

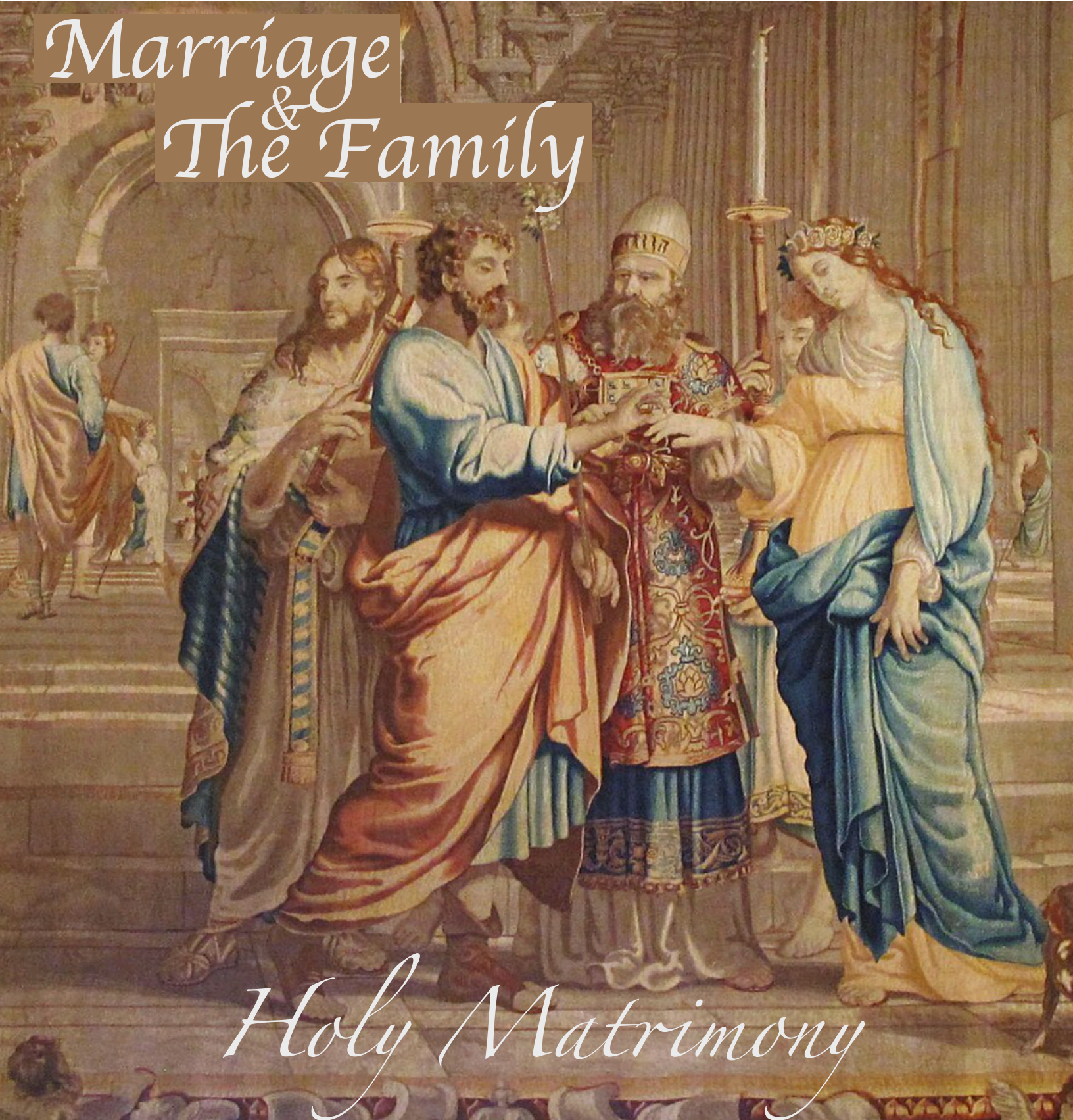
LOGOSOPHIA

A Pilgrim's Journal
of Life, Love & Literature



Issue #24
Winter 2026

Marriage & The Family



Holy Matrimony

Matrimony: noun

mat · rím · o · ny

[Latin *matrimonium*,

from *mater*, mother.]

Marriage; wedlock; the union of
man and woman for life; the
nuptial state.

— *Merriam Webster Dictionary*, 1828



LOGOSOPHIA

"Wisdom's Words"

A community dedicated to creating and cultivating connections, unity and understanding between Christian denominations.

Greetings fellow pilgrims!

Welcome to the 24th issue of LogoSophia Magazine! Join us as we explore *Marriage and the Family* with a focus on *Holy Matrimony*, the original building block of society! In addition to our usual columns, we've got poetry, a new contributor to Controversy Corner, articles about preparing for marriage and fictional marriages, and more.

Enjoy, and happy reading!

Sarah Levesque Losardo,

Assistant Editor

(for Deborah Robertson, Editor in Chief)

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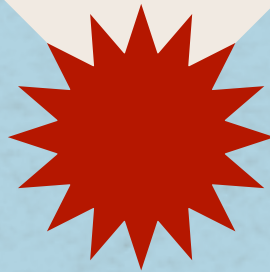
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & OTHERS



This is where we will be putting anything you send in: letters to the editor, notes to authors, questions, agreements and disagreements...

we can't wait to see what you have to say!

Just be sure to tell us what article you're responding to!

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The Day Boy & The Night Girl

- Day: unsplash.com/photos/blue-sky-with-white-clouds-xtgONQzGgOE

- Night: unsplash.com/photos/rocky-mountain-gd3t5Dtbwkw

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Tell Me About Your Day

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/couple-sitting-on-a-bench-beside-a-building-5698142/>

To Infinity

<https://unsplash.com/@taylorvanriper925>



Hi, my name is Jerry. Can you find me in this issue?

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- Readers & listeners of any faith to interact respectfully with writers and other readers through book/media suggestions and letters to the editor, as well as comments on LogoSophiaMag.com and social media
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Letters to the Editor	4
Bible Verse & Prayer	7
Our Wedding Photos	8
<i>LSM Staff</i>	
Hymn (<i>The Marriage Supper</i>)	10
<i>Carrie Elizabeth Ellis Breck</i>	
Musical Musings	11
<i>Sarah Levesque Losardo</i>	
Preparing for “Until Death Do Us Part”	12
<i>Sarah Levesque Losardo</i>	
Marriages That Inspire	15
<i>LSM Staff</i>	
A Man Must Be In Want Of A Wife	16
<i>Amanda Pizzolatto</i>	
A Covenant of Resilience	19
<i>Martha Karas</i>	
Holy Heroes: JRR & Edith Tolkien	21
<i>T.K. Wilson</i>	
Tell Me About Your Day	24
<i>Lawrence “Mack in Texas” Hall</i>	
Controversy Corner	25
<i>Various</i>	
The Day Boy & The Night Girl.....	32
<i>T.K. Wilson</i>	
Author Interview	
with Shay McNally	33
The Differences Between Men & Women:	
Finding Harmony in God’s Design ...	39
<i>Jim Wilson</i>	
Conflict In Marriage: Online Resources	45
<i>Susanne Levesque</i>	
To Infinity	46
<i>Shay McNally</i>	
Further Reading	49
Bible Trivia	50



courtesy of Sarah Losardo

BIBLE VERSE ~

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

(Ephesians 5:33 ESV)

~ PRAYER

We praise you, O God, we bless you, Creator of all things,
who in the beginning made man and woman
that they might form a communion of life and love.
We also give you thanks for graciously blessing our family life
so that it might present an image of Christ's union with the
Church.

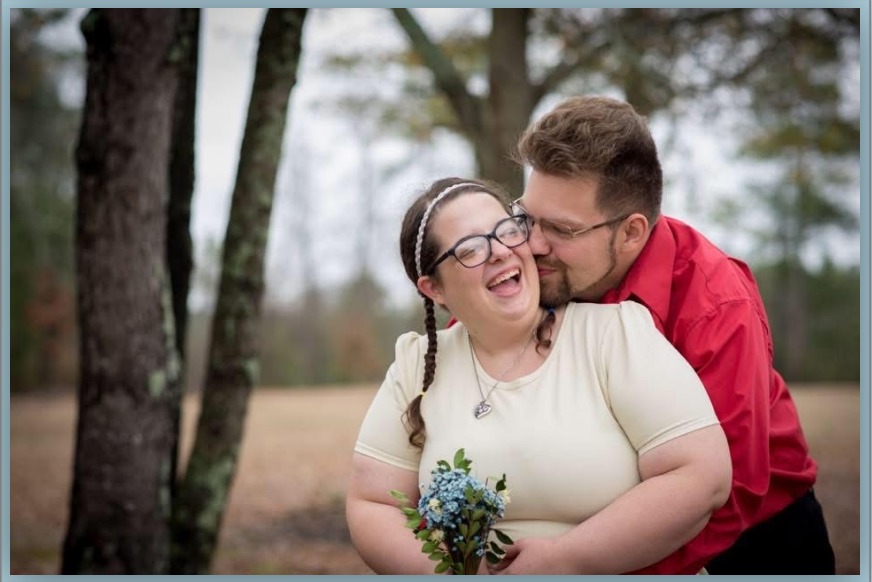
Therefore, look with kindness upon us today,
and as you have sustained our communion
amid joys and struggles,
renew our Marriage covenant each day, increase our charity,
and strengthen in us the bond of peace,
so that we may for ever enjoy your blessing.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LSM's Wedding Photos



Alexander & Deborah Robertson (2024)



Joshua & Kay Cee Ling (2017)



Jacob & Sarah Losardo (2025)



Calling all Photographers!

