

~HUSBAND (616)

[Hebrew, *'ish*, Greek, *a-ner'*]

•• Headship

•• Divorce

•• Illustrative Use

- A married man is denoted by the Hebrew term, *'ish*, man and the Greek term *a-ner'*, male person. **Int**
- And it must occur in that day, is the utterance of Yehowah, that you will call me, My **husband**, and you will no longer call me, My owner. (**Hosea 2:16**) **Footnote**
- For instance, a married woman is bound by Law to her **husband** while he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the Law of her husband. (**Romans 7:2**)
- Other Hebrew terms variously used with reference to a **husband** are *'a-dhohn'*, **lord**, *ba'al*, **owner**, **master**, and *re'a'*, **companion**, **friend**.
- Hence Sarah began to laugh inside herself, saying; After I am worn out, shall I really have pleasure, my lord being old besides? (**Genesis 18:12**)
- Afterward God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him; Here you are as good as dead because of the woman whom you have taken, since she is owned by another **owner** as his wife. (**Genesis 20:3**)
- Truly as a wife has treacherously gone from her **companion**, so you, O house of Israel, have dealt treacherously with me, is the utterance of Yehowah (**Jeremiah 3:20**)
- In Israel a man who was **engaged**, or **betrothed**, was also spoken of as **husband** and the girl as **wife**.
- Truly as a wife has treacherously gone from her **companion**, so you, O house of Israel, have dealt treacherously with me, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 3:20**)
- You must also bring them both out to the gate of that city and pelt them with stones, and they must die, the girl for the reason

- that she did not scream in the city, and the man for the reason that he humiliated the wife of his fellowman. So you must clear away what is evil from your midst. (**Deuteronomy 22:24**)
- But the birth of Jesus Christ was in this way. During the time his mother Mary was **promised in marriage** to Joseph, she was found to be pregnant by Holy Spirit before they were united. (**Matthew 1:18**)
 - However, Joseph her **husband**, because he was righteous and did not want to make her a public spectacle, intended to divorce her secretly. (**Matthew 1:19**)
 - But after he had thought these things over, look! Yehowah's angel appeared to him in a dream, saying; Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for that which has been begotten in her is by Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 1:20**)
 - **A man would betroth a woman or contract for future marriage by paying her father or guardians the bride-price, or purchase money.**
 - Now in case a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, and he actually lies down with her, he is to obtain her without fail as his wife for the purchase price. (**Exodus 22:16**)
 - If her father flatly refuses to give her to him, he is to pay over the money at the rate of purchase money for virgins. (**Exodus 22:17**)
 - **She then became his property.**
 - You must not desire your fellowman's house. You must not desire your fellowman's wife, nor his slave man nor his slave girl nor his bull nor his ass nor anything that belongs to your fellowman. (**Exodus 20:17**)
 - The word *ba'`al*, meaning, **owner, master**, applied to him, and the woman was called *be`u-lah'*, meaning, **owned as a wife**.
 - Afterward God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him; Here you are as good as dead because of the woman whom you have taken, since she is **owned** by another **owner** as his wife. (**Genesis 20:3**)

- In case a man is found lying down with a woman **owned** by an owner, both of them must then die together, the man lying down with the woman and the woman. So you must clear away what is bad out of Israel. ([Deuteronomy 22:22](#))
- No more will you be said to be a woman left entirely, and your own land will no more be said to be desolate, but you yourself will be called, **My Delight Is in Her**, and your land, **Owned as a Wife**. For Yehowah will have taken delight in you, and your own land will be owned as a wife. ([Isaiah 62:4](#))
- To the ancient nation of Israel, Yehowah said; I myself have become the **husbandly owner**, a form of *ba'`al*, of you people.
- Return, O you renegade sons, is the utterance of Yehowah. For I myself have become the **husbandly owner** of you people, and I will take you, one out of a city and two out of a family, and I will bring you to Zion. ([Jeremiah 3:14](#))
- No more will you be said to be a woman left entirely, and your own land will no more be said to be desolate, but you yourself will be called, **My Delight Is In Her**, and your land, **Owned As A Wife**. For Yehowah will have taken delight in you, and your own land will be **owned** as a wife. ([Isaiah 62:4](#))
- For just as a young man takes ownership of a virgin as his wife, your sons will take ownership of you as a wife. And with the exultation of a bridegroom over a bride, your God will exult even over you. ([Isaiah 62:5](#))

See Also INHERITANCE (Period of the Law)

