

DIVORCE ANNUL A MARRIAGE COVENANT?

What annuls a covenant?

Michael Ray Garvin



5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the **two shall become one flesh**'? 6 So they are **no longer two but one flesh**. Therefore **what God has joined together**, let no one separate."

MATTHEW 19:5-6 NRSV

HOW DOES GOD END
A MARRIAGE
COVENANT?

Or do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only during that person's lifetime? 2 Thus a **married woman is bound** by the law **to her husband as long as he lives**, but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the law concerning the husband. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she belongs to another man while her husband is alive. **But if her husband dies, she is free from that law**, and if she belongs to another man, she is not an adulteress.

4 In the same way, my brothers and sisters, **you have died to the law** through the body of Christ, **so that you may belong to another**, to him who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.

Romans 7:1-4 NRSV

1 CORINTHIANS 7:39 NRSV

39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives. But **if the husband dies**, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, only in the Lord.

DEFINITION OF DIVORCE

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I.* to separate, divide, part, put asunder, to separate one's self from, to depart
 - A.* to leave a husband or wife
 - i.* of divorce
 - B.* to depart, go away

- IV.* used of divorce, to dismiss from the house, to repudiate. The wife of a Greek or Roman may divorce her husband.

- V.* to send one's self away, to depart

DEFINITION OF DIVORCE

4. used of divorce, as **ἀπολύω τὴν γυναῖκα** **to dismiss** from the house, **to repudiate**: Matthew 1:19; Matthew 5:31; Matthew 19:3, 7-9; Mark 10:2, 4, 11; Luke 16:18; [1 Esdr. 9:36]; and improperly a wife deserting her husband is said **τὸν ἄνδρα ἀπολύειν** in Mark 10:12 [cf. Diodorus 12, 18] (unless, as is more probable, Mark, contrary to historic accuracy [yet cf. Josephus, Antiquities 15, 7, 10], makes Jesus speak in accordance with Greek and Roman usage, according to which wives also repudiated their husbands [references in Meyer, at the passage]); (cf. **קָלַץ**, Jeremiah 3:8; Deuteronomy 21:14; Deuteronomy 22:19, 29).

5. Middle **ἀπολύομαι**, properly, to send oneself away; **to depart** [Winer's Grammar, 253 (238)]: Acts 28:25 (returned home; Exodus 33:11).

Divorce does not mean to annul or to do away with a covenant. **It only means to separate.** A spouse can separate because of violation of the covenant but violation of covenant doesn't mean an end of it. People break the law but breaking the law doesn't do away with the law.

32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

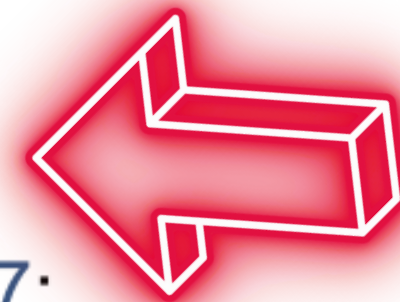
Jeremiah 31:32 NRSV

1. *break, violate*, especially with accusative בְּרִית:

a. of ׀ Judges 2:1; Jeremiah 14:21; Leviticus 26:44; Zechariah 11:10.

b. of men violating covenant with ׀ Jeremiah 11:10; Jeremiah 31:32; Deuteronomy 31:16, Deuteronomy 31:20; Leviticus 26:15; Ezekiel 44:7; Genesis 17:14; Isaiah 24:5 compare Jeremiah 33:20.

c. of men breaking compact, league (with men), Isaiah 33:8; 1 Kings 15:19
2 Chronicles 16:3; Ezekiel 17:15, Ezekiel 17:16, Ezekiel 17:18, [H6331 Ezekiel 17:19].



IF DIVORCE ENDS A MARRIAGE COVENANT
THEN WHY DID GOD SAY HE WAS STILL
MARRIED TO ISRAEL AFTER DIVORCE?

8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I **had put her away**, and **given her a bill of divorce**;...

