



YOM TERUAH - THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Genesis 21:1-34
Numbers 29:1-6
1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:10
1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17
1 Corinthians 15:50-57
Revelation 11:15 to 19:10



The Bridegroom Is Coming!

The final trumpet announcing the Bride's forthcoming wedding is sounded on *Yom Teruah*, the fifth of God's/*Elohim* seven Levitical Feast Days. On this day, the blowing of two silver trumpets alerts the Bride that her Bridegroom is on His way. Yom Teruah is God's/*Elohim* High Holy Sabbath. It also falls on the first day of the seventh month (called *Tishrei*) in the Biblical Hebrew calendar known as the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh*. The first sighting of the crescent New

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Moon determines the beginning of each month. The day and hour are hard to pre-determine, as the moon may tarry over Jerusalem up to three days before appearing in the night sky. Therefore, only God/*Elohim* knows the return. The first day of the seventh month is established as soon as the eye can see the crescent moon. *Yom Teruah* is then declared at the same time as the sighting of that seventh New Moon (Leviticus 23; Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3).

🌿 **Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

Yom Teruah – The Day Of Blowing

🌿 **Leviticus 23:23-25** “Then the LORD/*Yahweh* spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-*rest*, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work *on it*; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD/*Yahweh*.’”

🌿 **Numbers 29:1-6** “And in the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets. You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD/*Yahweh*: one young bull, one ram, *and* seven lambs in their first year, without blemish. Their grain offering *shall be* fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths *of an ephah* for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; also one kid of the goats *as* a sin offering, to make atonement for you; besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD/*Yahweh*.”



🌿 **Nehemiah 8:1-12** “Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD/*Yahweh* had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law. So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah [*six priests*]; and at his left hand Pedaiyah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam [*seven priests*]. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD/*Yahweh*, the great God/*Elohim*. Then all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their

hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD/*Yahweh* with *their* faces to the ground.”

“Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah [*the priests*], and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God */Elohim*; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading. And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day *is* holy to the LORD/*Yahweh* your God */Elohim*; do not mourn nor weep.’ For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our LORD/*Yahweh*. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD/*Yahweh* is your strength.’ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, ‘Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved.’ And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.”

On Yom Teruah the trumpets sound and the *doors open* for the Bride. Doors represent a passage from one realm into another, as in the Covenants. On Yom Teruah, it is the wise virgin, the one who has prepared for her wedding, whom the doors open to receive. As the Bride passes through the veil (the door) of the Tabernacle *from* the Holy Place *to* the Most Holy Place she enters with her King. On their wedding day (Yom Kippur) the doors will *close*, so it is vital the Bride understands her identity and prepares for the season she is about to enter (Joel 2:1-3:1; 1 Corinthians 15:52-53; Revelation 11:15).

 **John 12:13** “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD/*Yahweh*! The King of Israel!”

For centuries, the best man at a Jewish wedding has spoken these same words before the Bridegroom appears at the marriage ceremony. It is for this reason that Yeshua told us,

“For I tell you [*believer*], you will not see me [*the Bridegroom*] again until *you* say, ‘Blessed is *he* [*the wise virgin*] who comes in the name of the Lord/*Adonai*’” (Matthew 23:39).

In Matthew 23:39, Yeshua – the Lord of the Sabbath/*Yom Kippur* - was talking to His Bride, encouraging her to prepare for His return. He desires to enter with her into the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. Those who keep His Feast are rehearsing for the return of the Messiah, the Bridegroom - The King of Kings!

The Wise And The Foolish

Yeshua gives His people a prophetic parable in Matthew 25:1-13 of the five *wise* and five *unwise* virgins (all believers) who were woken by a shout (trumpet blast), “*Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!*” The time and season is in the evening at the sighting of the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* on the first day of the seventh month, at the Feast of Blowing. The Feast of Yom Teruah also known as the Feast of Trumpets. The virgins in the Matthew 25 parable were in the betrothal stage of their wedding Covenant with Yeshua and were anticipating His return to complete their marriage vows, but they had fallen asleep, as the hour was late (end-times). Upon hearing the trumpet blast, they immediately woke and set about trimming their lamps to light their journey out to greet Him. Their filled lamps indicate the virgins were in a priestly role.

🌿 **Matthew 25:1-13** “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins [*believers*] 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 their lamps and took no oil with them, but the *wise* took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And 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, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they [*the foolish*] went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready [*the wise virgins*] 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.’”

The *wise* virgins (believers) had honored the Bridegroom’s instructions given to her through Moses (called *the Gospel*) for the marriage preparations (John 5:46-47). In keeping the heart of His Word/Torah - His Sabbath and His Feast Days - as Sabbaths, the *wise* virgins grew in maturity and wisdom. That enabled her to discern the clean ways from the unclean, and the holy from the unholy. Only in keeping His Word did the *wise* virgins have extra oil for their lamps, therefore, able to find their way through the darkness to meet the Bridegroom at the appointed time of His return. With a foundation made of gold, silver, and precious stones, the *wise* are called His beloved Bride (Song of Solomon; Ezekiel 44:23-24; 1 Corinthians 3:11-14; Revelation 2:2, 19, 20; Psalm 119:105).

In contrast, the unwise virgins noted in Matthew 25:1-13 (believers), by not keeping active their Bridegroom’s marriage Covenant, seemed to have made unwise choices. When the day arrived and the trumpets sounded they realized their supply of oil fell far short of what their lamps needed. Without fuel for light, they would not be able to find their way.

As the unwise saw their unpreparedness, they tried to coerce others to cover their lack. At this late date in the season (end-times) the wise virgins could not share their oil. Holiness can only be

found in the heart of obedience as outlined in the marriage Covenant and cannot be purchased. Thus in Matthew 25, when the last trumpet sounded, the foolish virgins/believers desperately sought their own resources to fuel their lamps apart from Yeshua's provision.

