



# COVENANT AND THE KETUBAH



ACCESS41

# PART 1: FEAR & SERVANTHOOD

We start off thinking we are unknown to our creator but He tells us that we are part of His plan-

**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”**

**Jer 1:5**

**“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. We cannot hide from God”**

**Ps 139:13**

**“Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the LORD.**

**“Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.**

**Jer 23:24**

**The Lord pursues us and woos us to Him. We love, because He first loved us.**

**1 John 4:19**

Jesus is wanting to start a relationship with some of you today – like first love.

From Genesis to Revelation, Pappa has written us a love story. If we understand the Ketubah and the symbolism, we will understand the wooing of our bridegroom to where we become His triumphant bride.

In Genesis the Ketubah is violated and judgments systematically fall on mankind for violating God’s ‘Ketubah’. The Ketubah was simply a Jewish wedding contract, and it’s structure and content happens to be reflected throughout scripture. Most Christians understand the concept of the ‘Wedding Supper of the Lamb’, where we find Jesus Christ as the groom and the Church as the bride. But rarely have we heard of the Jewish wedding contract that provides the basis for this future marriage. So the first thing we need to is examine the basic tenets of the typical Ketubah, because one day soon this divine contract will determine who is at the Wedding Supper, and who is not.

## **ANCIENT HEBREW BETROTHAL**

In Western culture, the marriage process is typically preceded by an 'engagement', which is the promise of marriage at a later date. This concept springs from the 'betrothal' process that has been conducted in the east for thousands of years, although engagement and betrothal are not necessarily synonymous. Betrothal actually takes on many additional legal ramifications, and forms one basis for the entire New Testament. Then, the book of Revelation describes the culmination of that process in the future 'Wedding Supper of the Lamb';

**Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God." Rev 19:9**

Because of the importance of this process and how it relates to the message of the New Testament, and therefore the Revelation, it becomes essential to learn how the ancient Hebrew betrothal process unfolded.

## **THE ARRANGEMENT**

As you may already know, most ancient marriages in the east were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom. The parents, particularly the father, had to approve of the prospective spouse before betrothal could take place.

## **THE FATHER DECIDES**

When the groom's father decided the time was right to make the marriage proposal, the father and son would go to the prospective bride's house. When they arrived, the prospective groom would stand at the door and knock. This in itself constituted a formal marriage proposal, as modeled by Jesus in Revelation;

**"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock....." Rev 3:20**

Opening the door alone did not denote a marriage, it was merely an agreement to pursue the terms of a prospective marriage. But the proper terms would first have to be negotiated before any legally binding contract could be made.

It's an interesting commentary on Jewish culture that while this process was legally binding on the groom at this point, it was not legally binding on the bride. In fact, the bride could legally withdraw from the betrothal at any time throughout the entire process, including right up until the time of the actual marriage ceremony. Notice the ramifications this has with Jesus and His betrothed bride, the Church.

## **OPENING THE DOOR**

When they heard the prospective groom's knock at the door, the bride's father would look at his daughter for a sign of her approval. If she agreed to this arrangement, he then opened the door and allowed the groom and his father inside. By opening the door, the bride was announcing her intent to marry the groom. But again, a proper legal arrangement would first have to be made. At this point, the marriage was far from a done deal.

## **CUP 1 - THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION**

As soon as they were invited inside, a 1st CUP of wine was consumed by the groom and his father, along with the bride and her entire family. This could be a rather large group, since her entire extended family was generally in attendance, having been warned ahead of time.

This first cup was called the "Cup of Sanctification". The Old Testament equivalent was known as a 'blood covenant', which we will refer to in later lessons, and it was a literal covenant that each family was making to serve the other. This was no small promise, since servanthood demanded responsibilities from each party involved, and there were legal remedies if the various parties did not perform these duties.

## COVENANT PART 1

Slaves, bondservants or servant

Once we accept Jesus and His salvation we start a journey of servanthood and deliverance. God is our Master and we serve Him. We feel in the beginning that we need to follow rules but as we walk with Jesus so our love and relationship grows.

Throughout the New Testament, the word bondservant, slave, or servant is applied metaphorically to someone absolutely devoted to Jesus.