- In patriarchal times the **husband** served as priest and judge in the family, and throughout the Scriptures the **husband** and father was almost invariably accorded deep respect.
- In answer Jacob proceeded to say to Laban; It was because I was afraid. For I said to myself, You might tear your daughters away from me. ([Genesis 31:31](#))
- Whoever it is with whom you may find your gods, let him not live. Before our brothers, examine for yourself what is with me and take them for yourself. But Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. ([Genesis 31:32](#))

- **And it would occur that when the banquet days had gone round the circuit, Job would send and sanctify them, and he got up early in the morning and offered up burnt sacrifices according to the number of all of them, for, said Job; Maybe my sons have sinned and have cursed God in their heart. That is the way Job would do always. (Job 1:5)**
- **For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands. (1 Peter 3:5)**
- **As Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him lord. And you have become her children, provided you keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror. (1 Peter 3:6)**
- **In case a man happens to have a son who is stubborn and rebellious, he not listening to the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and they have corrected him but he will not listen to them. (Deuteronomy 21:18)**
- **His father and his mother must also take hold of him and bring him out to the older men of his city and to the gate of his place. (Deuteronomy 21:19)**
- **And they must say to the older men of his city; This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He is not listening to our voice, being a glutton and a drunkard. (Deuteronomy 21:20)**
- **Then all the men of his city must pelt him with stones, and he must die. So you must clear away what is bad from your midst, and all Israel will hear and indeed become afraid. (Deuteronomy 21:21)**
- **On the seventh day, when the king's heart was in a merry mood with wine, he said to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven court officials that were ministering to the person of King Ahasuerus. (Esther 1:10)**
- **To bring Vashti the queen in the royal headdress before the king, to show the peoples and the princes her loveliness, for she was beautiful in appearance. (Esther 1:11)**
- **But Queen Vashti kept refusing to come at the king's word that**

- was conveyed by means of the court officials. At this the king grew highly indignant and his very rage flared up within him. (**Esther 1:12**)
- And the king proceeded to say to the wise men having knowledge of the times, for in this way the king's matter came before all those versed in Law and legal cases. (**Esther 1:13**)
 - And those closest to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, seven princes of Persia and Media, having access to the king, and who were sitting first in the kingdom. (**Esther 1:14**)
 - According to Law what is to be done with Queen Vashti because she has not performed the saying of King Ahasuerus by means of the court officials? (**Esther 1:15**)
 - To this Memucan said before the king and the princes; It is not against the king alone that Vashti the queen has done wrong, but against all the princes and against all the peoples that are in all the jurisdictional districts of King Ahasuerus. (**Esther 1:16**)
 - For the affair of the queen will go out to all the wives so that they will despise their owners in their own eyes, when they say; King Ahasuerus himself said to bring in Vashti the queen before him, and she did not come in. (**Esther 1:17**)
 - And this day the princesses of Persia and Media, who have heard the affair of the queen, will talk to all the princes of the king, and there will be plenty of contempt and indignation. (**Esther 1:18**)
 - If to the king it does seem good, let a royal word go out from his person, and let it be written among the laws of Persia and Media, that it may not pass away, that Vashti may not come in before King Ahasuerus, and her royal dignity let the king give to a companion of hers, a woman better than she is. (**Esther 1:19**)
 - And the decree of the king that he will make must be heard in all his realm, for it is vast, and all the wives themselves will give honor to their owners, the great as well as the small. (**Esther 1:20**)
 - And the thing was pleasing in the eyes of the king and the princes, and the king proceeded to do according to the word of

Memucan. (**Esther 1:21**)

· Headship

- A man, upon marrying a woman, brings her under a new law, the Law of her **husband**, according to which the **husband** can make rules and regulations for his family.
- For instance, a married woman is bound by Law to her **husband** while he is alive, but if her **husband** dies, she is discharged from the Law of her **husband**. (**Romans 7:2**)
- So, then, while her **husband** is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her **husband** dies, she is free from his law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (**Romans 7:3**)
- He becomes her head to whom she should be subject.
- Be in subjection to one another in fear of Christ. (**Ephesians 5:21**)
- Let wives be in subjection to their **husbands** as to the Lord. (**Ephesians 5:22**)
- Because a **husband** is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. (**Ephesians 5:23**)
- In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, so let wives also be to their **husbands** in everything. (**Ephesians 5:24**)
- Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself, on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her **husband**. (**Ephesians 5:33**)
- This is a relative headship, in view of the superior headships of God and Christ.
- But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ. In turn the head of a woman is the man. In turn the head of the Christ is God. (**1 Corinthians 11:3**)

