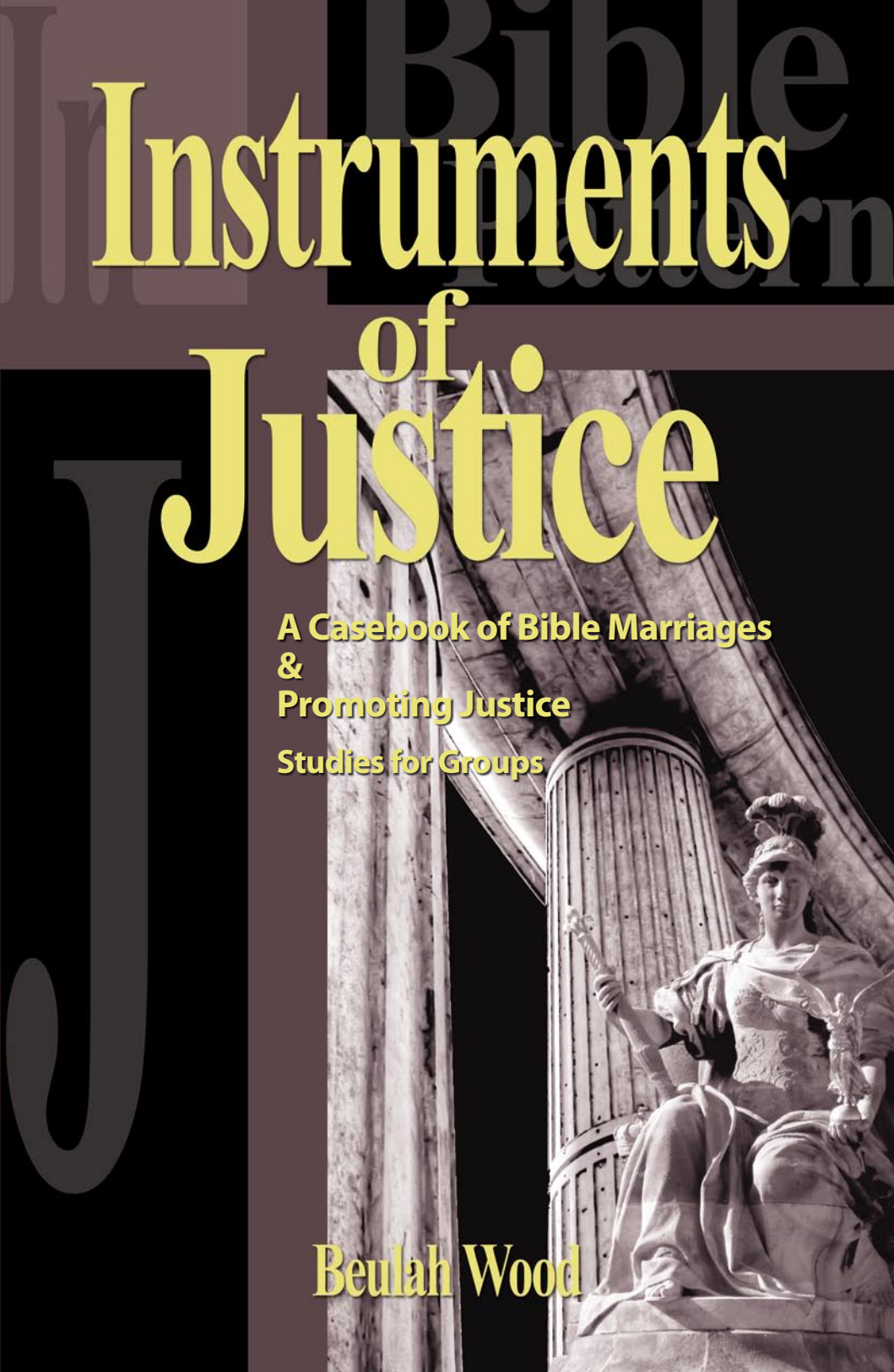


Instruments of Justice

**A Casebook of Bible Marriages
&
Promoting Justice**

Studies for Groups

Beulah Wood



Instruments of Justice

Two sets of studies are combined in this volume.

