

Deuteronomy 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

Analysis

And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. The divorced woman receives legal freedom to remarry. This legitimizes her new relationship, preventing her from being trapped in unmarried limbo or subject to accusation of adultery for subsequent marriage.

The permission to be another man's wife indicates the divorce genuinely severs the first marriage. Though God hates divorce, the legal termination creates actual end to the marriage covenant, not merely separation while remaining married.

This provision demonstrates mercy - though divorce results from sin, the divorced person is not forever punished by prohibition from remarriage. Legal divorce creates clean break allowing new beginning.

However, verse 4 will prohibit the first husband from remarrying her after she marries another, preventing treating marriage as revolving door and protecting the woman from manipulation.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern cultures, divorced women faced difficult options - return to father's household, become dependent on charity, or enter morally compromising situations. Permission to remarry provided honorable path forward.

The certificate of divorce documented that she was legitimately free to remarry, protecting her reputation and her new marriage's legitimacy.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does permission to remarry teach about the finality of divorce?
2. How does this provision demonstrate mercy toward those experiencing divorce?
3. Why is legal freedom to remarry important for divorced persons?
4. What does the clean break and new beginning teach about moving forward from sin's consequences?
5. How should churches balance teaching marriage permanence while acknowledging divorce's reality?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּצֵא הָ	מִבֵּית וְ	וְהִלֵּךְ הָ	וְהָיְתָ הָ	לְאִישׁ
And when she is departed out	of his house	she may go	H1961	man's
H3318	H1004	H1980		H376
אַחֵר:				
and be another				
H312				