**The “*doctrines of demons*” in the text from** [**1 Timothy 4:1-3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1-3&t=NKJV) **would involve a counterfeit parallel to *the truth* presented in the Word of God. God has *His deep things*, and Satan has *his deep things* (**[**1 Corinthians 2:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.10&t=NKJV)**;** [**Revelation 2:24**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.24&t=NKJV)**). And the latter, as it is presented in Scripture, is simply a *corruption* of the former. It is taking the former, remaining within the same framework as the former, and producing *a counterfeit, a corrupted parallel*.**

**Doctrines of Demons and Ministry of the Spirit Today
By Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

**Doctrines of Demons**

The “*doctrines of demons*” in the text from [1 Timothy 4:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1-3&t=NKJV) would involve a counterfeit parallel to *the truth* presented in the Word of God. God has *His deep things*, and Satan has *his deep things* ([1 Corinthians 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.10&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.24&t=NKJV)). And the latter, as it is presented in Scripture, is simply a *corruption* of the former. It is taking the former, remaining within the same framework as the former, and producing *a counterfeit, a corrupted parallel*.

For example, Scripture begins with a foundational framework ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)), providing *an unchangeable pattern* for the whole of that which God was about to lay out in His Word ([Genesis 2:4ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.4ff&t=NKJV)). And Satan begins at the same point, providing *a corrupted parallel* to that which God has laid out in His Word (*cf*. [2 Peter 3:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.3-8&t=NKJV)).

Satan not only has his corrupted parallel relative to salvation by grace through faith ([Genesis 1:2-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-5&t=NKJV) [2b]), but he has his corrupted parallel relative to present and future aspects of salvation as well — the salvation of the soul ([Genesis 1:6ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.6ff&t=NKJV)). And, as God in His Word places the emphasis on present and future aspects of salvation (not only in [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV), but also in the remainder of Scripture), so does Satan in his counterfeit parallel.

And, as God in His Word reveals a specific goal for man’s salvation (not only in [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV), but also in the remainder of Scripture), Satan seeks to entirely corrupt this teaching in his counterfeit parallel.

Satan places *the emphasis* where God has placed *the emphasis*, and he seeks to set forth *a counterfeit* at the same points God has set forth *the truth* (*cf*. [Isaiah 14:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.13-14&t=NKJV)). He has taken God’s *truth* and introduced *error* in his efforts to mislead the masses.

(A good counterfeit will approximate the original as closely as possible; and, as with any good counterfeit, it is easier to mislead the masses in this manner [*cf*. [2 Corinthians 11:13-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+11.13-15&t=NKJV)].)

Then note that God’s Word is directed to the saved, not the unsaved. The unsaved are “*dead in trespasses and sins*” and cannot understand this Word ([Ephesians 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.1&t=NKJV); *cf*. [1 Corinthians 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.14&t=NKJV)).

And so it is with Satan and his counterfeit parallels. These counterfeit teachings have been designed for those who have “*passed from death to life*” ([John 5:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.24&t=NKJV)). Those “*dead in trespasses and sins*” are in no position to understand spiritual issues — whether “corrupted” (emanating from Satan) or “uncorrupted” (emanating from God). Both fall completely outside the realm of the natural (the soulical).

Such a corruption of the truth, received by the saved, can easily be seen in the text from the book of 1 Timothy ([1 Timothy 4:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1-3&t=NKJV)), where Paul sounded a warning. Paul foretold a departure from “*the faith*” where some Christians would begin giving heed to “*deceiving* *spirits*” rather than to God’s Word; and these deceiving spirits would teach that which was untrue, specifically referred to in the text as the “*doctrines of demons*.”

These Christians’ spiritual awareness would become seared (Greek: *kausteriazo*; English, “cauterize” — to burn, as with a hot iron, to the point of destroying that which is being burned), resulting in a departure from “*the* *faith*.” And, relative to “*the* *faith*” from which they had departed, they would begin proclaiming that which is false, that which is in line with the “*doctrines* *of* *demons*.” They would begin proclaiming a message opposed to that which the Word of God had to say about two things: (1) *Marriage*, and (2) *Meats* ([1 Timothy 4:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1-3&t=NKJV)).

The subject of “*marriage*” points to a work occurring during Man’s Day (the truth surrounding the matter established before and at the time of man’s creation), which would be brought to fruition and realized in the future Lord’s Day; and “*meats*” has to do with that part of biblical doctrine that centers around this overall subject ([1 Timothy 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.6&t=NKJV), [13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.13&t=NKJV), [16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.16&t=NKJV)).

