

THE ANCIENT HEBREW WEDDING CEREMONY

HOW IT PICTURES MESSIAH YAHUSHUA AND HIS BRIDE

John 14:2-3: "In My Father's house are many rooms. I go to prepare a place for you. And, if I go to prepare and place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Matthew 24:36, 44: "But of the day and hour knows no man, no, not the celestial messengers of shamayim, but My Father only".

"Therefore, be also ready: for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of man comes."

Matthew 25:10-13: "...the Bridegroom came: and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage and the door was shut."

Revelation 7:7-8: "Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

John 3:29: John the baptizer, refers to himself as the "friend of the Bridegroom": "He that has the Bride is the Bridegroom. But, the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatest because of the Bridegroom's voice. This, my joy, therefore is fulfilled."

Regarding the words: "who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice": John the baptizer, came as a forerunner of Messiah's first coming--**Isaiah 40:3**, even as Elijah will come as a forerunner of Messiah's second coming--**Malachi 4:5-6**. Elijah will be the attendant of the Groom, Yahushua, at His wedding. The attendants at the wedding are all called "friends of the Bridegroom". John the baptizer says he is one of the attendants. After the wedding vows are taken, the Bride and Groom go into the chupah (wedding chamber) for seven days. After the seven days, the Groom knocks from the inside of the chupah. His attendant, Elijah, has been waiting to hear His voice. He joyfully opens the door and lets the happy "couple" come out to go to the wedding feast, which has been prepared by the guests while they were in the chupah.]

Mark 2:19-20, in response to the Pharisees asking why Yahushua's disciples did not fast on the days of prescribed fasting: "And Yahushua said to them, referring to His disciples: `Are **the friends of the Bridegroom** able to fast while the Bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the Bridegroom with them, they are unable to fast. But, the days shall come when the Bridegroom shall be taken away from them. Then they shall fast in those days."

Psalm 45:6-17 "Upon Your Right Hand (*Yahushua*) did stand the Queen, in gold of Ophir." (Italics mine)

Matthew 22:8-14: Messiah tells this parable about the gathering of the guests. The guests were personally invited. But, the invited guests were rude and made excuses as to why they couldn't come to the wedding. The King (representative of Yahuwah) is angry. He tells his servants to go out and gather guests from all sorts of people, to attend the wedding. But, they must come wearing a "wedding garment." The wedding garment is linen, which pictures the "righteousness of the set-apart ones" – the "saved." One man did not have on a wedding garment, and the King threw him out.

The Word of Elohim, from start to finish, is basically the story of a wedding. It is a love story. It is the story of a loving Father, seeking the perfect Bride for His Son, Yahushua--a Bride who is totally devoted, pure of heart, in love only with Him, submitted, and perfect in His sight. Such an example of this is found in **Genesis 24:1-67**. Abraham, the loving father of Isaac, sent out his most trusted servant to find the perfect Bride for Isaac. Here Eliezer, his servant, is symbolic of the Spirit of Yahuwah, the Father.

In the basic structure of the ancient Jewish wedding ceremony, you will see the Father, and the Bridegroom, Yahushua, the Bride, the attendant of the Bride (Moses), and the attendant of the Groom (Elijah), and the guests.

In most every formal wedding there are 3 groups: 1) the guests who witnesses the marriage are the largest group, 2) the attendants, usually a small group, of the Bride and the Groom assist in the wedding, and 3) the Bride and Bridegroom. All are content and happy within their situation. But, only the Bride gets to go home with the Bridegroom to live in His House. She has an intimacy with Him that no one else has!

After the 1,000-year reign of Messiah on earth, Abba Yahuwah descends to earth with His City, the "New Jerusalem". He re-creates a renewed shamayim. He re-creates a renewed earth, which will be the eternal home for the guests.

There are the attendants, later called the "King's of the earth", who will represent the guests before the Father and the Bridegroom. And, there is the Bride, who stays with her Husband in the Father's House – the "New Jerusalem." (**Revelation 21:22 through 22:3-5, 14**)

Revelation 3:7-13--the letter to the church at Philadelphia: This passage speaks of the Bride. She stays with her Husband, in His Presence, forever. She does not go onto the new earth. She is marked, because 1) she is submissive and yielded to her Bridegroom, guarding

and obeying the terms of His marriage Covenant, the Torah, 2) because she loves Him with a perfect love, 3) because she follows her Bridegroom (the Lamb) wherever He goes, and 4) because she has made herself ready--purified herself and separated herself totally unto Him. She belongs to Him, and her relationship with Him is intimate. He knows her, and she knows Him, and their fellowship is sweet. Verses that describe her characteristics, which cause her to be marked and sealed: She has a servant's heart: **Deuteronomy 15:15-17, Revelation 22:3-5**. She delights to do His will. She does not want to ever leave Him. She weeps for what breaks His heart: **Ezekiel 9:4**. She is a "supporting pillar" in His Kingdom: **Revelation 3:12**. She, being a remnant, a company of people, comes from all the twelve tribes of Ya'cob, and is marked for preservation: **Revelation 7:1-8**. She is blameless before Him: **Revelation 14:1-5**. The "Bride" is "echad", though she is 144,000, at least, in number. She is "echad" with the Bridegroom. Each individual comprising the Bridal remnant is also "echad" with one another. Though individuals, they act with one mind and heart in unity. (**Genesis 2:24** – "one flesh") "Echad" means two, as in marriage, becoming like one, united in all things, yet maintaining their individuality. In **John 17**, Messiah prays to His Father that those whom He loves will be one, as they are one. Father Yahuwah, and Son Yahushua, are "echad." Yahushua said: "I and the Father are one." (**John 10:30**) Yet They are two.

