

Ancient Hebrew Wedding and the Rapture

Neil Marnewick, 3 May 2015

If we want to understand the rapture correctly, then we need to understand how it fits into our relationship with Jesus Christ. God always had the intention to have mankind as his bride. It starts with making Adam in his own image. God spoke everything into existence, except for Adam and Eve, which he formed. We look like Jesus, unlike any animal.

Satan was jealous and deceived mankind with the fall into sin, so that mankind would become unacceptable to Him, but God's love was big enough, so He decided to sacrifice Himself on the cross to restore this. Read Gen 1:27, 2:7; Isaiah 54:4-5; Eph 5:22, 25-26; Rev 19:7-8

Mankind, subdued to God, sanctified and made holy by the blood of Jesus is the bride of God. Are you ready to marry your Husband? Or are we perhaps married already with God?

With the ancient Hebrew wedding the young man and his father would have gone to the market place to check upon the available girls. They would have chosen one depending on what they knew about her and her family and what they would have seen there. (They would have spoken with each other as well.) The son and his dad would then go to the girl's father's house to determine the price of the girl. The girl was given the opportunity to say yes or no – it was her choice. If she agreed the groom's family would then pay the price.

The girl was invited to the house of the prospective groom's dad, where they would draw up the marriage contract and sign it. It contained terms and promises to each other. Then they took a cup of wine together to seal the marriage. The marriage was legal, but they called it "engagement". The girl carried a veil over her mouth in public thereafter, to show that she was taken.

Immediately after the glass of wine the bride departed to her parents house where she lived and waited while the groom was preparing a wedding chamber in his father's house, as well as obtaining his own house. It took typically about 1-2 years.

When the groom's father alone decided that the time was right for the wedding, he told his son and the wedding guests. That evening the groom's best man (best friend) went before him with other male friends and blew the trumpet, announcing that the groom is coming. This was unexpected for the bride. She and her escort quickly got up, trimmed their wicks and went out of the house. The groom arrived and the men took the women immediately to depart. The wedding couple with their friends went to the father's house under a canopy, where the wedding guests and their parents waited upon them.

The wedding couple went to the chamber and had sex for the first time to consummate the marriage. Once the groom announced that they are finished the best man would announce it to the guests and the wedding reception (party) started, which lasted for 7 days.

With the Old Covenant God led the Israelites out of Egypt through Moses, but paying for them with the Passover lam. They went through the Red Sea and received the Ten Commandments (marital contract) and other laws at Mount Sinai. Then they had to live holy and wait for the Messiah to come, 1400 years later. Jesus entered Jerusalem during the Passover celebration on a donkey, which the Jews had been practising for all that time. Sadly, they did not recognize their King.

With the New Covenant Jesus paid for us with his blood at the cross. This was the price for the bride, as Father God determined – the Passover lam had to be the Mediator. We have the choice to receive Him or not. The marital contract is the Bible, with all of its conditions and promises!

While we wait for Him we are led by the Holy Spirit, who guides and protects us like a mother would – we were not left as orphans as Jesus said. We need to keep ourselves clean and holy to be without blemish (2 Pet 3:14). Therefore Satan will do everything to defile us, to oppress and persecute us, so that we would be unacceptable to the Groom.

Jesus went to prepare a wedding chamber for us in his Father's house. (Joh 14:2-3). Jesus as Groom come expectantly upon instruction of the Father to take us with force (*Harpazo*) (1 Thes 4:15-18, 1 Cor 15:50-52).

If you look at the sequence of events the Rapture is hidden in Rev 4:1. (It is the same form of event as per Rev 11:12). We will know Groom Jesus intimately as He is (Open 4 & 5). This is the Marriage consummation.

We will be wedding with Him 7 years, at which time God's wrath will be poured out upon the earth according to Rev 6-18. The Jews and possible new converts will see the antichrist, but he will kill them all (144 000 Jews and "saints"). In Rev 19 Jesus comes with his bride (the church and the 144 000) back to earth to conquer and to rule for 1000 years. This will be the 7000th year on the earth for mankind. (Remember the scripture mentioning that a day with the Lord is like a 1000 year.)

Then comes the Judgement and his holy sanctified bride will live with Him in the New Jerusalem.

We need to be vigilant and aware of Satan's plans. Jesus warned us with a parable of the ten virgins, Matt 25:1-13. Five ran out of oil before the groom came, because he took long to come.

When when they came afterwards he chased them away - it was forever too late.

Commit today to be ready. Cut off the world and follow Jesus. Keep yourself holy. Wait and see when the Groom comes, because it can be any time. Let us bow our hearts and check ourselves. Let us repent of our sin and ask Jesus to wash us clean, so that we may be acceptable to Him.

....End....

Additionally, here are good referencces for further reading:

http://www.his-forever.com/jewish_weddings_rapture.htm

<http://www.khouse.org/articles/2003/449/>