Paul, Timothy, James, Peter, and Jude all describe themselves as “bondservants of Christ” (Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Philippians 1:1)

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

<sup>1</sup> **Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James. Jude 1:1, NKJV**

We are called to be bondservants or slaves of Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22; Ephesians 6:6; 2 Timothy 2:24).

He is our Lord, and our allegiance is due to Him alone. As bondservants, we renounce other masters (Matthew 6:24) and give ourselves totally to Him

<sup>24</sup> **Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matt 16:24**

Being a bondservant of Christ is not drudgery.

**His “burden is light” Matthew 11:30.**

Also, we have this promise:

**“Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life” Rom 6:22**

We enter situations thinking like a slave and reacting like a slave. The biggest contributor to not progressing to the next stage of our covenant is Fear.

Fear, in humans, goes back to the Garden. Fear started there and has actually been encoded onto our DNA ever since. Dealing with it simply in the here and now will only have results up to a point.

What would you say was the first consequence of Adam and Eve eating from the tree in the middle of the garden?

Normally we would say that it was that they were banished from the Garden.

In Gen 3:8 we see their first reaction: “And they heard the voice of the LORD God and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord”.

But why did they hide?

**“And he (Adam) said, I heard Thy voice in the garden and I was afraid” Gen 3:10**

I would like to propose that first consequence was fear. But more than fear it was dread.

In fact, the “fear” Adam and Eve would have felt would have been akin to a devastation. It was actually traumatic if one considers their intense closeness/intimacy with God up to that point.

It is that feeling of having “fallen from grace” and not knowing what to expect now. Fear and dread intermingle and you have a sense that something been lost, somehow nothing will be the same again and you feel devastated because now God or someone close to you will look at you differently. Not with the same unconditional love and acceptance, it feels to you, and there is a very real sense that they will now SEE you differently... And you feel devastated!

### **THEIR ABSOLUTE DEVASTATION.**

Going from the ultimate intimacy to hiding from God and being put out of the Garden... I do not think we can begin to imagine the devastation and the trauma they must have experienced and then the dread, facing the unknown without the close intimacy with Pappa that has been their reality up until that point.

Scientists are finding evidence that fear can indeed change our DNA and allow for it to be transferred to our offspring.

Fear is an emotion, an unspoken memory, stored in special parts of the brain. It provokes rapid, almost instinctual reactions.

It appears that a major portion of the genetic contribution to human fear and anxiety involves neuro-transmitters and their receptors. Scientists say it is quite possible that we as humans have also inherited generations of fears and experiences.

Studies on humans suggest that children and grandchildren may have felt the epigenetic impact of such traumatic events such as famine, the Holocaust and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

When Adam and Eve experienced that dread, that devastation, it would not have happened in isolation. They would have started thinking and believing certain lies – otherwise why did they hide?

So let's discuss some lies that would have entered:

- I've lost my purpose and identity
- My life is destroyed, there is no hope
- I am not so good after all, only second class

Or if you are more brazen:

- Maybe I can make this work
- Maybe there is a way to “fix” this (resulting in “works”)
- Maybe I can make myself acceptable by covering myself (hence the use of the leaves).
- Maybe I can make myself acceptable by re-presenting / reinventing myself

Fear robs our minds of peace, it distorts our understanding, it magnifies our problems, it breaks our relationships, it ruins our health, it goads us into foolish, impulsive and sometimes violent action and it paralyses our thinking, trusting and loving.

It is obsessive and distorts reality in 3 ways

1. gives people a false perception of themselves
2. distorts the nature of dangers facing them
3. distorts the picture of God

What the lies of the enemy does

1. “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” **1 John 3:8**
2. “The thief comes only to steal, and to kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” **John 10:10**

### **FEAR, STRESS AND ANXIETY**

Greatest cause of all illness today:

When you don't feel loved and secure you fight for survival. Rejection brings fear, you're always checking over your shoulder. Extreme or chronic stress trigger a wide set of body functions eg blood pressure and blood sugar levels are constantly raised so that the body can cope with emergencies. As a result Cortisol is excreted for long periods which starts to destroy the immune system. Your body starts to attack itself.

As the person lives in fear and self-rejection the body takes on a profile of death. When you deny your existence as God sees you and reject yourself in creation, a spirit of death comes to agree with you.