The unwise virgins represent those who were casual toward keeping God's/*Elohim* kingdom ways and lukewarm, mixing a common lifestyle with holiness. That combination of assimilation brought contamination in the offering that forsook the Marriage Covenant (Revelation 3:15-16).

🌿 **Matthew 6:24** “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.”

Without Yeshua as their cornerstone, when the trumpets announced the Bridegroom's return, the unwise virgins will not be able to see their way, as their lifestyle proved to be made of wood, hay, and straw (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

At the hearing of the Bridegroom's return the wise virgins rose with well-lit lamps revealing the path before them. At the trumpet blast, the mighty wedding procession began, minus the unwise virgins.

🌿 **Psalm 119:105** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

The Building Code

🌿 **Isaiah 66:1** “Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where *is* the house that you will build Me? And where *is* the place of My rest?’”

🌿 **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** “According to the grace of God/*Elohim* which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed *how* he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, [*or*] wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day [*Yom Teruah*] will declare it [*Yom Kippur*], because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is [*Yom Kippur*]. If anyone's work [*gold, silver or precious stones*], which he has built on it [*the Truth*] endures, he will receive a reward [*Yahweh will rule in your favor on Yom Kippur*]. If anyone's work [*wood, hay or straw*] is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Paul, the author of Corinthians, was a master builder who had intimate knowledge of how to build God's/*Elohim* heavenly house on earth. As Moses received the original Tabernacle blueprint on Mount Sinai, Paul also understood that the Temple template given man through Yeshua must likewise be built in that exact same pattern for believers to be legal on the earth. There was no other plan that Paul used, as only *one* was given to God's/*Elohim* people.

There are individual elements in the heavenly Tabernacle’s building code that God’s/*Elohim* people needed to understand for it to be legally implemented on the earth. The building must be built on *gold, silver, and precious stones*. If one or all of those elements are missing, the building will fail. Therefore, they are essential elements. Now, Paul was not a designer, one who made things look good from the outside. He was a technician, *a master craftsman*, one who knew just how to construct God’s/*Elohim* house, starting with a firm foundation. The elements of gold, silver, and precious stones all share a common rudimentary denominator – *Blood*. They all represent Yeshua. Wood, hay, and straw do not have their source in blood but are the result of the sweat of the brow. Blood also establishes God’s/*Elohim* Covenant and without the shedding of blood, there is no Covenant, therefore, no witness to the Truth on the earth.

For a heavenly witness of the Truth to be established on the earth, there must be the testimony of two or three witnesses. Are these witnesses people who happen to observe something? No. The Bible is very explicit when it comes to witnesses. So founded are these two or three witnesses, that the whole universe is firmly established upon them - *eternally*. These witnesses are so foundational God’s/*Elohim* people can set the course of their life by them, just as the stars in the heavens. Who are these two or three witnesses? John explains the witnesses for us in 1 John 5 saying,

1 John 5: 6-8 ⁶ *This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.* ⁷ *For there are three that bear witness in (1) heaven: (a) the Father, (b) the Word, and (c) the Holy Spirit; and these three [witnesses] are one.* ⁸ *And there are three that bear witness on (2) earth: (a) the Spirit, (b) the water, and (c) the blood; and these three agree as one.* (1 John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJ)

The first witness: Heaven
 With three witnesses: *The Father*
 The Word
 The Holy Spirit

The second witness: Earth
 With three witnesses: *The Spirit*
 The Water
 The Blood

With John giving us an understanding of the heavenly building code, by the witnesses of two: heaven and earth, each containing three witnesses, and by having the Spirit act as the witness in both heaven and earth, Truth is then established. Therefore, God’s/*Elohim* house/temple/tabernacle/word (Yeshua) has legal representation on the earth.

 **2 Corinthians 13:1** “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”

Therefore, Truth is established, by two or three witnesses.

🌿 **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** “Do you not know that you are the temple of God/*Elohim* and that the Spirit of God/*Elohim* dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God/*Elohim*, God/*Elohim* will destroy him. For the temple of God/*Elohim* is holy, which *temple* you are.”

🌿 **Isaiah 43:10-13** “You *are* My witnesses,” says the LORD/*Yahweh*, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I *am* He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, *even* I, *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*, and besides Me *there is* no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, and *there was* no foreign *god* among you; therefore you *are* My witnesses,” Says the LORD/*Yahweh*, “that I *am* God/*Elohim*. Indeed before the day *was*, I *am* He; and *there is* no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?”

The understanding of the *witness* is what Paul established in Corinthians after he saw various forms of corrupt foundations among the people. He was declaring which one was legal. Wood, hay, and straw were not founded on blood, therefore, represents a false witness. His mention of gold, silver, and precious stones are images representing the two *or* three witnesses of the Spirit of Truth - that the Father's heavenly Word manifested in the flesh on earth, witnessed by the water and blood flowing from Yeshua's pierced heart at His crucifixion. That is the legal witness we are to build our house on. The people who are called *people of faith* in the bible are those who walk in the Covenant understanding of these two *or* three witnesses. These are the *wise virgins* in the parable from Matthew 25 and the people Paul was writing to in Corinth.

🌿 **Hebrews 10:38** “Now the just shall live by **faith**; but if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

The Foolish And The Wise – Cain And Abel

🌿 **Genesis 4:3-5** “And in the process of time [*meaning the Fall Feast Day - Yom Kippur*] it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground [*wood, hay, and straw*] to the LORD/*Yahweh*. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat [*a blood offering appropriate for the observance of Yom Kippur*]. And the LORD/*Yahweh* respected Abel and his [*blood*] offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering [*labors from the sweat of his brow*]. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”

What was the difference between Cain and Abel's offerings? One offered blood (gold, silver, and precious stones) and the other offered grain (wood, hay, and straw). Abel's *blood* offering was a response to the testimony of *truth in the Messiah and His coming* whereas Cain offered the *sweat* of his brow – a reflection of himself. How did Abel know what an acceptable offering was? We are told the message/*Gospel* was known from the *beginning*.