THE CORONATION

- I. Ha Melech: the King! The coronation takes place on Yom Teruah--the Feast of Trumpets--the day of His coming. This is the "Coronation Day". This Festival/Feast occurs in either September or October--Tishre 1 on the Hebrew calendar. On this day the Bridegroom comes for His Bride. It is their wedding day. The Groom is crowned King, and she is crowned His Queen. Thus, the marriage day is their day of Coronation.
- II. Yahushua will come for His Bride on the Feast of Trumpets. The essential message of this Feast is the reaffirmation of the Kingship of the Son of Yahuwah. (**Psalm 2:6-12**)
- III. Messiah will be crowned and given the heathen for His inheritance, as well as receive His Kingdom. (**Daniel 7:13-14**)
- IV. Hebrew Scripture used for this day: **Genesis 49:10 and Zechariah 9:9**
- V. **Revelation 19:11-16**: He comes with the sound of the trumpet, much fan-fare and ceremony. He comes with His angelic hosts, as the trumpet sounds loudly, bringing with

Him the wrath of His Father, to execute judgment on His enemies, and the enemies of His Bride. (**Isaiah 63:1-6**) He comes as a victorious King to deliver His Bride from the evil one. (**Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 11:15-19**)

- VI. He becomes the King of Kings over all the kingdoms of this world: **Revelation 11:15-19; 19:16; Daniel 7:9, 13-14, 27; Revelation 1:7.**
- VII. On the wedding day, the Bridegroom and the Bride are called King and Queen. Reference is made to **Psalms 45**--the Wedding Psalm.

THE WEDDING

- I. 1) Either the father arranges the wedding, as Samson's father did, or 2) the father sends an agent in his place, as Abraham sent Eleazer, or 3) the young man comes by himself to the girl's father to arrange the marriage between the two of them.
- II. If the young man goes to the house of the girl to talk to her father, he initially must carry these three things:
 - a) A large sum of money (or many expensive items) to pay the price for the Bride
 - b) A betrothal contract with his promises to the Bride written on it, and the terms of what he expects in a good wife.
 - c) A skin of wine

Note: In **John 5:8**: "For there are three that bear witness in earth: the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." In prophetic typology, the wine is symbolic of the Spirit of Yahuwah, the water is symbolic of the Spirit and the Word--the marriage contract or Covenant--the Torah given at Sinai--and the blood represents the price paid for our salvation.

Acts 20:28, Sha'ul speaking to Pastors: "Take heed to yourselves...to feed the assembly of Elohim, which He has purchased with His own blood."

Ephesians 1:14 tells us that the Spirit's presence with us is the "down-payment of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession..." His Bride was the purchased possession, and He is coming to fully redeem her unto Himself. **I Corinthians 6:20; I Corinthians 7:23**: "For you are bought with a price."

- III. If the Father approves of the marriage, the girl is called in and they all drink the wine together. In the drinking of the wine, she commits herself to the young man. **Jeremiah 31:31** "I will make a renewed covenant with the House of

Israel and the House of Judah." **Matthew 26:27-28**: "And He took the cup (*the 3rd cup of the Seder—the cup of Redemption*) and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying 'Drink you all of it: For this is My blood of the Renewed Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sin'." He renewed the Covenant of His Father in His own blood, with His Bride, who would come out of all the tribes of the believing House of Y'acob (Jacob).

This is the engagement. But, at this point, the two are considered husband and wife. Their union can only be dissolved by divorce. But, their status is still called "betrothal", as with Mary and Joseph. (**Matthew 1:18-20**)

- IV. After the wine is drunk, the young man says the words of **John 14:2-3**. He will go away and prepare a room for them--adding on a room to his father's house. He promises that when the room is finished, he will come back for her, and she would forever be with him. She belongs to him now, for she has been "bought with a price", and this purchase has been witnessed to and confirmed.
- V. The young man goes to prepare a chador (chamber) in his father's house. It is sometimes called a "chupah", or the honeymoon bed. (**John 14:1-3**)
- VI. The girl must now spend her time learning how to be a wife and mother, and learn how to please her husband.
- VII. He may be gone for as long as 2 years or more. Sometimes, the young man, if asked when the day of his wedding will be, may put off nosey inquirers by saying: "No man knows the day or the hour, only my father knows."
(**Matthew 24:36/Mark 13:32**) Thus he puts the responsibility of dealing with nosey friends and family, on his father. It is a personal thing with him, and he only talks with his father about the timing of his coming for His Bride. He may communicate with his Bride, in secret—perhaps by a messenger (represented by the Spirit of Yahuwah)--the go-between between the Bride of Messiah and Yahushua.