Antidote to fear is fellowship with the Godhead "God has not given you a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. **2 Tim 1:7**

Power = Holy Spirit

Love = God the Father

Sound mind = Jesus

**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18**

1. There is no fear in love
2. Perfect love casts out fear. All diseases caused by fear involve a break in relationship, with God, yourself, others. Reconcile yourself with who you are separated from. Or at the least forgive them and break soul ties – eg dead people
3. Fear has punishment (torment) eg schizophrenia. Can be inherited spiritually and also familiar spirits
4. if you fear you are not made perfect in love – if you cannot give and receive love then you have fear

**So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." Rom 8:15**

**Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.] John 14:27 (AMP)**

*PRAYER FOR DNA (MODIFIED)*

*I repent for all ungodly beliefs by me and my family line that has allowed ungodly inscriptions to be written on any of my genes and within the DNA base sequence.*

*I ask Lord that You would go into the enemy's library and destroy all books that contain the enemies inscriptions written on my DNA, RNA and proteins.*

*I ask Lord that You go into the righteous library and search for the original design of my DNA, RNA and proteins and imprint it on my DNA, RNA and proteins.*

*Lord please clean off all ungodly paths connected to my DNA, RNA and proteins and restore the original paths. Please correctly connect each gene to the righteous lines.  
Lord please remove all ungodly inscriptions on any altars or in any covenants.*

*Please remove my DNA, RNA and proteins from the ungodly length, width, height and depth.*

*Please correct the sound, resonance and frequency of each strand of DNA in each chromosome. I ask you Lord remove the enemies resonance of evil.*

*I ask Lord that you can disconnect each base from any ungodly moon, star, star system, zodiac, constellation and galaxy.*

*I ask you to redesign the inscription on my genes to Your original blueprint and intent. I ask Lord that You will remove any gene out of any ungodly time lines. Lord, as You pick up each gene, I ask You to clean it and then put it back in the correct location.*

*I ask Lord that You will cancel all blood, salt and threshold covenants in my family line that have corrupted each DNA, RNA and protein.*

*I ask You to heal all of the mitochondria.*

*I shut each door that has been opened to evil that has allowed evil to affect each base, base pair, gene chromosome and all my*



## **PART 2: OBEDIENCE & FRIEND**

**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. Jn 15:15**

### **CUP 2 - THE CUP OF DEDICATION**

At this point, both parties would sit down for a meal in the bride's home. But before the meal could be served, the 2nd CUP of the betrothal was consumed, this time by just the two fathers, along with the bride and groom.

This was known as the "Cup of Dedication". This cup initiated the meal that would follow, which in Old Testament terms represented the "salt covenant" that declared eternal friendship. This covenant was historically sealed by the dipping of bread into a bowl of salt that had been combined from the personal salt pouches of the respective parties.

In an interesting bit of symbolism, once this ritual was completed, each party would pour half of the salt back in their personal salt pouches. But at this point, some of the salt now in their bag would have come from the other party's bag, and vice versa. It would be impossible to separate them again, and they would remain intertwined with the grains from the other pouch for as long as that salt lasted. In the same way, this act symbolized an irrevocable relationship between parties that could not be undone.

### **NEGOTIATIONS**

Once the 2nd Cup had been consumed, the meal would be served as the betrothal negotiations between the parties began in earnest. These negotiations were often quite intense and were conducted as a business proposition during this meal. This was an important cultural tradition, and was recognized by Jesus in the same verse, Revelation 3:20, that was noted earlier;

**"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 him, and he with me." Rev 3:20**



By this statement, Jesus was alluding to the meal and corresponding negotiations that always took place at this time. These specific items could include almost anything, but they were generally limited to highly practical issues such as how the groom would support his bride and provide for her, or what kind of housing he would arrange.

**“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling....” Phil 2:12**

## COVENANT PART 2

Friend

This is where we learn to talk to Pappa. Where Jesus is our friend. However, this is also where we begin to take offence. We often try and spiritualise our encounters with God. We can chat and He will tell us stuff but it isn't always for us to do something about. E.g. If He tells you that Suzy has bought a washing machine, it might just be an information fact and we don't need to try and spiritualise everything the Lord says, or find a prophetic meaning. This can also be the place that disappointments and misunderstanding settle when we don't understand the love of the Father.

**Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Rom 5:5**

**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[a] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:38-39 (NIV)**

**<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Eph 3:17-19 (NIV) love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:38-39 (NIV)**

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## UNGODLY DIMENSIONS AND OUR HEARTS:

1. THE UNGODLY DEPTH:  
Wounding, accusations, judgements, agreements with death, humiliation, bitterness place us in the ungodly depth.

**But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell. Prov 9:18**

Godly Depth = Revelation.  
Is the digging and finding treasure and gems.

**It is the revelation that Pappa hides for us to find. Is 45:3**

Ungodly depth – is a place of death. Wounds, accusations, lies, judgements that we believe and so partner with death.  
Revelation vs Death

2. THE UNGODLY HEIGHT:  
When things aren't going the way we want and God is not answering, or when we can't hear God, we make our own plan and do it in our own strength. This puts all or part of our spirit in the ungodly height, where we are in control and not the Lord. In this place we help support Satan's throne and we receive spiritual guidance and power from the wrong kingdom. Religious spirit rules through us.

**I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' (Lucifer) Isa 14:14**

**.... And its heart was lifted up in its height. Ezek 31:10**



## PART 3: INHERITANCE & SONSHIP

Sons inherit, we are all sons as daughters don't inherit

<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Sons walk into the house of God and open the fridge. Sons go into the courtrooms of heaven. Eph 1:17-23

But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? Jer 23:18

But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds. Jer 23:22

A renowned speaker had a vision where he was walking in the corridors of heaven approaching the throne room. Two huge angels were guarding the door and talking amongst themselves. As soon as they saw him tentatively approaching them, they jumped to attention, flattened themselves against the walls on either side of the doors and made way for him. He was quite startled at that reaction and the explanation was, "you are family we aren't; we make way for family."

### CUP 3 - THE CUP OF INHERITANCE

Assuming that the negotiations were ultimately successful, the bride and groom alone would consume the 3rd CUP, known as the “Cup of Inheritance” however it essentially served as the ‘inheritance covenant’ between the parties. This Cup signified that the bride now had a shared inheritance with the groom. At this point, if either of the betrothed parties died before the wedding took place, they would still inherit from the other’s estate.

Hopefully another antennae is going up in your mind when you read this, because in our betrothal with Jesus Christ, well.....we have to note that He did in fact die before His wedding took place, because our inheritance in Jesus’ kingdom is still legally binding as His ‘betrothed’.

### SANDALS

The concept of inheritance has an interesting symbol in the Old Testament that applies to the betrothal process. If you’ve spent any time reading the Old Testament stories, you may recall several instances where sandals were taken off and given to others when land deals were made, or when people inherited or redeemed property, just know that sandals were always used to symbolize inheritance in ancient cultures.

This concept is what Jesus was presenting to the disciples in the upper room before the Last Supper. Jesus was taking off their sandals and washing their feet, signifying their inheritance in His Kingdom. But this was not understood by the disciples, and Peter initially balked at the idea;

“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”.....

But Jesus knew that unless Peter took part in this ceremony, he could not inherit in His kingdom. So Jesus made it quite plain to him with His reply as recorded in John 13:8;

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

Jesus was essentially entering into the ‘inheritance covenant’ with Peter and the disciples, which Peter was unknowingly rejecting.

### COVENANT PART 3

Once the 3rd CUP had been consumed and this was finally considered a ‘done deal’, the fathers would call for a Scribe. This was often a Priest, and the Scribe/Priest would record all the details and terms of the agreement that they had reached during negotiations. The resulting wedding contract was known as a ‘Ketubah’.

### THE IN-LAWS

Once the Ketuba was signed, the bride and groom were now legally bound, and all that remained was for each to fulfill the requirements of their contract. The groom’s parents now legally had a ‘daughter-in-law’, the bride’s parents had a ‘son-in-law’, and the two sets of parents were ‘in-laws’. This legal arrangement was illustrated in the account of Lot in Genesis 19:14;

**“So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters.” Gen 19:14**

Although Lot’s daughters were not yet formally married, Lot had two sons-in-law because they were formally betrothed. This concept stands in stark contrast to our western culture, where this legal arrangement does not actually occur until the wedding day. But keep in mind that throughout this entire process, the bride could still withdraw at any time, even though the groom was still legally bound to continue.

As sons we are betrothed to Jesus and we are legally His heirs. The marriage has not been consummated yet but we function with full inheritance rights.