And those which are seen being misled in [1 Timothy 4:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1-3&t=NKJV), “*in latter times*” by “*deceiving spirits*,” resulting in their proclaiming “*doctrines of demons*,” are seen, “*standing in the way of marriage* . . . .” (literal thought from the Greek text [[1 Timothy 4:3a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.3a&t=NKJV)]) and are referred to as *apostates*. Further, a misleading of individuals after this fashion is presented in a very specific and limited sense in Scripture. It is presented specifically as and limited to *an apostasy from the faith — nothing more, nothing less.*

1) Apostasy from the Faith

“Apostasy” has to do with *standing away from a position previously held*, and “*the faith*” is an expression that encompasses the whole of a specific part of the Word of God (actually, *the central teaching*) — “the Word of the Kingdom.” The Spirit of God, revealing through Paul *the central message* that Christians were to be taught, explicitly singled out that which would occur “*in latter times*” in Christendom relative to this central message.

In short, there would be *a departure from this central message*; and that which is associated with *the doctrines of demons would, instead, be taught.*

a) Apostasy

The word “*depart*” in [1 Timothy 4:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1&t=NKJV) is a translation of the Greek word, *aphistemi*, which is the verb form of the noun, *apostasia*. And *apostasia* is the word from which our English word “apostasy” is derived. The English word “apostasy” is simply an Anglicized form of the Greek word *apostasia*. Accordingly, to understand that which is meant by “apostasy,” the Greek word needs to be referenced.

*Apostasia* is a compound word comprised of *apo* and *stasis*. *Apo* means “from,” and *stasis* means “to stand.” Thus, the literal meaning of the word is “to stand from,” or “to stand away from.” An apostate, in the true sense of the word, is simply *someone standing away from, departing from, a position previously held.*

In [1 Timothy 4:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1&t=NKJV), the departure from the previously held position is specifically stated to pertain to “*the faith*.” That is, seducing spirits, promulgating the doctrines of demons, are seen leading individuals adhering to “*the faith*” (of necessity, Christians, not unsaved individuals [[1 Corinthians 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.14&t=NKJV)]) away from this position.

b) The Faith

*The central thrust* surrounding the truth of the matter, derived from the Word of God, has to do with “*the faith*.” And *the central thrust* surrounding that which is false, derived from the doctrines of demons, also has to do with “*the faith*.” One emanates from “*the deep things of God*,” and the other emanates from “*the depths* [*lit*., ‘the deep things’] of Satan” ([1 Corinthians 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.10&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.24&t=NKJV)). The former is *the Truth*; the latter is *a corrupted, counterfeit parallel to the Truth*.

The expression “*the faith*” is peculiarly related in Scripture to the overall scope of *the Word of the Kingdom, to the mystery revealed to Paul, to the gospel of the glory of Christ, to the salvation of the soul.* This is the manner in which the expression appears in numerous New Testament references — in the Gospels, in the book of Acts, and in the Epistles (both Pauline and General).

Christ, during the course of His earthly ministry, at His first coming, looked 2,000 years ahead to His second coming, and, through a question, called attention to a solitary fact concerning *the central message of the New Testament*. Christ asked, “. . . *when the Son of Man* [a Messianic title] *comes, will he really find faith* [*lit*., ‘the faith’] *on the earth?*” ([Luke 18:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+18.8&t=NKJV)). And the manner in which the question is worded in the Greek text designates *a negative answer*.

The Son of Man *will not* find “*the faith*” being taught in Christendom at the time of His return. The leaven that the woman placed in the three measures of meal in [Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV) (having to do with the doctrines of demons) will have taken care of that.

Now, if the expression, “*the faith*,” refers to that which is held by fundamental Christendom today (the whole of man’s categorization of fundamental doctrines; *e.g*., the virgin birth, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, etc.) — as commonly taught — then a major problem exists.

Fundamentalism, in the preceding respect, is presently a major force in Christendom; and “*the faith*” would be something held to and proclaimed throughout a rather large segment of Christendom. Thus, if “*the faith*” is to be understood as a reference to *the body of biblical doctrines*, as held by those recognized as “fundamental Christians,” then conditions in Christendom are such that Christ cannot return during the present time. Fundamentalism of this nature is presently alive and well in Christendom. In fact, it is actually a growing force in numerous quarters. Millions of Christians in this country alone would fall within the mainstream of fundamentalism and adhere to this body of biblical doctrine.

