

WELCOME
TO
THE COURTSHIP BANQUET



PRESENTED
THROUGH **Martin & Henrietta Mandula**

Dates : 20 November ~ 26 November 2016

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2

Time : 18:00 ~ 19:30 hrs



CONTINUE ATTENDING





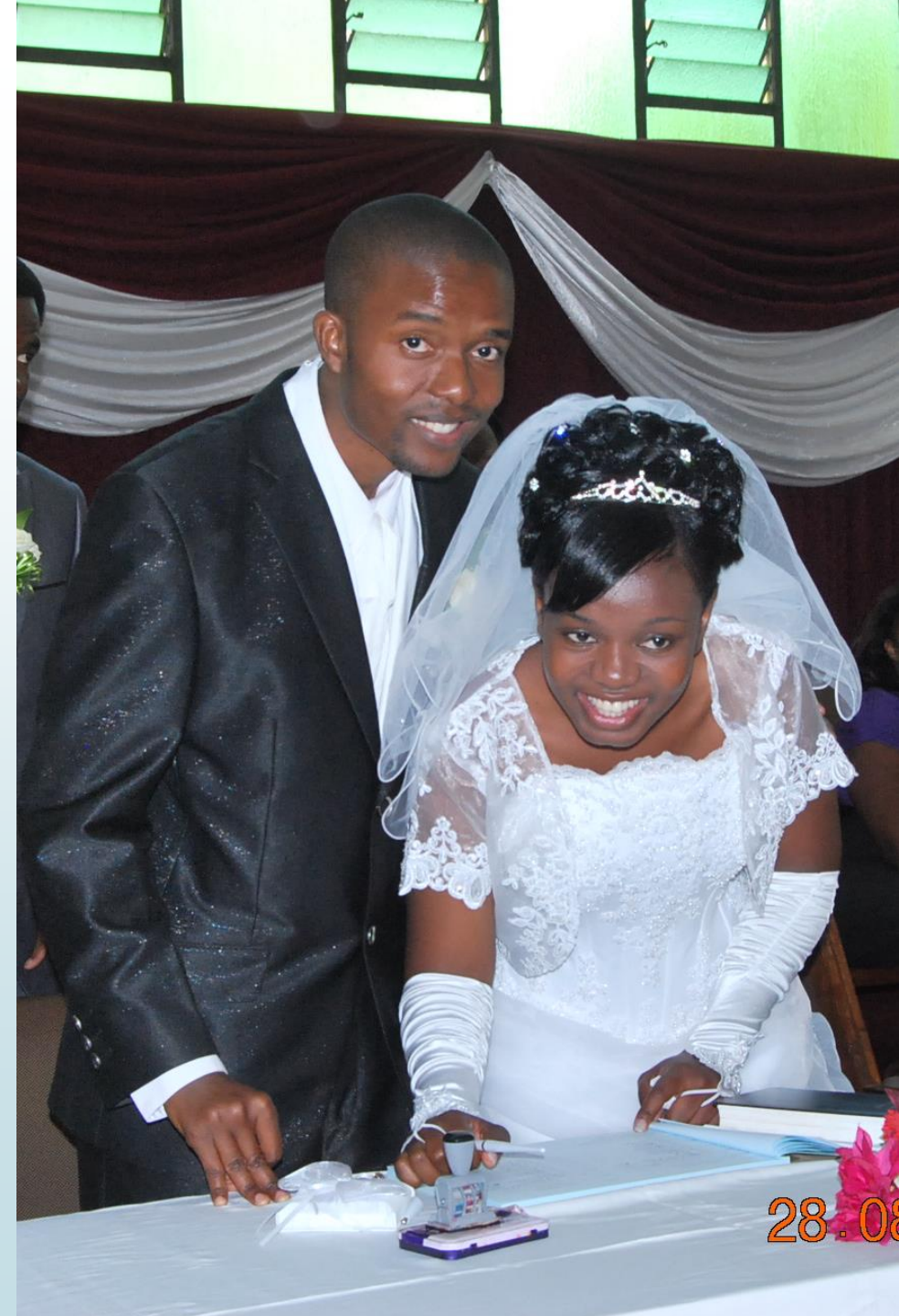
Presented Through
Martin and Henrietta
Mandula

“A Solemn Promise”

bensam
Photography

Philippians 3:13-15

13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the High calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you



What We as Adventist Believe

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church...

What We as Adventist Believe

God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.)

