

Yahshua's Wedding Parables: Messages to His Bride

As we saw at the end of Chapter Two, there are several Old Testament stories that serve as prophetic parables of the future of the True Church, and the dual nature of the Bride of Christ. Also as mentioned earlier, Saint Paul understood Yahshua's New Covenant with mankind as an everlasting betrothal and marriage to Christ that was sealed by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. This betrothal will be consummated in marriage when Yahshua comes for His Bride, the True Church, and forever seals His New Marriage Covenant with Israel. This truth led Paul to declare:

*"For I have betrothed you to one husband,
that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." -
2 Corinth. 11:2 (NKJ)*

In saying this, Paul was alluding to prophecies in the Old Testament, which declared that Israel would one day be reconciled, and betrothed to Yahweh once more. Here is one example:

*"I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will
betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in
lovingkindness and mercy..." - Hosea 2:19 (NKJ)*

This everlasting betrothal was accomplished through Christ. Every believer is betrothed to Christ by accepting, and desiring to live by the loving laws of the New Covenant that Christ cut with us all. Yahshua is allegorically betrothed to every believer through the New Covenant, which is much more than a betrothal. In fact, it is an Adoption Covenant, and a Marriage Covenant between God and man. This is why many New Testament passages allude to weddings in a Jewish context. For example, in the "Parable of the Ten Virgins" found in the Gospel of Matthew, ten young women are gathered at the bride's home, just as Jewish custom dictated. They are planning to attend the bride during the wedding, and are awaiting the groom's arrival to retrieve his bride, and take her to the home of his parents:

*"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened
to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to
meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise,
and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took...*

no oil with them, but the wise took oil in... vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.” - Matthew 25:1-5 (NKJ)

This parable is overflowing with allegorical symbolism and meaning. For example, the Kingdom of Heaven is the invisible kingdom that Christ established at Pentecost, through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer. Likewise, the Bridegroom is Christ, and the oil in the lamps is a symbol for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This oil thereby signifies the good works that the Spirit of God inspires within us. Meanwhile, the ten virgins with lamps refer to the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, which figuratively are represented in today's world by the congregations of believers found scattered in all the Gentile nations on Earth today. These are the guests who are invited to witness the Wedding of the Lamb of God and His Bride.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Yahshua is telling us that, though all people saved by the Blood of Christ are invited to the wedding banquet, only half of all the people in today's churches are spiritually alive enough to attend! Therefore, only half of the guests are born-again disciples that are baptized with the Holy Spirit and have an active relationship with Christ. Even among the born-again disciples, however, the parable tells us that most of them are sleepy. This means that they are still too attached to the world, are not completely devoted to living for Christ, and are not longing deeply enough for His return. Therefore, they are not seeking to identify the heavenly and earthly signs that indicate when Yahshua's return to Rapture His saints will be imminent.

Two figurative tribes not being directly discussed in this Parable - but who are figuratively being alluded to - are Judah and Ephraim, which figure prominently in End Time Bible prophecy. My studies have led me to conclude that ***Judah signifies the Jewish believers, while the Gentile believers that will be set apart as the Bride of Christ are connected to Ephraim.*** These believers love Yahshua deeply, and are joyfully expecting and longing for His return. In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, ***the Jewish believers are connected to the Bridegroom, who signifies Christ.***

Meanwhile, the Ephraimite Bride is connected to the Church of Philadelphia, which is one of the Seven Churches in the Book of

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Revelation, and the only one that is promised a chance to escape the Great Tribulation (See Rev. 3:10). The Five Wise Virgins can be seen as part of the Church of Philadelphia also, as a remnant of the most faithful believers from five of the other six churches listed in the Book of Revelation that are not promised deliverance from the Great Tribulation. These Wise Virgins from five of the Seven Churches will serve Yahshua and His Ephraimite Bride in eternity, whereas no one from the Church of Laodicea will be taken in the Rapture. In Revelation 3:15-16, Yahshua warns that He is so disgusted with their lukewarm stance that He will vomit them out of His mouth, which alludes to the fact that everyone in the Laodicean Church is going to be left behind!

Though today's Israelites are spiritually born through faith, there is a literal Israel, as well as a spiritual Israel, and there are prophecies unique to both in the Bible. In Book Three, we will explore the fate and legacy of literal Israel. Then, in Book Four, we will explore the modern identity of the allegorical Bride of Christ, and the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Then we will examine the differences and similarities in their overlapping roles, and their ultimate fate.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, we are allegorically allowed to see just a glimpse into the ultimate fate of every believer. This is especially true of the following portions of that parable:

*"At midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. **And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'** But the wise answered... 'No, lest there should not be enough for us... but go... and buy for yourselves.' " - Matthew 25:6-9 (NKJ)*

Here, the Ten Virgins (who, as friends and relatives of the Bride, are also to be reckoned as Israelites) are all suddenly awake when they hear that the Bridegroom is coming. Nevertheless, only five -or exactly half - of the Ten Tribes or Seven Churches on Earth today that profess to be believers will have an active and meaningful relationship with Yahshua. The other five sleepy virgins who forgot to bring enough oil believe that they are saved. But since they are lacking in spiritual gifts or oil, and are not longing

for Christ's Return to set up God's Kingdom on Earth, this places them outside the Kingdom of God. Therefore, they will not be sanctified and ready to leave when the Bridegroom comes:

"And while they (the five foolish virgins) went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." - Matthew 25:10-13 (NKJ)

The Parable of the Ten Virgins clearly teaches us several prophetic truths. Though some of these will be discussed when we focus on the Parable of the Wedding Feast, here is a summary of the main truths. First of all, the ten virgins allude to ten churches representing the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Five of these virgins will be found unworthy to accompany Yahshua's Bride to Heaven because Yahshua does not "know" them or have a personal relationship with them (Mat. 25:12). This strongly implies that the Foolish Virgins do not have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, never spend time praying and seeking to know and follow Yahshua, and do not hear His Spirit's inner voice within them. Therefore, they will be left behind when Yahshua opens then shuts the door to Heaven in the Rapture.