During the writing and signing of the Ketubah we receive our title deeds to our inheritance.

## TITLE DEED

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a son of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

Because you are His son, God has sent the Spirit of His Son, Jesus, into your heart, crying out, Abba Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir to God through Christ Jesus. Galatians 4:6-7 NKJ  
For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom you cry out "Abba Father". The Spirit Himself bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God, and if a child, then an heir of God and joint heir with Christ. Rom 8:15-17a NKJ

He has predestined you for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will - to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given you in the One He loves. Eph 1:5-6 NIV

As an overcomer, you shall inherit all things, and I will be your God and you shall be My son. Rev 21:7 NKJ

We need to begin the process of expectation. We are worthy to expect and receive. This is where the poverty spirit gets dealt with.

"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" 1 Cor 2:9

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." James 1:17

"Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit" Ps 51:12

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" Jhn 10:10

"And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.

The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them" Deut 28:11-13

Yesterday and tomorrow are memories or dreams. Don't try to live there. We often try to recreate a memory instead of asking Pappa what He has for us which would probably be so different and so much bigger but in His time.

- Do we have the patience and discipline to wait?
- Can we say no to ourselves?

Start to call in provision. Call in what you see in the Spirit because you have that authority, you are in the family business.

## **PART 4: LOVE & THE BRIDE**

Bride of Christ. The intimacy. When you are in love you no longer act out of obligation but because you don't want to hurt the person. There is a desperation to spend time with Him. There is a longing to know what His wants, desires and thoughts are. We don't spend much time asking but time being together.

This is where we find His heartbeat. Where He asks us not talk but just to sit with Him. Where we learn to wait with Him and not FOR Him. Where every moment with Him is important and not to be missed by needing to do check emails or find topics to talk about. It is just breathing with Him.

**Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved? Song 8:5**

### **THE WINE ABSTENTION**

Once he was betrothed, it was customary for the groom not to drink any wine again until the actual marriage ceremony and subsequent wedding supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus seems to allude to this in the following statement in Luke;

**"For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Luke 22:18**

### **GOING TO PREPARE A PLACE**

Once all of these things were accomplished, the groom would then make a promise to his betrothed wife to go and prepare a place for her to live, which was often an addition to his father's home. In eastern cultures it was traditional to keep extended family units together, and you rarely had a break-up of the family unit. So here is yet another instance where Jesus observed the cultural mandates of the times;

**“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” Jhn 14:2-3**

At the ceremony, it was typical for the bride to wear a circlet of gold on her head, shaped in a silhouette of Jerusalem. The groom would wear a wreath of myrtle and roses, with thorns included. This mixture represented both the joy and pain of marriage, and of course, it’s probably quite intentional that this symbolism was also used to mock Jesus before the crucifixion;

**Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face. Jhn 19:1-3**

The groom would first pronounce his bride pure, and set apart for himself and they would vow eternal faithfulness and love to each other.

All the covenants represented here at the marriage ceremony.

**CUP 4 – THE CUP OF WINE** (symbolising servanthood and salvation)  
Having made their vows, the bride and groom alone would finally drink the 4th cup of wine together, the ‘Cup of Praise’. Then they would throw it on the ground, and together they would stomp on and break the cup so that nobody could drink of it ever again. This signified the exclusivity of their marriage. This cup represented the ‘blood covenant’ being made between this couple. The blood covenant obligated the two parties to serve each other.

### **COVENANT PART 3 THE CHALLAH BREAD – BREAD AND SALT SYMBOLISING FRIENDSHIP**

Now the bride and groom would take challah bread, dip it in salt, and feed it to each other. The “salt covenant” the bride and groom were entering into a salt covenant, which obligated them to defend each other in their new role as eternal friends.

### **NEW SANDALS FOR THE BRIDE – SHOES FOR INHERITANCE**

The groom would now perform the same ritual for his bride that Jesus performed in the Upper Room. He would remove his bride’s old sandals and wash her feet. He would then place NEW SANDALS on her feet, symbolizing her inheritance in his estate.