- The **husband**, while head of the house, is, nevertheless, required to render to his wife marriage dues, sex relations, for the **husband** does not exercise authority over his own body, but his wife does.
- Let the **husband** render to his wife her due, but let the wife also do likewise to her **husband**. (1 Corinthians 7:3)
- The wife does not exercise authority over her own body, but her **husband** does, likewise, also, the **husband** does not exercise authority over his own body, but his wife does. (1 Corinthians 7:4)
- Do not be depriving each other of it, except by mutual consent for an appointed time, that you may devote time to prayer and may come together again, that Satan may not keep tempting you for your lack of self-regulation. (1 Corinthians 7:5)
- He is also responsible for the spiritual and material welfare of his family.
- And you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Yehowah. (Ephesians 6:4)
- Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (1 Timothy 5:8)
- The headship of the **husband** places on him a weighty responsibility. While he is the owner of the wife, he has to recognize that she is precious in the eyes of God, especially so when she is a Christian. He is to love her as he loves himself, for she is one flesh with him.
- That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he must stick to his wife and they must become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)
- In reply he said; Did you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female (Matthew 19:4)
- And said; For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh?

(Matthew 19:5)

- So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart. **(Matthew 19:6)**
- In this way **husbands** ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **(Ephesians 5:28)**
- Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself, on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her **husband**. **(Ephesians 5:33)**
- **Husbands** are to exercise for their wives the same loving care that Christ does for the congregation.
- **Husbands**, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it. **(Ephesians 5:25)**
- In this way **husbands** ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **(Ephesians 5:28)**
- For no man ever hated his own flesh. But he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation. **(Ephesians 5:29)**
- Because we are members of his body. **(Ephesians 5:30)**
- Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself, on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her **husband**. **(Ephesians 5:33)**
- They are to recognize that the wife is a weaker vessel, assigning her honor, taking into consideration her physical and emotional makeup and vicissitudes. This is especially important if the couple are Christians, being fellow heirs of the undeserved favor of life, in order for the **husbands** prayers not to be hindered.
- You **husbands**, continue dwelling in like manner with them according to knowledge, assigning them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since you are also heirs with them of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered. **(1 Peter 3:7)**

- Even if the wife is not a believer, this gives the **husband** no excuse for divorce or separation. Rather, he should dwell with her if she is agreeable to it and realize that he may help her to become a believer and also work toward the salvation of the children.
- But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord; If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her. (**1 Corinthians 7:12**)
- For the unbelieving **husband** is sanctified in relation to his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother, otherwise, your children would really be unclean, but now they are holy. (**1 Corinthians 7:14**)
- For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your **husband**? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife? (**1 Corinthians 7:16**)

See Also FAMILY

See Also FATHER

See Also MARRIAGE

· Divorce

- Under the Mosaic Law a man could divorce his wife, but she could not divorce him. He was required to give her a written certificate of divorce.
- In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a certificate of divorce for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (**Deuteronomy 24:1**)
- And she must go out of his house and go and become another man's. (**Deuteronomy 24:2**)
- If the latter man has come to hate her and has written out a certificate of divorce for her and put it in her hand and dismissed her from his house, or in case the latter man who took her as his wife should die. (**Deuteronomy 24:3**)
- The first owner of her who dismissed her will not be allowed to take her back again to become his wife after she has been

- defiled, for that is something detestable before Yehowah, and you must not lead the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance into sin. (**Deuteronomy 24:4**)
- **Jesus Christ showed that such an arrangement for divorce in Israel was made as a concession out of regard for their hardheartedness.**
 - **He said to them; Moses, out of regard for your hardheartedness, made the concession to you of divorcing your wives, but such has not been the case from the beginning. (**Matthew 19:8**)**
 - **If, however, a man had seduced a virgin girl who was not engaged, she was to become his wife, unless her father refused to give her to him, and he was not allowed to divorce her all his days.**
 - **In case a man finds a girl, a virgin who has not been engaged, and he actually seizes her and lies down with her, and they have been found out. (**Deuteronomy 22:28**)**
 - **The man who lay down with her must also give the girl's father fifty silver shekels, and she will become his wife due to the fact that he humiliated her. He will not be allowed to divorce her all his days. (**Deuteronomy 22:29**)**
 - **Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Greek Scriptures stress that the husband should limit his sex relations to his marriage mate.**
 - **Drink water out of your own cistern, and tricklings out of the midst of your own well. (**Proverbs 5:15**)**
 - **Should your springs be scattered out of doors, your streams of water in the public squares themselves? (**Proverbs 5:16**)**
 - **Let them prove to be for you alone, and not for strangers with you. (**Proverbs 5:17**)**
 - **Let your water source prove to be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. (**Proverbs 5:18**)**
 - **A lovable hind and a charming mountain goat. Let her own breasts intoxicate you at all times. With her love may you be in an ecstasy constantly. (**Proverbs 5:19**)**

