

Torah Portion #50: Ki Tavo (כי תבוא) "When you come in"

Torah ~ Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 | Prophets ~ Isaiah 60:1-22 | New Covenant ~ Lk. 6:20-26; Rom. 3:28-31; Eph. 1:3-6

Our Jewish Wedding - The Engagement

There are many parallels between our relationship to the Lord, the second coming of the Lord and the ancient Jewish wedding. In the ancient Jewish wedding, the betrothal (engagement) would involve the acceptance of a marriage contract (covenant) called a "Ketubah". The contract would give the terms by which the groom would propose for marriage.

If the terms in the contract were suitable, the bride and groom would drink together from the fruit of the vine and this would seal the betrothal. Then the groom would pay the bride price which is the most important thing in the contract. Once the couple was engaged, it was as if they were already married. Yeshua parents, Mary and Joseph, lifestyle was a good example of an ancient Jewish betrothal (*Matthew 1:18-19*).

In *Ephesians 5:25-27* the church is referred to as the Bride of Christ (Messiah) and the New Covenant is our marriage ketubah. Just as Jewish fathers would choose a bride for their son's, God the Father chose us to be the bride of His Son. Yeshua drank the cup of the New Covenant in *Matthew 26:27-29* with His disciples on His last Passover. The next day He paid the bride price for us on the cross (*1 Corinthians 6:20*).

After the bride accepted the terms of the contract and receives her bride price, she was to wear a veil to show the world that she is taken. She is to set herself apart from the rest of the world just like the church is to be set apart. *Romans 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God" MEV*

Now that the engagement was settled the groom would then depart from the bride. He would tell his bride "I go to prepare a place for you" and he would return to his father's house to build for her a "chuppah" or a bridal chamber, also called a mansion. In the chuppah they would have the wedding ceremony, which would last seven days.

Yeshua said in *John 14:2-3* "(2) 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. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

After the groom departed, the bride would go to a "mikvah" or baptismal in English to be baptized. When the bride went down into the water of the mikvah, they "symbolically" died to their old life and come up out of the water as a new person.

After our betrothal to Yeshua, we are commanded to be baptized in *Matthew 28:19* where it says "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Baptism is a picture of our dedication to the Lord, it is the sign of the New Covenant (Ketubah) through Yeshua.

The bride, for her part, was obliged to do a lot of waiting. Just as the church is obliged to wait on the Lord. During this long period of waiting, she was referred to as "consecrated, set apart, and bought with a price" just as the church is today. Sometimes the bridegroom would be gone a very long time, but he paid a high price for his bride and would surely return to the one with whom he made a covenant. Yeshua paid a high price for us and will return to receive us unto Himself.

Rev. 22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." NKJV

The bride was to have all her things ready just in case the groom came late at night in the darkness, because she had to be ready to travel at a moments notice. *Matthew 24:44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." NKJV*

The father of the groom was to be the judge of when the bridal chamber was ready. *Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." NKJV*