

J.I.M. Ministry Base

The Bride of Christ in Comparison to a Jewish Wedding

By Apostle Greg Crawford

This not an all inclusive teaching. Nor is it written in full detail or as a complete article. This is laid out as a teaching tool and outline that would give the student of the word a starting point to launch out from. This series is taught yearly in Jubilee Christian Fellowship. For more detailed teaching tapes the complete series can be ordered by contacting us.

Creation of first Bride

Gen 2:18-24 (KJV) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Adam - a type of Christ. Jesus was called the last Adam.
Deep sleep and awaking- a type of death and resurrection

The rib- shedding of blood to create the future bride a type of grafting in

Breath of God- life by the spirit of God

The first bride is formed from the heart of God's creation. God said to be fruitful and multiply. They had to know each other intimately. They were made for each other just as we and God are made for each other. He knows our lack and need just like a marriage partner. A pattern is established in God's word showing God's plan for us His bride.

12 Steps in the Jewish Wedding Ceremony

1. Selection of the Bride
2. The bride's price is established
3. The bride and groom are betrothed to each other
4. A written document is drawn up between the parties.
5. The bride must give consent, we must say, "I do," to God
6. Gifts are given to the bride
7. The bride has a ritual of cleansing
8. The bridegroom departs and goes to his father's house to prepare the bridal chamber
9. The bride maintains being consecrated and set apart from distractions for a period of time while the bridegroom prepares the chamber. Before the groom meets the bride certain things have to be in place.
10. The bridegroom returns with a "shout"
11. The bride is abducted in the night and taken to the bridal chamber
12. The marriage supper is given by the father for all the guests of the son

12 Steps in Detail

1. Selection of the Bride

The bride is selected by the groom's father. The father knew what he was looking for in a bride for His son. He knew what bonds and tribal integration needed to happen The father would send His closest servant to seek after the bride that was chosen. The father is concerned about our makeup

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as a chosen bride for his son The Holy spirit is God's closest servant God has sent him (the servant or Holy Spirit) to seek that which is lost, prepare us and draw upon us

Gen 24:2-4 (KJV) *And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.*

Gen 24:63-67 (KJV) *And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide, and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.*

2. The bride's price is established

The price required for the bride is discussed. The servant gives small tokens as evidence of the seriousness of the offer. Small gifts are given also to show forth the wealth that could await the bride if the agreement is made. The Holy Spirit also gives mankind small tokens to show forth the goodness of God and point to what awaits if we receive Christ's invitation or proposal.

Mat 26:39 (KJV) *And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

1 Pet 1:18-19 (KJV) *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

1 Cor 6:20 (KJV) *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Of course the amazing price paid for the bride is the groom laying down his life for a future bride who may or may not receive his invitation.

3. The bride and groom are betrothed to each other

The price is established and the servant agrees the future bride and groom are legally bound in a contract. Part of the contract is they are not allowed to live together. When we confess with our mouth and believe with our heart we establish this part of the marriage. We are in agreement with the servant (the Holy Spirit). We are separated from the Lord physically and we realize our life is no longer our own, but belongs to another.

Hosea 2:19-20 (KJV) *And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.*

John 20:17 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

4. A written document is drawn up between the parties.

The servant has the authority to draw up the document in behalf of the groom and father. In this document is listed the following:

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The price paid for the bride

The promises the groom makes toward the bride

The rights the bride has

The Holy Spirit has inspired men to be moved and led by him to write the Bible. In the Bible we find the rights the Holy Spirit reveals to us. God gave him the right to draw up the contract for us as he approves it. Deu 6:6 (KJV) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 2 Cor 1:20 (KJV) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. This document must be agreed on and signed by both parties. The bride must freely consent to the conditions of the contract.

5. The bride must give consent, we must say I Do to God

Exo 24:3 (KJV) And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

Rom 8:8-10 (KJV) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

The consent allows us access to the contract agreed upon. We enter into salvation of free will. At any time the contract can be read or shared with others to hold the bride and groom accountable to each other.

The servant would offer many different gifts as tokens of the willingness of the father to establish the marriage. The final and largest gift would be the inheritance the father would pass down to the son and would be part of the bride's provision and diary.

John 14:26 (KJV) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

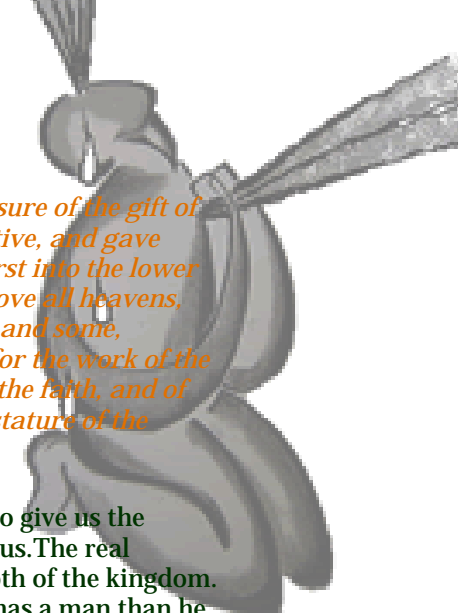
Rom 5:17 (KJV) For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:23 (KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 5:12 (KJV) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:8-9 (KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

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Eph 4:7-13 (KJV) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

We have been given the gifts of the Spirit as a token of the Father's willingness to give us the kingdom. The gifts are not where we stop but a starting point into all he has for us. The real treasure is understanding the value of the inheritance being offered and the depth of the kingdom. Jesus has offered the greatest gift of his life for our eternal life. No greater love has a man than he lay down his life for his friend.
See also 1 Corinth. 12:

A cup of covenant is shared between the bride and groom to seal the marriage. This sealing of the marriage happens every time we perform communion.