*But, also, the term "no man knows the day or the hour" is a name given to the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets, Yom Teruah, is on the 1st day of the Hebrew month of Tishre. The new month is determined by the sighting of the first sliver of the new moon (the renewed moon) each month, by two or more witnesses, from Jerusalem. The month is either 29 days or 30 days, depending on when the new moon is sighted, from

Jerusalem. Thus "no man knows the day or hour" is a literal expression. No one knows when the new moon of Tishre 1 will be sighted. From **Genesis 1**, we see that Yahuwah's days start at sunset.

Also, at traditional celebrations of the Feast of Trumpets, Yom Teruah, or Rosh ha Shannah--the birthday of the World--three trumpets are blown during the time of Yom Teruah. Everyone waits expectantly for the "last trump", when, according to Jewish tradition, the gates of shamayim open and the righteous ascend to shamayim, while the fate

of

the wicked is sealed.

VIII. The groom designates two close friends to assist him and to assist the bride during the ceremony. They are called "witnesses". The two witnesses of **Revelation 11**, Elijah and Moses, are the attendants of the Groom and the Bride. During the ceremony, the covenant containing the groom's promises to the Bride are then turned over to the parents of the Bride. In the case of Messiah, Yahuwah is the Father of the Groom, but also spiritual Father of the Bride. Yahuwah receives the covenant promises, which the Bride has agreed to, in His Presence and in Yahushua's Presence.

IX. The Bride is a virgin, pure of spirit--set apart to one Husband, Yahushua. They have an exclusive relationship. She obeys His Covenant commandments. They are not hard for her to obey, for she loves Him so much. The Ten Commandments are the basis for the marriage covenant. They contain what He wants in His Bride. The whole Torah expounds on how to keep these Commandments. He is a "jealous Elohim." He will have no other gods in His face. He wants a wife who is 100% exclusively His! His Bride has been put through much testing, so that He knows she is as exclusively in love with Him, as He is with her! (**Exodus 20:1-17; 34:14**)

On this day, Jewish tradition says that the Bride and Groom stand without spot or blemish as they are united. In the case of Yahushua and His Bride, she is spotless and blameless in the eyes of her all-perfect Bridegroom! She has allowed Yahuwah's Spirit to transform her into the nature of her Bridegroom. Her nature is like His. Her ways and her thinking are like His. They are truly "echad"--one in spirit and mind in all things. She has so meshed with His nature and thoughts, that the two are one in every way. His Word are the words on her tongue. She is totally in love.

She is humble and contrite, and "trembles at His Word."
(**Isaiah 66:1-2**)

Hebrew understand of "love" is to humbly submit to the one loved--His Bride does this.

- X. It has been close to 2,000 years since Yahushua went back to His Father's house. The Spirit of Yahuwah, the Father, has been working to bring the Bride to blameless perfection for her marriage to the perfect Bridegroom, Yahushua.

I Thessalonians 5:23: "And the Elohim of peace Himself set you completely apart, and your entire spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Master Yahushua Messiah."

Revelation 19:7-8: "Let us rejoice and be glad, giving the honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was given to her to be dressed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the set-apart ones."

She became a "wife" at the betrothal, at Sinai. Now she proceeds to be His Bride.

- XI. With the aid of the Spirit, the Bride has purified herself, and made herself set-apart unto Him alone! She has submitted to all the testing and disciplines, in obedience without compromise, that He has put her through to prepare her, even as Esther was prepared for the King (Book of Esther). [Refer to these articles: "The Two Witnesses, the Bride of Messiah, the Forerunning Company, and the Fleeing Remnant"/October 23, 2007, "Esther"/December 18, 2010/ re-edited December 18, 2011, and "John 2:1-11 - The Wedding at Kefar Cana"/November 14, 2010] These articles will add to your understanding.

The words of the wedding ceremony are from **Psalms 45**, and **Isaiah 61:10-62:5**--"...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall Elohim rejoice over you."

- XII. Once the ceremony is over, the two go into the bridal chamber, the "chupah", for 7 days. Portions of the Song of Solomon are read during Passover, giving details of the intimacy between Messiah and His Bride. Out of love for His people, Messiah died to save us, to redeem us, and restore us to the original marriage covenant that He made with us at Sinai. He came to renew His Father's covenant with us. He renewed it so that we might know Him, and love Him, and fear losing Him. He rose again to draw us to Himself, so that He might marry a remnant of us. The whole Bible is about a love story - a Son who seeks

a wife who will love Him exclusively for Himself--a wife who is not out to gain advantage for herself, but one who has laid down her life to join with Him. She loves Him totally just because He is her Beloved. "He is altogether lovely!"

