meaninglessness where each person will experience the bleakness of nagging despair, but with it the marriage can be lifted to the radiant level of life's most exciting venture

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project
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 prerogative, 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 level 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 desert 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 storms 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.

“God’s Relation to the World”

[1948–1954]

Text Neh. 9:6 “Thou, even thou art Lord alone, thou hast made heaven and 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 affirm emphatically that God...