Dr Beulah Wood's insightful group study booklet Casebook of Bible Marriages needed reprinting. We offer it now, along with her latest studies on the vital issue of why Christians must work for justice, Promoting Justice.

The title Instruments of Justice prompts readers to ask, "What does God want me to do to promote justice in our world today?" And "What is the Bible view of marriage and how we can promote open and fair communication between couples?" Christian men and women need these messages as they function in their role of bringing justice on the earth. May we learn to be instruments of justice.

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Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18, 23-25, 3:1-21

AIM

To examine God's plan for Adam and Eve, and what happened when they broke God's law.

LIFE AND TIMES

This is an important study. The way God made Adam and Eve to relate to each other and to him sets the tone for future people in their responsibilities to him and to each other. People use Adam and Eve to back very diverse theories of marriage relationship, so we need to let the text speak to us. We should also study how much God holds each accountable for their actions.

OBSERVE AND UNDERSTAND

1. Study Genesis 1:27-28 Was the creation of the human male and female, different from the way God created everything else?
2. Males and females were made in God's image. Obviously, the sense in which men and women were like God was not the physical attributes that make men and women different. God does not have these physical attributes. So what can we learn about whether a man or woman may be considered more like God than the other?
3. Why did God create the woman? What does this tell us about the relationship between men and women?
4. The word translated 'helper' in verse 18 means assistant,

advisor or consultant. In this sense, fifteen times in the Bible the word describes God Almighty or the Holy Spirit bringing relief and aid in a time of need. How does this affect the status of husband and wife?

5. What does 'one flesh' in verse 24 mean? If two people are one flesh, will they be equal or unequal?
6. In Genesis 3:6, did Adam and Eve each have free choice about whether they obeyed or disobeyed God?
7. The couple blamed each other. What had changed in their relationship? The list of punishments described what would happen rather than saying this is what God wanted. Which things affected the relationship of the man and woman?
8. Some say Eve sinned because she handled a situation without asking her husband's advice. This implies women cannot make good decisions without a man. What would this mean for widows, single women and single mothers?
9. Read Romans 14:10, addressed to Christians. Could a husband speak for his wife at the judgment seat? Part of the Curse in Genesis 3:16 was that husbands would rule over wives until the time of Christ. The New Testament says Jesus took away the effect of the Curse (Galatians 3:13). How would this change the end of Genesis 3:16 for the present day?

APPLY THE MESSAGE

10. If God sees husbands and wives as equally responsible for their actions, how can members of a couple treat themselves and each other as equally responsible?
11. If men and women are equally responsible for their actions, do you think a woman's marriage vows should say "love, honour, and obey"?

QUESTIONS FOR COUPLES

12. Do we each see the other as made in the image of God? In what ways?
13. Do we ever 'blame' the other for actions we were responsible for ourselves?
14. Does one member ever try to hide behind the other, avoiding responsibility?

PRAY

We praise you, Saviour that we no longer live under a curse. Thank you for this reminder that we are responsible to you in our own right. May we each practise wisely our freedom and responsibility?

LINK WORK THIS WEEK

Write a set of marriage vows that gives partners equal responsibility.

INSTRUMENTS OF JUSTICE

The title 'Instruments of Justice' prompts readers to ask, "What is the Bible view of marriage and how can we do to promote open and fair communication between couples?" and "What does God want me to do to promote justice in our world today?" Christian men and women need these messages as they function in their role of bringing justice on the earth. May we learn to be instruments of justice.

A CASEBOOK OF BIBLE MARRIAGES:

In 'Casebook of Bible Marriages' the author urges the biblical position that husbands and wives must treat each other openly, mutually and honestly, especially when making decisions that affect their lives.

PROMOTING JUSTICE:

'Promoting Justice' encourages us to join God's work of promoting justice on the earth. We too can become instruments of justice.



Beulah Wood, BD, D.Min, is a New Zealander who has taught for over 20 years in India and Nepal. Among the more than 30 books she has written and co-written the many on women, men and family reveal her deep concern to promote the honour of God's name by teaching the honour God gives to women.