- XIII. The seven days in the wedding chamber (chupah), and the marriage feast that follows, fit into the ten days between the end of the Feast of Trumpets, and the Day of Atonement. In ancient times, on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, the High Priest took the blood of a spotless lamb before the altar of Yahuwah, and the sins of the nation of Israel were forgiven. After the marriage feast, on the Day of Atonement, Messiah will judge all the nations that came against Jerusalem, separating out the sheep and goat nations, and then pronounce that the remnant of the whole House of Jacob/Israel--all 12 tribes--is saved, redeemed, and restored. (**Romans 11:26-27; Joel 3:1-12; Matthew 25:31-46; Isaiah 59:20-21; 60:11-22; Jeremiah 31 and 33; Ezekiel 36:24-38; 37**, etcetera)
- XIV. At the end of the 7 days, the groom's "friend" (Elijah)--waits at the chamber door. The resurrected justified "guests", who have been born again by emurah/believe in the blood of the Lamb of Elohim (**John 1:29**), have arrived and are waiting for the door to be opened, and the wedding banquet to begin. When the Groom is ready, He knocks from the inside of the door of the chamber, indicating that they are ready to make their public appearance before everyone. Eliyahu, the Groom's attendant, opens the door, and the guests cheer.
- XV. In **Revelation 11**, we see that the anti-messiah has killed the two witnesses. They lie dead for 3 ½ days, in the street below the Temple Mount. On the eve of Yom Teruah, marking Tishre 1, as the first sliver of the new moon appears, the Bridegroom/High Priest, Yahushua, brings them to life. They see the new moon. They rise up to Him. Yahushua calls them up to Him into shamayim. They have been on earth proclaiming the Torah of Yahuwah and the salvation of Messiah. ("Torah": It is the marriage covenant that was sealed at Sinai with His people. His Torah: His covenant teachings and instructions for our life in His Kingdom, the requirements of right standing with Him, and with His Son/the Bridegroom).
At the voice of the Bridegroom, the High Priest, will call them up, and they arise to Him. It is at this point, at the new moon of Yom Teruah, Tishre 1, that Yahushua comes out of

shamayim with a trumpet blast, accompanied by the set-apart ones.

XVI. **Revelation 14:1, 4-5**: The blameless Bride will be the "first fruits" of the first resurrection. Yochanan, the Apostle, sees Messiah standing with His Bride on Mount Zion (the "City of David"), where they will live forever.

Psalms 132:7-8, 13-14: "Let us go into His dwelling place, and let us bow at His footstool. Arise, O Yahuwah, to Your place of rest--You, and the Ark of Your Strength (*Yahushua*)...For Yahuwah has chosen Zion. He has desired it for His dwelling. `This is the place of My rest forever. Here I dwell, for I have desired it'." (Italics mine)

Zion, the City of David, is the little hill below the Temple Mount where King David built His palace. There, for 40 years, David kept the Ark of the Covenant in His "backyard" under a pavilion. This was where most of the Psalms were written--especially those composed by David.

In **Amos 9:11** and **Acts 15:16-19**, Yahuwah promises to restore this worship. But, this time it will be around His Son, Yahushua, who is the living, breathing, Ark of His Covenant. He is the "propitiation" for our sins" (**I John 2:2**).

"Propitiation" -- the "mercy seat" lid that covers the written Torah contained inside the Ark.

Yahushua will dwell in Zion with His Bride!

Messiah was the first fruit of the dead to enter shamayim (**I Corinthians 15:20, 23**). Without His resurrection, and ascension into shamayim, no one could enter shamayim.

But, the

Bridal remnant is the first fruits of the resurrection of the justified--the righteous dead. Scripture only teaches about two resurrections--one of the justified, one of the damned. They are 1,000 years apart. (**Revelation 20** for example)

XVII. As He descends from shamayim with His entourage of set-apart people who have died, and the angelic hosts, He comes as lightning from the East (**Matthew 24:29-31**), with great fanfare, He calls His Bride unto Himself.

Since He comes from the East, first to Sinai, it is probable that, as He passes over Sinai, He calls His Bride to Himself. She is the first fruits of the resurrection of the righteous. She has not died, so she is instantly caught up by her Bridegroom--translated into His Presence. Sinai was the place of their betrothal!

After Sinai, Yahushua turns northward over Mount Peran,

then to Mount Seir ("Petra" in Greek), where He sends forth His celestial messengers to call the righteous dead from their tombs. He then proceeds to Bozrah (**Isaiah 34**), where He settles the score with Esau, then on to the Mount of Olives, and East Jerusalem.

Messiah returns to East Jerusalem with all His set-apart ones who have died and been resurrected – their spirit bodies re-united with their transformed physical bodies. What was mortal, has taken on immortality. The Apostle Sha'ul gives a powerful explanation of this in **I Corinthians 15:51-58**.

His words in **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** and **Philippians 3:20-21** are very powerful also.