Jeremiah 3:8

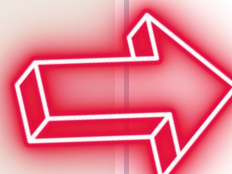

14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for **I am married unto you**:

Jeremiah 3:14

STRONGS H1166:


[Abbreviations](#)

† **בָּעַל** **verb** marry, rule over (compare Arabic **بَعَلَ** = *own, possess*, especially a wife or concubine; Ethiopic **በለ**: *to be rich*, Assyrian *bālu, rule* COT^{Gloss}, Aramaic **בָּעַל** *take possession of wife or concubine*) **Jer 3:14; 31:32 AW JosKi Thes, comparing Arabic **بَعَلَ** *be disgusted*, derive from II. **בָּעַל** loathe (followed by **בְּ**); so Buhl: Gie Du Co in Jeremiah 31:32 read **גָּעַלְתִּי** (treating Jeremiah 3:14 as I. **בָּעַל**). —**Qal Perfect** Malachi 2:11 + 6 times; **Imperfect** **יִבְעַל** Isaiah 62:5 (twice in verse); **Participle suffix** **בְּעַלִּיךְ** Isaiah 54:5; **passive feminine** **בְּעוּלָה** Isaiah 54:1 + 3 times; —

-  1. *marry* Genesis 20:3 (E) Deuteronomy 21:13; Deuteronomy 22:22; Deuteronomy 24:1; Isaiah 54:1, 5; Isaiah 62:4, 5 (twice in verse); Malachi 2:11; followed by **בְּ** Jeremiah 3:14; Jeremiah 31:32 *be lord (husband) over*. 
2. *rule over* 1 Chronicles 4:22 (followed by **לְ**) Isaiah 26:13.

Niph. Imperfect **תִּבְעַל** Proverbs 30:23; Isaiah 62:4 *be married*.

IF DIVORCE ENDS A MARRIAGE COVENANT
THEN WHY DID PAUL SAY WE HAD TO DIE
WITH CHRIST TO BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER
AFTER GOD DIVORCED ISRAEL?



4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become **dead to the law** by the body of Christ; that **ye should be married to another**, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 7:4

NO MAN CAN ANNUL A MARRIAGE COVENANT



15 To give a human example, brothers: even with a **man-made covenant**, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified.

Galatians 3:15

This means divorce cannot cancel or do away with a marriage covenant. Paul is not contradicting himself or the commands of Jesus. **ONLY DEATH ENDS A MARRIAGE COVENANT!**

STRONGS G114:

COLLAPSE

ἀθετέω, -**ῶ**; future **ἀθετήσω**; 1 aorist **ἠθέτησα**; a word met with first (yet very often) in the Sept. and Polybius;

a. properly, to render **ἄθετον**; do away with **θετόν τί**, i. e. **something laid down, prescribed, established: διαθήκην**, [Galatians 3:15](#) (1 Macc. 11:36; 2 Macc. 13:25, etc.); according to the context, 'to act toward anything as though it were annulled'; hence, to deprive a law of force by opinions or acts opposed to it, to transgress it, [Mark 7:9](#); [Hebrews 10:28](#) ([Ezekiel 22:26](#)); **πίστιν**, to break one's promise or engagement, [1 Timothy 5:12](#); (Polybius 8, 2, 5; 11, 29, 3, others; Diodorus excerpt. [i. e. *de virt. et vit.*], p. 562, 67). Hence,

IF YOU STILL BELIEVE DIVORCE
ANNULS A MARRIAGE
COVENANT THEN YOU HAVE TO
PROVE PAUL WRONG FOR
SAYING THAT NO MAN CAN
ANNUL A COVENANT.

INCONSISTENT

God Divorces Israel.

Covenant Is Annuled

FREE To Marry Another



Paul Says Covenant is Binding Until
Death

We had to Die with Christ to be FREE
to Marry Another

Why Die with Christ if the **Divorce** in Jeremiah 3:8 ended the covenant making
Israel FREE to marry another?

CONSISTENT

God Divorces Israel.

Paul Says Covenant is Binding Until
Death

Israel is still bound in Covenant until
Death.

We had to Die with Christ to be FREE
to Marry Another



Now we have to die with Christ to end the Old covenant making Israel FREE to
marry another. Romans 7:4