As proof of this, the oil needed to light the virgin's vigil lamps is the Holy Spirit. The lamps themselves signify the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are active in the lives of believers. The Groom is Yahshua, and - from the known sequence of Jewish wedding customs - He will certainly return to Heaven (the abode of His parents) with His Bride. Scripture tells us that the portion of the Day of the Lord that will signify the end of mankind's corrupt world system will come like *"a thief in the night"* (1 Thess. 5:2). This signifies that Yahshua will come suddenly, when it is least suspected, and will steal His Bride and the Five Wise Virgins to attend His Wedding in Heaven.

The Ten Virgins or Ten Tribes of Israel will consist of natural Israelites and grafted-in Israelites taken from among the Gentile nations. Besides faithfully serving Yahshua and His Bride, these

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virgin attendants will serve as witnesses of the marriage of Yahshua and His Bride during the Millennial Kingdom, and will be considered to be members of the same family through the New Covenant in Yahshua's blood. As we will see in Chapter Nine, a divine covenant is not usually between just two people, but included the extended families or tribes of the two people as well.

This parable illustrates that not every saved Gentile will be the Bride. Some will be relatives in the two spiritual families or classes of virgins united by the wedding, and others will be invited guests, as indicated by the Parable of the Wedding Feast. It also shows that the Wedding of the Lamb will be in Heaven and the Marriage Supper will be on Earth. In fact, the Millennial Kingdom will begin with the Marriage Supper, as will be shown momentarily.

During the Millennium, there will be immortal people in the newly established Kingdom of Israel that surrounds Jerusalem, and mortal people inside and outside of it living on Earth at the same time. Those on Earth who are mortal will be able to marry, while the people in the kingdom who are immortal will already be married to Christ. However, those who live outside of the greatly enlarged Kingdom of Israel (which will reach from the Nile River to the Euphrates River) will not receive rain if they do not keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and they will likely live in outlying desert wastelands like the Bedouins in Arabia do today (Jeremiah 14:3-6; Zechariah 14:16-17).

As for the Bride and her five wise virgin attendants at the wedding, Yahshua said that they will be like the angels, and will *"neither marry, nor be given in marriage"* (Matthew 22:30). This is because the resurrected saints will be married to Christ, so there will be no more room for other marriage relationships! This is also going to be true for the spiritual representatives of the Ten Lost Tribes represented by the Ten Virgins. Though these tribes are *not* the Bride, the New Covenant allows them to be seen as related guests at the Wedding, and/or witnesses of the marriage who are to attend the Bride and Groom, share in their joy, and help insure that their marriage is a success.

This analogy of the future Millennial Kingdom points to the big problem with today's marriages. They are divorced from their families and not united under the Covenant. Therefore, the families on either side don't take personal responsibility for the success of

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each marriage. Biblically, however, marriages were meant to be family affairs - not isolated and without support like they are today.

As will be shown conclusively in Book Four, the united Tribes of Judah and Ephraim prophetically serve as the Groom and Bride at the Wedding of the Lamb, and show that Jewish and Gentile believers will finally be reconciled together forever, and will be as one family. Meanwhile, the Bride's virgin attendants allegorically signify representatives from the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. All Twelve Tribes of Israel therefore take part in the Wedding Feast. However, only five virgins - or half of the Ten Lost Tribes - will be found worthy to attend the Wedding of the Lamb. The five foolish virgins who are left behind will not necessarily be lost, however. Instead, because Yahshua wants no one to perish, these apostate believers will be tested and tried through the suffering of the Great Tribulation, and many will be numbered among the Tribulation Saints. Subsequently, they will be resurrected into everlasting life before the Millennial Rule of Christ.

The Bride of Christ and five faithful virgins represent Israelites taken from each of the Seven Churches of Revelation. The tribes signified by the Five Wise Virgins that are taken to the wedding will be the first to become a literal part of the Body of Christ first by entering into the same Marriage Covenant *as witnesses and servants to the Bride*. But many from among the Five Foolish Virgins will also earn the right to join the others as servants to the Bride just before Yahshua returns at the Battle of Armageddon, which will be waged at the end of the Great Tribulation. All of these saved and sanctified saints will then become a literal part of the Body of Christ.

Yahshua promised to come back for His Bride, the True Church after an indeterminate waiting period. This could be at any time. For this reason Christ calls for His Church of Jewish and Gentile believers to be watchful in anticipation of His arrival. Elsewhere in the Gospels, Yahshua also said He would return "*like a thief*" (Revelation 16:15), implying that He will come at an unexpected time, and when most people are spiritually asleep. Many Christian scholars believe that Yahshua will come for His Bride in an event known as the Rapture (Matthew 24:37-44).

Many also believe that the Rapture will occur before or shortly after the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Others believe it will occur in the middle - *just before* the bowls of Yahweh God's

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terrible Wrath are poured out on the unrepentant wicked left upon the Earth. Still others believe that the Rapture will come at the end of the Tribulation period. But the prophetic teachings hidden within the rituals in Jewish weddings and the Wedding Parables suggest that the Rapture will be before the end of the Tribulation. We will explore the prophetic aspects of Jewish weddings a little later in this chapter.

The most horrible part of the Tribulation is the outpouring of the Bowls of God's Wrath. This is when hideous plagues and titanic battles will occur prior to the Millennial Rule of Christ (See Revelation, Chapters 8-19). From the passages in Matthew describing the Rapture, it seems apparent that our Adonai Yahshua will act as a thief and abduct His Bride by swiftly stealing her away, and bringing her to His Father's House in Heaven (Revelation 3:3, 16:15). In this way, Yahshua will behave as a marauding foreigner in enemy territory. At this time in history, the Earth is most definitely enemy territory for most true believers. During the great Tribulation, all the Tribulation Saints will be considered enemies of the state, because the Antichrist will have total dictatorial control of the world's governments and religious leaders (Job 1:7; Revelation 2:13, 12:9).