We are holding a contest for the best picture that encapsulates SPRING



The winning entry will be put on the Table of Contents page of our Spring 2026 issue.

Email your entry to Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com by April 6 — subject line “Spring 2026 Photo Contest”.

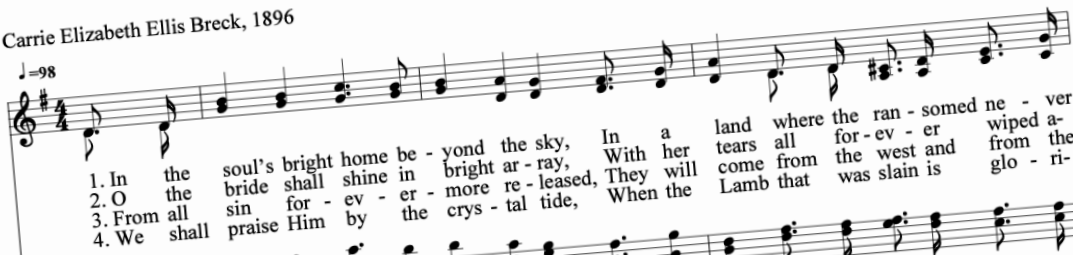
Hymn

The Marriage Supper

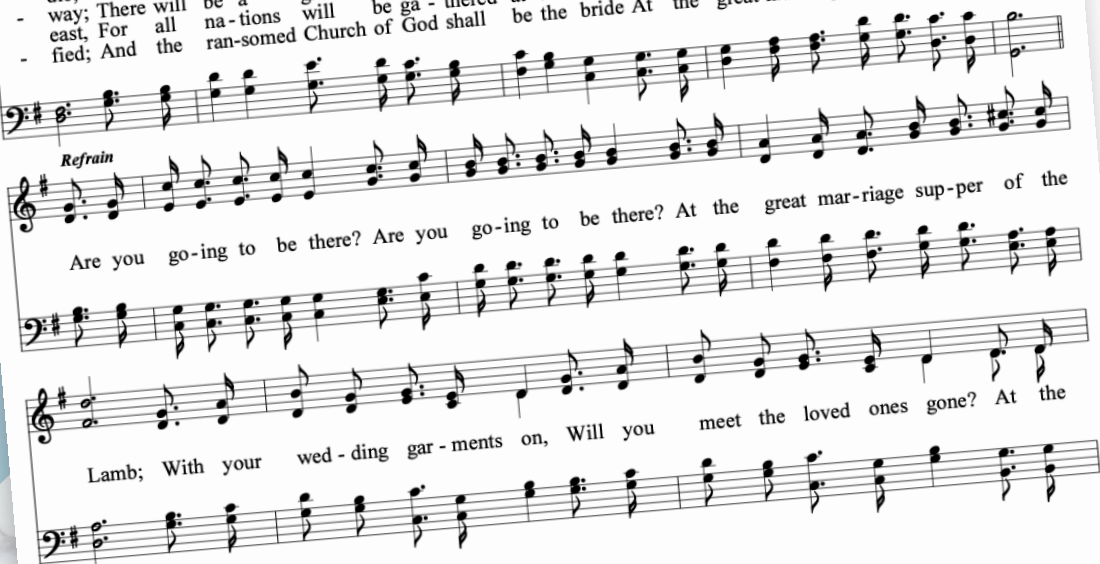
Henry Lake Gilmour

Carrie Elizabeth Ellis Breck, 1896

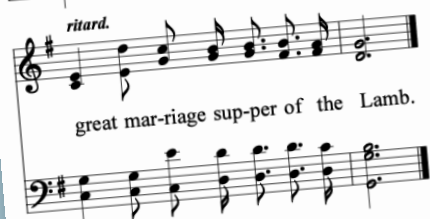
♩=98



Refrain



ritard.



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Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

Musical Musings

By Sarah Levesque Losardo

When I was first sent the hymn “The Marriage Supper”, it was not an audio file but a picture of the written music. I immediately loved the lyrics and scoured YouTube to hear what it sounded like. Eventually, I found one tinny recording that cannot do justice to the hymn as written by Mrs. Frank A. Beck (who wrote over 1400 hymns); I’m counting on the LSM team to do better.

The lyrics remind us of how the book of Revelation compares Heaven to a wedding feast, the Great Marriage Supper. Sin will be no more as Christ’s Bride—the Church—in all her nations will be gathered up, praising the Lord. The song asks if the listeners will be there, a great reminder to strive to keep the faith and live as Jesus commanded.

It brings to mind again just how incredible it is that God humbled Himself to become man that He might bring us to Him as His Bride. He gives us everything we need to join Him forever in Heaven through the Bible and as passed down throughout the ages: the Commandments, His teachings in His sermons, parables, and actions, as well as admonitions against sins and more. He gives us His grace in Baptism, His forgiveness, His very self in Communion. He has also given us the people we love and those who inspire us. So many gifts, all to get us to live with Him forever in Heaven! There, we will be one with Him as He is one with His Father, just as He said He desired (see John 17:21).

As I prepared for my own wedding day last year, I was reminded of how we, the Church, are called to be Christ’s Bride. All the preparations I was doing for my wedding and for our marriage were reminders that I need to be preparing for the Heavenly Wedding as well. As the “two become one flesh” in marriage, so we will become one flesh with Christ. And, in fact, we can be one flesh with Him now when we receive Him in the Eucharist! This outrageous goodness is something I try to remember each time I go to Mass.

In closing, logically, I know that God is infinitely greater than my husband, so the Heavenly Marriage must be infinitely more joyful than my earthly one, and thus far beyond the scope of my imagination. Take a moment to imagine a marriage infinitely more joyful than the best moment you’ve ever been a part of, and intimacy with the Creator Himself. Let that thought blow your mind. Keep it close, and let it be a compass, pointing you to Heaven. Are you going to be there?

Source: hymnary.org/text/in_the_souls_bright_home_beyond_the_sky

Preparing for “Until Death Do Us Part”

By Sarah Levesque Losardo

As I write this article, I have been married for seven months. While those seven months have been the best months of my adult life, they also contained a huge learning curve. Yet we had very intentionally prepared for “until death do us part” for nearly a year before our wedding, and we have continued our preparation for “the rest of our lives”. And we will continue to do so. How have we prepared? We had some great resources we were blessed with, all of which I recommend!

First, my mom gave me the book *Invited: A Catholic Guide to Planning Your Wedding* by Stephanie Calis. This was directed at me as the bride, but very helpful for both of us, as it was chock full of lists of timelines and things to complete for the wedding itself, as well as things to talk about and to plan for, helping to keep us grounded in God and in each other, rather than get frazzled by details. We read it together, and its talking points helped us lay the groundwork for our marriage by getting on the same page on many matters in many areas. I began recommending it to other brides almost immediately.

Next up, we had our marriage preparation program, which used the Ascension Press program *A Joy-Filled Marriage* by Christopher West et al. This gave us a lot more talking points, including some points we had already discussed from *Invited*. We got to read, watch videos, journal separately and together, and even make up our own couple motto-turned-prayer, which we pray together daily. The whole program was very helpful indeed! And there are even parts to go back to on anniversaries to review, renew, and keep growing closer.

After we got married, we listened to Dave Ramsey’s book *Your Total Money Makeover*, which informed a lot of our financial decisions. I was already familiar with Dave Ramsey’s ideas, as I had done his teen program, but that had been over a decade ago, so I got a good review, and my husband got a good introduction. If you don’t know Dave Ramsey or you don’t have a working budget, this is a great place to start. We already had a great financial foundation from our previous books and my parents’ efforts to help us in that area, but *Your Total Money Makeover* helped us to decide how to balance our school loans and our house fund goals.

One of the gifts we received at our wedding was a book called *The Most Important Year in A Woman's/Man's Life* by Robert and Bobbie Wolgemuth and Mark and Susan DeVries. This book has one side for the ladies by the ladies, and the other side for the guys by the guys, covering related topics in each chapter. My husband and I decided to read it together: women's Chapter One, then men's Chapter One, then women's Chapter Two, etc. This we mostly did on car trips over an hour long to see family members; he drove while I read aloud. We had hardly finished both first chapters when I ordered copies for friends of mine who were also getting married this year, because it was already so helpful! The Wolgemuths and DeVries had taken their many years of experience in counseling couples and showed us the pitfalls many people fall into and how to avoid them, and gave us terms to use to nail down both common and personal issues. So incredibly beneficial for setting the right foundations!

