1948–1954

1. God is above that which is material and physical
2. God is not impeded by the weakness of flesh
3. There is an ethical and rational side to his nature
   See Knudson, RTOT, Ch IV

AD CSKC Sermon file, folder 50, Sermons Not Preached

8. In Albert Knudson's book *The Religious Teaching of the Old Testament*, chapter 4 is titled "The Spirituality of God." He wrote "The word 'spirituality' as applied to God has at least three distinct meanings: It means that God is a spirit distinguished from material or physical existence. It means that he is free from the weakness of flesh, and is a supramundane power, superior to the forces of nature. It means also that there is an inner side to his personality, a rational and ethical side, and that it is here that his essential nature is to be found" (Knudson, *The Religious Teaching of the Old Testament*, p. 93)

Wedding Prayer and Marriage Ceremony

[1948–1954]

*King may have prepared the following two documents early in his career to use as a standard prayer and ceremonial text for weddings throughout his ministry. He may have used them to officiate in one of his first marriage ceremonies, the 22 August 1948 wedding of Samuel P. Long and Ruth Bussey at Thankful Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia.*

"Wedding Prayer"

O God our gracious heavenly Father, who art the originator of all life, whose presence brings happiness to every condition, whose favor sweetens every relation. We beseech thy blessings upon these thy servants as they embark upon the great sea of matrimony. Grant that the ship of their marriage will be well anchored and guided by the proper compass, so that they will be able to emerge successfully into the great harbor of peace, happiness, and oneness. Give them a deep awareness of the sacredness of this venture. In an age when so many men and women would make marriage a mere perfunctory act with no divine and sacred value, when myriad Hollywood would arise to make of marriage a mere seasonable plaything which must occur at least four or five times in a life time, in such an age help them to realize that marriage is man's greatest perogative, for it is in and through it that thou hast given man the privilege to aid thee in thy creative activity. Help them to see the primacy of love in this venture. Grant that they will realize that without it a marriage can be dropped into the abyss of

1. "Bussey-Long Wedding of Wide Interest in Atlanta, Decatur," *Atlanta Daily World*, 4 September 1948
meaninglessness where each person will experience the bleakness of nagging despair, but with it the marriage can be lifted to heavenly paradise where exuberant joy will reign without ceasing the radiant level of life's most exciting venture

1948-1954

Marriage Ceremony

Today you embark upon the sacred seas of matrimony. Marriage is not a physical arrangement to be entered at will and dissolved at whim; it is holy ground that must be entered reverently. Through its portals men and women enter the realm of their immortality. Indeed, marriage is man's greatest perogative, for it is in and through it that God has allowed us to aid him in his creative activity.

Today you become the heirs of a legacy of togetherness. Together you will dream dreams. Together you will make plans. Together you will face moments of unutterable joy. Together you will face moments of inexpressible sorrow. Dispair not when the inevitable moments of personality adjustment arise, for they may be the stepping stones to a higher levels of self completion. Be not dismayed when the buoyancy of fulfillment is transformed into the fatigue of disappointment, for this is a part of the changing scenery of life. Like the ever flowing water of the river, life has its moments of drought and its moments of flood. Like the ever changing cycle of the seasons, life has the piercing chill of its winters and the soothing warmth of its summers.

If you feel that the fountain of love is running dry in your marriage, seek desperately to fill it anew, for without love marriage is like a parched and dried up dessert without the refreshing oasis of happiness. If you are tempted to stumble from the mountain of love, seek passionately to reach the high places again, for without truth marriage is like a ship without a compass.

Love, trust, loyalty and mutual respect are the pillars upon which the temple of marriage must be built. If these elements are there, the storm may come and the winds may blow, but they will not upset the temple of your marriage, for it is founded upon a solid rock.

AHD MLKJPGAMK. Box 123

“God’s Relation to the World”

[1948–1954]

Text Neh. 9:6 “Thou, even thou art Lord alone, thou hast made heaven the earth, and things that are therein. and thou preservest them all”

Rom 11:36 “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things”

1 Cf. Nehemiah 9:6. On a notecard, King elaborated “Here Nehemiah affirms emphatically that God...