When Yahshua comes for His Bride, there will be antagonists within and surrounding His Church that He does not wish to have any alliance with. The only thing Yahshua will covet from them is the beautiful virgin Bride He sees among them - along with her five faithful handmaidens. They will be the prize of the King of kings in the midst of those who hate and seek to destroy Him and His Kingdom. Yet, despite His coming like a thief, Yahshua has a legal right to His Bride. This is because Yahshua paid a bride price for His Bride *that He did not have to pay. **With His own lifeblood, Yahshua paid for our sins - the price necessary to make us worthy to become His Bride.*** We are therefore washed clean by Yahshua's shed blood on the Cross, and counted as pure and worthy virgins by the Spirit-made mantle of Yahshua's love - a mantle of light that all believers will wear like a pure white wedding gown. That is why all the resurrected saints are described as wearing white garments.

One may ask: "If we can take nothing with us when we are called home, what will the dowry and Bride's wedding trousseau consist of?" I received this answer from Yahshua in prayer: "This dowry isn't provided by the Bride's family, but by her betrothed

husband Yahshua, who selflessly paid the bride price with His own blood. Furthermore, the *dowry of the Bride of Christ is the Holy Spirit*, who adorns the Bride with beautiful spiritual gifts and blessings. Through the Spirit, each believer will be adorned with clothes of light and love instead of material things like jewelry and ordinary clothing. In this way, Yahshua will show His love for His Bride throughout eternity.

After the Bride and her virgin attendants arrive at the heavenly home of the Groom's Father, a wedding banquet like no other in history will begin. This banquet was also the subject of one of Yahshua's parables. "The Parable of the Wedding Banquet" is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. It is unquestionably identified as a wedding banquet in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 22:2-14), and is referring to the great Wedding Banquet of Christ and His Bride in Heaven. The message of this powerful word picture is simple: many of those originally invited to attend the banquet (i.e. the direct descendents of Jacob/Israel) will be excluded because of their lack of interest. Instead of His closest friends and family, the Groom's Father (i.e. our heavenly Father, Yahweh) will be forced to invite strangers (i.e. Gentiles) who will willingly and gratefully come to His banquet. Let's explore this parable to see what else it can tell us:

"And Jesus (Yahshua)... spoke to them again by parables and said: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king (Yahweh) who arranged a marriage for his son (Yahshua), and sent out his servants to call those... invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited... "Come to the wedding."'" But they made light of it and went their ways... And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them." - Matthew 22:1-6 (NKJ)

In this parable, the king is Yahweh Elohim, and His Son is Yahshua, the Messiah (Anointed One). The original guests invited to the banquet were the Israelites, some of whose descendents are the Jewish people. But since they rejected Yahweh's prophets, and killed their Messiah Yahshua, the banquet became open to those that the Jews call foreigners. These foreigners are identified by the term "Gentile" in the New Testament. These are people who are unfamiliar with Judaism. Among the Gentiles today, however, are

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many who have accepted the Jewish Messiah as their own, and want to attend His Wedding. Meanwhile, Yahweh poured out His wrath on the unfaithful Jews, who have repeatedly rejected His invitation to the Wedding of His Son. Yahweh therefore set His heart against the Jews in 70 AD, allowing Jerusalem and its Temple to Yahweh to be destroyed while the Jews were slaughtered or carried off into slavery:

“But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And... his armies destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go... and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out... and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.” - Matthew 22:7-10 (NKJ)

Besides containing a prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, this section of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet is a profound symbol of our salvation from sin. Because the Jews failed to witness to the Gentiles about Yahweh, God handed the task over to the Gentiles, who -after being instructed by Messianic Jews like Paul and James - faithfully went out and proselytized their faith in Yahshua to the world. All are now offered a free invitation to attend the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb, just as all are freely offered salvation from sin and death when they accept Yahshua as their Savior. We do not have to do anything to enter into salvation except choose the free gift of Grace. Yahweh offers every one of us this Grace when we accept the blood sacrifice of His Son Yahshua, and enter into a Covenant relationship with Him. That is why this parable mentions that both good *and bad* people were allowed to attend the Wedding Banquet (Mat. 22:10). Another remarkable thing about this parable is what it allegorically tells us in the description of the unwelcome wedding guest:

“But ...the king... saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him... and cast him into outer

darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen." -
Matthew 22:8-14 (NKJ)

The fact that this unwelcome guest is not wearing the proper attire for the wedding is a direct allusion to apostate believers that aren't born again of the Holy Spirit. These professing Messianics and Christians deny the power and Personhood of the Holy Spirit, thereby effectively blaspheming against Him. As will be fully explained later in this book, ***the blasphemy (or denial) of the Holy Spirit is the Unpardonable Sin***. Those who deny the power of the Spirit of God are among the Five Foolish Virgins or Churches that will be cast out into the Outer Darkness, which is an allusion to the Great Tribulation. These rejected believers will be called to serve as eye-witnesses that the Rapture occurred, and they will be given opportunities to preach this to those left on Earth. Meanwhile, the members of the True Church wearing the proper wedding garments will be taken to Heaven in the Rapture - where they will attend the Wedding of the Lamb.

