

JEWISH WEDDING TRADITIONS

PT. 3 OF 4

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS (Matt. 25:1-13)

Matt. 25:1-13 (written in red) *“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. “Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. “For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, (4) but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. “Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and [began] to sleep. (6) “But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet [him].’ “Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. (8) “The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ “But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you [too]; go instead to the dealers and buy [some] for yourselves.’ “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. (11) “Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘lord, lord, open up for us.’ “But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”* An important thing we must understand before we get into this parable is that the word translated “virgin” does not always mean sexually untouched, it can also mean “virtuous” or “a woman who is no longer worshipping other gods”. You will find this in almost all uses of the word virgin in the Good Book. Almah is the Hebrew word for a virgin.



In Matt. 25:1-13, Messiah gives us a parable of the ten virgins to illustrate what it means to be ready and alert. To understand the parable of the ten virgins one needs to understand Jewish wedding customs. In the parable of the Ten Virgins, Yeshua is revealing those five wise “brides to be” who followed Torah and those five who did not. In that parable the oil represents the Torah, the holy (kadosh.. “other than”, “set apart”) spirit . Some followed a little bit of Torah (had a little oil), but not enough (didn’t follow the Torah enough) to get them into the “kingdom of Yah”. **“Faith without works is dead”**. The five virgins thought they could go into town and buy oil. **Acts 8:18-20** *“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, “Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!”*

In Israel you can’t buy anything on shabbat (especially in the late evening). Yeshua was pointing to the fact that you can’t BUY the Torah, you must Have it, Pursue it, Follow it! When the groom comes (as in the Jewish wedding ceremony), he comes when you least expect it, late at night like a thief.

The Torah has five scrolls which are represented as the “wise/prudent” Torah observant “brides to be” in this parable. In **Matt. 25:2** it says: **“Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.”** People who follow Torah are wise, prudent.

Ps. 19:7 *The law of ADONAI is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of ADONAI is sure, making wise the simple.* It says the Torah (testimony of Yah) even makes the simple wise.

Prov. 28:7 *He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.* He who keeps the Torah (law) is a discerning (wise) son.

Ps. 40:8 *“I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.”*

Isa. 42:18 "Hear you deaf! And look you blind, **that you may see.**"

Rom. 2:18-20 and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, **a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,**" Those who follow Torah are a light, those who are blind (those who don't follow Torah) should follow you. A corrector of the foolish.

THE PARABLES THEMATIC CONNECTION TO ESCHATOLOGY

Night is in reference to the coming tribulation period. Midnight is considered halfway through the night. "**But at midnight there was a shout,** This is symbolic of the tribulation period when the groom comes halfway through the tribulation (mid-night), to get His bride, those who followed Torah. Those that were asleep are like the SUNday type churches today who are slumbering, sleepy, foolish because they are not following Torah. "**They all got drowsy and [began] to sleep.**" is referring to those people who have been duped into believing in the pre-tribulation rapture idea. Because they think they will not participate in the tribulation, they are not preparing for it in any way.

The ones who woke up from their spiritual slumber are those now known as the Messianic or Hebrew Roots movement. They have removed themselves from the pagan traditions of Christianity and now pursue Torah. They have come out of the so-called churches and now follow Yah's word instead. They are like the five who are ready for their groom. The Christians are like the five without oil. They carry their bible (lamp) around but have never read the contents.

Many of the christian movement follow basic Torah principles like not stealing or murdering, but they do not follow the Feasts, food instructions, etc. They have some oil in their lamps but not enough to keep burning. **Matt. 17:10-13** And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that **Elijah must come first?**" And He answered and said, "**Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.**" Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist. The people of the Messianic movement are the Elijah's coming before the Messiah returns for the end times. "**Elijah is coming**" was then speaking of the future remnant which is now alive. This movement is "**restoring all things**". The wise lit their lamps describes those coming out of traditional christianity and are now observing Torah. John was the one who came with the spirit of Elijah. Yeshua can't return unless the spirit of Elijah precedes him. We are that spirit.

Mal. 4:4-6 "Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet **before the coming of the great and terrible day of ADONAI.** "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." This is speaking of the end times. This voice is the remnant crying out in the wilderness hoping those in Babylon will take heed and return to Torah. Make way, make a path for the coming of Yah.

John 3:28-29 "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah,' but, '**I have been sent ahead of Him.**' "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but **the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.** John was in essence saying he came in the spirit of Elijah but as the friend of the bridegroom, but Yeshua was the groom. John was preparing the bride (baptizing the people prior to Yeshua's coming).