**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. Jhn 13:3-5**

Most commentaries on this topic describe Jesus performing an act of menial service to demonstrate to His disciples how they should serve each other, and they feel that this is why Peter initially said ‘No’ to this offer. But while this lesson about service is certainly part of the puzzle, it’s the last sentence in Jesus’ reply that reveals the true motive and reason for the ritual;

**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” Jhn 13:6-8**

Notice that unless Jesus washed Peter's feet, Peter would NOT have inherited with Jesus, and this had far less to do with selfless service than it did with the symbol that Jesus was modeling. In short, had Peter not allowed Jesus to wash his feet, then this sandal covenant would not have been confirmed, and Peter would not have become part of the bride that will inherit the right to reign over Jesus' estate - the coming Kingdom of God.

### THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Rings were not always exchanged by the bride and groom, but in the instances where they were, this would occur at the end of the ceremony. The rings would be worn on the RIGHT hand, rather than the LEFT in our western tradition, just as the bride would stand at the RIGHT hand of the groom, and just as Jesus stands at the RIGHT hand of the Father.

### THE TALIT

With their wedding vows completed and the actual ceremony drawing to a close, the groom would now spread his arms around his new bride, enveloping her within his prayer shawl, known as a Talit. This was a sign of protection and 'oneness' with her, and it is this concept that Jesus referred to as he entered Jerusalem.

**"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." Matt 23:37**

In this instance, the word translated as 'wings' comes from the Greek word 'apteryx', which is correctly translated as 'wings'. But the related Hebrew word that was often translated as 'wings' in the Old Testament would be 'kanaf', which were also the corners of the Talit itself. So Jesus was essentially saying he longed to have Jerusalem as His bride so he could wrap her in His prayer shawl.

### CONSEQUENCES

Occasionally during their first time of intimacy the groom would discover that his wife had been unfaithful, or even worse.....that she was already pregnant. If the groom discovered that his bride had not remained pure and/or was already pregnant, he had only a few options available to him.

1. HE COULD LET HER PAY THE PRICE for her transgression, which under the law was death.
2. HE COULD GIVE HER A WRIT OF DIVORCE and quietly leave the scene. This is the option that Joseph had chosen with Mary, until the angel intervened;

**Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. Mt 1:19**

But naturally everyone would immediately question why the groom had left, and that would stir suspicions. So this option was still risky for the bride, as she could be stoned if the reason for his leaving was discovered.

3. HE COULD PRETEND THE CHILD WAS HIS when it was born, and therefore not seek a divorce at all. This is what Joseph ended up doing when Jesus was born, and Mary's trip to Bethlehem and their subsequent trip to Egypt ended up protecting her from those that would have been suspicious, or those who would have been counting the days.
4. HE COULD CHOOSE TO BE HER REDEEMER. In this role, he could legally opt to take her punishment on himself, which in this instance would be death, because that was the punishment for sexual impurity as outlined in the law and that's just what Jesus did for you and I at the cross. He became our redeemer by being crucified in our place. WE were unfaithful....but HE paid the price.





## PART 5: AUTHORITY & THE WIFE

Proverbs 31:10 onwards is about the wife but before that is about the husband.

In Jewish culture, men memorize this chapter as a song of praise to their wives. But in western culture, it is often used as a to do list.

This is not known as the perfect wife in Jewish culture but as the women of valour. Ruth is referred to as one, not because she ticked the list but because she lived her life with incredible bravery, wisdom and strength. She lived her life with valour.

Be careful of focusing on the dos. What defines us is the integrity and bravery we bring to those roles. It is not about success but willingness. About making choices that are hard, that require sacrifice and saying NO to the easy way.

After establishing ourselves as the bride of Christ we need to explore that place of intimacy where we appropriate the authority and maturity of being a wife.

The analogy is of us as the church being the wife specified in Proverbs 31.

## EPILOGUE: THE WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER

- 10 [b]A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still night;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her female servants.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household;  
for all of them are clothed in scarlet. (not only for necessity but delight and ornament)
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes. (very expensive)
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:
- 29 "Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Many of us may experience the Bride relationship with Jesus. We are so totally in love and we stop there. We think that because we understand the marriage supper and have made our commitment to Jesus that we have arrived. I have news for you!!!! This next step depends on your eschatology.GREEK/ HEBREW MINDSET

### GREEK MENTALITY

The goal of salvation is to escape this world and go to God's dwelling place in heaven.

The kingdom of God exists in heaven, not upon the earth.

Jesus is coming in order to take us away from this world.