Jer 31:31-33 (KJV) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Luke 22:20 (KJV) Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

This is a good time to have communion.

7. The bride has a ritual of cleansing

The bride is immersed in a large container of water and a ceremony of purifying is accomplished. This is in preparation of setting herself aside clean and pure for her groom.

Ezek 16:8-9 (KJV) Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.

John 3:1-16 (KJV) There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and

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knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 3:16 (KJV) John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

This ritual of cleansing is similar to us being water baptised. We say in a ceremonial setting before witnesses that we have repented and are keeping ourselves for God alone. Baptism means to be immersed or one vessel to be stained by dipping into another vessel.

This would be a good time to water baptize.

8. The bridegroom departs and goes to his father's house to prepare the bridal chamber

As the Jewish groom departs he literally says to his bride "I go and prepare a place for you"

John 14:1-3 (KJV) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

There is no doubt in the bride that her groom will not return for her. After all gifts have been given, contracts drawn up, witnesses have seen everything performed, agreements are signed, and much preparation has been performed by both sides.

9. The bride maintains being consecrated and set apart from distractions for a period of time while the bridegroom prepares the chamber.

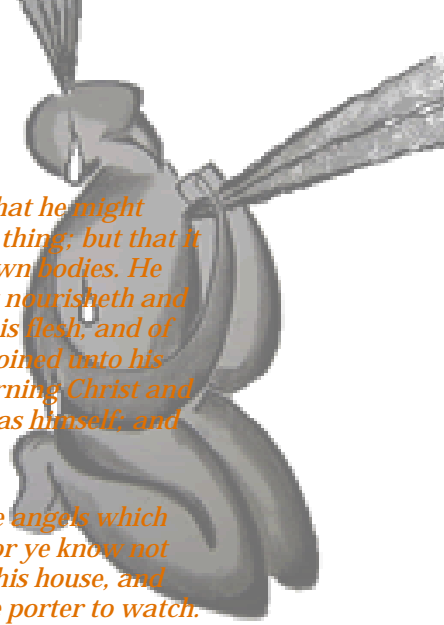
Before the groom meets the bride certain things have to be in place. The father has to approve that the son has done everything in his power to prepare for this marriage. The father inspects the bridal chamber and ok's it.

The father then gives permission to the son to go and get his bride.

The bride also has a part to play in this time of waiting. She is in expectation and excitement knowing every day she is closer to the day of consecrating her marriage. She considers all that has been done to win her affections and how much the groom really desires to be with her.

Eph 5:14 -33(KJV) Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

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That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself: and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Mark 13:32-37 (KJV) But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

10. The bridegroom returns with a “shout”

The shoffar or ram's horn is blown to get the people's attention and an announcement is made “behold the bridegroom cometh”.

Mat 23:39 (KJV) For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Mat 25:6 (KJV) And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

1 These 4:16-17 (KJV) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

All know the bridegroom will not enter into this part of the ceremony unless it is spoken “blessed is he who comes” He must be recognized and welcomed to make his appearance.

Mat 23:39 (KJV) For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

The ceremony is held under a canopy. The bridegroom is led to the canopy first, then the bride. The canopy is representative of a covering (heaven itself) or the Glory of God.

11. The bride is abducted in the night and taken to the bridal chamber

The wedding ceremony is going on. The bride knows the appointed time is upon her. She does not know the exact time but senses the closeness of the hour approaching.

Gen 24:63 (KJV) And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. Read the entire story.

12. The marriage supper is given by the father for all the guests of the son

The father spares no expense but goes and invites friends and guests to the marriage. It is a time of great celebration. The bride and groom go into the marriage chamber for 7 days. The best friend stands outside the chamber door. When the marriage has been consummated the friend announces to all, so all can rejoice. The blood stained garments of the night are preserved as proof forever of the bride's virginity.

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John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

In Luke 14:16-24 is the parable of the great supper. Jesus said go out and compel them to come in. God wants the marriage of the Lamb to be full of guests and those who are called. The angels are also guest invited to witness this event. We are stained with the blood of the Lamb forever. That stain will be with us forever in eternity.

The people had garments set aside only for weddings. We are preparing our garments for the wedding day. We are clothed in robes of righteousness and white spotless coverings. Finally the groom is crowned as king and bride as queen before the people. We shall rule and reign with Christ forever.

Isa 62:3-7 (KJV) Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee. I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence. And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Rev 19:7-16 (KJV) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The gospel of Christ is a wedding invitation to become the bride of Christ.

Rev 22:17 (KJV) And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.