🌿 **John 1:1,14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God/*Elohim*, and the Word was God/*Elohim*. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

🌿 **Revelation 13:8** “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Abel’s actions were in his knowing and having faith in the vision of what was to take place in our day. Therefore, his actions were accorded as righteousness. Abel understood the vision of the witnesses of heaven and earth, as being one and the same – manifesting in the flesh - as *Messiah*. Abel’s understanding of the Father’s Word becoming flesh (Yeshua) reflected in his blood offering made on that Yom Kippur – called the Day of the LORD/Yahweh. Because of Abel’s response, his offering of righteousness *still speaks today.*

🌿 **Hebrews 11:4** “By faith Abel offered to God/Elohim a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God/Elohim testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”

Paraphrased version: Hebrews 11:4 “By faith [in the two or three witnesses of heaven on earth] Abel offered to God/Elohim a more excellent sacrifice [an animal blood sacrifice a shadow that reflected this truth] than Cain [who did not offer a sacrifice nor was any blood shed in his offering made to Yahweh on Yom Kippur], through which he [Abel] obtained witness [to the Truth: the witness of heaven on earth manifesting in the flesh] that he was righteous, God/Elohim testifying of his gifts; and through it [his blood offering to the Father] he [Abel] being dead still speaks [righteousness].”

🌿 **Habakkuk 2:2-4** “Then the LORD/Yahweh answered me and said: ‘Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it [the vision] will speak, and it [the vision] will not lie. Though it [the vision] tarry, wait for it [the vision]; because it [the vision] will surely come, it [the vision] will not tarry. Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”

The Trumpets

🌿 **Numbers 10:1-10** “And the LORD/Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. But if they blow *only* one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance. The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations. When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD/Yahweh your

God/*Elohim*, and you will be saved from your enemies. Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God/*Elohim*: I am the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*.' ”

Yom Teruah Versus Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah – Happy New Year? The term Rosh Hashanah (the head of the year) does exist in scripture. Ezekiel 40:1 says, “*In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year (rosh #H7218 shaneh #H8141), in the tenth day of the month...*” Leviticus 25:8-10 also mentions, “*And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.*”

In both scriptures, we note that the beginning of years falls on the tenth day of the seventh month and not the first day.

What happens when a spiritual leader teaches a people they can celebrate a biblical feast honoring *years* in a carnal nature, much like the mainstream population? As the biblical restrictions for worship on Yom Kippur prohibit that kind of activity, they moved their celebration of it *from* Yom Kippur (the tenth day of the seventh month). Thus, Judah moved their honoring of the beginning of years from God’s/*Elohim* intended tenth day (Yom Kippur), to the first day of the seventh month. In doing this, not only did they move a critical heavenly boundary marker for *years* but repositioned it (along with its manmade interpretation) over to the Feast of Yom Teruah, the first day of the month. That caused God’s/*Elohim* Feast of Yom Teruah to fade under the weight of a manmade feast, which they called Rosh Hashanah or Head of the Year. Yom Kippur (the tenth day of the seventh month), is to be a day of honouring. Not only years but also when the *year* of a newly enthroned king’s reign begins. They go hand in hand. More on this later.

🏰 **Song of Solomon 3:11** “Go forth, O daughters of Zion, and see King Solomon with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding (a reference to Yom Kippur), the day of the gladness of his heart.”

What happens when man changes the timing, the name, or the meaning of a heavenly event that God/*Elohim* ordained on the earth for His Bride? Could this cause her to miss a critical boundary marker (or gate) unknowingly? If the Bride is distracted and not looking for her Bridegroom on that particular day, she will miss the mark (i.e., sin). Remember, the gate or door into the Tabernacle *opens on Yom Teruah*, the first day of the seventh month, with the blowing of the trumpets under the sighting of the seventh New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh*. The trumpets announce the

beginning of a huge wedding procession ushering the *wise virgin* into the Bridegroom's presence. The gates will *close again on Yom Kippur, the tenth day of the seventh month.*

✿ **1 Peter 2:7-10** “Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to *the word* [..], to which they also were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God/*Elohim*, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

✿ **Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

The sign of a wise virgin is one who *believes* in the *Abrahamic Covenant* and actively *walks* in the directions held within the *Mosaic Covenant* (instruction for the *Abrahamic Covenant*). When they are faithful in these two directives, the gate or door *opens* to the next *Covenant* called the *Davidic Covenant*. Why is this important? According to the Scripture above in 1 Peter 2:9, the Bride's identity, purpose, and goal is the *royal priesthood* of Yeshua. It is only in the *Davidic Covenant* that the *royal* priestly order of Melchizedek activates. It cannot be achieved any other way. Therefore, the Bride must enter *through the door*.

✿ **John 10:1-6** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he [*believer*] who does not enter the sheepfold [*tabernacle*] by the door [*David Covenant*], but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he [*believer*] who enters by the door [*through the Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants*] is the shepherd [*priest*] of the sheep. To him [*the obedient Bride*] the doorkeeper [*Yeshua*] opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice [*His Feast Days at His appointed times*]. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger [*manmade celebration*], but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus/*Yeshua* used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.”

When *Yom Teruah* (God's/*Elohim* appointed Feast Day) is replaced with *Rosh Hashanah* (a manmade celebration), it distracts the Bride away from her Bridegroom. He has asked His Bride to wait for Him at a specific location, time, and season. If she misses the mark (time/date) and is not found in that certain place, what message does this send her Bridegroom? If the Bride is off celebrating another event (that was not designed for her) nor attentive to the tending of her lamp, she will find herself ill-prepared and lack the extra oil needed for her lamp. That could lead to her missing the Bridegroom's imminent arrival when the trumpets sound on the first day of the seventh month (Genesis 24:63-67).

🌿 **Matthew 25:10-13** “And while they 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.”