But the preceding is really neither here nor there, for, when one looks to Scripture for its own definition of “*the faith*,” something completely different is seen. Scripture uses this expression in a very limited sense. Scripture uses this expression in contexts having to do with *the Word of the Kingdom*, not in contexts having to do with the complete body of fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith.

Doctrines of “*the faith*,” in the preceding respect, in actuality, represent that which man has attempted to categorize as he has looked at the Scriptures, not doctrines seen through allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. And it is *the latter alone*, not the former, which allows man to look into the Scriptures and view matters from the way God has recorded them in His Word. There is a vast difference in viewing Scripture from the preceding two vantage points, especially when it comes to dealing with “*the faith*.”

To take the biblical expression, “*the faith*,” and attempt to identify it with man’s categorization of doctrine (a list of biblical doctrines) is the height of folly in Scriptural interpretation. Scripture is *always* to be interpreted in the light of Scripture ([1 Corinthians 2:9-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.9-13&t=NKJV)). And this is exactly the way in which the expression, “*the faith*,” *must* be understood.

Scripture *must* be allowed to explain that which is meant by the expression. It is an expression that is used over and over in Scripture. And the interesting thing is that Scripture not only clearly explains how this expression is used, but it does so in numerous instances.

Paul, for example, in his first letter to Timothy, following his warning concerning the apostates, said:

*Fight the good fight of* [the] *faith, lay hold on eternal life* [*lit*., ‘Strive in the good contest of the faith, lay hold on life for the age’], *to which you were also called* . . . . ([1 Timothy 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.12&t=NKJV))

And, in Paul’s second letter to Timothy, a similar usage is again seen:

*“I have fought the good fight* [*lit*., ‘I have strived in the good contest’], *I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness . . . .”* ([2 Timothy 4:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+4.7-8&t=NKJV))

Or, when Jude sought to write an epistle relative to the “*common salvation* [the good news concerning salvation by grace through faith, a subject which *none* of the epistles centers on],” the Spirit of God led him to write on an entirely different subject. The Spirit of God led Jude to write an epistle exhorting Christians to “*earnestly contend* [*lit*., ‘earnestly strive’] *for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints* [the good news concerning salvation in relation to the coming glory of Christ, something seen as central in the subject matter of all the epistles]” ([Jude 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.3&t=NKJV)).

The words “*fight*” ([1 Timothy 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.12&t=NKJV)), “fought” ([2 Timothy 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+4.7&t=NKJV)), and “*contend*” ([Jude 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.3&t=NKJV)) are translations of the same word in the Greek text — *agonizomai*, the word from which our English word, “agonize,” is derived.

In Jude though, the word has been intensified through the writer prefixing the Greek preposition *epi* to the word, forming *epagonizomai*. Thus, the correct translation would be, “earnestly strive . . . .”

In all three of the preceding passages, the thought, through the use of *agonizomai*, has to do with *straining every muscle of one’s being relative to* “*the faith*.”

In the first two references (from 1, 2 Timothy), the picture is that of an athletic contest. Christians are to *strain every muscle of their being in the present race of* “*the faith*” *in which they find themselves engaged*.

Then Jude, in the face of apostasy relative to “*the faith*,” still remaining within the thought of an athletic contest, *intensified the word.* Jude, because of *apostasy* among Christians relative to “*the faith*” — Christians giving heed to deceiving spirits, teaching the doctrines of demons (something also spoken of by Christ, Paul, and Peter) — *intensified* the thought of striving in his exhortation. He, in essence, exhorted Christians, while running the race of “*the faith*,” *to be especially and particularly on guard because of the apostates.*

And it is apparent that Jude intensified this word, *with a view to the apostates*, because of the specific nature of apostasy, because of the realm in which the apostates had centered their teachings — seeking to mislead Christians relative to “*the faith*,” seeking to draw Christians away from the central teaching of Scripture. The “*doctrines of demons*,” promulgated by the apostates, is *the most dangerous and deadly teaching that has ever been proclaimed or ever will be proclaimed in Christian circles*. And, because of this, Jude exhorted Christians *to strain every muscle of their being in the race of “the faith.”*