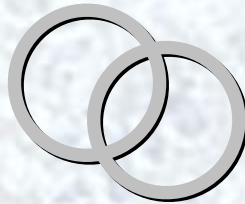
Yet, despite all this work we put in to be prepared, we've definitely had some unexpected speedbumps. However, because we had educated ourselves to the best of our abilities, we were able to get through these issues with relatively little conflict. That's not to say we didn't get upset, but we were able to identify the root problems: our own insecurities and differences in our families. For instance, I got upset when my husband gave me some suggestions when I was cooking—a common thing in his family, and something I do when he's cooking. But even though I knew that I do it to him, and that he didn't mean it to be judgmental, I felt judged due to other people judging my cooking previously. It took us some time to work this out, but my husband was incredibly gentle with me and made sure he gave me hugs as often as it didn't impede my cooking. Once we figured out the root of the problem, we were able to start figuring out how to best fix it.

We've had a few of these upsets, but they were mostly minor things, as we had covered major things when going through the books. Of course, the books had warned us that they were only covering the big things and couldn't come up with all the personal issues that are different for everybody, but we had been well trained in staying calm and working together instead of against each other.

If you are getting married, are recently married, or know someone who fits into one of those categories, I strongly suggest all these books. I suspect *The Most Important Year* might be helpful for couples who aren't newlyweds, too. However, *The Total Money Makeover* is certainly good for anyone at any point! I would particularly recommend the updated edition from 2024, as the original is from the early 2000s and is definitely dated at twenty-something years old. I hope these resources help you and yours!

Jacob & Sarah's Practical Marriage Advice

1. Never stop learning about each other.
2. Be on the lookout for resentment in yourself about anything your spouse does, squash it, and discuss it together.
3. Always, always pray with and for each other and, in your prayer together, thank God aloud for the things s/he did today that made you happy.
4. Do regular all-points check-ins: merely say "Time for an all points check-in!" and let each other know how you're doing in each aspect: physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and relationship-wise. Also handy for any time your spouse seems upset, preoccupied for a long time, or just "off," and for when you need to work out something that you can't quite put your finger on.



Marriages That Inspire

My parents &
grandparents
-Sarah

My maternal
grandparents
-Ian

Hiccup & Astrid
(How To Train
Your Dragon)
-Thomas

C.S. & Joy Lewis
-T.K.

JRR & Edith
Tolkien
-Amanda

Mr. & Mrs.
Incredible
(The Incredibles)
-TK

Llew & Geowyn
(Song of Albion)
-Joshua

Friends
Jonathan & Alana,
Jim & Val
-Sarah

My friends
Bob & Ann
-Ian

A Man Must Be In Want Of A Wife

By Amanda Pizzolatto

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” Thus begins one of the most beloved and popular books of all time, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Within these pages is a tale of love and loss, of silly social norms and even sillier reactions, of impulsive decisions and manipulative behaviors, all while five sisters—well, two in particular—navigate life and search for romance. And as all young women and men do, they look to the example of their parents. That example, however, becomes a rather interesting one the more you see it.

According to the text, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet had gotten married for what one might call shallow reasons: he married her for her beauty, and she married him for his money. But beyond that, it seemed they had nothing in common, and since Jane was born not long after their marriage, they had to put up with each other. Divorce, while possible, was not common in those days due mostly to how costly it was to get one. So, Mr. Bennet stayed with Mrs. Bennet and provided what can only be seen as grounds for a bad marriage. At least one with little respect on either side and even less love, it would seem, prompting Elizabeth to make the comment that only the deepest love would compel her to marry. After all, why should she not think like that? Her mother clearly doesn't respect her husband enough to rein in her shopping sprees, nor does Mr. Bennet respect his wife enough to use anything but snark when talking to her. Yet, it seems there is still some good hidden in there. Yes, one could say that it's Jane and Elizabeth, but there is still some good, besides them putting up with each other. And that good thing is the example of how not to treat each other in a marriage. Yes, a bad example is good, but only if one is willing to learn from it rather than ignore it and proceed to make the same mistake in a completely different way.

While Charlotte Lucas points out that one should know as little of the faults of one's future spouse as possible, the ability to know certain defects in one's partner can go a long way. Both Charlotte and Elizabeth knew of some of their future husbands' defects before marriage, giving them the ability to choose based on whether that defect was high on their dealbreaker list or if it was something that they were willing to live with. We know the answer to both, as the very thing Elizabeth turned Collins down for is something that Charlotte is willing to put up with on a daily basis. Granted, the two women are different people and are looking for different things in their marriages, which should also be taken into consideration, but the fact remains that where one woman turned him down, the other accepted. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet certainly didn't know of each other's defects before marriage, and as Elizabeth duly noted, it did not bring about a very good marriage. This then could disprove Charlotte's notion that one should know as little as possible about the defects of one's future spouse before marriage. Granted, one can't know all of the other person's defects in a courtship; heck, there are possibly some defects that don't reveal themselves until much later in life. And it is possible for a person to change, as Darcy shows. Even Elizabeth changes throughout the story, especially as her lesson is that first impressions don't reveal everything about a person.

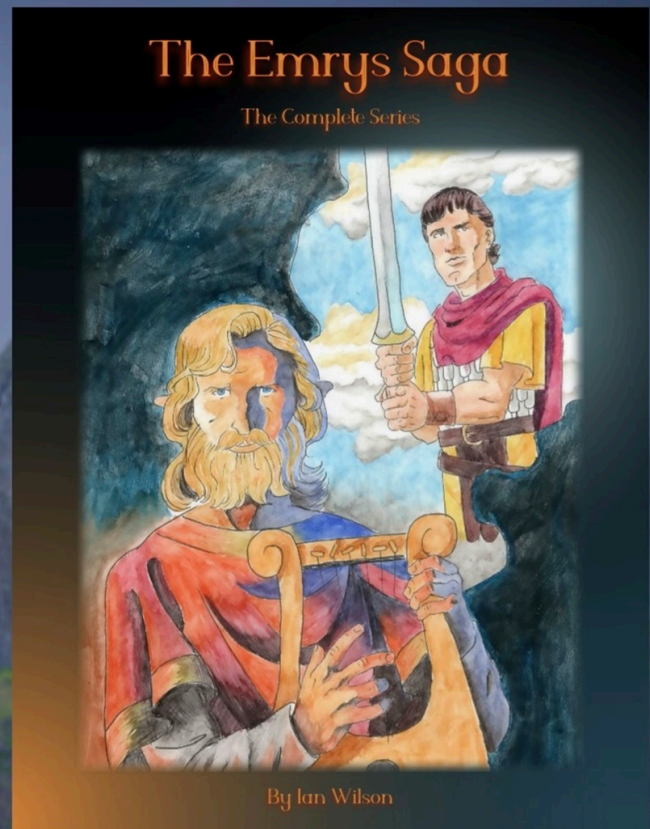
That said, one could possibly say that one thing that Mr. and Mrs. Bennet do right is to stay together through thick and thin. Of course, in those days, the marriage vows were taken quite seriously and, as mentioned before, divorce was a long and expensive process. But even so, in this current day and age, when divorce is given for the smallest inconvenience, couples who choose to stay together seem to be few and far between. Like Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, many men do marry women for their beauty and youth, and many women marry men for their money. In some cases, it works, but in most, it doesn't. Because, while for many people marriage is merely a contract, marrying for love is the ideal goal in Austen's novels, and the protagonists are met with long-lasting, happy marriages when they do marry for love. Granted, she does provide them with material comforts as well, but not all of her heroines end up with very wealthy men, like Elizabeth and Jane do. Austen shows that simple lives matter just as much and, as Jane told Elizabeth, we have to keep in mind the differences of character and temperament in each of the heroines. Bingley and Darcy would not have been good matches for the Dashwood sisters in *Sense and Sensibility*, just like Elizabeth proved she was not a good match for Mr. Collins, while Charlotte proved that she was.

All in all, while Austen herself did not marry, she drew from many examples of the marriages she was surrounded by, including that of her parents and several of her siblings. It does not take too long to notice a pattern when one emerges when one compares good and bad marriages. While Austen did not quite turn up her nose at those who married for looks or wealth, she did make it quite clear that more was needed for a happy, healthy marriage than short-lived attraction. There are differences in temperament and character from one person to the next, and while a pretty face and a nice paycheck are good for grabbing attention, they are not sure signs of a good match. Shared goals and beliefs are better indicators of that, along with respect. It is why Elizabeth believes that she and Darcy will provide a better example for Darcy's sister Georgiana than her own parents were for her and her sisters, and she hopes that through that example, Georgiana will know how to find a good match.

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A Covenant of Resilience

by
Martha
Karas

Introduction

Marriage is more than a union of two people. It is a covenant before God, a sacred bond that weathers storms and celebrates joys. In a world where relationships are often fragile, faith reminds us that resilience in marriage is not built on human strength alone, but on God's sustaining presence.

Faith as Foundation

Scripture teaches that love is patient and kind (1 Corinthians 13:4). These words are not simply poetic; they are practical. Patience in marriage means listening when it is easier to speak, forgiving when it is easier to hold a grudge, and choosing kindness even in moments of frustration. Faith provides the strength to live out these virtues daily.