🌿 **Acts 1:4-8** “And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ *He said*, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’”

In Acts 2, on Pentecost/*the Feast of Shavuot*, Yeshua’s disciples were faithful to follow His instructions. They were prepared, on time, and waiting in the right place on that specific day because they understood the protocol for Shavuot as given to them by Moses. When the time came, they were all focused and gathered in one accord (one heart), as they had been directed. They had no other distractions or agendas other than to meet with Him. Because they observed His directive through an *earthly* response, there was a mighty *heavenly* response. At His appointed time, the Spirit of the Holy One descended and filled all who were present and in one accord (agreement) with Him. That was an awe-inspiring event (Acts 2)! Yeshua’s return, on *Yom Teruah*, will have a similar spectacular happening. Will His Bride be ready to meet Him with her lamp burning brightly, or will she be at another celebration and miss hearing of His arrival? That decision will be the difference between being a *wise* virgin (Bride) or an *unwise* virgin (guest at the wedding), as noted in the parable of the Kingdom of Heaven and the ten virgins (Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4; Matthew 25).

🌿 **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** “For the Lord/*Adonai* Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with *the trumpet call* [*Yom Teruah*] of God/*Elohim*, and the dead in Yeshua will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord/*Adonai* in the air. And so we will be with the Lord/*Adonai* forever.

The Rosh Hashanah Of Babylon

The Akitu

Dr. Uri Gabbay, the senior lecturer in Assyriology at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has written an interesting article on the Rosh Hashanah of Babylon. In it, he shares that Ancient Babylonian semi-annually celebrates a mythological *New Years* in the spring and fall (on the

first or the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar). The festival is an eleven-day ritual called *The Akitu*. Akitu celebrates the victory over *Tiamat* the goddess of the ocean and her sea monsters by their chief god *Marduk*, and his enthronement as the king of gods. It begins with a statue of Marduk taken in a cultic procession on the eighth day to the Akitu temple where the mythological combat was thought to have occurred. The statue is then returned to the main temple on the eleventh day. Accompanied by other gods and deities, Marduk is re-enthroned as a king in his temple where *he sits in judgment with these deities to renew the world. There they judge each human being, inscribing the fate of every individual for the coming year on the tablet of destiny.* According to Babylonian religious belief, this mythical drama all occurred in the first days of the year, at the beginning of the month. It is, for this reason, the Babylonians marked the first day of the seventh month as *a Day of Judgment*.

The Jewish rabbinic, who lived among the Babylonians during their captivity, incorporated this Babylonian mythological New Year Feast to Akitu (including the cultic mythology and rulings) by declaring that the first day of the seventh month (Tishrei) on the Hebrew calendar be called *Rosh Hashanah* (also known as head of the year). The Jewish leaders syncretized the feast of Akitu along with their ideologies, beliefs, and traditions, and published them as a Day of Judgment for God's/*Elohim* people, a day of His enthronement and kingship, and the very day that the universe was created. They also professed that this first day/Rosh Hashanah was the day that God/*Elohim* judged every Jew and immediately inscribed the completely righteous in the Book of Life and consigned the utterly wicked to a sad fate. Those in-between, however, had ten days, concluding on Yom Kippur, in which to repent before the Book of Life was sealed for the *New Year*. For this reason, Rosh Hashanah is an adaptation of the Babylonian mythological Feast of Akitu.

For more information on the history of Rosh Hashanah: <http://www.reformjudaism.org/rosh-hashanah-history>
Ancient Near Eastern New Year's Rituals: Dr. Uri Gabbay senior lecturer in Assyriology Hebrew University of Jerusalem <http://thetorah.com/babylonian-rosh-hashanah/>

🏰 **Hosea 5:10** “The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out My wrath on them like water.”

These manmade rulings removed God's/*Elohim* landmark (His Feast of *Yom Teruah* which marks His return for His redeemed Bride) and elevated a demonically influenced Babylonian Rosh Hashanah. The term Rosh Hashanah first appeared in the *Mishnah* (Jewish literature) during the second century CE, when the Babylonian Talmud was compiled and codified. Over time, their Babylonian observance began to emerge as a *Jewish* New Year and given holiday status complete with liturgy. Other Jewish designations for this Babylonian adopted Rosh Hashanah are *Yom HaZikaron* (Day of Remembrance) and *Yom HaDin* (Day of Judgment) terms still preserved in rabbinic liturgy and practiced to this day.

A cultural Jew is quite intimidated by all the judgment and rulings found in this fall season, as they are taught a “*Talmud Torah*” (a mixed commentary of fact, fable, and folklore). Because many receive very little scriptural understanding, they bow for ten days in a type of penance out of fear trying to appease this mystical god. Those ten days are called The Days Of Awe. This

penance does not exist in the Biblical text nor is it a Day of Judgment for the remnant Bride (one who walks in God's/*Elohim* ways).

The tradition of dipping apples or bread in honey, the round challah bread to symbolize the circle of life or the cycle of the New Year and the wishing for a sweet new year is not really a blessing you want to bestow on people as they are part of a superstitious omen or good luck saying that links to the curses of the Babylonian Akitu deities who control those mystical events.

The Biblical calendar for *years*, according to Scripture, is to begin on the *tenth* day of the seventh month (Leviticus 25:8-10; Ezekiel 40:1). The Jewish calendar chooses the Babylonian New Year, the first day of the seventh month, to begin its civil calendar year. They also prefer to rotate the yearly Torah readings on another manmade date called *Simchat Torah*, which also has its roots in ancient Babylonian mythology rites (*See the Shemini Atzeret study for more Simchat Torah information www.sheepfoldgleanings.com*).

The point is not to criticize, bash, or cause a war over the history of Jewish traditions. We all have come from various religious backgrounds and influences. However, Scripture calls us to examine where these teachings and traditions come from to see if they are *biblical truth* or a *cultural tradition*. Traditions are great. We love traditions, but if traditions stem from another cult or religion, so it becomes institutionalized as a protocol that causes God's/*Elohim* people to bow down to another god in worship, then we have a problem. It is up to us to seek out what and where traditions originate and not follow the crowd, as we are all accountable for our own walk. God/*Elohim* has given us His Word. His wisdom teaches us how to recognize and discern what is clean and holy, and what is not.