Message: "Get your ticket now or you might miss the train."

### HEBREW MENTALITY

The goal of salvation is to prepare a place for God's dwelling here, among His people.

The kingdom of God is God's reign among people here upon earth.

Jesus is coming in order to reign over & through us in this world.

Message: "The Kingdom of God is coming! Get read to serve the King & manifest the kingdom."

Let's take these a line at a time.

In our Greek understanding, the goal of salvation is to escape this world and go to God's dwelling place in heaven. So everything is focused on what will be: very little about what is now. In Hebrew

thought, the goal of salvation is to prepare a place fit for God's dwelling here, among His people. He wants His kingdom to come to earth.

Linked with that, where does the kingdom of God exist? The Greek view says it is in heaven, not on the earth, whereas the Hebrew view is that the kingdom of God is God's reign among people here upon the earth.

So is Jesus coming in order to take us away from this world?

No, Jesus is coming to reign over and through us in this world. We need to focus on God's kingdom being 'now', not separating it out. "Get your ticket now or you might miss the train and go to hell": that is, if we are honest, how many of us had the gospel presented to us. And then: "Now you have your ticket, just hold on tight. In the end Jesus will come and rescue you", rather than what Jesus preached: "The Kingdom of God is coming! It's right here, right now! Get ready to serve the King and manifest the kingdom".

Greek thinking separates out our religious life from our secular life. Family, work, school, friendships on the one hand; and church on the other. But God wants His kingdom to be flowing through all of our lives, with no separation. There is no secular for us. Our lives are a whole, they are unified, and we bring the kingdom of God into everything.

In Greek thinking, the heavenly was separated from the earthly. There was no overlap. But for us, we can live in both places: we live in the realms of heaven, and we bring that spiritual realm into our lives on earth, at the same time: not in the future but now.

'Knowledge' to the Greek mind is information. But to the Hebrew, you cannot know anything without experiencing it. It is all about knowledge through spiritual encounter.

It's not what you know, but who you know! We know God, but it is

perfectly possible to read the Bible from cover to cover and have all the information, but never actually know Him. We need to encounter everything in the Word of God for ourselves.

We don't analyse: we live. It is about who we are and what we do.

God Himself says He is the I AM.

Rev 21:1-12 and 22-27 describe the new earth as being very earthbound. Rev 22 speaks about the River of Life and Jesus.

WE WILL REIGN

**If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we [a]deny Him, He also will deny us; We will rule 2 Tim 2:12 NASB**

**<sup>26</sup> He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE [a]NATIONS; <sup>27</sup> AND HE SHALL [b]RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; Revelation 2:26-27 NASB**

WE WILL JUDGE

**<sup>2</sup> Or do you not know that the [a]saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to [b]constitute the smallest law courts?**

**<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? 1 Cor 6:2-3 NASB**

New heavens and new earth in Old Testament

**<sup>22</sup> "For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure Is 66:22 NASB**

Speaking to Storms as a wife

Ruling and Reigning with Christ - What would change for us if, instead of calling God down into our situation—we allowed Him to elevate us into the strength and power of His perspective?

**<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. Gen 1:1-4 NIV**

God brought order out of chaos. Light pierced the darkness and He separated light from dark. Jesus is our light and we need to do the same in our lives with the authority that has been given to us through Jesus. Holy Spirit brooded over the waters. The Trinity at work using their authority to create life. So we need to speak life to our circumstances.

**<sup>b</sup> God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Rom 4:17**

Jesus quietened the storm. He was asleep. You only have authority over the storm you can sleep through.

**<sup>23</sup> Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" <sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. <sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" Matt 8:23-27 NIV**

Authority functions from heaven's peace towards earth. Jesus only did what He saw His Father do.

SO.....

- As SERVANTS we recognise our fear, but in OBEDIENCE we deal with it.
- As FRIENDS we TALK to Pappa, find His perspective and wait with Him.
- As SONS we understand our INHERITANCE and IDENTITY and freely receive.
- As BRIDES we go into the intimate place of LOVE to receive our bride price

**<sup>19</sup> I will accept you as my wife forever, and instead of a bride price[a] I will give you justice, fairness, love, kindness, <sup>20</sup> and faithfulness. Then you will truly know who I am. Hos 2:19-20 CEV**



