

Mat 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. (19) Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. (20) But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (21) And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (22) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: (23) "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us." (24) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, (25) and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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

Eph 5:26-27 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, (27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.... 5:30-32 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. (31) "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." (32) This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Rev 19:7-9 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." (8) 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. (9) Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Rev 21:9-10 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." (10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Joh 14:2-3 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. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

## Opening Reading

- 1) Many references to the church, the body, the Saved being:
  - a. Bride
  - b. Marriage
- 2) Gain Foundation – What were weddings and getting married like in that first century Sourced from:
  - a. Sources:
    - i. My Jewish Learning website
    - ii. Wikipedia & many other sites, Jewish, Messianic, and others
- 3) The Marriage
  - a. The Grooms father normally chose the bride for his son - Shiddukhin
  - b. Then a marriage contract was written - Ketubah
    - i. The provisions and conditions of the proposed marriage
    - ii. What the grooms promises to his wife are

- iii. The bride stipulates the contents of her dowry – financial status
- iv. Consent of the bride was very much a part of this process
- c. Bridal Payment – Mohar
  - i. Gift paid by the groom to the bride's family, that ultimately belonged to the bride
  - ii. Set her free from her parents household
- d. Ritual Immersion – Mikveh
  - i. To prepare for betrothal it was common for the bride and groom to separately take a ritual immersion – symbolic of spiritual cleansing
- e. Betrothal – Eyrusin/kiddushim
  - i. Period of time of sanctification/set apart to prepare themselves for entering into the covenant of marriage
  - ii. Much stronger than today's engagement process
  - iii. So strong that to get out of it there would have to be a divorce or annulment contract
    - 1. This was only available for the groom, the wife had no say in the divorce proceedings.
  - iv. Bride and groom would gather under a canopy (huppah) and express their intentions
    - 1. Huppah – symbol of a new household being planned
    - 2. A ring or a cup of wine was exchanged to seal the betrothal vows taken
  - v. The lived separated for about 1 year
    - 1. Before the groom left he would leave the bride a gifts as a promise to return for her (Matan)
    - 2. Lived separately, no sexual relations, but considered married
  - vi. Responsibilities of each during the betrothal period
    - 1. Groom – build a place for the couple to live, most often by attaching room(s) to the father's home.
      - a. It was to be better than the place the bride was presently living in
    - 2. Bride – preparing the wedding garments
- f. The Marriage – Nissuin
  - i. Bride would be waiting with her preparations done, but the coming of the groom was to be a surprise
    - 1. Near the end of the year she new she had to be prepared as she did not know exactly when he would come to carry her away.
  - ii. The father of the groom determined with the grooms preparations were complete and would send him off the get his bride
  - iii. The groom would bring her to his father's home, his home, and the pinnacle of the marriage would occur – the marriage supper.
    - 1. 7 days of food, music, dancing, and celebrating
  - iv. After this the groom was allowed to take his bride to their new home and live together as husband and wife.