Naming Struggles Together

Every marriage faces seasons of difficulty—financial strain, family pressures, or personal wounds carried into the relationship. Naming these struggles honestly is the first step toward healing. Just as the Psalms give voice to lament, couples can find resilience by bringing their pain before God together. Prayer becomes a shared language of hope, reminding both partners that they are not alone in their journey.

Storytelling in Marriage

Storytelling is not only for communities; it is vital within marriage. Sharing testimonies of God's faithfulness—even small ones—strengthens the bond between husband and wife. When couples recall how God carried them through trials, their story becomes a source of encouragement for others. In this way, marriage itself becomes ministry, a living testimony of grace.

Community Support

Marriage does not exist in isolation. Families, churches, and fellowship groups play a role in sustaining couples. Testimony nights, small groups, and pastoral care can provide spaces where couples share their journeys and receive encouragement. Community reminds us that resilience is not an individual achievement but a shared blessing.

Conclusion

Marriage is a covenant of resilience, sustained by faith, strengthened by honesty, and nurtured by community. To every couple, I offer this encouragement: your story matters. Share it, and let it become a testimony of grace. In doing so, you will discover resilience not as endurance alone, but as hope rooted in God's promises—a resilience that sustains, restores, and inspires.



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Joshua David Ling
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spirit of Lewis and Tolkien.

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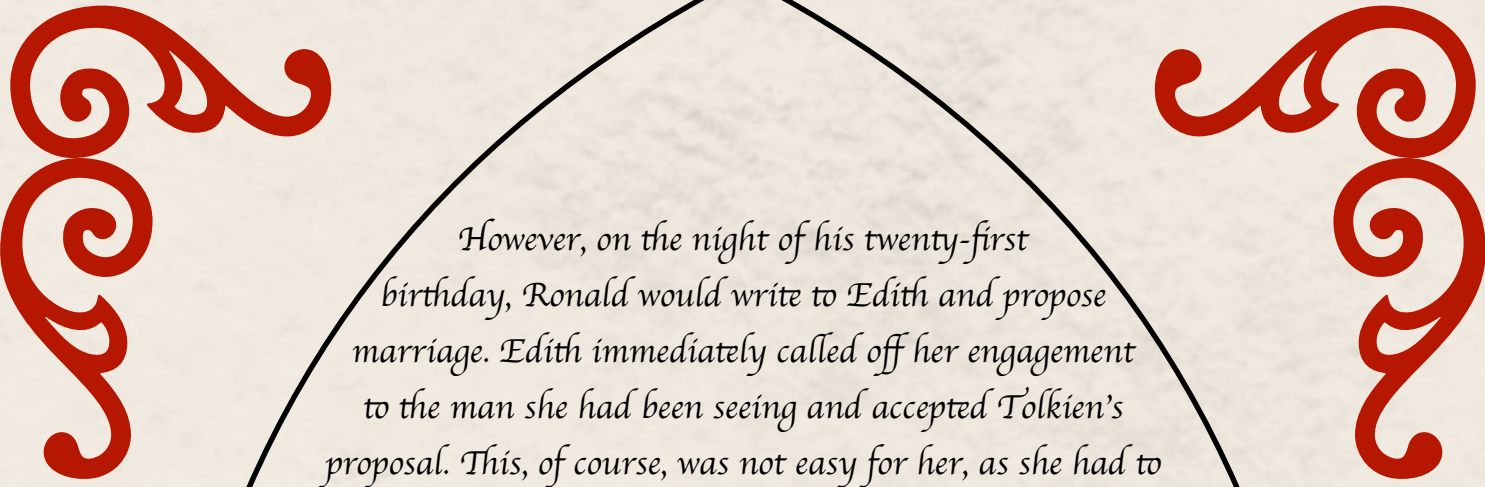
HOLY HEROES

JRR & Edith Tolkien

By T.K. Wilson

Ronald (as he was known to his family) and his brother Hilary moved into a boarding house run by a Mrs. Faulkner to be closer to their schools of choice while they studied for scholarships. At this time, Ronald was 16, and their neighbor Edith was 19. Edith was an orphan, just like the boys, and they became fast friends. Ronald and Edith had a very similar sense of humor, often enjoying the prank of going to a tea shop with a balcony and throwing sugar lumps into the hats of passersby.

Though they were very happy and in love, Ronald's beloved guardian Fr. Morgan disapproved of the match. One reason was that Edith was not Catholic, and the other was that their courtship was a distraction to Ronald, who had no choice but to pursue scholarships in order to attend college. Fr. Morgan forbade Ronald from seeing or even writing to Edith until he turned twenty-one. This was an agonizing period for Ronald, but he obeyed, throwing himself into his studies and winning scholarships, while Edith, bound by no promise, saw other fellows (Ronald would later advise his son Michael that making women promise to wait wasn't fair to them).



However, on the night of his twenty-first birthday, Ronald would write to Edith and propose marriage. Edith immediately called off her engagement to the man she had been seeing and accepted Tolkien's proposal. This, of course, was not easy for her, as she had to convert to Catholicism, aspects of which made her uncomfortable, and she also had to face the fact that her new husband was due to ship out to World War I. But for them, their love was worth it.

When Tolkien was discharged from the army for medical reasons, he was sent to Yorkshire to recuperate, and Edith joined him there. In the woods of Roos, Edith sang and danced for her husband among the wildflowers, an image that would haunt him and all the world for the rest of time, as Edith won immortality as Luthien in her husband's world of Middle-earth.

It wasn't always a happy marriage, for Edith struggled with her husband's work schedule, and their five children (including sickly Christopher), while her Protestant upbringing chafed at Ronald's Catholicism, but the two worked together to build a life for themselves.

Edith passed away before her husband, who lamented that his story had gone wrong. When Ronald passed, they were buried with the names Beren and Luthien engraved on the tombstone. The testimony of their love and determination remains as well, confirming that such a love is real and possible, but only if both parties put in the work.



Sources:

- ♦ ideaofauniversity.website/uncategorized/on-marriage-and-relations-between-the-sexes-j-r-r-tolkien/
- ♦ catholicgentleman.com/2015/07/tolkien-speaks-the-secret-to-a-happy-marriage/
- ♦ refinery29.com/en-us/2019/05/231353/jrr-tolkien-wife-edith-bratt-true-love-story (including image)
- ♦ tolkienestate.com/letters/christopher-tolkien-11-july-1972/

Holy Heroes: JRR & Edith Tolkien



Tell Me About Your Day

By Lawrence “Mack in Texas” Hall

The evening air is cool – let’s sit outside in the dusk
Tell me about your day, your work, your friends
I like your friends; they write such lovely verse -
Nothing as nearly good as yours, of course!

The evening air is cool

I enjoyed breakfast with some friends, our weekly outing
We talked of our children and our hopes for them
Later I worked at chores in the garden and house
And read new lines from my favorite poet

The evening air is cool

I so enjoy talking with you – do I talk too much?
Too little? Just right? You are such fun to listen to!

And the evening air is just right

Controversy Corner

Do you observe Lent? Why or why not? If so, how?

What is Controversy Corner?

Controversy Corner is the section of LogoSophia Magazine where people of different faith traditions discuss controversial topics in a succinct manner.

If you would like to submit a topic for discussion, please let us know!

Don't see your denomination represented? Help us fix that! We're always looking for new writers.

Disagree with the representative of your denomination? Write in and tell us why in a respectful manner, and we'll publish it...

in our next magazine under “Letters to the Editor & Comments”!

For these and any other questions, email us at Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com.

Confessional Lutheran

represented by Shay McNally

As the wife of a Confessional Lutheran pastor, I think of Lent as one of our busiest stretches on the church calendar. It begins with Ash Wednesday and the powerful reminder of our own mortality. We are dust, and Christ is our life. Many of our congregations offer midweek Lenten services in addition to the Divine Service on Sundays, where we walk through Christ’s Passion in Scripture and preaching. The season continues through Holy Week, culminating in the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) and Easter.

(continued below)

Above all, Lent is about being gathered by Christ, under His Word, to hear again what He has done for us. It is a solemn time of repentance, reflection, and return; to remember that we are sinners who cannot fix ourselves, and Christ is the Savior who has. With this in mind, the liturgy of our Divine Service takes on a more penitential tone: violet paraments, restrained/subdued music, often the omission of the "Alleluia."

Many also practice fasting of some kind, increased prayer, and almsgiving, but solely as voluntary disciplines. Martin Luther nails the Lutheran posture on this: "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none; a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all" (On the Freedom of a Christian, 1520).



Baptist

represented by Noah Morgan

*A*t my reformed Baptist church, we observe Lent kicked off by an Ash Wednesday every year. On Ash Wednesday we hold a service in the evening to remember our fallen condition and grieve our particular sins, with singing and worship dispersed over the course of the night. At the end of the Ash Wednesday service, we are sent to the altar to receive an ash cross on our foreheads to remember we are stained by sin, and a savior has come to clean us. During the Lenten season we will hold a week of prayer and fasting, inviting congregants to join us at the church from 12:00-1:00pm to pray as we forgo food for a time. Our Sunday liturgy remains mostly unchanged during the Lenten season. Each member of my household will choose something to give up or fast for the season. We rarely fast from food for the whole season but choose something specifically close to each individual.

CREC Presbyterian

represented by Deborah Robertson

I cannot speak for the rest of the churches in the CREC (Community of Reformed Evangelical Churches), but I assume they follow some form of observance. As for the congregation I attend, we do observe Lent. Our church follows the liturgical calendar in the pastor's vestments and fabric coverings for alter area. The liturgical color for Lent is purple and so those items are colored accordingly. Our pastor will also incorporate Lenten hymns into the liturgy. Our church does not currently have an Ash Wednesday service, and so my husband and I have attended other church's Ash Wednesday services for observance. My husband and I observe Lent by choosing something to fast from for each of us. We don't follow any Lenten dietary fasting, traditional or modern, at this time. Personally, I favor Lent as a season not only for its purple color, but primarily

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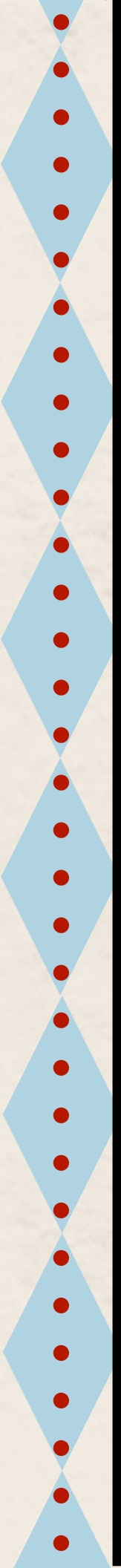
because it serves as a sobering reminder of what the Christian life entails to counter the widely popular modern message of Christianity which is an Evangelical rendition of “Everything Is Awesome” from the Lego Movie.

Roman Catholic

represented by Sarah Losardo

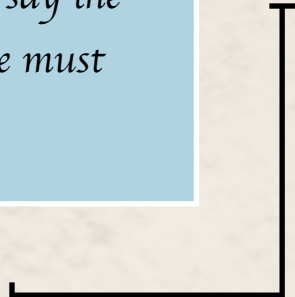
Lent is, interestingly enough, one of the things that Catholics are known for. Even those who grew up Catholic but do not attend church regularly (those I call “cultural Catholics”) often observe Lent in some way. The official teaching on Lent is that it is a penitential season consisting of forty days, but technically forty-six as Sundays are mini-Easters and don’t count. It begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through Spy Wednesday, the day before Holy Thursday. The Triduum is also a penitential

(continued on next page)



Season (of only three days) and is typically lumped in with Lent. The actual penance depends on the individual, but we are asked to pray, fast, and give alms, so Catholic individuals choose something that will bring us closer to Jesus, whether that be adding a devotion to our daily lives, to go to Mass or Adoration an extra day of the week, by giving extra money to the poor, by fasting from something that pulls us away from Jesus, or some combination of these. To give some examples of fasting, in various years I have fasted from chocolate, from social media, and from secular music. I have known people that will fast from drive thru or make their coffee at home rather than buying it at a shop, and give the money they saved to a charity.

One common misconception (even among Catholics!) is that we are obliged to abstain from meat on Fridays only during Lent. Actually, we are asked to abstain from meat EVERY FRIDAY throughout the year, because Fridays are penitential days when we remember the death of Our Lord (see Code of Canon Law, canons 1250-1253). However, in the United States, we are allowed to do another sort of penance on non-Lenten Fridays instead (my husband and I say the Divine Mercy Chaplet), while on Lenten Fridays, we must still refrain from eating meat.



George MacDonald's The Day Boy

By T.K. Wilson

One of my favorite novellas is a little fantasy by George MacDonald called *The Day Boy and the Night Girl, or, The Romance of Photogen and Nycteris*. Like all of MacDonald's stories, it's a story filled with unexplained circumstances, mysterious settings, and profound truths, one of which is explaining what marriage is supposed to be like.

The story is about three characters: Watho, the witch; Photogen, the hero; and Nycteris, the heroine. Watho, who became a witch out of nothing more than morbid curiosity, decides to do an experiment—what would happen if you raised two children in utterly different circumstances? To this end, she invites two pregnant women to live in her palace. One she places in huge, airy, bright apartments at the top of her castle, the other (who is blind and a widow) she places in a replica Egyptian tomb in the castle's foundation. She feeds them utterly different foods, plays music for one, and sad music for the other, and in all things treats the ladies differently. Eventually, the ladies give birth: the lady in the sun to a boy, the lady in the tomb to a girl.

Now, here's where it gets more messed up. Watho lies to the lady in the bright apartments and says her son was stillborn, and she leaves heartbroken. The lady in the tomb is so sad that she dies of a broken heart after her daughter is born. From here, Watho continues to raise the children differently: the boy, Photogen, she raises in the sun and trains to be a mighty hunter. Furthermore, she gives him to her huntsmen, and he becomes a fearless hunter. The girl, Nycteris, on the other hand, is raised in the tomb, sleeps in the day, and is taught music and almost nothing else, including how to read and write. But she eventually learns, without Watho knowing, her first little rebellion.

All this goes on until the children become adults. Nycteris is the first to rebel, finding a way out into the gardens and the nighttime forest. There she meets Photogen, who was overtaken by night, which he has never seen, and is frightened of. Another thing, Nycteris has never seen a man before, so she thinks Photogen is a girl like herself, just a strange-looking one. And Photogen has never seen a young woman, only old Watho. It is in this Edenic setting that their Romance begins.

I won't spoil the rest of the story, very much like C.S. Lewis's *That Hideous Strength*, the story of man and woman is clear. It's not all hearts and flowers; there are hurt feelings and struggles before things get into harmony. That is, in fact, the theme of the story, harmony and balance.

Watho is a woman out of harmony with herself; the evil in her soul doesn't sit well with her conscience and makes her act irrationally. She is also given over to a sinful level of curiosity, which leads her to be so cruel to Photogen, Nycteris, and their mothers. She also creates a bit of a beast in Photogen by not teaching him any discipline; fortunately, he is innocent enough that these Peter Pan tendencies are easily trained out of him by Nycteris. Furthermore, Watho's sinful curiosity is further contrasted by Nycteris's healthy, innocent curiosity about the world outside her tomb and her eagerness to learn to read and write. While being imbalanced, she creates the means to bring balance through the outcomes of the two youths.

Much like Adam, Photogen starts the story alone. Sure, there are people there, but nobody like him can be found. Nycteris has never seen or been told of men before, so she is equally ignorant (one shudders to think what would have happened to both of them if Watho had been allowed to continue!) when they meet in the moonlit garden. Much like Adam and Eve, Photogen and Nycteris find each other in an hour of need, when "it is not good for man to be alone," and though Photogen is cruel to her at first, he repents it and resolves to change his ways. MacDonald amusingly points out that Photogen's arrogance is only natural to men until they're taught better manners by women.

G.K. Chesterton and George MacDonald (as well as C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien after them) understood that men and women are opposed to each other, sometimes adversarially, but also in the sense that they are opposites to one another. Cultures throughout the world have associated the male with Day and the woman with Night; both are necessary, and both are good. The story ends (though I will reveal nothing about how it happens) with Photogen deciding that he and Nycteris should be married at once, because they find completeness in one another. In this way, the parable of marriage is completed, where two are made one, what was damaged is made whole, and what was meant for evil becomes good.

Author Interview With...

Shay McNally



LSM: Why don't you tell us a little about yourself?

My name is Shannon McNally, but my nickname is Shay, so I tend to go by Shay as my pen name. I was born **S.M.**

and raised in New York State, and I ended up spending most of my life in the state of New York.

I was raised by my mom, my maternal grandmother, and my maternal aunt. So three generations of strong, opinionated Irish women under the same roof. Between 2010 and 2019 I actually lost them all within succession, so I found myself surviving on my own, having a bit of a Job moment. So it was, while surviving on my own, I ironically met my husband around that time in a group dating for Christian nerds. So I ended up moving out of New York for the first time in my life moving into the Midwest where he was serving as a pastor of a Lutheran church in North Dakota. So now we're currently doing pulpit supply in the circuits, and that's what brought us to our current situation in Iowa.

Author Interview

Shay McNally

LSM: How many books have you published at this point?

So far, I just have the one. *Breath of the Almighty* is my debut collection of confessional Christian free verse poetry. It integrates Scripture with personal testimony and really is meant to show people that no matter what you're going through in life, especially hard times, God is really never that far from you. So I always pray that it's edifying and encouraging to others.

S.M.

LSM: Why did you start writing originally?

Ironically, that's a question my mom always asked. I remember when I had my first poem published in the newspaper at the age of fifteen, and my mom and dad were looking at it. My dad's like, "Where did she get this talent from?" My mom's like, "I have no idea. She didn't get it from me." So it really just kinda came about. Practically as long as I can remember I was always an avid reader, so I always enjoyed being lost in words. And then it was in high school that my English teacher really fostered that and it ended up become my main outlet of expression because my words are so much more confident when I'm writing than when I'm speaking. I have being an INFP to thank for that one.



Author Interview

Shay McNally



LSM: Can you tell us a little bit more about this book of yours?

