

THE WEDDING OF THE CENTURY

FASTING 2025

The context of the end of the world, the final judgment, the second coming of Christ, and Revelation is summarized in the concept of the Marriage of the Lamb, which represents the union of Christ with His Church. In God's culture, marriage is not merely the union of two individuals, but the fulfillment of the Father's blessing to reproduce, multiply, fill the earth, and reign over it. Furthermore, marriage also involves the union of two families, bringing greater authority, dominance, influence, and expansion of the Kingdom. Therefore, to fully understand what Jesus teaches about the end of the world, it is essential to understand the concept of a wedding from God's perspective and His Hebrew culture.

A Hebrew engagement dinner represents the culmination of years of relationship-building and planning between the families of the bride and groom. In this process, the bride has the final decision on whether to accept the groom. The ceremony begins when the groom and his father arrive at the bride's house and knock on the door. Her father asks 'Who's there?' and asks the bride if the groom should be given permission to enter. By saying 'yes,' the covenant is initiated. This mirrors our relationship with Christ when He calls knocks on the door of our hearts, as mentioned in His word:

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:20 NIV

The First Drink: Sanctification. It symbolizes the blood covenant and is shared after the families gather at the bride's house for dinner. Wine, considered the blood of the grape, represents this covenant, similar to today's communion cup. This cup signifies being set apart for God's service, just as the bride is set apart exclusively for her groom. It also reflects the commitment of the families to serve one another. It is the first step towards fidelity and trust, opening the door to advance to the next covenant.

The Second Cup: Dedication. Also known as the salt covenant, this cup is shared after a discussion about the marriage contract ('ketubah'). It is exclusive to the bride, groom, and both of their parents, symbolizing both hospitality and friendship. During dinner, the act of breaking bread and sharing salt signifies a deeper commitment. Each person mixes their salt into a common dish and dips their bread, symbolizing an eternal covenant of friendship. By taking a small portion of the salt mixture back to their bag, they affirm the bond.

The Third Cup: Redemption. It is shared only between the bride and groom at the end of the engagement meal. This act reflects what Jesus did during the Last Supper with His disciples, where He performed a commitment ceremony. During the meal, Jesus also dips bread with them in a salt covenant and washes their feet, symbolizing the sandal covenant. As He does this, He says, "I give you an inheritance in My coming Kingdom." This cup seals the marriage agreement and marks the end of the engagement dinner. Once the marriage contract ('ketubah') is signed, it is celebrated within the community, and the couple is considered legally married.

Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."

Matthew 26:29 NLT

Before the wedding begins, the groom must build a house, a process determined by the groom's father.

However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

Matthew 24:36 NLT

Once the house is ready, the groom goes to find his bride at night. She must be ready and attentive, with a lamp in the window, while the wedding party celebrates with them. The wedding itself takes place the following day and lasts seven days, in a ceremony where the bride and groom declare their wedding vows under a canopy, known as a chuppah.

The Fourth Cup: Acceptance or Marriage. This cup is shared by the bride and groom to remember the Blood Covenant. During this ceremony, they also eat challah bread (kallah) dipped in salt, symbolizing the Salt Covenant. Additionally, the groom gives the bride new sandals and washes her feet, honoring the Sandals Covenant, which marked the boundaries of the inheritance of the land. The exchange of rings represents the eternal union of this Marriage Covenant.

This event culminates in the consummation of the marriage in a secluded place prepared in advance, while the community celebrates.

Application

Determine where you are in the process of committing to Jesus and what you can do to move to the next level.

Reflection

Are you part of the Lord's Church? When He returns for His Church, will He find you being part of it?