The preceding would form only a few examples of the way in which the expression, “*the faith*,” is used in the New Testament. Other examples would be the conversion of priests in Israel during the reoffer of the kingdom, who were then “*obedient to the faith*” ([Acts 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+6.7&t=NKJV)), disciples exhorted “*to continue in the faith*” relative to *entrance into the kingdom* ([Acts 14:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+14.22&t=NKJV)), Paul proclaiming “*the faith*” which he had once sought to destroy ([Galatians 1:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+1.23&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Ephesians 6:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.16&t=NKJV); [Philippians 1:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+1.27&t=NKJV); [Colossians 1:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.23&t=NKJV); [2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+2.7&t=NKJV); [1 Thessalonians 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.8&t=NKJV); [2 Thessalonians 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Thessalonians+1.4&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Thessalonians+1.11&t=NKJV); [1 Timothy 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+1.2&t=NKJV), [18-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+1.18-20&t=NKJV); [5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+5.8&t=NKJV); [6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.10&t=NKJV), [21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.21&t=NKJV); [2 Timothy 2:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.18&t=NKJV); [3:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.7-8&t=NKJV)), and the usage of the expression in the general epistles (*cf*. [Hebrews 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.2&t=NKJV); [James 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.3&t=NKJV); [2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.14&t=NKJV), [17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.17-18&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.20&t=NKJV), [22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.22&t=NKJV), [26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.26&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.7&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9&t=NKJV)). “Faith” is *articular* in the Greek text in each of the preceding references.

Thus, there is a uniform usage of this expression throughout the New Testament. And, though it doesn’t have to do with the body of biblical doctrine held by those forming “fundamental Christendom,” it does have to do with a body of biblical doctrine. It has to do with that body of biblical doctrine rejected by Christendom at large — liberals and fundamentalists alike. It has to do with that body of biblical doctrine referred to in various ways in Scripture — the *Word of the Kingdom, the mystery, Paul’s gospel, the gospel of the glory of Christ, etc.*

2) Marriage, Meats

Foundational principals and biblical doctrine surrounding the marriage relationship have forever been set forth in the opening chapters of Genesis. And, any time one finds the man and the woman together beyond this point — whether during Man’s Day or during the coming Lord’s Day — *rulership* is in view. Or, to present the truth of the matter from another perspective, turn the statement around. Any time one finds *rulership* in view beyond the opening chapters of Genesis (relative to man), a husband-wife relationship *must* also be in view.

This is why Israel is seen as *the wife of Jehovah* in the Old Testament theocracy — a wife later seen as *an adulterous wife*, resulting in God divorcing Israel — with God then, *of necessity*, ending the Old Testament theocracy (*cf*. [Jeremiah 3:1-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+3.1-14&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 9:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+9.3&t=NKJV); [10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+10.4&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+10.18&t=NKJV); [11:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+11.22-23&t=NKJV)). And this is why, before a theocracy can be established on the earth yet future, *Israel has to be cleansed and restored to her former place, as the wife of Jehovah*. A Husband-wife relationship *must* exist at this time.

This is also why Christ is to have *a wife* yet future. If Christ is to reign over the earth as the second Man, the last Adam, He *must have a consort queen* to reign with Him. This is why a marriage *must* occur prior to the time He reigns. A Husband-wife relationship *must* exist at this time.

And further, this is why the husband-wife relationship today, during Man’s Day, is dealt with in Scripture in connection with *an* *heirship* *together* ([1 Peter 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+3.7&t=NKJV)). There is a present *reigning in life*, seen in the marriage relationship; and this is at the heart of that which Paul refers to as “*a great mystery*” relative to “*Christ and the Church*” in [Ephesians 5:21-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.21-33&t=NKJV).

There are two books in the Old Testament that bear the names of women. One is “Ruth,” and the other is “Esther.” And, interestingly enough, no one knows who wrote either book. But the book of Ruth presents one aspect of this overall matter, and the book of Esther presents the other.

The book of Ruth has to do with a Gentile who marries a Jew, with a redeemed inheritance in view. Ruth, in her marriage to Boaz, sets forth truths surrounding *Christ and His wife* yet future. And the entire book of Ruth sets forth the overall scope of the matter from beginning to end, with the husband-wife relationship being brought to the forefront in the end.

The book of Esther then presents the matter as it relates to *God and Israel*. Esther was a Jew whom King Ahasuerus (who was not a Jew [note that it is God’s Son who is a Jew and will so remain throughout eternity, not the Father]) had taken as his wife following the former queen’s (Vashti’s) refusal to fulfill her role as the king’s wife ([Esther 1:9ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Esther+1.9ff&t=NKJV)). Then the remainder of the book revolves around Israel in the latter days (Haman typifying Antichrist), the end of Gentile world power, and Israel restored to the nation’s rightful place as *the wife of Jehovah* ([Esther 2:17ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Esther+2.17ff&t=NKJV)).

