

A TRADITIONAL JEWISH WEDDING

1.0 Christian greetings

2.0 The Bible characterizes the relationship between Jesus & his body members in many ways.

- Our focus today is that of bride & groom which is one of the most intimate of these relationships.

3.0 The Bible makes reference to the bridegroom and bride in several contexts in the OT & NT

- **Gen.2:24** (Adam/Eve); **Jer. 3:14**, 1,8 (God/Israel); **Jo.3:28,29**; (Jesus/Israel)

- **Lk.12:22,35,36**; **2 Cor. 11:2**; Rev.19:7 (Jesus/disciples)

4.0 The virgin parable in Matt.25 is based on a traditional Jewish wedding. **C191**

- Studying the scriptural basis for the tradition enhances our appreciation of our marriage to Jesus

5.0 Unlike traditional Gentile weddings, traditional Jewish weddings have 12 steps.

5.1 Bridegroom's father selects the bride. **Gen. 24:3,4** (Abraham); **Matt.22:1,2**; **Heb.5:4** (God);

- **2 Thes.2:14** (God uses the Gospel); Jo.9:31; Ro.8:29,30 (God calls only the tentatively justified)

5.2 Bridegroom pays the bride price. Shows her preciousness to her father and to her bridegroom.

- **Gen.29:6,18** (Jacob paid for Leah/Rachel in labor to their father Laban);

- **1 Cor. 6:20**; **1 Pet.1:18,19**; Eph.5:2; **Lk.6:19**; **Phil.2:8** (Jesus pays for his bride - by giving his humanity [ransom] and by proving faithful in all his sacrificial sufferings [sin-offering])

- **Phil.2:9**; **Isa. 61:10**; **Heb.2:10**; **9:24**; **Psa.45:13** (proofs that Jesus gave his father the bride price)

5.3 Bride consents to the marriage proposal. **Gen.24:57,58** (Rebecca: "I will go")

- **Matt.22:2,3**, 4-8 (Israel as a nation refused their wedding invitation - & were cast aside as a bride)

- Matt.22:9,10 (God then sent wedding invitation to Gentiles); **Jo.2:2** (disciples invited to a wedding)

5.4 Bridegroom and bride enter into a marriage contract.

- Exo.19:5; Deut.28:1-14 (Jehovah vowed to bless and protect his bride-to-be, natural Israel)

- Exo.19:8; 24:3 (natural Israel vowed to be faithful to Jehovah)

- Isa.50:1; Jer.3:8 (God divorced natural Israel because of her unfaithfulness)

- Eph.5:23-25,33 (Jesus agrees to care for & cherish his bride; she agrees to reverence him)

5.5 Bridegroom & bride sip from a common cup of wine to mark their joinder/betrothal/engagement

- **Matt.26:27** (Jesus & his bride share a common cup of wine to mark their betrothal) \R3164:3

- Psa.104:15 (communion cup represents sacrificial sufferings, but also includes an element of joy)

5.6 Bridegroom gives gifts to his bride in two phases: pre-betrothal and more at betrothal.

- Gen.24:47 (Rebecca receives an earring and two bracelets as part of a marriage proposal)

- Gen.24:53 (Rebecca received a second set of gifts once she accepted the marriage proposal)

- Spiritual Israel's gifts: first, hearing the call; second, truth, holy spirit, full justification, etc

5.7 Bride purifies herself - ceremonially washes herself from old single life to new betrothed life

- **Psa.45:10** (bride "forgets" her father's house and prepares to be part of her husband's house)

- 1 Thes.4:3 (spiritual Israel is sanctified, set apart)

- Eph.5:26; R4662:6 (spiritual Israel washes herself by the word)
- Col.3:9,10 (spiritual Israel works during the betrothal to put off the old life and put on the new)
- **1 Jo.3:3** (spiritual Israel works to purify themselves to become fit for the wedding)
- 2 Cor 5:15 (no longer live unto ourselves, but unto Jesus)
- Phil.3:13 (forget the things behind)

5.8 Bridegroom departs and goes to his father's house to prepare a home for his bride.

- Bridegroom and bride were to become part of and reside in the bridegroom's father's house
- **Jo.14:2** (Jesus prepared a place in his father's house of many rooms for his bride)
- Jesus did all the necessary work to make it possible for he & his bride to live in the divine room of his father's mansion house.

5.9 Bride beautifies herself (beauty treatments!) to please her bridegroom - be desirable to him.

- Esther chapter 2 (Jewess Esther beautified herself to be ready to become Kg. Ahasuerus' queen)
- **Rev.19:7** (Jesus' bride must spend a lifetime engaging herself in character beauty treatments)
- March 22 manna (Bride must have an eye single unto the pleasement of Jesus)
- Psalms 45:13,14 (Bride must become all glorious with beautiful adornments of Christlike character)
- **Songs of Solomon 4:1** (doves eyes - no peripheral vision - singular focus on one thing)

5.10 Bridegroom comes to take his bride home

- **Songs of Solomon 2:10** (rise up, my love, and come with me)
- **Jo.14:3** (Jesus has come; he will receive us individually when our character development is complete)
- **1 Thes.4:17** (when our character development is complete, we will meet the Lord in the air)

5.11 Bridegroom and bride enter into the bridal chamber to consummate the marriage.

- **Joel 2:16, Gen.24:67** (Bridegroom and bride consummate their marriage)
- Psalms 19:5 (Bridegroom exits the bridal chamber and rejoices)
- Jo.3:29 (once the marriage is consummated, "best man" announces it to the waiting guests)
- Isa. 54:1,2; Gal.4:27; Isa.9:6; 1 Cor 15:21-23 (Isaac & Rebecca get married for one reason - produce earthly offspring).

5.12 The wedding feast

- Bridegroom and bride sip wine out of one glass signifying the union is now complete
- Psalms 104:15 (the fullness of joy is reached because the marriage is now complete) R3164:3
- **Matt.26:29** (Jesus shares a glass of "wine" with his bride once the marriage is consummated)
- Jo.2:9 (second drinking of wine implied in the wedding at Cana attended by Jesus & disciples)
(100+ gallons of high-quality wine -- all the wedding guests joined in the joyous celebration)
- **Rev.19:7,9** (Great company urges rejoicing once the marriage is consummated)

6.0 Summary

- The 12 step traditional Jewish wedding enhances our appreciation of the virgin parable of Matt.25
- These 12 steps also enhance spiritual Israel's marriage process to her bridegroom
- Each step is based on scripture text including portrayals or historical examples in scripture
- **Matt.25:13** "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour."