- F. WITNESS TO OATH OF COVENANT** (14; Prov.2:17; Ezk.16:8; see Ex.6:7; Dt.29:12-14; Hos.2:23; Num.30:2f)
- G. WOMAN OF YOUTH, JOINED, COVENANTED** (14; see Prov.5:18; Is.54:6; see Gen.2:22f,24; Mt.19:6)
- H. EVEN A REMNANT OF THE SPIRIT PREVENTS DIVORCE** (15a; see Gen.2:6; Gal.5:16-26)
- I. FAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE BEARS FAITHFULNESS IN CHILDREN** (15b; see Dt.7:9; Eph.5:22f; 6:4; yet Ezk.18:1-32; see Ps.73:13-15)
- J. THE FAITHFUL COVENANT GOD HATES TREACHEROUS DIVORCE** (16, 14-16; see 1:3,4; Dt.24:1f (Mt.19:7); see Mt.19:3f,9; 1Cor.7:11,12; see Is.50:1; 54:5-8; Hos.1:9; 2:23 (Rom.9:25))
- K. THE ABOMINATION OF UNREPENTANT WORSHIP** (16b, 13f; see 12b; I.F. above)
- L. TAKE HEED TO YOUR SPIRIT** (15b,16b; see Prov.4:23)

THE POINT

- A. DON'T MAKE SINFUL COVENANTS & DON'T BREAK GODLY ONES** (11&14f (10-16); see 2C.6:14; 1C.15:33; 1K.11:1f; 16:31f; see Ps.15:4; note: cohabitation = sinful non-covenant; Gen.2:18f; Mt.19:4f)
- B. TREASURE AND USE THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF SINGLENESS IF YOU HAVE IT** (1Cor.7:1,7,26; see Gen.1:26f; 2:12f & 3:1f)
- C. IF YOU ARE AFFLICTED WITH CONJUGAL INSANITY, MARRY A CHRISTIAN** (10-16; see 1Cor.7:1f,9; 2Cor.6:14; 1Tm.5:11f; note: pre-*engagement* counseling)
- D. WATCH AND GUARD YOUR SPIRIT AGAINST THE DEVIL, THE FLESH & THE WORLD** (15b,16b; see 1Pt.5:8; Rom.7:22f; 1Cor.5:10; see Prov.4:23; 5:15f; Mk.7:21f; 9:42f,50)
- E. BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY: HATE DIVORCE** (16; Mt.19:3f; 1Cor.7:12f; 6:1f; 1Pt.1:15f; see *WCF*:24,6; e.g., pre-*divorce* counseling)
- F. HONOR GOD WITH REPENTANT WORSHIP** (*versus* 11,12; 16; see 1Cor.6:8-11; 2Cor.5:21; Eph.2:1-10)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)