Moses was the first witness of the ketubah at Mt. Sinai and Elijah is the second. We are to follow Yah in spirit and in truth. The spirit is the holy spirit and it included the spirit of Elijah that John came in. Elijah's spirit personified the holy spirit.

2Kgs. 17:13 "Yet ADONAI warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "**Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.**"

2Kgs. 17:16 **They forsook all the commandments of ADONAI their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshipped all the host of heaven and served Baal.**

The primary message of the prophets of old was to point out to the people that they were mixing Torah with other religions and that they needed to get back to the true Torah. This is exactly what those in the messianic movement are doing today with the christians stuck in Baal (Babylonian) worship. The mixing of the sabbath is a perfect example of Baal worship, part truth, part pagan custom.

In **Matt. 25:5** it says: "**they all got drowsy and [began] to sleep.**" This statement makes it clear that all of us at one time or another slumber in our walk with Torah, but when we see the truth we flee Baal worship as in the commonly called Christian churches. Baal worship is the mixing of idols with the Torah, like the golden calf incident. Baal worship is a combination of some Torah truth mixed with customs, traditions and celebrations of the mystery religions. Most pro-claimed Christians today will not murder or steal, this is Torah

teaching, but indeed will go along with the customary pagan practices of the organized Baal religion called Christianity.

While the bride and groom were apart they could send each other messages by way of a selected friend of the groom, which we now call the best man. That messenger is symbolic of the Ruach HaKodesh, or Yeshua.

The final step for the groom and the bride was the nissuin (which means, "to carry"). Approximately one year later the bride would be waiting eagerly for her groom. The arrival of the groom was very unique, it would occur at a hour that neither he nor the bride would know. As the wedding day drew close, only the father could give the command for his son to get his bride. Because the bride did not know the exact hour of the grooms return, she and her bridesmaids had to be ready at all times. Then the father gave the command to his son to go and get his bride. Most marriages happened after the harvest, so they could easily celebrate for seven days because the work was all done and there was lots of food to party with. They celebrated at the grooms home.

Did the bride know the exact date and time of the grooms return?

No. Did the bride have an approximate date of the grooms return? Yes, she knew within a certain amount of time when her groom would return (what bride wouldn't?). We do not know the exact day and hour of Messiah's return, but we can know the approximate time of His return if we are watchman. We know the season clearly because Yah gave us the Feast Of Trumpets so we could rehearse for just that event.

As the groom approached the city where the bride lived, a shofar would sound alerting the bride that her groom was coming. The groom would come to "steal his bride away" during the night, usually at midnight. And so the phrase "**he will come like a thief in the night**" has its roots in this ancient Jewish wedding tradition. **1Ths. 5:1** *For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.* **Nissuin** is when the groom would go at midnight to get his bride. He would have a lamp as he went to find his bride. She would have her lamp ready to lead her to him. He would leave his home with a lamp and she would be waiting for him, with her lamp at her side. The parable of virgins has so many of these thematic connections. In James it talks about drawing near to Yah and He will draw near to you. **James 4:8a** "**Come close to Elohim, and he will come close to you**".

The bride would meet him half way. A wedding procession would then carry her back to the home of the groom's parents. Then they would meet under the huppah again and exchange vows.

An interesting note that I think is worth mentioning here is the lifting of the veil. It is tradition that has the bride wear a veil over her head and face until they are under the huppah. When a couple meet under the huppah prior to the wedding vows being exchanged, the groom lifts the veil so he can identify his bride. This custom comes from the time of Jacob when Laban presented his daughter Leah instead of Rachel. Jacob didn't identify his bride to be at that time, and ended up being with Leah. For this reason this tradition has been carried down for centuries. This is also symbolic of the scales coming off our eyes and us seeing the true bride of Yah when we become His bride. The truth is exposed when the veil is lifted and we have a personal relationship from that time forward.

Consummation and bridal party



The prayer shawl used for consummation would have the couples names embroidered on the cloth. The entire wedding party would be anxiously awaiting the consummation of the married couple. The entire wedding party would assemble at the grooms house and they would lock the door so there is no interruption.

Following the wedding ceremony was an elaborate wedding feast that lasted seven days. The bride and groom are left alone for seven days (symbolic of the tribulation) then he introduces her to his friends. It was traditional to make a toast at some time during the festivities as follows: **Ps. 137:5** "*If I forget you, O Jerusalem, May my right hand forget her skill*". After the seven days the new husband and wife returned to their new home. We see this seven days referred to when Samson got married (Jgs. 14:12), and when Jacob got married (Gen. 29:27-28).