The Apostle John (Yochanan), in **I John 3:1-3**, also gives this powerful truth, with exhortation.

When Messiah ascended into shamayim (**Acts 1**), He led "captivity captive." (**Ephesians 4:8**). He took with Him all who had died in emurah/believe, whose spirit bodies had gone to Paradise – the place of temporary dwelling of the righteous dead. Yahushua also took with Him all those who had been raised at the time of His death, who walked into Jerusalem for all to see (**Matthew 27:50-53**).

No one had been in shamayim before He ascended! (**John 3:13**)

After His resurrection, He first ascended before His Father to present His blood atonement for the restoration of the House of Israel to His Covenant, as well as to open salvation for all people (**John 10:11-17**)

Psalms 24 tells how He entered the gates of shamayim with great celebration. **Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 2:6-9**. He opened the way for us to be able to enter.

At His ascension, He took with Him all who had been in Paradise, into the Paradise in shamayim – all the righteous that had died from Abel onward.

When one dies, Scripture tells us, the body goes into the earth, but the spirit-man (soul and spirit) goes into His Presence. **Ecclesiastes 12:7**: "...and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to Elohim who gave it." Elohim overshadowed them in Paradise – called "Abraham Bosom". (**Luke 16:19-31**) Notice, in Messiah telling this, it was not a parable, but a true story.

Iyob (Job) understood the resurrection of the righteous. When he uttered these words, he was sitting in misery with leprosy. These two powerful statements were made from his emurah/believe: **Iyob 14:14**: "If a man dies, would he live again? All the days of my struggle, I wait until my change comes."

What did he understand about this "change?" -- Probably more than most people on this earth today understand the re-uniting of the

spirit-body with the physical body – the translation or transformation of our entire being, so that we are an eternal being--no longer mortal! I consider these words to be some of the most powerful words uttered by a human being: **Iyob 19:23-27**, KJV: "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were printed in a book! – That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! **FOR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH, AND THAT HE SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH, AND THOUGH, AFTER MY SKIN WORMS DESTROY THIS BODY, YET IN MY FLESH SHALL I SEE GOD!** – whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins ("kidneys"--referring to the seat of affection, corresponding to the heart – the spirit – in modern English) be consumed within me."

For more understanding on the subject of what happens to us between death and the resurrection when Messiah comes, refer to my study: "An In-Depth Study of the Intermediate State Between Death and Eternal Resurrection"/May 2003, revised March 2008.

So, as Messiah passes over Mount Seir, His celestial messengers call up the bodies of all of His set-apart ones to join, once again, with their spirit-bodies. This is the "change" that Iyob referred to--when he would "see God." (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-58; Revelation 11:3-13; Matthew 24:29-34**)

XVIII: From **Revelation 19:6-16**: The door of shamayim opens,

and Yahushua, mounted on a white horse, proceeds out with His entourage of angles and set-apart ones. Like lightning, He comes from the East to Mount Sinai.

(**Matthew 24:27**) Here the Bridal remnant is caught up to ride with her Beloved.

His return path: **Deuteronomy 33:1-3; Isaiah 63:1-6; Isaiah 34, Habakkuk 3, Zechariah 14:1-5, Revelation 19**, for a few examples)

Our brother Jude puts it this way, quoting Enoch: **Jude 1:14**: "And Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied of these things, saying `Behold! Yahuwah comes, with ten thousands of His set-apart ones, to execute judgment on all, to punish the wicked..."

Zechariah 14:5: "...and Yahuwah, my Elohim, shall come with all the set-apart ones with You."

Notice! Yahuwah is coming to put His foot on the Mount of Olives and rule the earth for 1,000 years. Yahuwah is a Spirit, who sits between the cherubim forever. (**Psalm**

99:1) How does Yahuwah come? -- Yahushua Yahuwah, His Son, comes in His Name! "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of Yahuwah!"

All the resurrected ones of this first resurrection will ride white horses, sign of a conquering army! They will proceed behind Yahushua, by order of rank, His Bride riding just behind Him, through the Eastern Gate onto the Temple Mount. (**Ezekiel 43:1-4**)

Think, you fools who deny the deity of Messiah Yahushua: Over and over, from **Genesis 3** onward, "Yahuwah" on earth has been Yahushua--before, and after His incarnation. Yahuwah has no foot, "right arm", no "right hand" – He is Spirit. But, Yahushua Yahuwah puts His foot on the Mount of Olives, and it splits two miles north and south. He, and His Bride, and the entourage of transformed ones, come through the Eastern Gate onto the Temple Mount. A great angel throws the Beast and False Prophet into the lake of fire. "He will have arrived to judge the earth!" (**Psalms 96-99; Revelation 19**)

There is not one Scripture in all the Word that says that we spend eternity in shamayim. But, there are many, many Scriptures that tell us our eternal home is on earth. **Proverbs 2:21-22**: "For the righteous shall dwell on the earth and the perfect (*blameless*) be left in it, but the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the treacherous ones plucked out of it."