(For additional information on the preceding, refer to the author’s books, [Ruth by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/Ruth.pdf) and [Esther by Arlen Chitwood](http://www.lampbroadcast.org/Books/Esther.pdf).)

Thus, the whole of that seen in the marriage relationship beyond [Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV) (along with that revealed in [Genesis 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2&t=NKJV)) rests on these foundational verses in Genesis. The husband-wife relationship today has its basis in the past ([Genesis 1:26ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26ff&t=NKJV)) and points to the future ([Revelation 19:7ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.7ff&t=NKJV)). And whether it is Israel on the earth or the Church in the heavens, *there can be no future reign over the earth apart from this relationship existing between God and Israel and between Christ and the Church.*

**Ministry of the Spirit Today**

Understanding the preceding will allow one to clearly understand that which God revealed concerning Israel and the Church in [Genesis 22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22&t=NKJV); [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+23&t=NKJV); [24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV); [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25&t=NKJV) . In these four chapters, God, through Moses, revealed things concerning both *the wife of Jehovah* and *the wife of Christ*; and this was based on that which is revealed in the first three chapters of Genesis, but with a view to the goal of the matter in the future Lord’s Day. And God set all of this forth long before He brought either Israel or the Church into existence (*cf*. [Isaiah 46:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+46.9-10&t=NKJV)).

The ministry of the Spirit during the present dispensation is seen in [Genesis 24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV), fifteen hundred years before it even began. Events in this chapter — Abraham sending his servant into the far country to obtain a bride for His son, typifying God sending the Spirit into the world to obtain a bride for His Son — occurred *following* the offering of Isaac ([Genesis 22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22&t=NKJV)) and the death of Sarah ([Genesis 23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+23&t=NKJV)), but *before* the remarriage of Abraham ([Genesis 25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25&t=NKJV)).

That is to say, the ministry of the Spirit during the present dispensation occurs *following* the events of Calvary ([Genesis 22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22&t=NKJV)) and the setting aside of Israel ([Genesis 23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+23&t=NKJV)), but *before* the time God restores Israel as His wife ([Genesis 25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25&t=NKJV)). And further, the ministry of the Spirit in the world today, as seen in the type in [Genesis 24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV), is clearly revealed to be that of *obtaining a bride for God’s Son.* And, in line with the preceding, any facet of the Spirit’s work during the time of His mission — whether it be among the unsaved (effecting life, based on the finished work of the Son) or among the saved (leading saved individuals “*into all truth*,” from *gnosis* to *epignosis* [from immaturity to maturity]) — must center around His revealed mission, as seen in [Genesis 24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV).

The reason why God sent the Spirit into the world to accomplish such a mission is easy to see and understand if one keeps in mind the God-established issues surrounding the husband-wife relationship. The Son *must* have a wife if He is to reign. And Christians as well — anticipating the Son’s reign — *cannot* reign apart from this same relationship.

The coming millennial reign of the Son will be a theocracy wherein God the Father will have *a wife on earth* (seen in the type in [Genesis 25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25&t=NKJV)) and the Son will have *a wife in the heavens above the earth* (a wife presently being procured through the work of the Spirit, seen in the type in [Genesis 24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV)). And in order for any individual from the human race to rule and reign in that coming day, that person will have to be a part of either the wife of Jehovah on the earth or the wife of the Son in the heavens. There can be no rule and reign for anyone — man, or God’s Son — apart from this established, Husband-wife relationship.

The preceding is why “marriage” and “meats” are singled out in [1 Timothy 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.3&t=NKJV). The marriage relationship today is based on that which God established in past time, and reflects on that which will ultimately be brought into full fruition during future time. And it matters not whether the word “marriage” in this verse is understood in a literal sense (referring to the marriage relationship today) or in a spiritual sense (referring to Christ and His wife yet future), *the same thing* is still being dealt with. A husband-wife relationship today is based on that which God established in the past and directly reflects on that which He will bring to fruition yet future. It directly reflects on Christ and His wife yet future.

And the preceding is why any corruption of the marriage relationship by man (adultery, homosexuality, etc.) is dealt with so severely in Scripture. Any deviation from that which God established is *a corruption, with far-reaching ramifications*.

Marriage, as established by God, has to do with *regality*; and this regality is to be realized in its ultimate sense during the coming Messianic Era. All of man’s corruptions are simply offshoots of Satan’s attempted, multi-faceted corruption surrounding the whole panorama of biblical doctrine (“*meats*”) pertaining to the marriage relationship.

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[Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Mysteries of the Kingdom, Ch. 7, Doctrines of Demons](http://bibleone.net/MK07.htm)