He would then take her away to their wedding chamber where they would consummate their marriage immediately and then be left alone for seven days. The bridal party would consist of up to ten witnesses from the brides side, (parable of ten virgins, ten commandments). The groom would have two, as in the two witnesses of revelation. They would each have several formal witnesses to the event that would wait outside. Remember in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, five fell asleep, well this is where that parable gets the idea from. The five foolish virgins who knocked on

the locked door of the consummation chamber were not allowed in the house to be witnesses. The groom inside the locked room (who did not know them) would say **"I never knew you"**. You are forbidden to enter, to be witnesses (Matt. 7:23).

The grooms best friend and the brides maid would wait outside the wedding chamber near the door till the groom told him the marriage was consummated. The huppah that was used during their wedding ceremony was used as bedding when they consummated the marriage. As they stood under the huppah (symbolically covered by the blood of the lamb) to exchange wedding vows the same huppah would be blood stained during their **consummation**. Marriage is a blood oath and the blood stained tallit was proof that the wife was a virgin. **Deut. 22:16-17** *The girl's father will say to the leaders, 'I let my daughter marry this man, but he hates her, 17 so he has brought false charges that he didn't find evidence of her virginity; yet here is the evidence of my daughter's virginity' — and they will lay the cloth before the town leaders"*.

At the appropriate time the husband would take the blood stained tallit of the honeymoon couple and give it to his best friend and brides maid to witness. The best friend would then take the blood stained sheet and present it to those gathered for the celebration, as the evidence that the two had become one. They would announce the consummation to all those who had gathered and then would celebrate for the entire seven day period. The stained tallit was then put away and kept as evidence that the bride was a virgin. If there was ever a dispute about whether or not the bride was a virgin, the garment would be revealed as evidence. **John 3:29** "The bridegroom is the one who has the bride; **but the bridegroom's friend, who stands and listens to him, is overjoyed at the sound of the bridegroom's voice.** So this joy of mine is now complete." This is referring to the bridegrooms friend hearing confirmation, witnessing, that she was a virgin from the groom.

Great importance was put on the bride, that she was a virgin. If she wasn't, she could be stoned to death. The parents of the bride and groom would be anxious to know she was a virgin, a lot depended on it. If a man accused his wife of not being a virgin and he was found guilty of lying, it cost him 1 1/2 years wages. It was not to be taken lightly.

If the groom committed adultery, he would have to pay the fifty shekels plus he would have to return the brides estate inventory, as earlier agreed upon. The only due cause for a divorce was adultery. If the woman committed adultery the man could literally keep everything she contributed and walk away. So the odds of a woman or man committing adultery were almost nil. It was too serious to walk away from this huge financial agreement. The women would be publicly shamed. This is what Yeshua was talking about when He talked of "putting away".

Deut. 22:13-21 *"If a man marries a woman, has sexual relations with her and then, having come to dislike her, 14 brings false charges against her and defames her character by saying, 'I married this woman, but when I had intercourse with her I did not find evidence that she was a virgin'; 15 then the girl's father and mother are to take the evidence of the girl's virginity to the leaders of the town at the gate. 16 The girl's father will say to the leaders, 'I let my daughter marry this man, but he hates her, 17 so he has brought false charges that he didn't find evidence of her virginity; yet here is the evidence of my daughter's virginity' — and they will lay the cloth before the town leaders. 18 The leaders of that town are to take the man, punish him, 19 and fine him one hundred shekels of silver, which they will give to the girl's father, because he has publicly defamed a virgin of Isra'el. She will remain his wife, and he is forbidden from divorcing her as long as he lives. 20 "But if the charge is substantiated that evidence for the girl's virginity could not be found; 21 then they are to lead the girl to the door of her father's house, and the men of her town will stone her to death, because she has committed in Isra'el the disgraceful act of being a prostitute while still in her father's house. In this way you will put an end to such wickedness among you"*.

Echad/Unity



When Adam married Eve he said this is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone. **Matt. 19:5** *"for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh"*.

Eph. 5:31-32 *"Therefore a man will leave his father and mother and remain with his wife, and the two will become one." 32 There is profound truth hidden here, which I say concerns the Messiah and the Messianic Community."* Israel is the manifest body of Yah on earth. Israel is the embodiment of the living reality of those overcome by Yah. We are His vessels and He has become part of us. He has intimately become part of us. Yah's spirit rested on each one of the people at Mt. Sinai. This was the consummation back then and Him living in us now is the

consummation presently. Yah has provided for us the opportunity to live with Him in His Sukkah during the Feast of Sukkot so we can be intimate with Him. **John 1:14** says **“the Word became flesh and dwelled among us”** Col. 2:9, John 2:19, 14:23.