We must look at **Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:1-9; Luke 9:28-30!**

Again, this is an example that the wedding is on earth.

Messiah took Kepha, Ya'cob and Yohanan (Peter, James, and John) up to the top of Mount Hermon. There, He was transfigured before them. His face, and His garments, became shining bright. By His side appeared Elijah (Eliyahu) and Moses (Moshe). Kepha connected the dots, and realized what was happening. He was just nearly 2,000 years too early in his timing! It was almost Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles). He knew that Messiah would gather all the tribes of Israel (Ya'cob) together and that He would dwell among them. The ultimate final dwelling together of Elohim (God) with man is beautifully given in **Revelation 21:1-7!**

Kepha believed it was the time for the wedding. He wanted to build succahs (chupas). The Bridegroom was there in His splendor. Thus, he knew that Eliyahu and Moshe were the attendants. He was a smart man. Truly, Messiah let them see the future--that one day He would stand with the attendants, with His Bride, on the earth, and the reign of man would be over. Oh how we long for that!

Think about it! **Zechariah 14:16-20** tells us that every year all nations must come to Jerusalem at the Feast of Sukkot/Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles will celebrate the marriage feast every year. Even the pots of Jerusalem will be called "holy" – set-apart, undefiled! So much of the Word tells us the esteem and honor /glories of His Kingdom. (**Isaiah 2:2-5; Isaiah 35** for examples)

"His wife has made herself ready." He gathers His Bride, who is alive and waiting for Him on the earth. Then after His glorious entrance into Jerusalem, the Bride and Groom proceed to the wedding—to the taking of their wedding vows. All the guests get to watch the wedding. The attendants, attend to the guests, but two, Elijah and Moses, attend to the Groom and Bride. Then the couple proceeds to the chupah, where for 7 days they are alone together. During this time, the servants of Yahushua prepare the wedding feast. He comes to them, from taking His nuptials, from the seven days in the chupah, to see if the Feast is ready. He gathers the guests.

Luke 12:31-48: Instructions to wise servants/guests! He and His Bride proceed to the wedding feast.

Look at the parable of the wise and foolish virgins: **Matthew 25:1-12**. The wise are gathered with other guests and attendants to go into the wedding feast, the foolish are shut out. He says to the foolish: "Truly I say to you: 'I do not know you'." These ten "virgins" are born again people. But, only half are ready for the return of Messiah--these are welcomed guests. Half are shut out because they let the light of the Spirit go out in their lives – they walked in darkness. They did not the timing of His coming. They woke up too late to do anything about preparing.

After the 1,000-year reign of Messiah, Father comes and brings His city down (**Revelation 20-22**), the Bride is found still with her Husband (**Revelation 22:3-5**).

There are many examples in Scripture of the three divisions of 1) guests 2) attendants 3) Bride remnant: There were three parts to the Tabernacle of Moses, and the Temple of Solomon. The outer court was for the worshippers to gather. It was the place of the sacrifice of animals, where people's sins were forgiven. It was the place where the priests washed their hands in the laver, to purify themselves before going into the Set-Apart Place. In the Set-Apart Place, the priests ministered to Yahuwah. In this place was the Table of Showbread – representing the Word of Yahuwah, Yahushua, and the twelve tribes of Ya'cob. There was the Menorah, representing the light of the world – Yahushua. There was the Altar of Incense, representing the prayers of the set-apart ones ascending to Yahuwah.

Then there is the example of the 30, 60, 100-fold fruit of those believers who have gone on to obey the Master. (**Mark 4:1-9**) The 30-

fold represent the guests, the 60-fold the attendants, the 100-fold the Bride. There is the example of the twelve disciples, then the three, who at times got to see what the others didn't. Then there was Yochanan, who was taken into His heart, and told things no one else on earth heard from Him. He wrote the Revelation!

THE MEANING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS **THE TERMS OF THE WEDDING CONTRACT**

Let us look at the "Betrothal Contract" - the terms of the marriage covenant. In reference to Yahushua, as the Bridegroom, He gives his promises to His Bride, but He also wrote out on the tablets of stone, He expects of his wife. The Torah (the first five books of the Scriptures), which means "Instructions, Teachings"--the covenant rules for those who want to live in His house in good standing in His Kingdom--is the foundation for all belief and action as good citizens in the Kingdom of Yahuwah/Yahushua.

One day in teaching the Commandments to young teenagers, He spoke through my spirit. I began teaching them what it means to guard the Commandments, using modern terminology. On Sinai, He wrote the terms of the marriage covenant in stone, by the "finger of Elohim" -- the finger of Yahuwah. (**Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 9:10; Luke 11:20**)

He wants to write them on the tablets of your heart. Will you let Him?