The Prophetic Message of Jewish Wedding Rituals

Just as we have seen in the wedding parables, a prophetic parallel to the relationship of believers with their Savior Yahshua can also be found in every Jewish wedding custom. In the time of Yahshua's First Advent, Jewish weddings followed a prescribed ritual pattern that is still partly adhered to today. In addition, every aspect of the ancient rituals that were followed in Yahshua's era has a prophetic application. For example, just as a Jewish girl could sometimes be betrothed when she was only a baby, ***Yahshua's followers were betrothed to Him before the very foundation of our world was formed***. As the Apostle Paul said:

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ (a.k.a.: Yahshua, the Anointed One)..." - *Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV)*

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Though this is referring to our adoption as sons and daughters into the family of Abraham, it also alludes to the True Church's ultimate destiny as the Bride of Christ. Since the wedding has not yet taken place, the True Church is currently betrothed to Yahshua in anticipation of that sacred event. The gift Yahshua has given His Bride to seal the betrothal is the Holy Spirit, which is also the seal guaranteeing our salvation and our symbolic deed to the House that Yahshua has prepared for us in the heavenly New Jerusalem. Before this betrothal, Yahshua left His Father's House in Heaven, traveled far from home, and came to Earth in search of His Bride. Similarly, a prospective Jewish groom also needed to leave his father's house, and travel far from home to locate a deserving potential bride. When the bride was located, a betrothal contract was drawn up, and the bride price was paid. Yahshua has already paid the bride price for His Church with His death upon the Cross. When He died, Yahshua signed His betrothal contract with believers in His own blood.

It is important to note here that a Jewish man's bride did not necessarily have to be Jewish. Likewise, several Israelites who figure prominently in the Bible did not marry Israelite women. Take Joseph, for example, whose bride was Asenath, an Egyptian noblewoman (Genesis 41:45). Then there was Moses, whose bride Zipporah was a Midianite princess (Exodus 2:21). According to Jewish tradition, the children of a Jewish man who marries a Gentile woman are not considered Jewish. Yahweh, however, *made no such distinction* in His treatment of the dual Tribe of Joseph (i.e. Ephraim and Manasseh) when they migrated to the land of Canaan *as one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel*. This fact shows that the Tribe of Joseph was a sign from God that ***many people who are not currently considered Israelites are to be prophetically reckoned as such.***

The conditions for our entry into our heavenly betrothal with Yahshua are our total love and acceptance of Yahshua as our Savior. The devotion to Yahshua that every true Christian shows is a reflection of their desire to dwell with Him forever. The following Bible passage speaks of this betrothal, which occurs in the life of each individual when they accept Yahshua as their Salvation:

"I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and

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you will acknowledge the LORD (Yahweh).” - Hosea 2:19-20 (NIV)

After the brothel, the groom returned to his parent’s home to prepare the private rooms that he would share with his new bride. Likewise, at this present time, Yahshua has prepared a place for His Bride in His Father’s House in Heaven, where He is waiting until the time is right to come for His Bride, and her virgin attendants. This is alluded to in the following Scripture:

“In my Father’s house are many rooms; 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 14:2,3 (NIV)

This Scripture tells us that Christ is planning to take believers to Heaven (i.e. His Father’s House) before returning with them to Earth - where they will make an eternal home together. This permanent home will be provided after Christ’s Millennial Rule, when the New Jerusalem descends from the New Heaven, and onto the New Earth (Rev. 21:1-2).

When the heavenly Groom will come to take His spiritual Bride to Heaven is a question many have sought to answer without success. Yahshua’s Bride, the True Church has been warned that Yahshua’s return will be *at an unexpected time*. This is why we are told to “*keep watch*” (Matthew 24:42; Mark 13:35). Those who are posted to keep watch look for unexpected visitors approaching the border of an encampment or permanent settlement. Good watchmen can tell that someone is approaching long before they can actually be seen. For example, the watchman might detect noises, smell an unusual scent, or see animals in flight as the intruder approaches. Likewise, ***we are told to keep watch for Christ’s return by looking for telltale signs***. For those who want to know the signs of Christ’s return, read Book Four in this series. There, it will be shown that many of the signs we should be watching for *have already appeared*. Yahshua’s return is therefore imminent!

In the meantime, Christ remains in Heaven while His Bride the Church patiently awaits His return on Earth. During this time of waiting, each believer in the True Church is being prepared to

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receive their inheritance by being perfected through the discipline and guidance of the Holy Spirit within them (Ephesians 4:1-16). In like manner, while the Jewish bride awaited the groom's return, she prepared her wardrobe and trousseau while she learned how to fulfill her place in married life.

At Jewish weddings to this day, a veil covers the bride. Furthermore, the groom cannot remove the bridal veil until *after* the vows have been exchanged. Before the First Advent of Christ, veils were used to show our physical separation from Yahweh, as well as our inability to see Him clearly through our mortal, sin-filled bodies. In the Tabernacle, the heavy double-layer veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place represented this separation. In regard to our heavenly marriage to Yahshua, the inner veil symbolized Christ's perfect flesh and blood:

*"Therefore... since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus (Yahshua), by a new and living way **opened for us through the curtain (or veil), that is, his body,** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God... having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience..." - Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV)*

This Scripture suggests that Yahshua figuratively veils His true disciples, covering them with His perfection. Therefore, our heavenly Father only sees Christ whenever He gazes on anyone that is spiritually born again. In addition, at the time of their marriage to Christ in Heaven, believers will no longer be hidden beneath the veil of Christ's sacrificed body, but will be spiritually recreated in the perfect image of their Savior. Until that time, as a gift for a disciple's belief in Him, Yahshua hides their sinfulness under the veil of His perfection, and baptizes them with His Spirit. When this occurs, even though born again believers still inhabit sinful mortal bodies, they receive direct access to Yahweh through Christ!

The custom of seating the guests of the bride and groom on opposite sides of an aisle leading to the Bridal Canopy, which is also known as a Wedding Bower, or Chuppah, is also a powerful symbol tied to Blood Covenant ceremonies. In Chapter Two, we discussed the sacrificed animals cut in half that were required to seal Yahweh's first Covenant with Abraham, and we will discuss this again in Chapter Nine. When God sealed His Covenant with

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Abraham by symbolically passing down the blood red path between the animals, this recalls how a bride passes between two different families down an aisle on her way to the groom's side, and when the bride and groom exit the room together. The first Abrahamic Covenant was therefore connected to the Mosaic Marriage Covenant, and the New Covenant of Marriage that Christ initiated with mankind.