As believers entering Yeshua's fall Sabbath Feast Days, we all desire to be the bride and not the guest at the wedding. Everyone is invited and has this great opportunity. The choice is up to each one individually. As that seventh trumpet sounds at the sighting of the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh on the first day of the seventh month*, the Bride will be the one dressed in white linen wedding garments, which means she has prepared long *before* this day. She does not leave her repentance for this day or wait for the ten days of awe, as the repentance must have taken place *before* the trumpets sound. Therefore, the remnant Bride is the one prepared and ready with her lamp trimmed carrying the extra oil for the days ahead at the sound of the trumpet blast. Yeshua, our Bridegroom, has gone before us and made the way possible. We have heard His Word and His trumpet blast on the Mountain (Sinai). *As the doors open on Yom Teruah*, the prepared, cleansed Bride proceeds into His Sabbath with rejoicing and great celebration. His banquet table is made ready. His *wise* virgin, arriving in the grand wedding procession, will rise to meet Him. Together they move into their wedding day, on *Yom Kippur, as the doors close behind them*, to *Tabernacle* forever.

His Majesty Requests
An Invitation to The Royal Wedding of the Lamb

By Rebecca Park Totilo

A special thank you to Rebecca Park Totilo for permission to print her book
His Majesty Requests: An Invitation to the Royal Wedding of the Lamb for all to enjoy.
<http://www.rebeccaatthewell.org>

Part One

THE INVITATION

*His Majesty, the King of the Universe,
Requests the honor of your presence
At the Royal Wedding of the Ages (Revelation 19:7)
Between Yeshua Ha Mashiach (Messiah),
His only begotten Son,
And His Bride,
The called-out ones.
You are cordially invited to partake
At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
By being cleansed in His blood (Hebrews 9:14),
Which He shed for your deliverance (Hebrews 2:14).
By pledging your heart (Romans 10:9-10)
To His plans and purposes for your life,
He promises to lead (Romans 8:14)
And guide you in the ways of truth (John 16:13),
Provide for all your needs,
physically and spiritually (Matthew 6:32-34),
Shower you with gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-10; Romans 12:6-8)
by His Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit),
with whom He will fill you (Joel 2:28-29; Ephesians 5:18),
and
Wash you in the water of His Word (Ephesians 5:25-26)
so that you may be used (2 Timothy 3:16)
to tell others about this glorious feast.
As a token of His love for you,
you will be given a ring to seal you as His own (Ephesians 1:13)
as He rejoices over you,
His bride (Isaiah 62:5),
and clothes you in the wedding garments of salvation
and righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).*

RSVP

Match Made In Heaven

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16)

Since ancient times, the significant role of the *Shadkhan* (matchmaker) can be seen from its root word, *shidukh* (match). Its Aramaic translation, *sheket* (silence) implies tranquility or peacefulness. The matchmaker’s lineage traces back to Yahweh Himself.

Though it was customary for the father to choose the bride for his son, in many cases the father relied on the services of a matchmaker to help him choose a person of the highest virtue and integrity. From the beginning, God/*Elohim* acted as the first *Shadkhan*, creating Adam and Eve and commanding them to cleave together as one flesh. Eve, taken from Adam’s body, became the first bride.

In Genesis 24 Abraham’s servant Eliezer (God’s/*Elohim* helper) acted as a matchmaker modeled after the Divine and found the suitable bride for Abraham’s son, Isaac. Abraham sent Eliezer to find the perfect match from among his own family and of his father’s house. In the same way, God/*Elohim* the Father has sent His helper, the Ruach HaKodesh, the Spirit of God/*Elohim*, to His family and body of believers to take a bride for His son, Yeshua.

God/*Elohim* has chosen you to be a part of the Messiah’s bride. Yeshua’s bride will be taken out from His body (of believers), just as Eve was taken from Adam. However, not everyone who has received the gift of deliverance (salvation) will RSVP. Believers who continue to live a worldly, or carnal lifestyle will not be ready to meet the Bridegroom because they lack the purity (holiness) of a spotless bride. Come away with the lover of your soul now and make yourself ready for His return! (1 John 4:19)

The Proposal - The Bride Price

*“For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God/*Elohim* in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s/*Elohim*” (1 Corinthians 6:20).*



In biblical times, it was customary for an Israelite to pay a *mohar*, or price, for his bride to her father. Though this practice seems archaic to us today, a bride price is still used in many cultures. Marriage by purchase reflects how much the prospective bridegroom values and cherishes his bride. It also reveals his own wealth and generosity.

As His beloved bride, we have been bought with a price and no longer belong to ourselves. We are His – totally. Treasure the priceless gift of Yeshua’s love; hold it close to your heart. He paid it for you! (1Peter 1:18-19).

Tears Of Myrrh

“If Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me” (Luke 22:42, 44).

Yeshua returns to a quiet garden on the Mount of Olives, yearning for comfort this evening. But this night the garden offers only anguish and solitude. Bruised under the weight of agony, Yeshua earnestly prays. Beads of sweat, mingled with blood from His pores fall upon the earth. Alone, Yeshua prays,

His heart aches with a dying love for His bride. Is there any other possible way besides death? He questions Abba. God/*Elohim* knows the deep friendship He once enjoyed with man in the Garden of Eden can only be recaptured if He lays down His life for him. With unconditional acceptance, Yeshua trusts His Father’s decision and says, “Nevertheless, not My will but Thine, be done.”

During the Messiah’s final agonizing hours in Gethsemane, the weight of the world’s sins crushed our Savior like a winepress, causing Him to sweat great tears of blood. His bitter suffering can be compared to myrrh, a highly-prized spice used in perfumes and incense, extracted by piercing the tree’s heartwood and allowing the gum to trickle out and harden into bitter, aromatic red droplets called tears.

