

Deuteronomy 24:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

Analysis

When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken. God mandates a one-year honeymoon period where the new husband is exempt from military and civic duties. This demonstrates divine concern for establishing strong marriages through dedicated time together.

The phrase shall be free at home one year provides extended period for the couple to bond without external pressures competing for attention. Strong marriages require investment of time and focus, which God protects by excusing obligations that would separate them.

The purpose cheer up his wife indicates the husband's responsibility to bring joy and comfort to his bride. Marriage is not merely legal contract but relationship requiring emotional investment, care, and cultivation of happiness.

This law reveals God's prioritization - establishing godly marriages takes precedence even over national defense and civic obligations. Strong families form the foundation of strong communities.

Historical Context

In agrarian and warrior societies, this exemption represented significant sacrifice by the community. Excusing newlyweds from war and civic duties redistributed their responsibilities to others.

This demonstrates Israel's community commitment to strengthening marriages, recognizing that healthy families benefit society long-term despite short-term inconvenience.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does one-year exemption teach about God's priority on marriage establishment?
2. How does protected time for bonding strengthen marriages?
3. What does 'cheer up his wife' reveal about husbands' emotional responsibilities?
4. Why does God prioritize marriage establishment even above military defense?
5. How might contemporary society apply this principle of protecting marriage investment?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לָקַח:	אִישׁ	אִשְׁתּוֹ	הַ	לֵאמֹר	יֵצֵא
H3588	hath taken H3947	When a man H376	his wife H802	a new H2319	H3808	he shall not go out H3318
וְלֹא	בְּצָבָא	יִעָבֵר	לְכָל	עַל יוֹ	דָּבָר	
to war H6635	H3808	neither shall he be charged H5674	H5921	H3605	with any business H1697	
וְנִקְיָא	יְהִי הַ	לְבֵיתוֹ	שָׁנָה	אֶחָד	וְשִׂמְחָה	אֶת
but he shall be free H5355	H1961	at home H1004	year H8141	one H259	and shall cheer up H8055	H853
אִשְׁתּוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	לָקַח:				
his wife H802	H834	hath taken H3947				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 5:18 (Parallel theme): Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

Deuteronomy 20:7 (Parallel theme): And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.

Genesis 2:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 (Parallel theme): Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

1 Corinthians 7:29 (Parallel theme): But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