The groom would then protect his bride for seven days and all would celebrate. **Exod. 12:13** *‘And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.’*

After the seven days, they would emerge together and participate in a gigantic feast with friends and family members. This was called the **“marriage supper”** and it would officially bring the wedding celebration to a close.

Rev. 19:6-9 *Then I heard [something] like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For Yahveh our Elohim, the Almighty, reigns. “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright [and] clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of Yah.”*

After all the celebrations the married couple would depart to their new home that the groom had prepared for them. Just as the bride and groom would emerge and return to their new home, so to will we return with Messiah to our new home that He has prepared for us (Rev. 21:1-10).

In this same way Yah acquired Israel as His bride. Yah was His own shadkhan and He was the perfect matchmaker. He became their heavenly husband and He became the lover of their soul.

In the following scriptures we see Yah wooing His bride with the seven unconditional promises as written in Exod. 6:6-8. Yah is acting like a sweetheart talking to His beloved bride about what He will do and provide for her if she will accept Him as her groom. He is saying like any man who is wooing His bride, that He is the guy for her, that He will look after her in every way. He is telling His bride that He will wine and dine her, that He will look after her every need, that He will be with her always till the end of time, that He will provide her with security that is out of this world.

Exod. 6:6-8 *“Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, ‘I am Yahveh, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgements. Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am Yahveh your Elohim, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, And I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession; I am the Lord’”. Yah later added these words through Ezekiel. **Ezek. 16:8** *“Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine,” declares Yah*. Yah amplified His agreement with the people Israel in the words of the Shema. **Deut. 6:4-5** **“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, ADONAI is one! “And you shall love ADONAI your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might”**. Yahveh also made it abundantly clear that He was jealous groom: **Deut. 4:24** *“For ADONAI your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”* It was made abundantly clear that if His bride ever went back to worshipping other gods, He would consider it spiritual adultery and the wedding contract would be broken, not by Yah, but by His unfaithful bride. If this were to happen they would no longer receive His blessings, they would be cursed. Moses recorded those blessings and curses in Deut. 28. If this were to ever happen they would lose their national identity and be scattered from her land, away from her Messiah. They were made a special people. They were not special before He chose them for His bride, they became special only after He chose them for His bride. **Exod. 19:5** *‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;’* **Here we see the engagement.** Here we see Yah offering everything to the bride if she keeps His commandments. He is promising that all His strength and resources will be dedicated to her if she will accept His wedding contract of Mt. Sinai. Yah is saying that if she does this she will be His **“segulah”**, which in Hebrew means His **“precious treasure”, or “my own possession”**. Segulah has a very special meaning. It was the term used for the Kings treasure. The key to the Kings treasure was so protected that he kept it with him at all times. The treasure was that special to the King that he trusted it with no one. This was the kings segulah.*

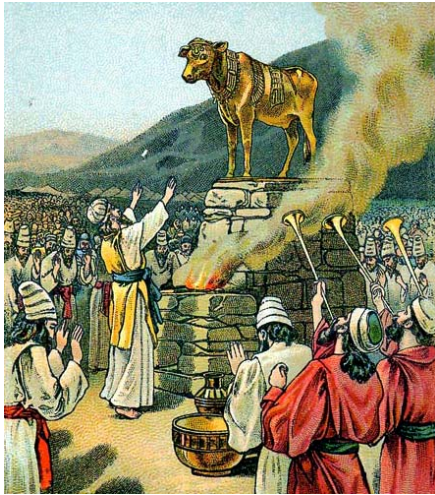
Remember when Yeshua said: **“no one will pluck you out of my hand”**. **John 10:28** *“And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall pluck them out of My hand”*. In that verse He was symbolically referring to His segulah, His key, which He as the King Of Kings always has with Him. His bride is that special to Him. The big rock that was given to the bride at Mt. Sinai was the mountain itself. It makes any diamond anywhere look insignificant compared to the Rock of Yeshua. No rock anywhere compares to the rock of Mt. Sinai.

