

The Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:25-33

Ancient Jewish Wedding Customs

1. The father of the groom arranges for a bride to be selected - Genesis 24:1-4
2. A “marriage contract” is arranged
 - a. The groom pledges to support his wife to be
 - b. The bride’s dowry is set
3. A payment is made to the bride’s family, which ultimately is the bride’s. This payment sets her free from her father’s house - Genesis 29:20,27, Exodus 22:16-17
4. The “betrothal” period
 - a. A ceremony is held sealing the betrothal vows
 - b. Legally the couple is married – Luke 2:5
 - c. However, they do not live together, generally a year
 - d. The groom leaves the bride with a parting gift to show his love and his sure return. – Genesis 24:53?
 - e. Preparations:
 - i. The bride prepares herself and her wedding garments – Revelation 19:7
 - ii. The groom prepares their new home (usually at his father’s home)
 1. The new place had to be deemed better than the bride’s former home
 2. The groom’s father decided when the preparation was complete.

Christ and the Church

1. The Father has arranged the Bride for His Son - Ephesians 1:4
2. The New Covenant is arranged - Hebrews 12:24
 - a. Christ gives His life for the Bride - Ephesians 5:25
 - b. The Church presents itself - I Corinthians 6:20
3. The Bride is purchased by Christ - I Corinthians 6:19-20, I Peter 1:18-19
4. The separation or betrothal period is the Church Age
 - a. Ceremony: how about the Lord’s Supper? - Matthew 26:27-29
 - b. The Bride is already wedded to Christ - SECURITY!
 - c. The Bride and Christ are not together - John 14:3
 - d. Gift? How about the Holy Spirit? - Ephesians 1:13-14
 - e. Preparations
 - i. The church is preparing herself - Romans 12:1-2
 - ii. Christ is preparing a place for us - John 14:2-3
 1. Heaven is WONDERFUL! - I Corinthians 2:9
 2. Only the Father knows when Christ will return - Matthew 24:36

5. The Wedding

- a. The bride waits ready for her groom to arrive - Matthew 25:1-13
- b. A shout and a horn blast announce the coming of the groom
- c. The couple return to the groom's family home
- d. The marriage celebration lasts for seven days (while the couple "honeymoon") - John 2:1-11
- e. After seven days the couple joins in a final marriage party.
- f. The couple then go to their own home

5. The Wedding at the Second Coming of Christ

- a. The church awaits the Rapture - Titus 2:13-14
- b. A trumpet and a shout announce the Rapture - I Thessalonians 4:16-18
- c. The raptured saints go to be with Christ in his Father's House: Heaven - John 14:2-3
- d. Seven days? Seven years of Tribulation. The church is raptured out of the earth and in Heaven - Daniel 9:27
- e. The Tribulation culminates in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb - Revelation 19:6-10
- f. The Bride returns with Christ to be on earth for the Millennial Kingdom - Revelation 19:11-14