- **So why should you, my son, be in an ecstasy with a strange woman or embrace the bosom of a foreign woman? ([Proverbs 5:20](#))**
- **And that marriage must be kept honorable, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.**
- **Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ([Hebrews 13:4](#))**
- **During patriarchal times and under the Law, polygamy and concubinage were practiced by allowance from Yehowah, but in the Christian arrangement a man may have but one living wife.**
- **Later on Abraham gave everything he had to Isaac. ([Genesis 25:5](#))**
- **But to the sons of the concubines that Abraham had Abraham gave gifts. Then he sent them away from Isaac his son, while he was still alive, eastward, to the land of the East. ([Genesis 25:6](#))**
- **And Jacob was in love with Rachel. So he said; I am willing to serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter. ([Genesis 29:18](#))**
- **To this Laban said; It is better for me to give her to you than for me to give her to another man. Keep dwelling with me. ([Genesis 29:19](#))**
- **And Jacob proceeded to serve seven years for Rachel, but in his eyes they proved to be like some few days because of his love for her. ([Genesis 29:20](#))**
- **Then Jacob said to Laban; Give over my wife, because my days are up, and let me have relations with her. ([Genesis 29:21](#))**
- **With that Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast. ([Genesis 29:22](#))**
- **But it turned out that during the evening he resorted to taking Leah his daughter and bringing her to him that he might have relations with her. ([Genesis 29:23](#))**

- **Moreover, Laban gave to her Zilpah his maidservant, even to Leah his daughter, as a maidservant. (Genesis 29:24)**
- **So it followed in the morning that here it was Leah! Consequently he said to Laban; What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? So why have you tricked me? (Genesis 29:25)**
- **To this Laban said; It is not customary to do this way in our place, to give the younger woman before the firstborn. (Genesis 29:26)**
- **Celebrate to the full the week of this woman. After that there shall be given to you also this other woman for the service that you can serve with me for seven years more. (Genesis 29:27)**
- **Accordingly Jacob did so and celebrated fully the week of this woman, after which he gave him Rachel his daughter as his wife. (Genesis 29:28)**
- **In case a man comes to have two wives, the one loved and the other hated, and they, the loved one and the hated one, have borne sons to him, and the firstborn son has come to be of the hated one. (Deuteronomy 21:15)**
- **It must also occur that in the day that he gives as an inheritance to his sons what he happens to have, he will not be allowed to constitute the son of the loved one his firstborn at the expense of the hated ones son, the firstborn. (Deuteronomy 21:16)**
- **For he should recognize as the firstborn the hated ones son by giving him two parts in everything he is found to have, because that one is the beginning of his generative power. The right of the firstborns position belongs to him. (Deuteronomy 21:17)**
- **And said; For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh? (Matthew 19:5)**
- **For instance, a married woman is bound by Law to her **husband** while he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the Law of her husband. (Romans 7:2)**

- So, then, while her **husband** is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies, she is free from his law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (**Romans 7:3**)
- The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a **husband** of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (**1 Timothy 3:2**)
- The only Christian ground for divorce and remarriage is fornication.
- I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery. (**Matthew 19:9**)

See Also FORNICATION

• Illustrative Use

- In view of the fact that the ancient nation of Israel was bound to Yehowah by means of the Law covenant, God was their **husbandly owner**.
- Return, O you renegade sons, is the utterance of Yehowah. For I myself have become the **husbandly owner** of you people, and I will take you, one out of a city and two out of a family, and I will bring you to Zion. (**Jeremiah 3:14**)
- The apostle Paul speaks of Yehowah as the Father of anointed Christians, his spiritual sons, and of the Jerusalem above as their mother, indicating that Yehowah considers himself a **husband** to this Jerusalem.
- Now because you are sons, God has sent forth the spirit of his Son into our hearts and it cries out; Abba, Father! (**Galatians 4:6**)
- So, then, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, also an heir through God. (**Galatians 4:7**)
- But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (**Galatians 4:26**)
- For your Grand Maker is your **husbandly** owner, Yehowah of

armies being his name, and the Holy One of Israel is your Repurchaser. The God of the whole earth he will be called. **(Isaiah 54:5)**

- **Jesus Christ is viewed as the **Husband** of the Christian congregation.**
- **Let wives be in subjection to their **husbands** as to the Lord. **(Ephesians 5:22)****
- **Because a **husband** is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. **(Ephesians 5:23)****
- **Let us rejoice and be overjoyed, and let us give him the glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has arrived and his wife has prepared herself. **(Revelation 19:7)****
- **I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her **husband**. **(Revelation 21:2)****
- **This analogy highlights both his headship and his loving care for the congregation. He laid down his own life on behalf of his bride, and he continues to feed and cherish it.**