Exodus 20:1-17: **The Ten Commandments for us today:**

- 1) He wants no other lovers in the life of His Wife/Bride. He wants no distractions from her pure love of Him. He wants no other "gods", other people or other things, selfish ambitions, or personal desires, to get in the way of his Bride's pure, undivided, total devotion to Him alone. He wants her to have emurah/believe only in Him, dependency only in Him, and love and obedience only to Him and His Word, and a relationship with Him that is exclusive and unbreakable. He doesn't want her dividing her love with anyone or anything else.
- 2) He wants no pictures in her wallet of past boyfriends, or other loves. He wants no symbols on her body, or in her possession, that would remind her of other loves. He wants no figurines, no statues, no carved images, no jewelry, no clothing, no celebrations of holidays--no reminders of any kind of her past life with idols, loves, and fleshly addictions.

3) He doesn't want her using the names of pagan gods, defiling His Name, using His name commonly, or cheaply, or using His Father's name in a common and cheap manner. He wants His Name, Yahushua, and His Father's Name, Yahuwah, honored and revered. When we love someone, we call them by their real name. We treasure and love it. Yahuwah means: I AM the Eternal, ever-existing One who breathes.

Yahushua means: Yahuwah is Salvation. Don't shorten His Name or cheapen it! Don't use titles that are the names of pagan gods, which are commonly used by both Christians, Messianic, and Jewish people. [Refer to: "The Hebrew Names and Titles of the Creator of the Universe"/January 2005]

4) He does not want His Bride to take their special set-apart day together in a light manner. He has a set-apart day that He tells His Bride to guard and protect, as their day together. It is their special "date day." It pictures His ruling and reigning over the earth for 1,000 years in the 7,000th year from creation. It is the 7th day, or Shabbat (Hebrew) or Sabbath in English. He wants her to guard that 24 hours (from sunrise to sundown on Saturday) as precious and undefiled by the

world. He doesn't want her distracted with doing other things, when it is His time with her in a very special way. He tells her that He doesn't want her working, doing housework, or watching TV, or spending time in idle chatter on the telephone, or visiting friends, or going shopping, or buying anything or selling anything. It is His time to speak to her more than on any other day. He sometimes gets her up early, just to have a head-start in talking to her. He uses this day to especially give her revelation of Himself and His Word. He wants her to take all week, and Friday especially, before sundown, preparing herself for their day together. There are hundreds of Scriptures about this special day, and it is "forever"—an "everlasting covenant" with His set-apart Bride.

5) Commandments 5-10:

a) He doesn't want a Wife/Bride who disrespects her parents, is lazy, rude, thoughtless, and rebellious. He wants a woman who honors her parents, and thus honors all authority that He honors.

b) He doesn't want a Wife/Bride who kills people (other than in self defense), slanders, gossips, backbites, tells tales on others, or in any way intentionally harms anyone.

c) He doesn't want a woman who would commit adultery.

d) He doesn't want a woman who steals what belongs to others.

- e) He doesn't want a woman who lies and cheats, deceives and twists things to her own advantage for her own gain.
- f) He doesn't want a woman who covets and longs for what is not hers.

He wants a pure, set-apart, devoted, obedient, loving, content, joyful, peaceful, submissive and yielded woman that He can lavish His love on forever and ever. He wants a woman who will be His Queen, reigning at His side. She is obedient to the Torah of His Kingdom. She is not rebellious or lawless. She upholds Her husband's wishes and commands at all times.

THE GREATEST OF ALL LOVE STORIES – Why Yahushua Came

Matthew 15:24: "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." **Matthew 10:5-6:** "And Yahushua sent the twelve out, commanding them saying: `Do not go the way of the gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans, but rather go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel."

After the death of Solomon, the tribes split into two separate kingdoms, governed by their own kings. The southern kingdom was Judah, comprised of the tribes of Judah (the scepter-holder of all the tribes), Levi (the priest-tribe), and Benjamin. The northern tribes, known as Israel/Ephraim/Joseph, were: Ephraim (the birthright holder of all the tribes), son of Joseph, Manasseh, son of Joseph, Reuben, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Asher, Dan, Nephtali, and Gad.

Their kings often declared war against each other. Judah continued on to guard the Torah, though they also worshipped pagan gods and did human sacrifice, like the northern tribes did. But, Judah never rejected the Torah. The northern tribes did. From the days of Solomon, the northern tribes had gone around the world with the Phoenicians to do trade, and gather things for the Temple. Many had settled into other countries. But, finally, because of the extreme sin they were led into by their kings, Elohim allowed the Assyrians to come and take them all away – scattering them into all countries around the world. Thus by 722 BCE, all of the northern tribes were scattered out of the land – the worst punishment they could have been given. The punishment was for 2, 730 years. It was over September 12, 2007 CE.

Because of their terrible sin, Yahushua Yahuwah had to write a "bill of divorcement" – to cut them out of the Covenant. (**Jeremiah 3:8**)

Remember, that at the engagement, the woman is called "wife." The engagement, as well as marriage, is a covenant relationship.

What could Elohim do? He had to pronounce this judgment on them.

But, there were only three tribes left. According to **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**, if a man marries a woman and she becomes a harlot, and he divorces her, he cannot remarry her! Adultery is the only Scripturally

valid reason for divorce! According to His own Word, He could not restore the ten tribes, for they were all doing spiritual whoredom against Him, worshipping other gods.