Breath of the Almighty covers a wide range of topics. It goes through grief and healing. It goes through family and how being raised in a Christian household a lot of times can

S.M.

help to shape your testimony in itself. So my grandmother and my aunt's testimonies are in there, and they were probably the two figures who most inspired me in my Christian walk.

I think the oldest poem dates back to 2005. The collection offers different glimpses of different moments in my life. So sometimes dealing with grief, dealing with healing, even just sharing family testimonies.

Even before the death of my mom, I realized, you know, as her only child, if something happened to her, I was gonna be the remnant left. And I really didn't want their stories, their testimonies, to go to the grave with them. So *Breath of the Almighty* was originally just sharing testimonies and evolved from there.

So, besides grief and healing, as I mentioned, it does cover falling in love, marriage, serving, Christian vocation. Even just

Author Interview

Shay McNally



some struggles of wondering where is God when life is hard? Where was he when bad things were happening? Answering prayer, spiritual warfare, forgiveness.

S.M.

LSM: How did you publish this book?

Through Amazon KDP. It was pretty seamless process where they made it very user friendly and I do enjoy having that full control over it, where I am able to format it myself, able to have a lot of input with my cover designer on what the cover would look like.

S.M.

It just so happens my husband, before he became a pastor, majored in English, so he's my unofficial uncredited editor - he reads through things and makes sure everything is kosher.

LSM: Are you planning on publishing another book?

I'm actually in the process of writing my second volume that I'm expecting to release through KDP on Pentecost of this year - May 26, 2026. I already do have the cover design for that, and I intentionally have it looking like it's two sides of the same coin because the poems are covering both Scripture, which is a continuous story, and my testimony, which is a continuous story.

S.M.

Author Interview

Shay McNally



LSM: What has writing taught you?

Definitely to trust in God. Because for the longest time I really didn't wanna be a writer. I liked being a reader, not so much the writing aspect, because it's like, you know, I didn't wanna put myself out there to have that emotional

S.M.

vulnerability to potentially get negative reviews, or even the risk that nobody was going to read it. As somebody who was a private person, it was a very intimidating and frightening thought. So I really tried to resist it, but ultimately, by trusting in God, this dream has taken me much further than I ever imagined. It was once again an example of how God's dreams for me are greater than any dream I had for myself, and that's really something that writing has brought home.

Find Shannon's book on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), and find her full interview on LSM's YouTube!

*Are you an author who'd like to be interviewed?
Email us at Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com for
a chance to be our next feature!*



The Differences Between Men & Women: **Finding Harmony in God's Design** *by Jim Wilson*

Men and women are different, and their differences are not just physical. It is important to be aware of a few basic areas where the sexes differ from each other, as failure to recognize these can cause unnecessary problems in your marriage.

First, men and women *think* differently. This is part of how God made us. Generally speaking (buckle up, because there are many generalizations coming in this paragraph), men think analytically, and women think intuitively, although sometimes women can do both. Women have multitask minds and can juggle many issues at once. Women are more likely than men to think in circles, and consequently are more prone to anxiety. Women are also more likely to think emotionally rather than logically.

The problem comes when men think that women are being illogical or not thinking right because they are thinking *differently*; or when women assume that a man's analytical thinking is insensitive or cold. This can cause a relationship to become adversarial. Men and women should not fall into the trap of judging the other for the way they think. Instead, we should both focus on how we can be *complementary*. We are designed by God to work together.

Intuition can be a blessing, but we take it too far when we use it to attribute motives. Do not assume that you know what someone else is thinking or why someone else did something. Also, women should beware of thinking that men are intuitive—we aren't. We cannot be unless we learn how. Do not be upset at your husband because he can't be intuitive. That's a setup from the Enemy. Don't assume that he knows what you need, or you are setting yourself up to take offense when he fails to meet the need. Be kind to him: when you need something, if you know what you need, *tell him*. Husbands, study your wives. God has given you the responsibility to provide for and protect her; learn to anticipate her needs out of love for her.

Men and women also *talk* differently. We are alike enough that we can communicate with each other—sometimes. After being married to my wife Bessie for more than fifty years, I still have difficulty understanding her. When Bessie uses a pronoun, the antecedent might have been given two weeks ago. And I sit there trying to figure out what this pronoun is referring to. Bessie uses a lot of pronouns, but only one verb. It's the word *do* in different forms. "Will you do the baby?" I have to figure out whether this means feed the baby, change the baby's diaper, put the baby down for a nap, or give the baby a bath—all of these are communicated by *do the baby*. It helps if you have extrasensory perception! Occasionally, I'll figure and figure and figure, and then I'll guess wrong. This is not a fault in Bessie; it is just a difference in how we communicate.

Men, have you ever asked your wife, "Is anything wrong?" and she says no, so you go merrily on your way...only to find yourself living in a cold house? Because men think linearly, a husband can hear this answer from his wife and think that everything is fine, because she *said* it was. If you knew enough to ask the question, you know that *something* is wrong. Get close to your wife and find out what it is.

Another mistake a man can tend to make in this situation is to analyze the problem and tell her what she should do or where she went wrong. This happens because, again, he is thinking *analytically*. But what she wants is a hug. Hugs don't make sense analytically. What she needs is *reassurance and comfort*, not information. If he really has an analytical insight on what went wrong, she might need it also, but not now. Her primary need is comfort. Hug her now, and give her your solution tomorrow, when everything is back in equilibrium. Then she can appreciate the information. If you give her what *you* would like to have if you were in that situation (i.e., advice), you are giving her what she does not need.

Likewise, a man who comes home after a day full of problems at work does not need a hug. He needs to know what to *do* about the problems. When a man comes home with troubles, one of the best things a wife can do is listen to his statement of the facts. Be a *sounding board* and just ask questions. Allow him to talk it out and analyze it out loud with you. If you have something to add after hearing him out, do so in a non-threatening way

Women, don't say "Nothing" when your husband asks you what's wrong. You want him to drag it out of you, but that is unkind to him. If he asks, be straightforward with what is the matter. Don't play a hard-to-get game. If you do, you will wind up judging him for how hard he is willing to pursue the

matter. Be kind to your husband. If there is too much to put into words coherently, simply tell him *that*. If so much is wrong that you don't know where to start, tell him *that*. If you say "nothing" is wrong when the answer is that "everything" is wrong, that is a lie. Be truthful.

Telling the truth is not the same as telling everything. If you feel the need to make sure your husband really wants to know what's going on with you, don't say you're fine—tell him that you had a bad day. That leaves it open for him to pursue the matter, and you are not being dishonest. That will help him begin to learn how to pursue it if he needs to learn that.

It is an axiom of marriage that any question a woman asks a man that can be answered in one word, will be. "How was your day?" "Fine." Husbands should not give one-word answers to questions like that, and wives should not ask questions like that *if* they are wanting more than one word in reply. Also, when a man comes in the door, he'll be there mentally ten minutes later. He may not be ready to talk about anything before that. Wives, give him time to get his head in the game. Men, prepare yourself mentally on the way home so that it doesn't take you ten minutes.

When you are not speaking the other person's language, you don't know if they are reacting in a godly or ungodly way. If I don't offer my wife some chicken soup when she's sick, it may be because I just didn't think of it or because I don't care. But if she *asks* me to fix her some soup, then she will know from my response whether I care. Then we are speaking each other's language. Then the selfishness or the selflessness becomes apparent. Before that, you don't know if your spouse is being selfish or just being dense.

Next, men and women have different *needs*. Women need to be affirmed regularly. They need repeated expressions of love. A man might be tempted to say, "I told you I loved you when we got married. Didn't you think I meant it?" To a woman, the words "I love you" are not just information—they are food. And women need this food on a regular basis. Women also need communication, much more than men do, and what they often want to talk about is the relationship. "How are we doing?" Women need communication like men need sex.

Women also need security. God created men to take responsibility; He created women to want to be protected and made secure. One of the reasons I was strongly attracted to Bessie was that she was so independent. She was the principal of a Bible school in Japan and, through a Japanese contractor, she had designed and constructed a dormitory for women. She seemed very stable and self-reliant. I said, "That's the kind of woman I want. I do not want a wife who's going to fall apart when I'm at sea for six months at a time and be clinging to me and weeping every time I have to leave again. I want somebody who can stand alone." And Bessie could.

However, while I was saying, "Oh boy, an independent woman!" Bessie was thinking, "Oh boy, no more independence!" She wanted to be taken care of. Women need to be secure, protected, and loved, so they are free to build the nest, take care of the home, and have children. They want to be secure in the

knowledge that the husband is protecting and providing. Men have a tendency to not want that responsibility. Man's temptation is to stay a little boy in a man's body, and just change the size and expense of his toys. That makes a woman insecure. She will be tempted to get a job, not because she wants to get away from home, but because she must have security, even if she has to make it herself.

Women are much *more sexual* than men. For men, sexuality is reduced to sex itself. The feminine conception of sex is the big picture, past when the kid graduates from college. The male conception is not the big picture at all. Civilization depends on the men submitting their sexual cycle to the woman's. If women submitted their sexuality to the men's, we would have a world full of nothing but pirates and biker gangs. Men must submit to their wives in this respect if there is to be any kind of stability at all. It is only when men submit this way that the family becomes possible. If the man removes himself, you no longer have a family the way God designed.