THE FIRST MARRIAGE IN HISTORY

1. PUT IN EDEN

- ➡ Eden means a delightful/Pleasurable spot
- ➡ In the presence of God
- ➡ 1st Thing Man need is Gods presence
- ➡ Woman to meet man in Gods presence

2. TOLD TO WORK (Gen 2:15)

- ➡ Man given task to work before he got a woman
- ➡ Man needs a job/financial ability before he gets a woman

THE FIRST MARRIAGE IN HISTORY

3. TOLD TO CULTIVATE/DRESS (Gen 2:15)

- ➡ Cultivate is to bring out the best in everything around you
- ➡ To make the things fruitful
- ➡ Instruction Given to the Male
- ➡ Man not finished a finished woman
- ➡ Man to cultivate his woman to what he wants
- ➡ Christ loves His wife the Church by washing her with the word
- ➡ Removes every spot wrinkle and blemish
- ➡ Presents the wife (Church) to Himself

THE FIRST MARRIAGE IN HISTORY

4. GUARD/KEEP THE GARDEN (Gen 2:15)

- ➡ Male to be the protector of things under his care
- ➡ Man given stronger bone frame

5. GIVEN HIS WORD

- ➡ Given instruction of the tree to Adam
- ➡ God never told the woman about the tree
- ➡ The Male only one who got the word from God
- ➡ Mans responsibility to teach the woman the word of God
- ➡ To give her knowledge and direction
- ➡ It was the last command (Gen 3:15,15,17)

THE FIRST MARRIAGE IN HISTORY

6. NOT GOOD FOR 'MAN' TO BE ALONE

- ➡ Not good for this man to be alone
- ➡ Which man?
- ➡ The man who is in Gods presence
- ➡ Man who is working/financial ability
- ➡ Man who can cultivate and protect a woman
- ➡ Man who can teach the woman the word of God
- ➡ **IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THIS MAN TO BE ALONE!!!**

THE FIRST MARRIAGE IN HISTORY

7. WHO SHOULD BE ALONE?

- ➡ The man who is not in Gods presence
- ➡ Not working
- ➡ Cant cultivate a woman
- ➡ Cant protect
- ➡ Doesn't know and cant teach the word of God
- ➡ **IT IS GOOD THAT THIS MAN SHOULD BE ALONE!!!**

The First Wedding

[18] **And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.** [19] And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought [them] unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that [was] the name thereof. [20] And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; **but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.** [21] And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; [22] **And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.** [23] And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. [24] Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. [25] And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. **Genesis 2:18-25**



A Few Pointers from Genesis 2:18-25

- It was God who initiated the whole process
- God prepared the woman in secret
- He formed her from his rib (one the strongest bones that cover vital organs)
- It was God who brought the woman to the man
- Adam felt a connection when he saw eve
- They were both 'naked' and were not ashamed



Wedding Vows

Itake you.....to be my lawfully
wedded husband/wife to have and to
hold from this day forward to love and to
cherish in sickness or in health for richer or
for poorer for better or for worse until we
are parted by death. I promise to forsake
all others and keep myself only to you. This
is my solemn vow I place upon
you.....



GOD AS WITNESS

Yet ye say, Wherefore? **Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth**, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet [is] she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Malachi 2:14



Marriage is Honorable

Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4



Twin Institutions

He referred them to the blessed days of Eden when God pronounced all things "very good." **Then marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity.** Then, as the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall "leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one," He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time. **That which the eternal Father Himself had pronounced good was the law of highest blessing and development for man.** {[Adventist Home p.340.4 EG White](#)}



THE 'TWIN' INSTITUTIONS

Marriage was from the creation constituted by God a divine ordinance. The marriage institution was made in Eden. The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden, when the foundations of the world were laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. **Then let this, God's institution of marriage, stand before you as firm as the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.** {Testimonies on Sexual Behaviour p.159.2 EG White}



God's Purpose For Husband and Wife

God made from the man a woman, to be a companion and helpmeet for him, to be one with him, to cheer, encourage, and bless him, he in his turn to be her strong helper. **All who enter into matrimonial relations with a holy purpose--the husband to obtain the pure affections of a woman's heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband's character and give it completeness--fulfill God's purpose for them.**

Christ came not to destroy this institution, but to restore it to its original sanctity and elevation. **He came to restore the moral image of God in man, and He began His work by sanctioning the marriage relation.** {Adventist Home p.99.1,2 EG White}



God's Purpose For Husband and Wife

He who gave Eve to Adam as a helpmeet performed His first miracle at a marriage festival. In the festal hall where friends and kindred rejoiced together, Christ began His public ministry. **Thus He sanctioned marriage, recognizing it as an institution that He Himself had established. He ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above.** {Adventist Home p.99.3 EG White}



Jesus Wants Happy Marriages

The divine love emanating from Christ never destroys human love, but includes it. By it human love is refined and purified, elevated and ennobled. **Human love can never bear its precious fruit until it is united with the divine nature and trained to grow heavenward.** Jesus wants to see happy marriages, happy firesides.

