

THE ANCIENT JEWISH WEDDING AND THE NEW COVENANT (Part 1 & 2)

by **Mikhael Murnane**

I believe there are 3 main elements given in the Hebraic scriptures that we need to understand to see the whole prophetic purpose and plans of the God of Israel.

First, is the **Covenants of God**, which are simply His promises to Israel and the nations.

Secondly is the **Feasts of the Lord**, which are the God's revealed plans for His salvation.

And **Third**, the **prophecies** in the bible showing His prophetic purposes.

The Feasts of the Lord have many hidden mysteries or better said, gems that can be found within them. Most of the events of Yeshua's life have fallen on the Feasts days or within the overlapping purpose of them.

- The death and resurrection on Passover, and three days later the wave offering and His Resurrection called First Fruits.
- The giving of the Holy Spirit on Shavuot-Pentecost.
- Scholars also believe that Yeshua was born during Tabernacles.
- His return is connected to the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, He is the High Priest.
- **And the final and the greatest of all feasts, The Feast of Tabernacles, which is the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.**

THE MYSTERY OF THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.....

Hidden within the 3 major Pilgrimage Feasts of **1. Passover, 2. Shavuot-Pentecost and 3. Tabernacles** is the connection between the Ancient Jewish Wedding – what Yeshua accomplished for us and the Marriage Feast of the Lamb & Celebration.

This is the mystery that Paul mentions of the union of Messiah and the church.

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. **This is a profound mystery -- but I am talking about Christ and the church.**" Eph 5:31*

Paul says the union between God and man is like man and wife...The two become One. And we best understand that union that husband and wife are one flesh on earth.

During the 3 Pilgrimage Feasts the Jews were required to go up to Jerusalem to understand God's message to the nation. And in every **Jewish wedding there are 3 main elements** which are exactly the meaning of the 3 Feasts and line up with what Yeshua has and will accomplish for us.

- 1. The Betrothal—Wedding Contract & Cup of Wine... which is what He did at Passover.**
- 2. The Consummation of the Marriage... Two become one—The Wedding Ceremony, Pentecost-Shavuot**
- 3. The Wedding 7-day Celebration—The Wedding Feast/Tabernacles—all invited to the celebration.**

What Yeshua did for us and offers us is exactly the pattern in the ancient Jewish wedding. And what Yeshua offered us to be is **His Redeemed Bride— — We are the Beloved Bride of Messiah.**

THE ORIGINS OF THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM IN HEBRAIC SCRIPTURES

"For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you" Is 62:4-5.

God rejoices over us because we are His Bride.

Hosea talks of Israel's return and the relationship of husband-wife.

“And it shall be at that day, says Jehovah, you shall call Me, My Husband, and shall no more call Me, My Baal-Master. And I will betroth you to Me forever, in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth you to Me in faithfulness. And you shall know Jehovah.” Hos 2:16-20.

“Return, O faithless children, declares the Lord; **for I am your husband;** I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion” **Jeremiah 3:14.**

And the New Covenant itself in Jeremiah is clearly defined as a Bridal Covenant, were the two become one in Spirit.

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, **though I was their husband,** declares the Lord” Jer 31:31.*

We see God’s intent...we are His redeemed and He sees us as His Bride.

There are many clear references in the New Covenant about the Bride, Groom and the wedding feasts. One of the clearest is in the book of Revelation.

“Blessed are those who are invited to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb (19:7).”

This literally reads,

“The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself.”

“And one of the seven angels came to me saying, Come here, **I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God” Rev 21:9.

We are offered more than just a “New Covenant” and forgiveness of sins, we are offered a Bridal Covenant of Oneness with Him. What Yeshua did for us was exactly what happens in an ancient Jewish wedding and fulfilled in the 3 major Feasts of the Lord. He offers us the highest union in this New Bridal Covenant.

AMAZING PARALLELS OF JEWISH WEDDING & REDEMPTION

THE MYSTERY OF THE ANCIENT JEWISH WEDDING & THE LORD'S REDEMPTION

Part 2....

Marriage Covenant and Bride Price

The first thing that takes place when a young man desires a bride in ancient Israel, and also today, is the groom goes to the father of the bride with a covenant agreement. He would promise to love her forever, protect her, care and “redeem her”. He would also pay a high price for her, usually the cost of raising the daughter until marriage...a high cost.