Men who sleep around have a problem controlling their sexual desires. Women who are promiscuous are not in it for the sex; they are in it for the security, and they are using the only commodity they have that can get men to pay attention. Promiscuous women are lonely, frightened women. Promiscuous men have trouble with self-control. The problems are utterly different.

Men are also *attracted* differently than women are. Picture a grocery store magazine aisle: on the racks are cooking magazines, homemaking magazines, quilting magazines, gun magazines, motorcycle magazines, and automobile magazines. The men's magazines are filled with pictures of women—not only the magazines like *Playboy*, but also the motorcycle, gun, and automobile magazines. The women's magazines are also filled with pictures of women. The men's magazines are filled with attractive women, and the women's magazines are filled with articles telling them how to *become* attractive.

My point is this: nobody likes to look at a man. Women are not attracted by sight like men are. Men don't seem to realize this. They think the woman is turned on by looking at him like he is to her. Forget it! Have you ever seen a married couple where the woman is tall, stately, and beautiful, and the man is short and dumpy and bald? How did *that* ever happen? He was attracted by her appearance, and she was attracted to his kindness, his love, and his attention.

You need to understand how your spouse operates, or you will misunderstand their temptations. For men, the foremost factor in the sexual relationship is physical. For women, the foremost thing is emotional attachment and/or security. He is seduced physically first, then emotionally; she is seduced emotionally first, then physically. Men have to exercise physical self-control. With women, it's an issue of emotional security. Protect your sons by teaching them self-control. Protect your daughters by giving them lots of security and affection and a good relationship with you. Then when some guy offers them pseudo-security in exchange for a physical relationship, your girls will not be tempted to fall for it.

Another difference between men and women is the view of the relationship itself. Man was not created for woman, but woman for man (1 Cor. 11:9). The husband's attitude toward the wife is not the

same as her attitude toward him, and it cannot and should not be. She was created for him. Her focus is on him. He was not created for her. The man's focus is on the goal, and the woman comes in to aid him in that. She is not the focus; she is a support and helper for the focus.

Courtship is done on the woman's terms, where everything is relationship-centered. The man's goal is to establish a marriage relationship with her, so *for the time being* their focuses are aligned. Then they get married, and the husband gets on with his life. Now he doesn't want to sit and talk to her all the time. Courtship is an unreal world; we can't live like that forever. That's why romance novels are so popular; women are trying to live all of life in the courtship stage. Men are not built to be that way forever. Realize that *it is not that he doesn't love you anymore*. God has given him other work to do, and He has given him you to help him accomplish that work.

This has to do with *direction*, not priorities. Every Christian husband and father ought to have his wife and children as his number one earthly priority. But that does not mean the family is what he thinks about all the time. My work is related to my wife indirectly (supply her needs, pay the bills, etc.), but her work is directly focused on me (e.g., making the dinner that I will come home and eat, washing the clothes I wear). Her day is built around me and is directly related to me.

The wife can think that because her husband does not think about her the same way she thinks about him, he doesn't care about her. She's wrong, but she's also partly right. It is true that he doesn't care in the same way she does—he's not supposed to. Our roles are different. If we accept that, then we can be happy in God's design. If we chafe at it, it will be destructive. Wives are called to help their husbands, and they can find fulfillment in that. Husbands cannot find fulfillment in the same way, because they were not created to be house-husbands. Just because you *can* do something (e.g., be a successful career woman) does not mean you *should* do it. You can pound nails with a crescent wrench, but what does it do to the wrench? The question is not what can you do, but what were you *created* to do? If we both operate the way we are created to, things run very smoothly, and we both find fulfillment.

Most men, when they get married, have all the qualifications of a new husband, i.e., they are dumb. As a new husband, I found out that I could offend my wife and have not the slightest idea of how I did it. (It certainly wasn't malicious.) I was naïve, but I wasn't stupid, so I could eventually figure out what was wrong and put things right.

Let's take a scenario. Suppose the husband comes into the kitchen and says something. Whatever he says, the wife is offended by it. He wanders out, and she sits there being hurt, hurt, hurt, initially. Then she grows resentful. She holds a private grand jury and finds out he's indicted. And convicted. And hanged by the neck until dead.

Later on, the husband comes back into the house and learns he's in trouble. What the wife had done was say, "I couldn't have said what he said unless I had *x* motive. So he must have had this awful motive to say that." The husband is not just accused of what he *said*, but *why* he said it.

When they get to talking about it, she finds out that he did not have that awful motive, or any bad motive at all. Meanwhile, she's hanged him by the neck until dead, and she intends to hold it against him until he repents—and he can't repent, because he has no clue what to repent of. When you add these instances up over the years, you get very hurt wives and husbands who are increasingly irritated at the wives who resent them so much.

There is always a middle ground. We need to meet each other there and adjust. Generally, men don't adapt to their wives as much as women adapt to their husbands. The men need to do more bending. Give to each other in the areas you need. Frequently, both spouses are reticent to give in the area the other needs. *All good marriages must meet in the middle. Men need to do more bending to meet in the middle, and women need to do less judging of motives.*

§

Men and women are made different in order to *complement* each other, not to offend each other. We are attracted by the differences between us, and yet we don't understand the differences. Singing in harmony is harder to do than singing in unison, but it is beautiful. What often happens is spouses give up and try to sing in unison—usually by the man making the woman bend to him. A woman wants a sexual relationship where her partner is tender and gentle. The man is looking for a sexual partner who is as instantaneously responsive as he is. This is where homosexual relationships come from; they have abandoned all attempts at successful harmony.

God made us different because He wants us to be *complementary*, not identical. When we find a difference, instead of griping about it, say, “I am the complement to that difference.” God made these differences, and He wants them to be there. He wants that harmony. He is in the business of enabling *real* men and *real* women to work together and live together. My inability to sing in harmony is not a reflection on Him; it's a reflection on me. We husbands and wives need to get to work at complementing each other by being different, not by being the same. Our goal is not unity in conformity; it is unity in harmony.

The Differences Between Men & Women: Finding Harmony in God's Design

“All marriages need work. You don’t want them to be stagnate or let them go stale.”

*- Susanne Levesque,
happily married for 35 years.*

Conflict in Marriage:

Online Resources

compiled by Susanne Levesque

- lauradoyle.org
- canafeast.com
- foryourmarriage.org
- themarriagegroup.com
- marriagefriendlytherapists.com
- catholiccounselors.com/category/conflict-resolution
- facebook.com/groups/866118310598275/user/61564512591039
- plus.catholicmatch.com/articles/the-way-we-fight-a-guide
- catholicintimacy.org/blog/addressing-conflict-in-marriage
- catholiclife.dioc.org/2019/10/29/fighting-fair-in-love-and-marriage
- usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/marriage-love-and-life-divine-plan
- dynamiccatholic.com/marriage/better-together-marriage-principles-communication.html



To Infinity

By Shay McNally

I.

I. It started in late June.

We met in an alcove of the internet
where Bible verses and Star Wars quotes
coexisted in the same space.

I wasn't looking for love,
not really.

I had previously tried to impose my will on God,
which caused a couple of wrong turns
with the wrong suitors into dead ends.

My heart had hardened to the idea of love –
afraid of being hurt again,
afraid of losing anyone else.

I was there for the camaraderie.

In the church culture,
being a single woman in my mid-thirties
often doomed me to be pitied.

I appreciated the fellowship with other Christians
in a similar period
of relational purgatory.

He joined on a whim,
actively looking.

There was a deliberate tone
to his initial post –

he was someone who had
grown fatigued of small talk,

but believed that introductions mattered nonetheless.

In a generic Christian group,
there was another Confessional Lutheran –
this pressed me to stop and take notice.

But then my heart began to skip a beat –

I felt an immediate and inexplicable
pull toward him,

which had never happened before.

II.

Come September,
he arrived in New York
for our first official date.

Much of our courtship had been digital –
it was wonderful to finally
have him there in the real,
to hug and to kiss.

We were engaged within a couple hours.

We may have looked like
a whirlwind romance to some,
but it felt so right to us –
we had fallen head over heels in love,
landing perfectly into place.

We were ready
to transcend the thousands of miles between us
and share our lives.

God was at work behind-the-scenes:
rewarding his fortitude,
restoring to me what had been lost
in the rubble of my past.

On the second day,
he met my adopted sister.
I introduced him as my fiancé.

She exclaimed, "I knew it!"
We brought him to the famed 'city that never
sleeps'

to celebrate –
spending most of the day at the Bronx Zoo.

He and I strolled along,
holding hands,
while the bustle of the crowd
disappeared in the moment.

This was the first of the zoos
we've since visited –
creating a new hobby for us.
We also took in
the big lights of Times Square,
and dined on authentic pizza.

Later that week,
he and I rail-biked
through the Adirondacks.
A canopy of autumn leaves
bowed over the weathered tracks,
dappling sunlight around us.
We pedaled in tandem
across the Hudson River
on a trestle bridge,
already comfortable
with each other's company.
Already working as an efficient team.
How many people can honestly say
they *like* and *love*
their significant other?