{Adventist Home p.99.4 EG White}

Like every other one of God's good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, **marriage has been perverted by sin**; but it is the purpose of the gospel to restore its purity and beauty. . . . **{Adventist Home p.100.1 EG White}**



Jesus Wants Happy Marriages

The grace of Christ, and this alone, can make this institution what God designed it should be--an agent for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. And thus the families of earth, in their unity and peace and love, may represent the family of heaven.

The condition of society presents a sad comment upon Heaven's ideal of this sacred relation. **Yet even for those who have found bitterness and disappointment where they had hoped for companionship and joy, the gospel of Christ offers a solace.** {Adventist Home p.100.2,3 EG White}



A Joyous Occasion

The Scriptures state that both Jesus and His disciples were called to this marriage feast [at Cana]. Christ has given Christians no sanction to say when invited to a marriage, We ought not to be present on so joyous an occasion. **By attending this feast Christ taught that He would have us rejoice with those who do rejoice in the observance of His statutes. He never discouraged the innocent festivities of mankind when carried on in accordance with the laws of Heaven. A gathering that Christ honored by His presence, it is right that His followers should attend.** After attending this feast, Christ attended many others, sanctifying them by His presence and instruction. {AH 100.4}

Inappropriate at Weddings

Display, Extravagance, and Hilarity Are Inappropriate At Weddings.--Marriage ceremonies are made matters of display, extravagance, and self-indulgence. But if the contracting parties are agreed in religious belief and practice, and everything is consistent, and the ceremony be conducted without display and extravagance, marriage at this time need not be displeasing to God. **{Adventist Home p.100.5 EG White}**

Inappropriate at Weddings

There is no reason why we should make great parade or display, even if the parties were perfectly suited to each other. It has always seemed so very inappropriate to me to see the marriage ordinance associated with hilarity and glee and a pretense of something. No. **It is an ordinance ordained of God, to be looked upon with the greatest solemnity. As the family relation is formed here below, it is to give a demonstration of what they shall be, the family in heaven above. The glory of God is ever to be made first.** {Adventist Home p.101.1,2 EG White}





The Blending of Two Lives

This is an important period in the history of the ones who have stood before you to unite their interests, their sympathies, their love, their labor, with each other in the ministry of the saving of souls. **In the marriage relation there is a very important step taken--the blending of two lives into one. . . . It is in accord with the will of God that man and wife should be linked together in His work, to carry it forward in a wholeness and a holiness. They can do this. {Adventist Home p.101.4 EG White}**

28.08.20



28.08.20

The Blending of Two Lives

The blessing of God in the home where this union shall exist is as the sunshine of heaven, because it is the **Lord's ordained will** that man and wife should be linked together in holy bonds of union, under Jesus Christ, with Him to control, and His spirit to guide. . . . {Adventist Home 102.1 EG White}



28.08.20

The Blending of Two Lives

God wants the home to be the happiest place on earth, the very symbol of the home in heaven. Bearing the marriage responsibilities in the home, **linking their interests with Jesus Christ, leaning upon His arm and His assurance, husband and wife may share a happiness in this union that angels of God commend.**

And now I can at this time take by the hand this our brother; . . . and we take by the hand you, his wife, and urge you to carry on the work of God unitedly. **I would say, Make God your counselor. Blend, blend together. {Adventist Home p.102.2,4 EG White}**



A Pledge Before Heavenly Witnesses

God has ordained that there should be perfect love and harmony between those who enter into the marriage relation. **Let bride and bridegroom, in the presence of the heavenly universe, pledge themselves to love each other as God has ordained they should. . . . The wife is to respect and reverence her husband, and the husband is to love and cherish his wife.**

Men and women, at the beginning of married life, should reconsecrate themselves to God.
{Adventist Home p.103.4,5 EG White}

Be as true as steel to your marriage vows, refusing, in thought, word, or deed, to spoil your record as a man who fears God and obeys His commandments. {Adventist Home p.104.1 EG White}



