

Someone in the Selah group sent a question to me concerning the last post on the Feasts. It concerned the ancient Hebrew practice of betrothal and marriage and the wearing of a veil by the bride. I'm posting everyone on this because of the valid points and there is something to be learned here for everyone. The most ancient practice of marriage did not involve a ceremony of sorts as in the example of Isaac and Rebekah (Gen.24:65-67). Isaac simply took her into his tent and she became his wife. We also see in this passage that Rebekah "veiled" herself when she learned that the man in the distance was her husband-to-be. The modern day practice of women in the middle east veiling their faces is evidence that this practice finds its origin from that part of the world. It is not a practice that was learned from the Khazarians (ancestors of European Jews) nor was it learned from Christianity. Other ceremonial marriage practices that did not exist in the most ancient times did develop over time and by the period of our Messiah's first coming, a betrothal with a period of separation and preparation existed. We don't have to look far to see that this was so. The Bible itself says enough about this on its own;

Miryam was pledged to be married to Yoseph (Luke2:5). They were betrothed, but had not yet consummated their marriage, in fact, they didn't until after the birth of Yahshua (Matt.1:25).

The Wedding Feast at Cana (John2:1-11) and the Parable of the Wedding banquet (Matt.22:1-14) are evidence of a celebration that had developed.

The parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt.25:1-13) shows that the practice of the bridegroom making the procession to the Banquet was a practice that existed by that time.

The Hebrew faith was adopted by the Khazarians in the 8th Century and along with that faith, so were many of the customs. ("The African Heritage Bible" is one good source for this historical fact.)

But, let me get back to the reason why I mentioned ancient marriage ceremony in the first place; when I learned of the practices that developed, it was an awesome revelation to me how they paralleled what is revealed to us in the Feasts. In other words, Yah is Sovereign, and somehow, in the development of these ceremonies, He is in them speaking to us again of His love for us, His Bride.

"The Bride belongs to the Bridegroom. The friend who attends the Bridegroom waits and listens for Him, and is full of joy when he hears the Bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."

-quote from Yochanan the Immerser- John 3:29

A recap (with additional points not included in Part 4) and I will end here;

The ancient rabbis said that the Fall Feasts anticipated Messiah's wedding to His Bride. As we look at the picture of the ancient Hebrew wedding customs that developed by the first century, we can see how they are indeed the consummation of what was begun at Passover.

In the ancient custom, the prospective groom would visit the home of his bride-to-be, bringing with him the mohar (the bridal price), a gift of his handiwork which was usually an item which he had made or represented himself and his character, a ketubah (wedding contract), and a cup. The ketubah listed all that he would provide for her, and if he died before the marriage was consummated, it might even contain a clause stating that everything would be rightfully hers automatically. If they agreed to the conditions of the contract, the groom and bride-to-be sealed the agreement by drinking from the cup together.

The groom would then go back to his father's house to prepare a place for his bride. He would send a trusted friend to carry messages back-and-forth between himself and his bride-to-be. When his father saw that the place was prepared, he would give his son permission to return for his bride.

The bride-to-be, in the meantime, had her ketubah and the cup to remind her of that coming wedding day. She would keep herself veiled in public, showing that she was spoken for. She would keep a light burning in her window, as a sign to her beloved that she was waiting for him.

When the father would give permission for the son to return for his bride, the son would send forth his trusted messenger one final time, to sound the trumpet and give the call, "Behold! The bridegroom cometh!" The groom would then take his bride away to his father's house for the 7 day marriage feast.

Against this backdrop, Yahshua spoke many parables and used much of the same terminology, fulfilling the first part of the picture. He came to this earth, visiting His Bride's home with the mohar, the bridal price of His blood that purchased us, a gift-the gift of eternal life, a wedding contract-the New Covenant, and a cup-the cup of blessing from Passover. He died before the marriage was consummated, therefore everything in the contract is rightfully ours now! He did not stay dead- He rose again and returned to His Father's house. All of this was done at Passover. At Pentecost, He sent forth His trusted One, the Holy Spirit, Who has maintained the communication between the Body and the Head for the past 2,000 years.

During this 2,000 year wait, the Bride is to have been studying that wedding contract, keeping herself separate from the world with a veil of holiness, and using the cup to remind her of the betrothal and to look forward to her Groom's return. The Bride in some ways has not done too good of a job! That is why the trumpets have been sounding for so long-calling the Bride to awake, clothe herself in righteousness, and return to her Hebrew identity, to understand the plans and purposes of Yah in this time, preparing for the Groom's return!

When the Father gives the command, the Groom will return for His Bride. First, He will send forth His trusted Servant one final time-the final outpouring of the Spirit-to prepare His Bride. The trump will sound as He returns for His Bride. (This is the last trump of 1 Cor. 15:52 and 1 Thes. 5:17) The dead in Messiah will rise first, then we will be translated, putting on immortality. We will celebrate the Wedding Feast for 7 days- the Feast of Tabernacles! This will be celebrated upon the earth, in Jerusalem, as Messiah begins His reign!

A new topic begins with my next post!

Messiah's Shalom to all of you,

Kalev