

John 14
The Bride
and the
Bridegroom

- At their Passover Seder, Jesus made a startling statement about a glass of wine with His disciples.
- Later, He referenced leaving and going to prepare a place for them, and that He would return for them later.
- Are these things just random, or are they part of something much bigger and much more important for us to know?
- WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE THINGS JESUS SAID AND DID REALLY MEAN...and how that understanding can make all the difference in the world in our relationship with Him, and His promises to us.



#### BETROTHAL: THE MARRIAGE COVENANT (Ketubah)

 Groom travels to bride's home to make arrangements

Jesus left His Father's house in heaven and traveled to earth, home of His prospective "Bride," over 2000 years ago for the purpose of obtaining His Bride through the establishment of a covenant.



Covenant (marriage contract) was established, and agreement for price to be paid (mohar) for the bride.

God the Father established the terms of the covenant, and Yeshua paid a price to purchase His bride. The price was His own life blood shed on the cross. The Father "covenanted" this promise throughout OT.

 As a symbol of the marriage covenant now established, the prospective bride and groom would <u>drink from a cup of wine</u>. A symbol that both agreed to arrangement.

"Communion" is a symbol of the "new" covenant through which Yeshua has obtained His Bride, the Church (1 Corinthians 11:25). He referenced this during Passover meal with the disciples before His death. The New Covenant is stated in Jeremiah 31.

 After agreement of covenant (Marriage) contract, and payment for bride, bride was <u>declared</u> consecrated and set apart for her groom.

Yeshua's Bride (the Church) has been declared to be sanctified/set apart exclusively for the Messiah.

"...we have been separated for God and made holy, once and for all, through the offering of Yeshua the Messiah's body." (Hebrews 10:10 CJB)

#### **SEPARATION AND PREPARATION**

 After marriage covenant established, groom would leave home of his bride and return to his father's house. There he would remain <u>separate from his</u> <u>bride</u> until the appointed time.

Jesus left the earth, the home of the Church (His Bride), and returned to His Father's house in heaven after He had established the new covenant and risen from the dead (John 6:62; 20:17).

 During separation, any relations with another man were considered adultery. <u>Betrothal was</u> <u>contractually binding</u>. (Mary's dilemma)

Yeshua has been away from the Church almost 2000 years. Bride is now in period of separation. It is possible for believers to commit spiritual adultery before He returns to take His Church. Paul was concerned about this (2 Cor. 11:2-3)

 This separation gave the bride time to prepare for married life. She learned how to be a wife and mother.

This time of separation is a time of preparation for the Church. It is the sanctification process of the Holy Spirit to prepare us to be with Jesus. It is our time now to get to know our future Husband better!

 Groom spent this time preparing a <u>home in his</u> <u>father's house</u> to which he would bring his bride upon their union.

Jesus has been preparing a home for us (the Church, His Bride) in His Father's house during His separation from His Bride (John 14:2)

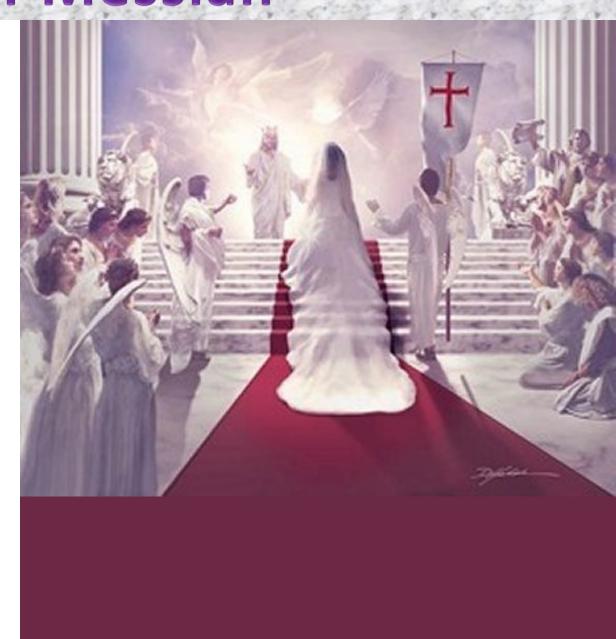
 Only father of groom knew when time was right for his son to go get his bride. The father would tell his son, when her home was ready and all preparations were complete, to get his bride.

Jesus said that no one except the Father knows the hour of His return (Mark 13:32).

#### **REUNION AND MARRIAGE**

 At the end of the period of separation the groom collects his bride to live with him.

Jesus will come to take His Bride to live with Him at the end of the period of separation (John 14:3).



The taking of the bride usually took place at night.
The groom, best man and other male escorts would
leave the groom's father's house and conduct a
torch light procession to the home of the bride.

The taking of the Bride of the Messiah will be by a procession of Jesus and an angelic escort from the Father's house in heaven to the home of the Bride (1 Thess. 4:16). (catching away, snatching)

 Although the bride was expecting her groom to come for her, she <u>did</u> not know the exact time of his coming. She was always prepared.

Church ("called out ones") does not know exact time of Jesus' coming for her. The Bride of Messiah should be prepared at all times.



• Groom's arrival preceded by a shout and the sound of the shofar. This would forewarn the bride to be prepared for the coming of the groom.

