

## Embassy Bible College. The Bride of Christ

**God created us to have an intimate relationship with Him. – portrayed as a marriage.**

From the beginning He said 'Let Us make man in our own image.'

He breathed His own life into Adam

His practice was to walk with Adam in the garden in the cool of the day

From the beginning to the end the Bible is about the marriage relationship.

In Genesis - God said it was not good for man to be alone so he made Eve as a helpmeet for Adam

- bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh

- to become one flesh

At the end of Revelation we see the marriage of the Lamb to his bride – the church. *Rev 19:7-9*

God chooses to reveal things to us by way of pictures, types patterns etc.

*Hosea 12:10. 1Cor 10:11*

**God gave us the wedding customs and ceremonies to teach us about our relationship with Jesus**

The Biblical pattern for wedding ceremony is recorded in *Gen 24*

This became the pattern for the ancient Jewish wedding

**The marriage of Isaac & Rebekah. *Gen 24* – a spiritual picture of Jesus marrying His bride**

In this story Abraham is a type of God the Father

Isaac is a type of Jesus, the bridegroom

Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit (unnamed in the story)

*Rebekah is a type of the Bride of Christ*

### **SELECTION OF THE BRIDE**

1. Firstly we see that the Father desires a bride for his son. *v2-4*

He sends his servant to find a suitable bride *v 4*

2. The Father specifies that the bride must be from His own family

*Gen 24:4,40* She must not be from the Canaanites (idolworshippers) 3.

The bride must be a virgin *v 16 4.*

### **BETROTHAL – Kiddushin - first step of the marriage**

This was legally binding and could only be undone by divorce with

proper grounds such as the bride being discovered not to be a virgin (Mary & Joseph)

The bride and groom make promises to each other. A written contract (ketubah) is drawn up.

1. Bride price was established. *v.53 He gave precious things to her brother and mother. (Gen 29:18 Jacob served Laban 7 years for Rachel)*
2. Rebekah agreed to leave the city of Nahor in Babylon and go back to Abraham's home to be Isaac's wife. *v 58*  
This involved leaving behind all she knew and trusting. She was ready to love one she had never seen.
3. Gifts are given to the bride. *v.22,30 Eliezer gave Rebekah gifts that the Father had sent. (Eliezer took all his master's goods with him v10,53)*
4. It is sealed with a cup of wine. They ate and drank *v 54*

The betrothal is complete.
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The bride is now set apart to him. Rebekah veiled herself *v.65*

### **The ancient Jewish wedding.**

#### **SELECTION OF THE BRIDE.**

The Father chooses the bride for the son

It may involve matchmakers (relatives or close friends).

The bride would have to be considered suitable by the father. Usually from the same tribe.

The bride must be a virgin.

#### **BETROTHAL – Kiddushin - first step of the marriage.**

A written contract (ketubah) is drawn up.

-states (i) the bride price

(ii) the promises of the groom (to provide for his bride)

(iii) the rights of the bride.

It must be signed before 2 witnesses prior to the wedding ceremony. This is then the property of the bride.

A cup of wine (the cup of the covenant) is poured out and the bridegroom offers it to the bride.

- if she accepts the cup and drinks from it they are officially betrothed.

The groom gives something of value to the bride – usually a ring.

The bride has a mikvah (water immersion for ritual cleansing)  
Rep. purification & separation from a former way of life.

### **The betrothal is complete.**

The bridegroom departs to prepare the bridal chamber in his father's house.

During the time the bridegroom is away the bride is preparing herself.

She is set apart to him. She will wear a veil.

She prepares her wedding garments.

She will beautify herself. *Esther : 6mths myrrh: 6mths perfumes*

She doesn't know when her bridegroom will return so she must be ready at all times

The bridegroom will not return until the Father is satisfied that the bridal chamber is ready. He will be away for at least a year. Only the Father knows the day when the bridegroom will return for the bride.

### **THE BRIDEGROOM RETURNS.**

The bridegroom returns, often at midnight, with a shout and the sound of the shofar.

### **THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.**

1. The marriage ceremony under the chupa.  
The bridegroom is led in a procession to the chupa.  
A cantor chants ' Blessed is he who comes'  
The bridegroom is treated like a King.
2. The bride is taken (abducted) to the chupa for the marriage ceremony.  
A second cup of wine is drunk – the cup of completion.
3. They are taken to the wedding chamber where the marriage will be consummated.  
The friend of the bridegroom waits outside (John the Baptist referred to himself as the friend of the bridegroom. *John 3:29*)  
He announces the consummation of the marriage and shows the bloodstained sheet as evidence that the bride was a virgin.  
The bride and groom will stay in the wedding chamber for 7 days
4. Then they come out to join the guests for the marriage supper. (Marriage supper. – theme of Succot). The guests are invited by the father of the bride.

The bridegroom takes the bride to her new home.