Sacred Circle

There is a sacred circle around every family which should be preserved. No other one has any right in that sacred circle. The husband and wife should be all to each other. **The wife should have no secrets to keep from her husband and let others know, and the husband should have no secrets to keep from his wife to relate to others.** The heart of his wife should be the grave for the faults of the husband, and the heart of the husband the grave for his wife's faults. **Never should either party indulge in a joke at the expense of the other's feelings.** Never should either the husband or wife in sport or in any other manner complain of each other to others, for frequently indulging in this foolish and what may seem perfectly harmless joking will end in trial with each other and perhaps estrangement. **I have been shown that there should be a sacred shield around every family.** {Adventist Home p.177.1 EG White}



Sacred Circle

The home circle should be regarded as a sacred place, a symbol of heaven, a mirror in which to reflect ourselves. **Friends and acquaintances we may have, but in the home life they are not to meddle.** A strong sense of proprietorship should be felt, giving a sense of ease, restfulness, trust.

{Adventist Home p.177.2 EG White}



A Promise To Love Unconditionally

[25] Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; [26] That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, [27] That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. [28] So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. **He that loveth his wife loveth himself. [29] For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:**



A Promise To Love Unconditionally

[30] For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. [31] For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. [32] This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. [33] **Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;** and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband. **Ephesians 5:25-33**

“husbands should love their wives, though there were nothing in wives to move them so to do, but only that they are their wives.

They should love their wives as though no future benefit could after be expected from them. True love has respect to the object that is loved, and the good True love may do thereunto, rather than to the subject that loves, and the good that it may receive.” Domestical Duties – William Gouge



CONTRACT OR COVENANT

With a contract, if one agreeing party does something in violation of the contract then it is considered broken. The whole contract becomes null and void. Basically the signers of a contract agree to hold up their ends as long as the other signatories hold up theirs too.

With a covenant, both parties agree to hold up their ends *regardless* of whether the other party keeps their part of the agreement. A violation of a covenant by one party doesn't matter as far as the other party's responsibility to continue to do what they agreed to do.



Characteristics of a Contract

There are four general characteristics of contracts:

1. Contracts are often made for a limited period of time.
2. Contracts often deal with specific actions.
3. Contracts are based on an "If..., then..." mentality.
4. Contracts are motivated by the desire to get something.



Characteristics of a Covenant

Covenant Characteristics

1. Covenants are initiated for the benefit of the other person.
2. In covenant relationships people make unconditional promises.
3. Covenant relationships are based on steadfast love.
4. Covenant relationships view commitments as permanent.
5. Covenant relationships require confrontation and forgiveness.

THE MARRIAGE OF GOD

EZEKIEL 16: 1-8

[1] **Again the word of the LORD** came unto me, saying,

[2] Son of man, **cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,**

[3] And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; **Thy birth and thy nativity** [is] of the land of Canaan; thy father [was] an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

[4] And [as for] thy nativity, **in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut,** neither wast thou washed in water to supple [thee]; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

[5] None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the loathing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

THE MARRIAGE OF GOD

EZEKIEL 16: 1-8

[6] And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee [when thou wast] in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee [when thou wast] in thy blood, Live.

[7] **I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: [thy] breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou [wast] naked and bare.**

[8] Now when I **passed by thee**, and **looked upon thee**, behold, **thy time [was] the time of love**; and I **spread my skirt over thee**, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and **entered into a covenant with thee**, saith the Lord GOD, and thou **becamest mine**.

THE MARRIAGE OF GOD

EZEKIEL 16: 1-8

1. Vs 1-2: God speaks to Ezekiel about Jerusalem
2. Vs 3-6: I have loved and cared for Jerusalem from her birth
3. Vs 7: How she grew and Gods interest in her for marriage
 - a. God caused her to survive, so she grew into a beautiful lady
 - b. God says her breast were well formed and she matured
 - c. Her hair (pubic hair) had grown. This is hair that grows when:
 - i. When a lady matures
 - ii. When her breasts are being formed
 - iii. Only seen when uncovered/naked

THE MARRIAGE OF GOD


EZEKIEL 16: 1-8

4. Vs 8: The Lord consummates His marriage
 - a. Her time was the time of love; she was fully ripe for marital intimacy
 - b. Marriage consummation (sex) carefully veiled by well chosen phrases
 - i. Making a marriage covenant with the woman
 - ii. The Lord says “You became mine”
 - iii. The Lord covering the nakedness of the woman with His clothing
- “Signifying the intent to confer upon the **maiden the honor of marriage**” {Bible Commentary Vol 4, p. 627}