But, He knew this would happen before the foundation of the world.

So, in order to redeem the ten tribes back to His Covenant, and gather them, with Judah and Levi and Benjamin, back under His love, He had to die! He had to die to break the engagement, so that He could rise again to marry her. TALK ABOUT LOVE!

The Christian and Messianic world, for the most part, has no idea why He came! He came to restore the Covenant that He made at Sinai.

(**Jeremiah 31:31-34**) The word is "renewed" – as a moon is renewed each month. He never came to start anything new, but to restore.

When He lifted the cup, **Matthew 26:28**, He said: "This is My blood, that of the renewed covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sin". The word sin means "transgression of the Torah".

The word "renew" is in Hebrew and Greek.

[For more information, refer to two articles/studies: "Who Are the Ten?"/2005 and "Are You a Gentile?"/re-edit edition 2007]

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT JUST FOR THE BRIDAL REMNANT. THEY ARE FOR ALL MANKIND, TO LIVE ON EARTH IN HIS SHALOM, AND IN HIS KINGDOM FOREVER:

Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the entire matter: Fear Elohim and guard His commandments – for THIS APPLIES TO ALL MANKIND." Yahuwah is the Creator. All mankind is His Creation.

These rules apply to the conduct of ALL HIS CREATION!

Exodus 31:12-18 tells that the Ten Commandments were written by the "finger of Elohim" – the finger of Yahuwah. (**Luke 11:20**) The Ten Commandments were spoken by the Bridegroom--the eternal "Word of Elohim." (**John 1:1, 14**)

The Ten Commandments, as well as the whole Torah, were given as an outline of human history, and includes the total plan of salvation in the celebrations of the Festivals. It was given to set-aside His Bride unto purity. The Torah gives the guidelines of separation between the clean and the unclean, the set-apart and the common. It lets the Bride know what is expected of her. He also doesn't want a woman who eats filthy, defiled garbage collectors, and therefore defiles her whole body. (**Leviticus 11** is part of His covenant with His Bride.) His Torah is for our health, happiness, right living, peace and freedom.

The Scriptures in total are the love story of an Elohim searching for a Bride that He can lavish His love and goodness on. He doesn't want a Bride who thinks that reading, or studying His eternal Word is boring,

that talking to Him is boring, that setting aside His special day of Shabbat is boring, or fellowshiping with others about Him is boring. He doesn't want a Bride who is stained with sin. He doesn't want a Bride who is so busy that she can't sit down with Him and relax. He doesn't want a Bride who is so wrapped up in her own self-righteousness, her own selfish ambitions, selfish agendas, self-centered love, that she rejects Him for her own plans and desires. He wants a Bride who longs to be with Him, as much as He longs to be with her.

His Seven Festivals, outlined in **Leviticus 23**, spread throughout the year, are so wonderful, fun, pure, and family-oriented. Each one teaches one portion of His plan of salvation. The first is Passover, Pesach, which teaches about His death. The second Unleavened Bread, which teaches about His burial, and defeating sin. The third is First Fruits, which teaches us about His resurrection. The Fourth is Sha'vu'ot (Pentecost), the coming of Yahuwah's Spirit into those who are ready to receive Him. The Fifth is the Feast of Trumpets, Yom Teruah, which pictures the return of Messiah to the earth. The Sixth is Yom Teruah (The Day of Atonement), which pictures His death for the nation of Israel (the twelve tribes of Ya'cob). The Seventh is Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles), which pictures the 1,000-year reign of Messiah in this 7th millennium from Creation, and also Yahuwah's dwelling with us forever on this earth.

In celebrating them, we enter into His salvation and His understanding of what Messiah did for us. [Refer to: "Yahuwah's Seven Appointments With Man"/April 2005]

For understanding each Feast/Festival, go to comeenterthemikvah.com and read articles under "The Mikvah of the Covenant."

These are eternal celebrations. In His Kingdom, Torah will be His Law. It is His Word, His Truth, and His good Instructions for our happiness. In **Isaiah 66:22-23**, we read about the time when Yahuwah comes with His City – the New Jerusalem – that will hover over the area of Israel.

Revelation 21-22): "For as the new shamayims and the new earth that I make stand before Me' declares Yahuwah, so your seed and your name shall stand. And it shall be from new moon to new moon (which determines the months of the festivals), and from Shabbat to Shabbat, all flesh will come and worship before Me', declares Yahuwah."

I John 5:2-3: "By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Elohim and guard His commandments. For this is the love of Elohim, that we guard His commands and His commands are not grievous."

Finally, from the earliest manuscripts in the 2nd century comes the wording of **Revelation 22:14**: "**Baruch are those doing His commandments, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into the city.**"

Shalom to you as He teaches you and gives you clear understanding of these things!

With shalom and love,

Yedidah

May 13, 2004 (Today I have been born again 53 years)

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