As mentioned previously, Blood Covenant relationships were common among people everywhere in ancient times. Covenant agreements were usually made between friendly parties, though Marriage Covenant rituals were often used between warring parties to attempt to bring peace through a political alliance. These political alliances only worked for a short time, however. This is because a Blood Covenant bond, unlike a contractual one, is supposed to be based on love and trust. As history has shown, however, enemies on warring sides rarely love or trust each other! So, when Yahweh entered this sacred Blood Covenant relationship with Abraham, He was placing His trust in Abraham, and asking Abraham to place his trust in Yahweh. At the time, Yahweh unconditionally promised Abraham descendants without number and the future possession of Canaan, which marked it as the Promised Land of the Israelites (See Genesis, Chapter 15).

As was the case between Abraham and Yahweh, this Covenant bond often involved sacrificing livestock and cutting their bodies in two. Then the severed pieces were dragged opposite one another into two rows. Afterward, two representatives signifying the parties entering the Covenant walked upon the blood-soaked path between the animals. This served as a graphic and solemn display of their commitment to uphold their agreement to one another unto death. Meanwhile, the families or tribes of both parties who were invited to witness the Covenant ceremony stood separated by this double row of sacrificed animals. By their presence, these witnesses were silently agreeing to keep the same Covenant agreement. Furthermore, the witnesses were to be identified with (and were being warned by) the sacrificed animals they stood around. Therefore, if they ever failed to keep the Covenant, they were silently being told that they were agreeing to suffer the same grisly fate as the sacrificed animals.

In like manner, the bride and groom symbolically walk down an aisle stained with blood from sacrificed animals. Incidentally,

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walking on a blood-soaked path to seal a Covenant is the likely origin of the custom of rolling out a long red carpet for important dignitaries to walk upon. The bride and groom's respective families, seated on opposite sides of the place where the wedding is held, symbolically represent the sacrificed, halved animals that the bride and groom must pass through in order to seal the Covenant.

A wedding is therefore a Blood Covenant relationship that the bride and groom and their prospective families enter into together. A Blood Covenant relationship, unlike a contractual one, is binding on both parties regardless of circumstances, and for their entire lifetimes. It is also perpetually binding on their direct descendents. All believers who are taken in the Rapture will forever enter this Covenant Marriage bond of love and trust with Christ at the heavenly Wedding Banquet of the Lamb. In Chapter Nine, we will delve even deeper into the spiritual meanings associated with the most sacred of ancient rites – the rite of the Blood Covenant.

How awesome and magnificent these revealed aspects of our relationship to Yahshua are, giving us such a keen knowledge of how wonderfully, and deeply loved we are! We were betrothed to Yahshua before the Fall (Ephesians 1:4-5,11), and before the sins of pride and disobedience made us all God's enemies. Through the Blood Covenant that Christ made with us, however, we will rise to become His most cherished possession (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25). We are allegorically sprinkled with His redeeming blood, and we symbolically drink it in Holy Communion. Partaking in the bread and wine of the New Covenant covers our sins, and gives us the right to call Yahshua our "Blood Brother," as well as our Beloved Groom. Drinking the cup of wine signifies our entrance into this eternal Marriage Covenant relationship with Christ.

Like the Jewish bride and bridegroom who dress in white on their wedding day, believers will be clothed in the brilliant white garments of Christ's righteousness. Like them, believers will seal their love for Christ under the enveloping canopy, or Tabernacle of His Grace and mercy - as shown to us in the Rapture. Like the Jewish bride and groom who drink from the same cup of wine, believers symbolically taste the blood of the Covenant in Communion. The wine of Communion symbolizes the believer's love for Yahshua, as well as His love for them.

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Of those who symbolically drink the blood of the Covenant, only those who keep the Covenant through the power of the Holy Spirit will be found pleasing to Yahweh God. Those who foolishly enter the New Covenant with Christ in Communion without planning to keep their relationship with Christ sacred, end up eating and drinking judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:29).

For believers who keep their Covenant with Christ, however, drinking deeply from that cup of eternal unity has many rewards. For example, believers will share a perfect place of peace with Yahshua forever. Instead of a deed to property, or a diamond ring, Yahshua has given us something of everlasting value - our salvation from sin and death, positions of leadership in the Millennial Kingdom, and a permanent home in the New Jerusalem. Saint Paul alludes to our future marriage to Christ in the following passage:

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” - Ephes. 5:25-27

The future wedding of the True Church with Yahshua will be such a glorious time! Referring to that time of joy, the traditional length of Jewish weddings and wedding banquets gives an indication of what our heavenly wedding will be like, as well as ***when it will take place***. Let's examine why:

Whenever possible, Jewish wedding banquets were ideally held for seven days - from Sabbath to Sabbath. As the guests were making their way to the location of the banquet, the bridegroom would come to the bride's home. Then he would escort her to his parent's home for the wedding ceremony, and the subsequent seven-day *wedding banquet* for immediate family, and close friends. At its end, the bride and groom would depart for their new home. Then there would be a *marriage supper* attended by family, beloved servants, and unrelated neighbors in the couple's new community. All of these events have prophetic parallels. For example, according to the prophecies of Daniel, the final Tribulation before Yahshua sets up His earthly kingdom is *seven years*:

“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people

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of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." – Daniel 9:26-27 (NIV)

As will be clearly shown in Book Four, The "seven" that Daniel speaks of in this prophecy has a dual meaning. First, it signifies a seven year period starting with the three and one half years of Yahshua's public ministry in the Holy Land. At the end of this period, ***Yahshua's death and resurrection "put an end to sacrifice and offering,"*** or the need for them, in the Temple to Yahweh. This was at the middle of the "seven." At that time, the ***"abomination that causes desolation"*** was set up in the Temple in Jerusalem. This happened when the heavy double Sanctuary Veil or Curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place was replaced with one that was not torn!