The Cup Of The New Covenant

*“Likewise also the cup after supper, saying,
‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you’” (Luke 22:20).*

🏰 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD/*Yahweh*, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD/*Yahweh*. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD/*Yahweh*: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God/*Elohim*, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD/*Yahweh*,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD/*Yahweh*. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-10).

The prospective Hebrew bridegroom pops the question by pouring a cup of wine for his beloved, and then anxiously awaits her response to his proposal. If she sips from the Kiddush (sanctification) cup, she shows her willingness to enter this union by saying yes to his proposal.

Their shared cup of wine at a betrothal ceremony called *B'rit* (covenant) symbolizes the sealing of their marriage covenant in blood. The betrothed couple, for all legal purposes, is married.

We see Yeshua drinking from the *B'rit* cup with His disciples after the Passover meal, sealing the marriage covenant with His bride. Lifting the cup with His right hand, the Messiah recites the blessing over the wine. As the True Vine speaks, He blesses the fruit of His Father's vine and praises the Creator for His bride – His choice fruit. He continues saying,

*“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,
Drink from it, all of you.
For this is My blood of the covenant,
which is shed for many for the remission of sins”
(Matthew 26:27-28).*

Yeshua invites all believers to say yes to His proposal and share in this cup so that all who choose may become His promised bride.

To Die For

*“So when Yeshua had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’
And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit” (John 19:30).*

It is finished. Fitting words spoken from a bridegroom to his bride. In Hebrew, the root word for finish is *ka'lal*, (complete, make perfect, or finish). It also shares the same root for *kallah* (bride). With Yeshua's final and dying words, He sealed the marriage covenant to His beloved with His blood.

The Ketubah

*“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded,
‘We will do everything the LORD/Yahweh has said; we will obey’” (Exodus 24:7).*

The wedding celebration is comprised of two separate ceremonies: the *kiddushin*, or betrothal, and *nissuin*, or nuptials. In a traditional betrothal, the engaged couple enters into a covenant with the signing of the Ketubah. In this marriage covenant are the terms of their agreement, such as the bride price and a provision the bridegroom agrees to make for her (including food, clothing, and conjugal rights), and also names the wife as the heir to the estate, should he die. The *Ketubah* is read aloud for all to hear of their mutual devotion toward one another.

Properly signed and witnessed, the document is given to the bride, and she is instructed to keep it with her at all times since there can be no marital relations if it is lost or destroyed. Just as a bride cherishes her beautiful *Ketubah* for its rich promises, the Bride of Yeshua cherishes her Ketubah, the Bible (Genesis to Revelation), full of promises from our Bridegroom. He promising to take care of us, not only spiritually, but also physically, when we enter into a covenant with Him (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-10).

The Two Witnesses

*“And I will give power unto my two witnesses
and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth”
(Revelation 11:3).*

Prophetically, God/*Elohim* divided Israel into the House of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and the House of Israel Ephraim, the Northern Kingdom. Both houses went into captivity, Ephraim to Assyria, and 125 years later, Judah to Babylon. Only Judah returned to the land while Ephraim was assimilated into the culture of the Assyrians and scattered across the face of the earth into all the nations. Many believers today may be a part of the Twelve Tribes of Israel and not know it!

Just as two witnesses are required as eyewitnesses to the betrothal and to sign the Ketubah, Ephraim and Judah make up Israel, the one true bride of the Messiah. Both serve as witnesses and give testimony to what Yahweh has done in the past and is doing now to bring about His kingdom on this earth. All true believers are a part of Israel (Zechariah 4; Rev. 11:4).

Today, Jews (house of Judah) and Christians (house of Israel/Ephraim) are finding common ground in the Scriptures to begin the reunification of the ancient House of Jacob/Israel. Once reunified, Yeshua’s bride will be brought back to Zion where we can enter into the Promised Land, ready to meet our Heavenly Bridegroom.



As you spend time with the Beloved, ask for a deeper revelation of who you are in Him. Ponder, whether you have become like Ephraim as so many in the Church today, have become, by turning away from their Hebraic roots and chasing after the pagan ways of the world. Or, are you like Judah and have guarded God’s/*Elohim* laws in your heart but are blind to the advancing light and the revelation Messiah Yeshua is revealing in these last days? *Selah*...think on this.

The Broken Glass

*“Yeshua answered and said to them,
‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’
Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,
and will You raise it up in three days?’
But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (John 2:18-21).*

Jewish wedding ceremonies today still include the tradition of breaking glass, which is symbolic of the destruction of the temple. For the Jews, it means that even in the midst of joy there is the remembrance of sorrow when the stones and physical walls of the temple came down. For believers in the Messiah, it represents another destroyed temple – the earthen vessel of Yeshua’s body broken for us. His life was crushed by the sins of the world.

The Departure

After the betrothal ceremony, the bridegroom leaves the bride's home and returns to his father's house for several months to prepare for his wedding day. Before departing, he makes a special promise to his bride: "I go and prepare a place for you and when it is ready, I will return for you" (John 14:2-3). During this time of separation, the groom builds a bridal chamber in his father's house while the bride gathers her trousseau and makes herself ready for his return.

Like an Israeli bridegroom, before Yeshua returned to His Father's house, he comforts His disciples with these same words spoken in the ancient Jewish rite, "Let not your heart be troubled...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" (John 14:1-2). He reaffirms to His followers that He will come to sequester us into a chamber made ready for His bride (John 14:3).

The Hope Chest: The Mikvah

*"He who believes and is baptized (mikvah) will be saved;
but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).*

Before her wedding, the bride immerses herself in a body of living water, such as a river or lake, in a ceremonial washing as a symbol of spiritual purification. A celebration follows, where she is regaled with wine, sweets, and blessings as friends and relatives rejoice with the bride in her new marital status. She now belongs to her husband and is under his authority.