**At Sinai the nation of Israel was betrothed to God and became the bride of God the Father Ex 19 & 24**

*Isa 54:5 For your Maker is your husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.*

*Jer 3:14 Return O backsliding children, says the Lord, for I am married to you.*

*Jer 31:32 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 broke, although I was an husband to them, says the LORD:*

*Hosea 2:19 In that day (when Israel turns back to the Lord) I will betroth thee to me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee to me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.*

*:20 I will even betroth thee to me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.*

*Ch 19. Promises and conditions laid out v. 3-6*

*Israel agreed. v. 7-8*

*The people consecrated themselves to God. v.14-15*

*Ch 24. The Ketubah agreed 24:3 and written v. 4,7, 12*

*Moses, the priests and 70 elders ate and drank v.11*

*Joshua (the 2<sup>nd</sup> witness) went up with Moses to the chupa (the cloud that covered the mountain. v. 16).*

*They stayed with God in the cloud for 7 days. v.16*

*God intends to live with them in the tabernacle.*

**Jesus referred to His relationship with the church as that of a bridegroom to His bride**

**Jesus referred to himself as the bridegroom in *Matt 9:15***

**At Pentecost the church became the bride of Christ**

*2 Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

*Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

*26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

*27 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.*

*32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

## SELECTION OF THE BRIDE

1. The bride of Christ is chosen by the Father *Col 3:12*  
Jesus said 'You did not choose Me, but I chose you'. *John 15:15,16*  
The Holy Spirit (agent of the Father) is sent to 'draw the bride to Jesus'  
and to prepare her.  
(*John 6: 44 No man can come to me, except the Father who hath sent me draw him:)*)
2. The bride is chosen from the family of God i.e. Christians  
*Gal 3:16,29 states that Christians are the family of Abraham.*
3. The bride must be a virgin .She bride of Christ must have no other loves.  
*2 Cor 11:2*
4. The father agrees the bride price.  
Jesus paid the price with his life. *1 Cor 6:20*

## BETROTHAL – Kiddushin -

1. Jesus has made promises to His bride to love her and provide all she needs *Phil 4:19 ; 2 Co 1:20*  
– recorded in the Bible (= ketubah)
2. The church willingly chooses to leave 'the world' to follow Jesus. He will be her heart's desire. She will love Him above all else.
3. Jesus drank a cup of wine at the Passover meal with his disciples just before His crucifixion. *Matt 26:27-29.*  
We do this at communion. The cup of the covenant . *1 Cor 11:25-26*  
He spoke of drinking it again in the kingdom of His Father.
4. Jesus gave gifts, to the church - the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.  
*Eph 4:8*
5. The bride has a mikvah (water immersion for ritual cleansing)  
Rep. purification & separation from a former way of life. Believers in Jesus are immersed in the waters of baptism. *Acts 19:4*

The betrothal is complete. The bridegroom departs to prepare the bridal chamber in his father's house.

*Jesus said, '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 you may be also'. John 14:2,3*

**This is where we are now.**

**During this time the bride must prepare herself for the return of the bridegroom.**

Jesus will come back for a holy and sanctified bride. *Eph 5:25-27*  
She must keep herself from entanglement with the world. *Rom 12:1-2*

She must be faithful.

She will study to show herself approved

She will prepare her wedding garments *Rev 19:7-8*

(arrayed in fine linen – the righteousness of the saints)

She will watch for the return of her bridegroom – Jesus. *Matt 24:42*

## **THE RETURN OF THE BRIDEGROOM**

1. Only the father knows when the groom will return. Jesus said (*Mark 13:26,32,33*) Only the Father knows the day and the hour when the Son of Man will return. *Matt 24:36*

Jesus speaks of this in the parable of the ten virgins. *Matt 25:1-2,6,10-11*. These are virgins i.e. they represent Christians who are betrothed to Jesus and will go to heaven.

At midnight a shout went up 'Behold the bridegroom comes'

But the five foolish ones were not ready and missed the marriage.

2. The bridegroom returns, often at midnight, with a shout and the sound of the shofar. – *1 Thess 4:16-17; 1 Cor 15:52* 'at the last trump'

(note: the last trump is blown at Rosh HaShanah)

3. Jesus will appear in the clouds to catch up his church.

## **THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY. -THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB.**

1. The marriage ceremony takes place under the chupa. (Heaven is a type of chupa)

The bridegroom is led in a procession to the chupa.

A cantor chants 'Blessed is he who comes' *Matt 23:39* Jesus said He would not return for His bride/church until these words were said.

The bridegroom is treated like a King. Jesus will be crowned King under the chupa in Heaven.

2. The bride is abducted. The rapture will take place unexpectedly and suddenly.

3 The second cup – the cup of completion will be drunk. *Mk 14:25*.

4...The bride/church will be in heaven with Jesus to consummate the marriage.  
*Is 26:20-21*

Jesus and His church return to celebrate the marriage supper. *1 Thess 3:13*  
*Rev 19:7-9*.

Jesus takes His church to her new home the new Jerusalem. *Rev 21:2,9-10*