Yeshua's arrival to take His Bride will be preceded by a shout (1 Thess. 4:16) and a trumpet call. Bride (Church) should be ready at all times.

 After the groom received his bride, together with her attendants, the enlarged wedding party would return to the groom's father's house.

Bride of Messiah will return with Yeshua to His Father's house in heaven after she is snatched from the earth to meet Him in the air. (1 Thess. 4:17; John 14:2-3)

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise; 17 then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

 The wedding guests had already assembled for the marriage/feast.

Yeshua and His Bride will find the Old Testament saints assembled in heaven when they arrive. These are wedding guests.



• At arrival bride and groom are married, then escorted to bridal chamber (huppah). Bride remained veiled so no one could see her face. Bride and groom entered the bridal chamber alone. They would enter into physical union, consummating the marriage covenanted earlier.

It is *probable* Bride of Messiah safely hidden away during 7 years of Tribulation. (Isaiah 26:19-21, 1 Thess. 4:13-18) She will not be seen by anyone on earth. She is still "veiled." Our spiritual and eternal union is consummated. We are now married to the Messiah.

Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain. (Isaiah 26:19-21)

 After marriage was consummated, groom would announce this to wedding party waiting outside the chamber (John 3:29). These people would pass on the news of the marital union to the wedding guests.

Jesus and Bride will experience <u>spiritual</u> union after arrival at His Father's house in heaven, thereby consummating their relationship covenanted earlier. Assembled wedding guests will rejoice!





#### **FEASTING BEGINS**

 Upon receiving this good news wedding guests would <u>feast and make merry for the next seven</u> <u>days</u>. (While the newly married couple remains hidden in the wedding chamber for that week)

Bride to remain "hidden" for 7 years after arrival at Yeshua's Father's house in heaven. While the Tribulation is on earth, believers in heaven totally hidden.

During 7 days of festivities (often called "7 days of the huppah,") bride (wife) remained hidden in chamber, with her bridegroom. At end of 7 days groom would bring his wife out of bridal chamber, now with her veil removed, so all could see his bride.

Jesus will bring His WIFE out of heaven in His return at conclusion of 7-year Tribulation in full view, so all can see the true Bride (Col. 3:4). She is "unveiled" at this point. (Revelation 19:7-8, Jude 14-15, Zech 14:5). Marriage has already taken place.

 After the bride, now the wife of her bridgegroom has been revealed, the final wedding feast gets underway. It is a spectacular party and entire communities would attend.

The final wedding feast, after the actual marriage and "wedding chamber" hiding away, will happen at some point in the Millennium. There is evidence for this in the book of Isaiah. We don't know the actual time or place. But we will....

# Something Remarkable!!!

And we rejoice, together with Israel in her Sh'ma:

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai <u>echad!</u>
Hear O Israel, the LORD your God,
the LORD is ONE!

**Deuteronomy 6:4** 

Yahweh and Yeshua are ONE, one bridegroom with one wife – the united houses of Ephraim (the fullness of the gentiles) and Judah – together the bride of Messiah.

Beyond our comprehension, but not beyond our complete awe at the beauty and perfection of God's Word, and his plan.

# Something Remarkable!!!

What follows the Sh'ma is our duty (our vow) to our "husband" – called the **Ve'ahavta...** 

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

**Deuteronomy 6:5** 

The bridegroom is indeed coming soon. As Jesus told His disciples in John 14, He has gone to prepare a home for us in His Father's house. Are we ready?

#### As the Bride (betrothed) of the Messiah...

- Do you love Him as much now as when you took Him to be your Savior, Master and Bridegroom? More?
- Is He truly the center of your existence, your top priority, the One who gives your life is meaning and purpose?
- Is your every attitude, action and lifestyle motivated and controlled by your devotion to Jesus the Messiah, our Bridegroom, or by a desire to have friendship with the world?
- Are you actively preparing to be the Wife of the Messiah?

In this season, it is critical to understand two very important things...

FIRST, the relationship of the <u>Hebrew</u> marriage customs and how they apply to our relationship with our Savior.

#### AND

How all of this has been and will be precisely fulfilled by God's prophetic calendar, the 7 ordained appointed times (feasts) of God.

#### There are 7 appointed times....

- 1 Passover (Pesach)
- 2 Unleavened Bread (Matzah)
- 3 Firstfruits (Bikkurim)
- 4 Weeks (Shavuot)
- 5 Trumpets (Yom Teruah, literally "day of blowing")
- 6 Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
- 7 Tabernacles (Sukkot)

(and the 8<sup>th</sup>, Shemini Atzeret, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the feast of Tabernacles, or the "last great day…")



# We have seen the fulfillment of the <a href="Spring">Spring</a> Appointed Times (feasts):

- 1 Passover: Death of Messiah
- 2 Unleavened Bread: Burial
- 3 Firstfruits: Resurrection
- 4 Weeks (Pentecost): Coming of the Holy Spirit to dwell in believers, beginning of the "Church"

What's next???



 The first three appointed times (feasts) have already been fulfilled in the FIRST coming of the Messiah and coming of the Holy Spirit:

Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Weeks

• The last three appointed times are yet to be fulfilled, and will most likely find that fulfillment in the <a href="SECOND coming">SECOND coming</a> of Messiah:

Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles

# Are you ready for your Bridegroom to come get His Bride?

It could happen very soon....