Yeshua, the Lamb of God/*Elohim*, purifies our heart to make us ready for His return as our Bridegroom. With Yom Teruah approaching, has it been a long time since your own Mikvah or water baptism? Take this time now to immerse yourself in God's/*Elohim* holy presence and re-cleanse your heart by confessing your sins ready to enter into Holy union.

🕯️ "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (John 1:25; 29; 1 John 1:9).

Washing Of The Word

*"Husband, love your wives, even as Yeshua also loved the ekklesia (the body of believers),
and gave Himself for it;
that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"
(Ephesians 5:25-26).*

At the ancient betrothal ceremony, the words cleanse her with the washing of water by the word are part of the vows spoken by the bridegroom. As the priest of the home, he sets her apart as his bride, for she is spoken for and paid for.

The Redeemer sanctifies His bride, making you holy and pure, and sets you apart as His own. His complete forgiveness and cleansing work through His blood prepares you to enter God's/*Elohim* presence. Allow God/*Elohim* to bathe you in His Word so that you may go into

the Holy Place; for it is His words and sacred vows in the Bible that sanctify you in the truth. Consider spending time each day reading your Bibles so you will be prepared to walk as a pure bride.

Tokens Of Love

*“Or what woman, having ten silver coins,
if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house,
and search carefully until she finds it?” (Luke 15:9-10).*

The silver coins called *kessef* were given to the bride as a token of his love. Similar to today’s wedding band, it was customary for a married Jewish woman to wear ten silver coins woven into an elaborate piece of jewelry over the veil as a headdress. As an expression of a groom’s love and commitment to his betrothed, silver coins were considered valuable gifts, especially to the lady who lost one in the parable of the lost coin. For these tokens of love belonged to her and no one could take them from her, not even to pay a debt.

Like the lost coin, we were all lost sinners from the earth’s dust. Yeshua pursued us with a persistent love until He found His bride. Our life, once darkened by sin, illuminates now with His presence. God’s/*Elohim* Word, like an oil lamp, helps light our pathway and shows us where we can find true joy and peace.

Golden Gifts

*“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”
(Matthew 7:11).*

An ancient custom of Israel required the groom to give a *mattan* (Hebrew for ‘gift’) to his bride at the betrothal. These voluntary gifts are an expression of his love for his bride and vary greatly depending on the prosperity of the groom. A biblical example of this practice is Eliezer giving articles of silver, two gold bracelets, and garments to Rebekah (Genesis 24:22).

Our Bridegroom, Yeshua, also offers *mattan* to His bride. Some of the gifts He gives us are eternal life and peace. Other gifts are in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. Yeshua offers anything we ask in His name (John 14:13). These gifts are given to make ourselves ready for His return and to be used for Yahweh’s glory!

With This Ring

*“And you also were included in Yeshua when you heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation.
Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal,
the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...” (Ephesians 1:13-14).*

Like the dipping of a signet ring in wax, God/*Elohim* bears His impression upon us by the Ruach Ha Chodesh, God’s/*Elohim* Spirit, sealing His promise to return for His Bride. The ‘ring’ for the

bride is called the 'Sabbath'. The Sabbath serves as a reminder of God's/*Elohim* unbroken and never-ending covenant. God/*Elohim* created the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27). It is our sign and commitment to be faithful to him "In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions" (Exodus 16:4). An unfaithful bride takes off her wedding ring.

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh shall call" (Acts 2:39).

Saying "I Do"

"*Will you go with this man?*" they asked Rebekah in Genesis 24:58 after Abraham's servant, Eliezer, proposed marriage on his master's behalf. Never having set eyes on Isaac, Rebekah gave her consent and said, "*I will go.*" With blind faith and complete abandonment, she said, *I do*. Her faith was much like ours today – we have never seen our Bridegroom, yet we abandon all to be with Him.

Just as a bride has to be in agreement with the marriage, she enters, so it is with the Bride of Yeshua. The root meaning of the Hebrew word 'bracelet' means to bind or join. By accepting the bracelets, Rebekah willingly became bound, or joined, to Isaac. As believers, we too become bound to Him. God/*Elohim* never forces us to say I do. It is by our own free will that we enter into a relationship with our Bridegroom, Yeshua, our Messiah. With our lips, we confess I do by believing in our hearts that God/*Elohim* raised Yeshua from the dead, and we declare it with our mouths that He is Lord. Salvation is for today. Say, I will go.

The Bride Of Yeshua: The Fragrance Of The Bride

Spikenard comes from a very rare plant that is usually blended with olive oil for anointing in acts of consecration, dedication, and worship. The root word for spikenard in Greek means genuine or pure.

In John 12:3 and Mark 14:3, the Bible tells how spikenard was used to anoint Yeshua, the pure and spotless Lamb, just days before His death and burial. As we desire to become the spotless bride of Messiah, we must walk in holiness and love, burying our sins at the cross. With His life broken, He doesn't leave us alone to 'waste away.' Instead, the oil, symbolic of the inner working of the *Ruach HaKodesh*, has been poured out for us, so we can live a life that is rich with a sweet, heavenly fragrance.

Beauty Of Holiness

A common practice in the Middle East was the ritual of baths, followed by the anointing with oil in preparation for a future wedding (Esther 2:12). As a remnant of Yeshua's body, we are to be made ready for the burial of our sins at the altar. We must die to the old life, as death is the first step in preparation for those who will become the Bride of Yeshua. This process doesn't happen

all at once but takes time when obedience is learned, and our own selfish desires are conformed into His image.

The second part of the virgin's preparation involved beauty treatments, pampering her with massages and using oil perfumes. God/*Elohim* Himself, in Ezekiel, tells how He bathes and anoints His bride Israel with oil (Ezekiel 16:9). The application of the word in our life produces the oil. Our beauty treatments, however, will not be complete until we meet our Bridegroom face to face.