When it was time
for him to leave,
our goodbyes
were long and tearful.
He was almost late
for his flight out
because he didn't want
to leave me behind.
I knew I was willing
to follow him anywhere.
Even to a place I'd never been.

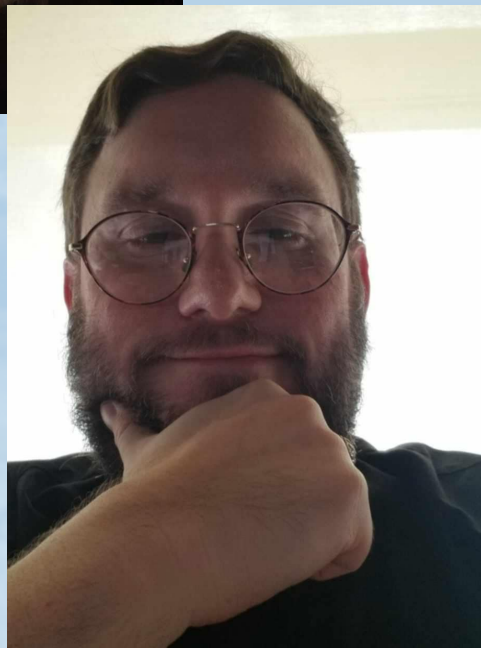
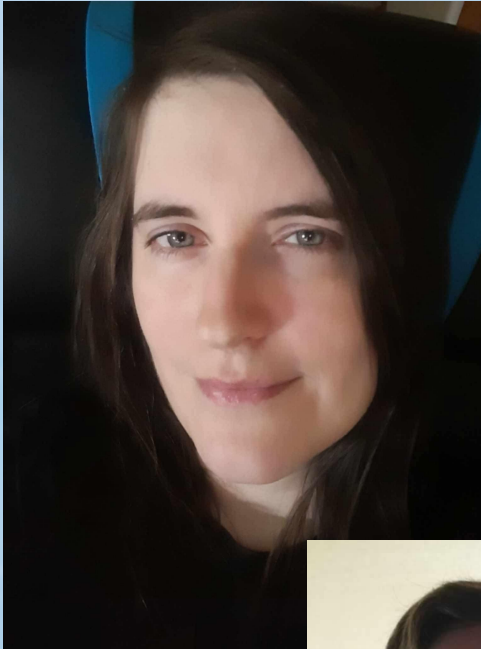
III.

Moving wasn't just about the logistics,
it was obedience to God.
Ever since my teen years,
I've felt compelled
to volunteer in outreach ministries.
I knew my ideal future
would be connected
to the church somehow.
I just didn't think
it would be
as a pastor's wife!
I would be his helpmate
in life and in service.

By the end of October,
we packed what could fit
in the back of a moving truck
and drove west.
We turned it into a road trip,
stopping en route to visit his family.
New York was all I had ever known,
but I didn't feel like I was leaving home –
I felt like I was heading toward it.

A week later,
we were married in North Dakota
during the Sunday worship service
on All Saints Day.
It was simple and straightforward,
without any extra fanfare,
and it fit us.
I walked down the aisle
to the organ playing *Just As I Am*.
We anchored ourselves in vows
and an eight second kiss
(that was supposed to be five seconds).

God was among us.
He is our foundation.
We possess the certainty of true love,
which does not wait once it has been found.
Nor does God wait once He has blessed
two people
to become one flesh,
etching a patch from here
to infinity.



IV.
We now serve Him as husband and wife.
I kiss him before he puts on his collar
and steps out to shepherd.
We unwind during his off hours,
basking in the newness of our wedded bliss.
Something as domestic as grocery shopping
has become fun to do,
because we're doing it together.
His chest is my favorite pillow
during our movie nights.

As a pastor, he feels called
to preach and teach the flock
that God has entrusted to him.
As a pastor's wife,
I care for him –
and in doing so,
I'm serving God too.

Two really is better than one.
We offset each other well,
and the work of the ministry
is much lighter when shared.
It is especially better
when the one beside you
was made for you
by the God who knows
exactly what you need

The author & her husband

Further Reading

Michael O'Halloran
by Gene Stratton-Porter

That Hideous Strength
by C.S. Lewis

No Mere Mortals
by Toby J. Sumpter

The 5 Love Languages
by Gary Chapman

His Needs, Her Needs
by Willard F. Harley

The Marriage Journal
by Audrey Mirabella Botti &
Jeremy Roloff

Fighting FOR Your Marriage
by Howard J. Markman et al

book suggestions by
LSM Staff & friends



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Bible Trivia!

1. **Who was Ruth's first husband?**
 - A. Boaz
 - B. Chilion
 - C. Elimelech
 - D. Mahlon
2. **In the Book of Daniel, the three young men who went into the fiery furnace were renamed by King Nebuchadnezzar to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Which was NOT one of their original names?**
 - A. Azariah
 - B. Gedaliah
 - C. Hannaniah
 - D. Mishael
3. **What age was Adam when he died?**
 - A. 820 years
 - B. 850 years
 - C. 900 years
 - D. 930 years
4. **Which prophet has the shortest book?**
 - A. Haggai
 - B. Micah
 - C. Obadiah
 - D. Zephaniah
5. **How many Gospels recount the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana?**
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
6. **From what type of wood did Noah build the ark?**
 - A. Acacia
 - B. Cedar
 - C. Cypress
 - D. Gopher
7. **How many Philistines did Samson slay with a jawbone?**
 - A. 700
 - B. 1,000
 - C. 2,000
 - D. 3,000

Bible Trivia Answers

1. **D) Mahlon (Ruth 4:10)**
Mahlon was Ruth's first husband; his mother was Naomi.
2. **B) Gedaliah (Daniel 1:7)**
Daniel and his companions were given Babylonian names - Daniel was called Belteshazzar; Hannaniah was renamed Shadrach; Mishael, Mishach; and Azariah, Abednego.
3. **D) 930 (Genesis 5:5)**
Yes, the Bible says that Adam lived to the ripe old age of 930.
4. **C) Obadiah**
Obadiah is the shortest prophetic book with only one chapter!
5. **A) 1**
The Gospel of John is the only one to recount the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana.
6. **D) Gopher (Genesis 6:14)**
Noah built the ark using gopher wood, though exactly what wood that would be today is unclear.
7. **B) 1,000 (Judges 15:15)**
Samson slayed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey.

MMD

MONICA MURRAY DERR

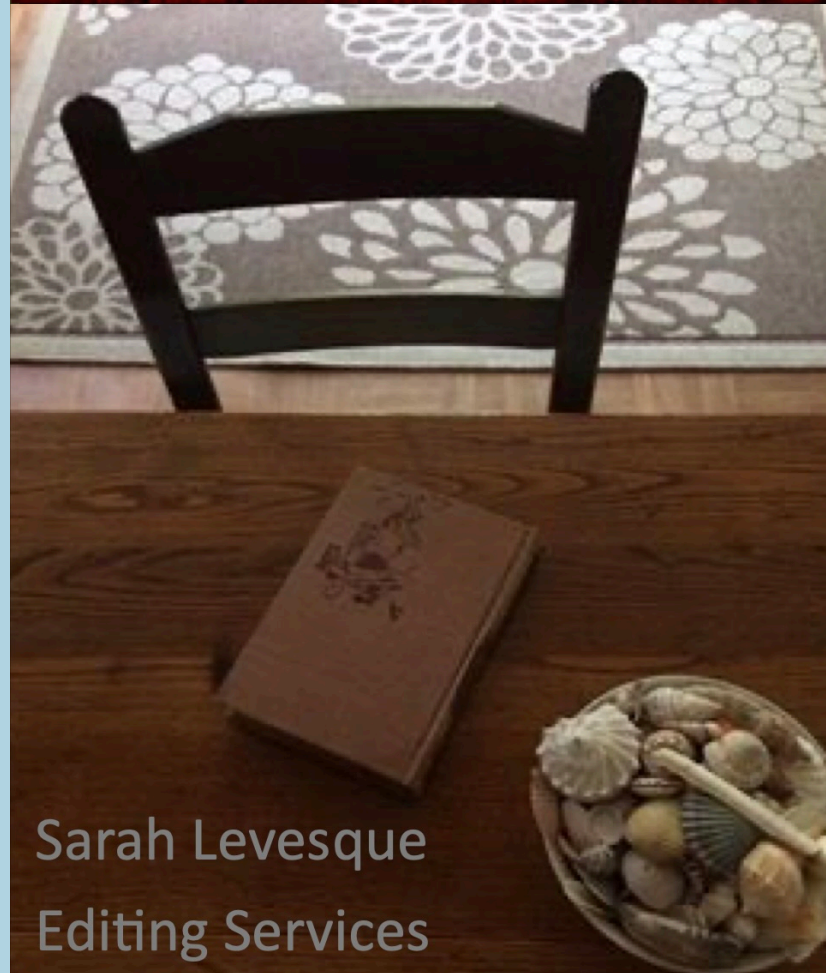
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*“For this reason a man shall
leave his father and mother and
be joined to his wife and the two
shall become one flesh.”*

— Jesus

(Matthew 19:5, quoting Genesis 2:24)

Thanks for reading!

Until next issue