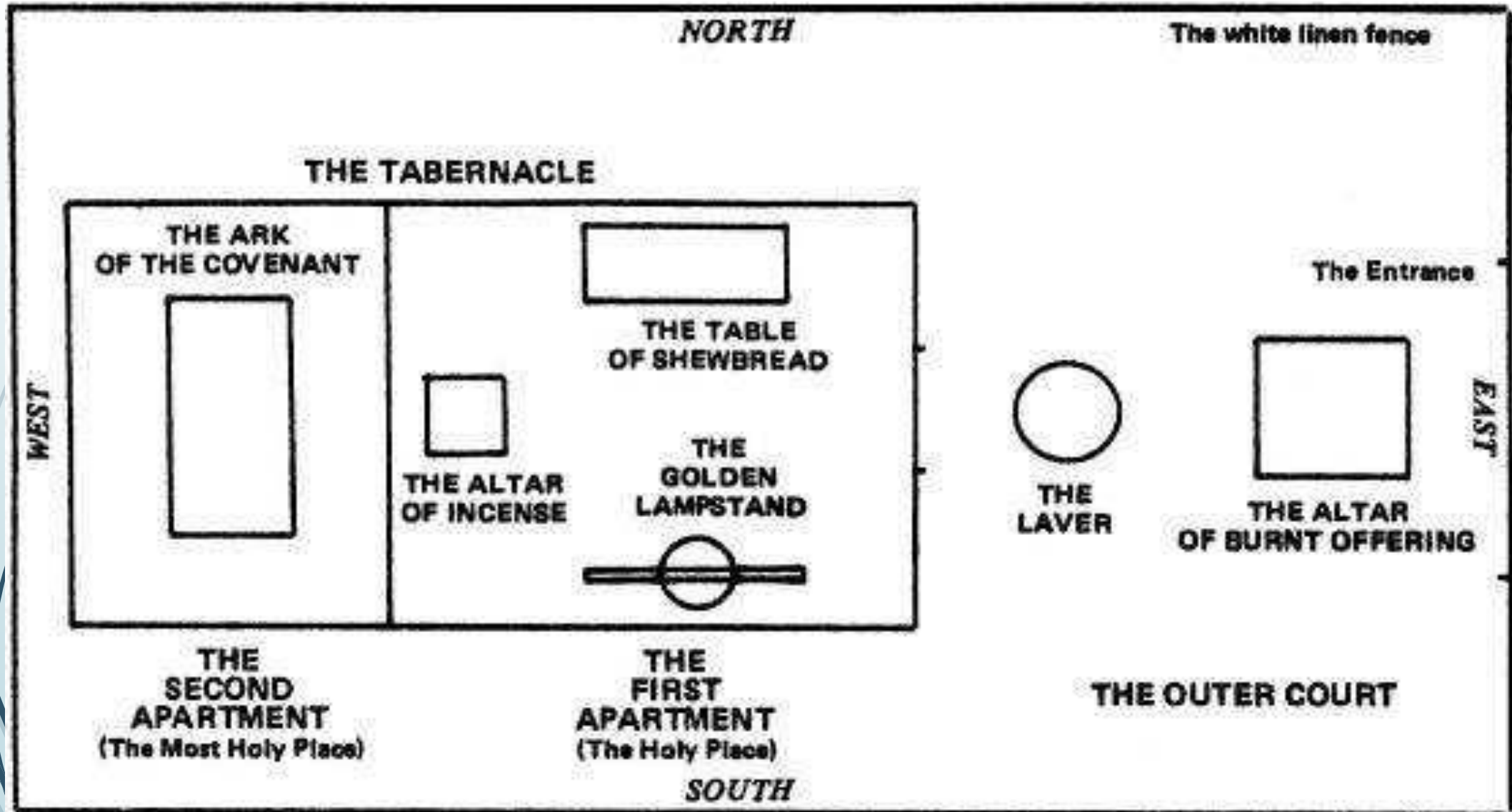


The Sanctuary Test

The correct understanding of the ministration in the **heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith. {Counsels to the Church p.347.1 EG White}**



The Hebrew Sanctuary



CONCLUSIONS

IT WASN'T RAINING WHEN NOAH
BUILT THE ARK!

PLAN TO HAVE A PLANNED
MARRIAGE.

Let all things be done decently
and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40



Encouragement

For it is God which worketh in you both to will
and to do of [his] good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

28.08.2011 11:39