So, when the covenant was agreed to by the father of bride, then the groom would **pour a cup of wine** in his hopes she would drink of it and agree to the betrothal union. If she drank of it she was considered legally married and “only for him”.

The Cup of Redemption & the Redemptive Price of the Bride

Yeshua came to us offering us this same agreement, to redeem and care for, and betroth us as His Redeemed Bride. The New Covenant is a bridal agreement, and then at the last supper he pours the cup of wine and offers it to the disciples. And when we drink of the cup “we agree” to this divine union and **cup of redemption**. Yeshua also paid the **highest price** to redeem His Bride. *All this happens at Passover.*

Gifts for the Bride—Pentecost-Shavuot

The bridegroom now excited about his new bride would lavish gifts upon her showing his love and joy. She would use these gifts later to beautify her new house. The gifts would remind her of her future husband during that time away from each other and help her to remember her commitment during this betrothal time, until the consummation time yet to come....it was a guarantee of sorts to help her.

Before departing this earth Yeshua said wait in Jerusalem for the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Yeshua gave us the best gift to his Bride, the ONENESS WITH HIM, through the giving of the Holy Spirit. **This is Pentecost –Shavuot which is the consummation of the marriage...Where we become ONE with the Bridegroom.**

Its is also a reminder and guarantee for us that He will return for us—His Bride.

Also a requirement before a Jewish Bride is wedded today is the traditional Mikvah—immersion in water, which is the same as water baptism for the believer today.

Preparing a Heavenly Mansion & the Promise to Return for the Bride.

The bridegroom infatuated with his new bride would then go away for about a year. He would usually go to his father’s house and property to begin to build a new house—a bridal chamber for his bride. They usually would not see each other, as today we do not see Yeshua...

So the young groom goes off to build a wedding chamber house for his future bride. **An only when the father of the groom saw that all was ready** and in order, did the father tell his son it was time to go get his bride. The groom did not know when his father would tell him so he waited in expectation for his fathers command.

“In my Father's house are many rooms or mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” John 13:1-3.

Today Yeshua has gone away to prepare our new house and wedding chamber and awaits His Fathers command, when all is ready to return to the earth for His Bride to take us home to be with him for ever.

WHILE THE BRIDE AWAITS...

The bride during the year would also be preparing her future house, as today we are building the Kingdom of God, our future dwelling place. We prepare for our Wedding Feast to come. As Queen Esther was prepared for a year with fine oils and garments to be presented to the King, we are dress in fine linens prepared to meet the Bridegroom.

HE FATHER SAYS “IT IS TIME SON...GET YOUR BRIDE”

When the father told his son all is ready he would go “**steal his bride**” usually in the middle of the night. He would gather his friends and as a group head for the house of the bride. They would be shouting and rejoicing and to inform the bride she would hear him **blowing the shofar**, this was her sign he was coming to take her home.

YESHUA COMES FOR HIS BRIDE

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel **and with the shofar-trumpet call of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

*“Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night**” 1 Thessalonians 4:16 &17.*

This is the Feast of Trumpets and the Feasts of TABERNACLES where the trumpets blows and He returns and He takes us home to be with Him for the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

“On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines” Is 25:6.

The bride and bridegroom would spend 7 days together while the guest of the wedding feast celebrate outside. He would later join the feast to present his new bride and rejoice with all for the 7 days.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the place where we now tabernacle-dwell with Him. Christian and Jewish scholars alike agree to Tabernacles as the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

*“Then I heard the sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! **For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.**’ Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: **‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding Feast of the Lamb!’**” Revelation 19:6-9.*

OUR NEW HEAVENLY HOME—-JERUSALEM

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.** They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes’... One of the seven angels said to me, **‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”

THE 3 FEASTS

At **Passover** Yeshua betroths us with a bridal covenant agree, pays the redeeming price and offers us the cup of redemption. He gives His Bride gifts to empower her and remind her she belongs to Him.

And the consummation of the marriage and Oneness with Him happens at **Pentecost-Shavuot.**

And **Trumpets and Tabernacles** is His announcement of His return and the **Marriage Feasts of the Lamb.**

Let's be those who mediate on the highest relationship given to us, with the true hope that He will return for His Bride.....and the Spirit and the Bride sayCOME LORD YESHUA....

It's no mystery why Yeshua started His ministry with a Wedding Feast and turning water into wine, and will return and again calling for the great Wedding Feast of all times.....blessed are those who are called to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Come Lord Yeshua ...Tabernacle with us!