Remember that this double veil was fully torn in two when Yahshua died on the Cross (See Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, and Luke 23:45)! It was torn in two by Yahweh's holy angels to show the Jews that the total separation between God the Father and sinful mankind forever ended with the sacrifice of God's Son. We know from history, however, that the majority of Jews did not understand what this torn veil or curtain meant. Instead of seeing it as a good omen, most of them probably reacted to it with fear and trembling. Therefore, in an effort to hide the message of this torn curtain or veil, the Aaronic priests made and hung a new one in the Temple. Because the symbolism behind it was no longer valid, however, this double-layer veil was now an affront to Yahweh! Therefore, it became an abomination before God - one that the Jews who rejected Christ would pay for dearly in 70 AD. Three and a half more years after Yahshua's ascension into Heaven, the disciple Stephen was stoned to death in Jerusalem. This helped fuel the subsequent division between Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ, which is one of many factors that led to the downfall of Jerusalem.

Secondly, the "seven" in Daniel's prophecy stands for the coming seven years of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist will

reign on the Earth. The Antichrist is identified in verse 26 as *“the ruler (or prince) who is to come.”* As such, he is a vain imitator of the True Prince of Peace and King of Kings, who is Christ. The Antichrist and his evil world government is destined to reign for 42 months (or 1,260 days, See Rev. 11:2; Rev. 13:5), indicating that he will rule during the Great Tribulation, which is the last three and a half years of the seven-year Tribulation. These will be days filled with the most horrible injustice, evil, persecution and plagues ever to be unleashed upon the inhabitants of Earth.

In the middle of this seven-year period, many believe that the Antichrist will set himself up as God by sitting on a throne in the restored, or third Temple to Yahweh in Jerusalem. If he does so, the Antichrist will definitely become *“the abomination that causes desolation.”* However, since the act of rejecting Christ by ignoring the meaning of the torn curtain is an abomination, could this coming abomination be the restoration of the single curtain between the Holy and Most Holy Place in the restored Temple in Jerusalem? Could it also be the Antichrist’s condoning of the open rejection of Christ by the Jews, who welcome the restoration of the Temple? This is a possibility that may prove to be true. Only time will tell.

Regardless of what the abomination that causes desolation is, the seven-year Tribulation period is directly analogous to the *seven days* in the Feast of Tabernacles, though it is tied to the last half of a Jewish wedding, when the dinner reception for the immediate family is held after the consummation of the Wedding in the Bridal Chamber. The “1,260 days” allegorically indicates that ***the Rapture of the Church to attend the Wedding of the Lamb will occur at the beginning of the Great Tribulation - in the middle of the Tribulation period. The Marriage Supper, however, will not take place until after the Great Tribulation has ended, and it will occur on Earth - not in Heaven.*** At that time, the Tribulation Saints who die during the Great Tribulation will be resurrected and will join in the festivities. Let me explain my reasons for believing this by asking some pointed questions, and then giving the answers.

Where does the Bride of Christ currently reside? Answer: Earth. Where is the Bridegroom’s Parent’s home? Answer: Heaven. Where will the Bride and Groom celebrate their Wedding Banquet before they enter the Bridal Chamber? Answer: Heaven. Where will the home of the Bride and Groom be after the Wedding Banquet? Answer: Earth again. Where will the Marriage Supper for the newly

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married couple that has consummated their Marriage be held? Answer: In their new home, on Earth. Based on these facts, and on Yahshua's allusions to weddings and banquets when referring to the end of time in His Parables, Yahshua seems to be telling us not only to expect the Rapture, but also *when* to expect it.

The Book of Revelation describes a great multitude of saints who will accompany Yahshua when He returns to the Earth to destroy those whose home is with Satan. This is explained in the following Scriptural quotes:

"Then a voice came from the throne, saying, 'Praise our God, all you His servants'... And I heard... the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and... mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.'" And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints'... 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" - Revelation 19:5-9 (NKJ)

The preceding Bible passages clearly speak of our betrothal and upcoming marriage to Christ, as well as the fact that His Bride turned Wife will accompany Him when He returns to Earth to rule. Let's examine why. ***In Verse 6 above, the people in the great multitude are the same ones who are dressed in shining white as Yahshua's Bride the Church in verse 8.*** This multitude in white is seen here accompanying Yahshua as He comes down from Heaven to the Earth, implying that they have been with Him in Heaven for some time. This suggests that multitudes of believers will be rescued before the Great Tribulation, and will be with Yahshua in Heaven during that time. Furthermore, they will return to Earth with Yahshua when He comes in Wrath at the Battle of Armageddon.

A further clue to the identity of the army mounted on white horses in Revelation 19:14 is found in Revelation 19:7. There, we are told that Yahshua's "*wife*" wears the fine white linen representing the acts of the saints. ***This "wife" is none other than the Bride of Christ.*** The saints are the body of all who become believers in

Christ as Savior prior to the Great Tribulation. These saints collectively are the Church, the Body, and the Bride of Christ. They are both the Bride, and the five faithful “virgin” churches that attend the Bride at the Wedding of the Lamb in Heaven. This was clearly revealed earlier, in our discussion of the Parable of the Ten Virgins. Now, when the Two Witnesses are raised up just before the Battle of Armageddon, the Tribulation Saints that are still living will also be caught up in the air in what can only be called a Second Rapture. At that moment, the Tribulation Saints will become immortal like the saints taken in the First Rapture at the beginning of the Great Tribulation:

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” - 1 Cor. 15:51-52 (NKJ)

Revelation, Chapter 19 reveals additional information about the Wedding and Marriage Supper that was not apparent in the Parable of the Ten Virgins. This is the fact that, ***though the Wedding and Wedding Banquet of the Lamb will take place in Heaven, the subsequent Marriage Supper will take place on Earth - after the Tribulation!*** The wedding and the marriage are therefore *not* the same thing. The wedding is the act of getting married by exchanging vows. The marriage, however, is the act of living together as a man and wife. This is revealed partly in Revelation 19:7. Quoted earlier, this Scripture speaks of events at the *end* of the Great Tribulation. There, we are explicitly told: ***“the marriage of the Lamb has come.”*** This means that *the wedding has already occurred*, and it is time for the marriage to begin at the Bride and Groom’s new home on Earth. Then, Revelation 19:9 reveals that this marriage will be celebrated on Earth at *“the marriage supper of the Lamb.”* This means that this celebratory supper in the newly married couple’s new community will not have occurred prior to this time.

