

Theology of Christian Marriage in the Bible (Old Testament)

Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch, 2006. *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Commentary, Notes, & Study Questions: Genesis*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

Gen. 1 & 2:18 – 25: In these passages the author aimed at describing the origin of the world and the human race. Genesis 1:27 emphasized that God created man (male and female) in his own image and in 1:28 He blessed them to be fruitful, multiply and overcome the world. In Gen. 2:18 – 25, God gave man dominion over all he has made; and verses 2:22 -25 specifically indicate the divine institution of marriage. The above shows that the earth and mankind are not products of chance even though the author(s) might not have aimed at a chronological historical account since such an account would be impossible without divine revelation; this is true because the author had to firstly exist to observe the divine activities at play in creation so as to be able to account accurately.

Moreover, Tobit 7:9 – 14 indicates that the marriage of Tobiah/Tobias and Sarah was ordained by God in accord with the law of Moses and that without divine approval, the marriage or marriage in general would be more or less impossible and specifically, when one consider Sarah's spiritual circumstance. This shows that the type of marriage God instituted and anticipated is the union between a man and a woman and that the presence and acts of God are essential in true marriages. Psalm 127 and 128 show that all human endeavours would be meaningless without divine input and that God makes happy, blesses and gives success to all those who fear him even in their marriages and homes.

In Hosea 1 – 3, God compared Israel's relationship with him using marriage and bearing of children; he illustrates how he hates infidelity just as any sane person would and shows that he punishes infidelity of any type, marriage inclusive. It was noted that irrespective of Israel's unfaithfulness, God's love for them constant and unconditional as such, love triumphs. This attitude of God is also expected in marriage. To be able to do this and overcome any form of evil, the book of Proverbs recommends couples and humanity to gain the wisdom of heart, knowledge, discretion and understanding through listening ear. The Song of Songs 2 shows what it would look like when couples and humanity employs these recommendations; how desirable and lovely such a union or relationship would be.