Crowning Headpiece

As His bride, we are holy and have been set apart as His own. His love draws us away from the things of the world - the bustle and busyness of life - to a place where we can thrive and grow in Him. The unpleasant thorns – those things under the curse such as vanity, envy, pride, bitterness, and evil speaking - keep us from entering into the blessed fellowship with our Beloved. Respond to the love of His heart by turning away from those things that hinder our spiritual growth. God/*Elohim* loves Israel and describes our beauty as:

“Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters” (Song of Solomon 2:2).

God/*Elohim* will bestow upon each of us a golden crown as His eternal bride. And, because of His shining greatness, honor, and power, we will, as Revelation 4:10 tell us, lay our crowns before Him and worship the Creator of all things. Worship Him now.

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which God/*Elohim*, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8).

The Fruit Of Another

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their won lusts. And saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?” ’

Unbeknownst to the bride, someone had been watching and waiting for the opportune time to make his move. While her guard was down, the maiden removed her veil and fell into the enemy's trap.

During the first few months after her bridegroom's departure, the ancient bride didn't have any difficulty remembering her love by all the wonderful gifts he had left her. However, as time passed, and he delayed in returning, she may have been tempted.

In one way or another, we have all betrayed our love to Yeshua. Whether it is following false teachers with unsound doctrines or living sinful lives, we all struggle with doing things we know we shouldn't do. Though our Bridegroom tarries, we should remain faithful and ready for His return.

As the bride, we must fast and pray to keep ourselves from falling into temptation. Try committing a time each week to fasting. If you have never fasted before, try skipping one meal, and spend that time with God/*Elohim*. Pray and ask the Father to strengthen you and help you to resist the schemes of the enemy (Matthew 9:15).

I Stand At The Door

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

What does your heart say to your beloved Bridegroom? Yeshua said in Matthew 22:14,

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Many followers have entered in through the door of salvation and are part of the Body of Yeshua but have turned away from the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*'s invitation to enter into a deeper intimacy with the Messiah. God/*Elohim* calls those followers His concubines, queens, and virgins, as seen in Song of Songs 6:8.

Our Heavenly Bridegroom refers to His beloved bride as the only one who has said yes to His request, ‘Open to me,’ and has entered into a deeper relationship, identifying with the full mystery of His death and resurrected life. It is we who will determine how close we want to be with our Savior. We must not ignore His voice but answer His call.

Clothed In Splendor

*“I will greatly rejoice in Yahweh, my soul shall be joyful in my El;
for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments,
and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” (Isaiah 61:10).*

It was customary in ancient Israel for the hosts of the marriage ceremony to provide their wedding guests with suitable apparel. By not wearing the garments provided by the groom's father, the guests showed a lack of appreciation and respect for him. No real excuse could be given for not wearing the proper wedding garments.

In the parable of the guest improperly attired in Matthew 22:11-14, Yeshua described the king's furious reaction to the guest who insulted him by not wearing the wedding garments. For guests who attempt to attend the Messiah's wedding in their own apparel, they will be cast into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As His bride, we must not seek apparel of our own choosing, such as trying to obtain salvation based on our own good works or without true faith or repentance. We must be willing to clothe ourselves with Yeshua by putting on the new man and adorning ourselves with righteous deeds.

By being ever ready to do good works (walking in the realms of life), we bring glory to God/*Elohim*. Are we doing all we can to be clothed in splendor?

🌿 **Jeremiah 2:32** “Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.”

Enraptured By Love

“At midnight the cry rang out:

‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’” (Matthew 25:6).

End of Part One: His Majesty Requests: An Invitation to the Royal Wedding of the Lamb
By Rebecca Park Totilo <https://www.facebook.com/rebecca.totilo/>

Part two is continued in the Yom Kippur study www.sheepfoldgleanings.com

“Once the Groom’s Father gave his final approval to the inspection of the Bridal Chamber, the Bridegroom would leave His Father’s house with his best man or friend (Moses and Elijah) to gather His Bride. These men, along with many other companions, would travel to the Bride’s home, typically at night, carrying torches to light the dark streets, as mentioned in Jeremiah 25:10. Another reason for this custom is that the candles or torches represent light and joy, which was present at Mount Sinai at the wedding between God/*Elohim* and His Bride Israel. In Exodus 19:16-18, it tells us the Israelites were accompanied by lightning, and God/*Elohim* was accompanied by fire. Couples today still use candles at weddings for enhancing their joy.”

“As they drew close to the Bride’s home, the men would blow trumpets and shout, announcing the soon arrival of the Bridegroom, sometimes even calling out the name of the Bride. The Bride, with her attendants, would come out to meet the Groom and in the joyous procession filled with musicians, singers, and dancers, back to the *prepared place* where she and her Beloved would enjoy the marriage supper together” (R. Booker).

How To Celebrate Yom Teruah

Yom Teruah is a wonderful fellowship celebration. Family’s gather on a high mountain top, along the seashore or in a park like setting, wherever they can sight the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* and make a joyful noise. They have picnics and enjoy beautiful praise and worship while waiting in anticipation. When the sunsets and the seventh crescent New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* appears, they raise their silver trumpets and shofars and make a joyful sound in response. They blow to the north, to the south, to the east, and to the west. This event is the beginning of a High Holy Sabbath. Therefore, they enter into His rest on that evening to the next evening and enjoy time with their Bridegroom, *Yeshua*.

Here is a website to help sight the New Moon:
<http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/moonwatch/nextnewmoon.html>



This study continues in the next study - Yom Kippur

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Special Notes



A special thank you to Rebecca Park Totilo for permission to print her book *His Majesty Requests: An Invitation to the Royal Wedding of the Lamb* for all to enjoy. For more information, please visit her wonderful website <http://www.rbeccaatthewell.org>

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Music



The Journey of the Bride by Lenny and Varda Harris www.lennyandvarda.com

Short music clip: *The Journey of the Bride*

<http://www.lennyandvarda.com/musicclips/JOURNEY%20OF%20THE%20BRIDE/9-5%20JOURNEY%20OF%20THE%20BRIDE%20CLIP.mp3>



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Sheep Banner by Phil Haswell

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