Times of tribulation-like testing have come periodically throughout the history of mankind. Many believers in Yahweh perished during these times of trouble. In many parts of the world, Christians and Jews are still being persecuted daily for their faith. God’s Wrath is one day going to be meted out on those who

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destroy His followers. The True Church, however, *will be spared* from the Great Tribulation. This time of divine judgment will be marked by many devastatingly destructive End Time plagues. These will culminate in the outright, and unrestrained fury of the Seven Bowls of Yahweh's Wrath, which are to be poured out at the end of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 16:1-21).

Our deliverance from this terrible time will come when Christ literally abducts His Bride of believers from off of the Earth like a thief in the night. He will steal us away in an event referred to as the Rapture. Along with Christ, and the saints who died before and after Christ's First Advent, those in the First Rapture are part of the "Firstfruits" of the First Resurrection. They will be translated into perfect flesh and spirit, and will remain in Heaven during the Lamb's Wedding and Wedding banquet in Yahweh's magnificent heavenly House, or Mansion. Then, just before Yahshua returns to fight the Battle of Armageddon, the Tribulation Saints will join the Raptured Saints. Therefore, the First Resurrection is a three-stage resurrection into immortality. This principle was hinted at when Paul spoke of the First Resurrection in the following Scripture:

"For... we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout... and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." - 1 Thess. 4:15-17 (NKJ)

Here, Paul is speaking of the First Resurrection at the Last Trumpet, which is at end of the Great Tribulation. This passage tells us that the dead in Christ will rise before the remaining living saints at the end of the Tribulation. Unfortunately, this Scripture is also often incorrectly associated with the Rapture, when Yahshua will return as a thief in the night to gather His saints in secret. The Rapture is signified by the blast on a Shofar, such as those once made in Israel on New Moons and at the beginning of all the Jewish Feasts, and it will be a catching away, or translation into everlasting life for all the living saints just before the Great Tribulation (See 1 Cor. 15:51-53). This First Rapture is suggested in the following

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Scripture, where the Open Door in Heaven is symbolic of the Rapture, while the voice of God is like a Trumpet or Shofar:

“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet.” - Rev. 4:1 (NKJ)

However, those who take part in this First Rapture indicated by the Open Door in Heaven will likely live through the first half of the seven-year Tribulation period, as is suggested by the appearance of the great multitude in Heaven after the Sixth Seal is opened, or after the first Four Seal Judgments have been opened. This is further strengthened by the fact that the Wrath of God is not announced in the Book of Revelation until the Sixth Seal is opened (See Rev. 6:16-17). While those taken in the First Rapture reside safely at the Lamb’s Wedding Banquet in Heaven (i.e. the home of the Groom’s Father), the Earth will be filled with destruction and violence. During this time, many people will come to a saving knowledge of Yahshua as their Messiah, and will become the persecuted Tribulation Saints mentioned in Revelation. Though those who take part in the Second Rapture will be excluded from the joy of attending God’s Wedding reception in Heaven, the Tribulation Saints will be recognized as part of the Body of Christ. All of these saints will be raised into everlasting life just before Yahshua visually returns in triumph, and they will join Yahshua and the angels and saints in His army in the air before the astonished and terrified eyes of those who are destined to perish.

Just as there are three stages to our salvation, there are also three stages in the First Resurrection, which are symbolized in the basic three-part construction of the Desert Tabernacle, as well as the Temple of Solomon. For example, the Most Holy Place - where the Ark symbolizing Christ rested - is a symbol for the first of the Firstfruits of the Resurrection. Therefore, the Most Holy Place represents the resurrection of Christ and the saints who were raised shortly after He was - as witnessed in and around Jerusalem during the daylight hours following Yahshua’s resurrection from the dead:

“...and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” - Matthew 27:53 (NKJ)

Chart: the Prophetic Aspects of Jewish Wedding Customs

<p>The Ten Steps Made To Seal a Jewish Wedding Covenant</p>	<p>Prophetic Meanings and Holy Days Connected to Ritual Marriage Acts</p>
<p>1. The Groom leaves His Hometown to Seek a Bride: The bridegroom travels from his father's house to search for a suitable bride in another town.</p> <p>2. The Groom Selects a Bride: The bridegroom arrives at the bride's house, and the bride's father negotiates the bride price with the bridegroom.</p> <p>3. The Groom Pays the Bride Price: When the bridegroom pays the bride's purchase price, the Marriage Covenant is considered official - even though no physical union has taken place. The bride is thereby set apart exclusively for her husband.</p> <p>4. Sealing of the Betrothal as a Covenant: The bride and groom seal the betrothal by drinking from the same cup of wine, over which the betrothal blessing is recited beforehand. The Bride is now expected to stay chaste and pure, and to prepare herself to serve her future husband.</p> <p>5. The Groom Returns Home Without His Bride: After sealing the betrothal, the groom returns to his father's house. He remains apart from his chosen bride for an indeterminate period, while the bride receives gifts from well-wishers.</p>	<p>1. Yahshua left His Father's House in Heaven to fetch a bride on Earth. (Ephes. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-8) This relates to Chanukah, or the Festival of Lights.</p> <p>2. Yahshua selects His Bride (and bridal party), which consists of Judah, and Ephraim and Israel (a.k.a. the Lost Sheep of Israel, or the Ten Lost Tribes) (Zech. 9:9-10, 10:6-7; Mat. 25:1-13; John 10:15-16).</p> <p>3. Yahshua pays the Bride price for His Bride, with His own blood. (Hebrews 9:12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This relates to Passover. Believers are sanctified or set apart exclusively for Christ by accepting Christ's atoning sacrifice, and promising to serve Christ alone (Ephesians 5:25-27).</p> <p>4. Yahshua seals the betrothal in the New Covenant - through Communion, which He offers to His Bride. This memorializes Yahshua's death on the Cross at Passover to pay for our sins (1 Corinthians 11:24-26). This relates to the day of the Firstfruits offering, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.</p> <p>5. Yahshua returns to His Father's House after purchasing our salvation on the Cross. Then He sends the Holy Spirit to His Bride on Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks (John 6:62, 16:28).</p>

6. The Groom Prepares Living Accommodations for His Bride:

While the bride waits for her betrothed to finish preparing their home, and to return for her, she prepares a wardrobe, and gets ready for married life.