1Ths. 4:16-17 *For this we say to you by the word of Yahveh that we who are alive and remain until the coming of Yahveh, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For Yah Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel and with the trumpet of Yah, and the dead in Messiah will rise first.*

1Ths. 5:1-2 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of **Yahveh will come just like a thief in the night.**

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT WAS BROKEN

Unfortunately, Yah and His new bride did not have a very good marriage. Right after Israel was betrothed, she made herself a golden calf and worshipped it. Moses pleaded with Yah not to destroy Israel. Yah agreed to not destroy them, but three thousand died as a result of their harlotry. When Yah told Israel to go



in and possess the land He had given her, she failed to trust Yah to help her defeat her enemies. As a result she was made to wander the desert for forty years. Yah was merciful to His bride and met all her needs for forty years until that rebellious generation died. Then Joshua led the people into the promised land. As long as Joshua and his elders were alive the people served Yah and were outwardly faithful to the covenant, but afterwards they began to worship the heathen gods and live immorally (Josh. 24:31). Then under the leadership of King David and Samuel, Israel was a faithful bride, but for the most part, she continued to play the harlot. Yah sent many prophets to warn His bride, but she did not take heed. Only a remnant kept listening. Then Yah sent Jeremiah to warn the people. **Jer. 35:15** "Also I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, sending them again and again, saying: **Turn now every man from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to worship them, then you shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your forefathers; but you have not inclined your ear or listened to Me.**" Elohim continued to warn His bride but they again did not listen. **Jer. 3:1** God says, "If a husband divorces his wife, And she goes from him, And belongs

to another man, Will he still return to her? Will not that land be completely polluted? **But you are a harlot with many lovers; Yet you turn to Me,**" declares ADONAI. **Jer. 3:14** Turn, O backsliding children, saith ADONAI; **for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:**

Finally El Shaddai had no more choice but to issue a certificate of divorce. **Jer. 3:8-10** "And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, **I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also.** "And it came about because of the lightness of her harlotry, that she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. "And yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister **Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception,**" declares ADONAI." Ezekiel described it as such. **Ezek. 16:15,32,38,59** "But you trusted in your beauty and **played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing.**" (32) "**You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!** (38) "**Thus I shall judge you, like women who commit adultery or shed blood are judged; and I shall bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy.**" (59) For thus says Yahveh Elohim, "I will also do with you as you have done, you who **have despised the oath by breaking the covenant.**"

In spite of what they had done, it would only be a temporary separation. Yah was a forgiving bridegroom and He promised He would draw them back to Himself as written about in the book of Hosea. Yah used His prophet Hosea as a visual aid of the tragic marriage Yah had with Israel. Hosea's wife Gomer was a prostitute. Yah had the names of his three children reflect His divorce with Israel. Their names were: "Yah will scatter", "No mercy", and "Not my people". Hosea was forced to suffer the humiliation and pain of his wayward wife, yet he continued to love her. Then Hosea ended up buying her back, stripped naked, and sold to the highest bidder at an open slave market. Gomer finally repented and realized she belonged to Hosea. This is exactly what Yah had suffered, but He never did forsake His bride Israel. He promised to draw her back, but in the meantime she was scattered throughout the nations. She would later return to her land and her God at the end of the age when Messiah Yeshua would come back and prepare a festive marriage feast for His bride.

Hosea 3:4-5 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols. **Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek Yahveh their Elohim and David their king; and they will come trembling to Yahveh and to His goodness in the last days.** Then Yah gave His people comfort and assurance when Hosea spoke: **Hosea 2:16,19-20** "And it will come about in that day," declares Adonai, "**That you will call Me Ishi (my husband) And will no longer call Me Baali (My Master).**" (19-20) "And I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In loving kindness and in compassion, And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know Adonai." **2Cor. 11:2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Messiah Yeshua."

As Sha'ul wrote in Galatians, both Jew and Goyim (Gentile) can be Yah's bride.

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor

female; for you are all one in Yeshua Hamashiach" Paul didn't mean that there would no longer be an ethnic distinction between Jew and Gentile, but that we can all be one in Messiah Yeshua.

Yah said He will betroth Israel. He will take her back as a virgin (virtuous) bride just as if she had never sinned. He will forgive her. The next time the marriage will last forever. A marriage characterized by justice, loving kindness, mercy, righteousness, and faithfulness. Israel will some day soon know her Groom and rejoice in her covenant marriage. **Ps. 118:26** **"Blessed is He who comes in the name of Yahveh"**. Ezekiel put it this way. **Ezek. 16:60,62** **"Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you."** (62) **"Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am Adonai,"**

Then in Jeremiah we see it explained. **Jer. 31:31-34** **"Behold, days are coming," declares Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares Adonai. 33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares Adonai, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. 34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know Adonai,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares Adonai, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."** Yah chose His bride for His Son. Yah was the greatest matchmaker. That bride was Israel and all the Gentiles who would acknowledge Yeshua as their personal Redeemer. **Matt. 26:26-28** **And while they were eating, Yeshua took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."** Yeshua paid the price of His bride by shedding His own blood as atonement for our sins. He took the curse of our sins on Himself. He was the innocent substitutionary sacrifice who died that we might be reconciled to Yah.

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