7. The Groom Fetches the Bride at Night:

After the waiting period ends, the groom leaves the father's house with his best man and male friends at night. They form a torchlight procession, making their way to the bride's parent's home.

8. The Groom's Arrival Shout:

The bride is expecting her groom to come for her, but does not know the exact time he will arrive. Therefore, the groom's friends shout loudly, announcing the groom's arrival.

9. Bridal Party Returns to Groom's Father's House:

The groom greets his bride, who is accompanied by her handmaidens. Then they leave the bride's parent's home and return to the groom's father's house.

10. The Wedding Banquet lasts for seven days, from Sabbath to Sabbath.

The couple arrives at the groom's father's house, and the wedding ensues. Then the bride and groom slip away in private to consummate their marriage. Afterward, they leave the banquet, go to their new home, and celebrate in their new community with a marriage supper.

6. Yahshua is preparing many rooms for His Bride in Heaven,

and has sent the Holy Spirit to prepare His Bride for marriage (John 14:2-3, 15:26, 16:7). This is **the Church, or Spirit Age**, which ends in the Rapture.

7. Yahshua leaves His Father's House in Heaven to fetch His earthbound Bride in secret,

as if under cover of night (Matthew 25:10; Luke 12:36-40; Revelation 3:3, 16:5). This will occur **just before the Rapture**, and *before* the Great Tribulation.

8. Yahshua's return for His Bride will be heralded with a shout.

His arrival will come like a thief in the night as **the First Rapture** begins, and at a day and hour when the world does not expect it (Matthew 25:6; Luke 12:38-40). This relates to Pentecost and to the Feast of Trumpets.

9. Yahshua takes His Bride and her attendants to Heaven at the First Rapture - shortly after the first Four Seal Judgments have started

(Mat. 24:38-42, 25:10; Rev. 3:10, 4:1, 6:16-17, 7:9-17).

10. The Wedding Banquet lasts for 1,260 days in Heaven, while the Great Tribulation unfolds on Earth

(Dan. 9:27; Mat. 25:10; Rev. 12:1-5). The Wedding is tied to Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets. The Great Tribulation is tied to the Day of Atonement, The Second Rapture is tied to the Battle of Armageddon, and the Marriage and Marriage Supper are tied to Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles.

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Next in succession, the Holy Place signifies the Raptured Saints, as well as those saints who died during the Church Age. Finally, the courtyard signifies the great body of Tribulation Saints, who will serve as perpetual witnesses to Yahshua's marriage to His Gentile Bride. Interestingly, Solomon and Ezekiel's Temples each had two courtyards: the Inner Court, and the Great Court. These suggest that there will be two Raptures during the Great Tribulation: one before, or at the very beginning of the Tribulation's final three and a half years, and one at its end, when the Two Witnesses rise from the dead and then ascend to Heaven (Rev. 11:11-12).

Just as the Jewish bride and groom once journeyed to their new home with their entourage after the wedding at the husband's parent's home, Yahshua and His Bride will leave the banquet in heaven, and go to Earth at the end of the Tribulation. They shall return accompanied by angels and be part of a formidable heavenly army. This army will be made up of holy angels, Tribulation Saints, and all the other saints from throughout time, including those who were martyred for their faith in Yahweh long before:

*"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war... He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of Yahweh. **The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.**" - Rev. 19:11-14 (NIV)*

The end of the Great Tribulation is the time of Christ's coming in vengeance - when He will cleanse the Earth of evil and prepare it as a fitting home for His Bride. After this great battle, Yahshua and His Bride will rule together as King and Queen during the coming Millennium of Peace upon the Earth. So it is the Earth, and the New Jerusalem that descends from Heaven to Earth, that will be the final dwelling place of Yahshua and His resurrected Bride. The enthroned Bride will ultimately inherit a re-created world unblemished by sin at the end of Her Millennial Rule with Christ. It will be Yahshua's perfect coronation gift to His Bride and Queen - a holy place where the righteous will live forever. What glorious times they will be!

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All believers can look forward to dwelling in this future utopia. There is no ambiguity in the promises of Yahweh. Every martyr who perishes by the sword for the cause of Christ, and every one who dies believing in the need for Yahshua's perfect blood sacrifice go immediately to be with Him in spirit when they die. In addition, they will all be a part of the First Resurrection to immortal life. All those who are now alive with Christ's promises in their hearts look forward to their coming physical resurrection into a new, eternal existence. Their life in eternity will be filled with perfect love, beauty, and happiness, and those who attain a place in it will forever remain the pure and spotless Bride of Christ.

In this chapter, we have explored the richness and beauty of the Language of God hidden in the Wedding customs of the Jewish people. The allegorical meanings behind these customs are beautiful reminders of our place in Yah's Kingdom. In addition, they are also prophetic in nature, showing us how end time events will unfold. There is no ambiguity in these ritual acts. They teach us that the Rapture of the Church will occur at the beginning of the Great Tribulation and that the Bride will be with Yahshua in Heaven as "all hell breaks loose" on Earth.

To help those interested in memorizing the steps in the Jewish wedding, and their spiritual and prophetic applications, a table has been included on pages 246 and 247. After reviewing it, turn to the next chapter where we will contemplate the metaphorical Language of God revealed in the bonds of a human family. Naturally flowing from marriage, the relationship between father, mother, and child have clear spiritual applications when viewed allegorically.