

Revelation 14

Part 2



144,000 Redeemed
Good News and Dire Warnings
Divine Harvest

Sweet, sweet sound

I love you, Lord And I lift my voice
To worship You Oh, my soul, rejoice
Take joy, my King, in what You hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear!



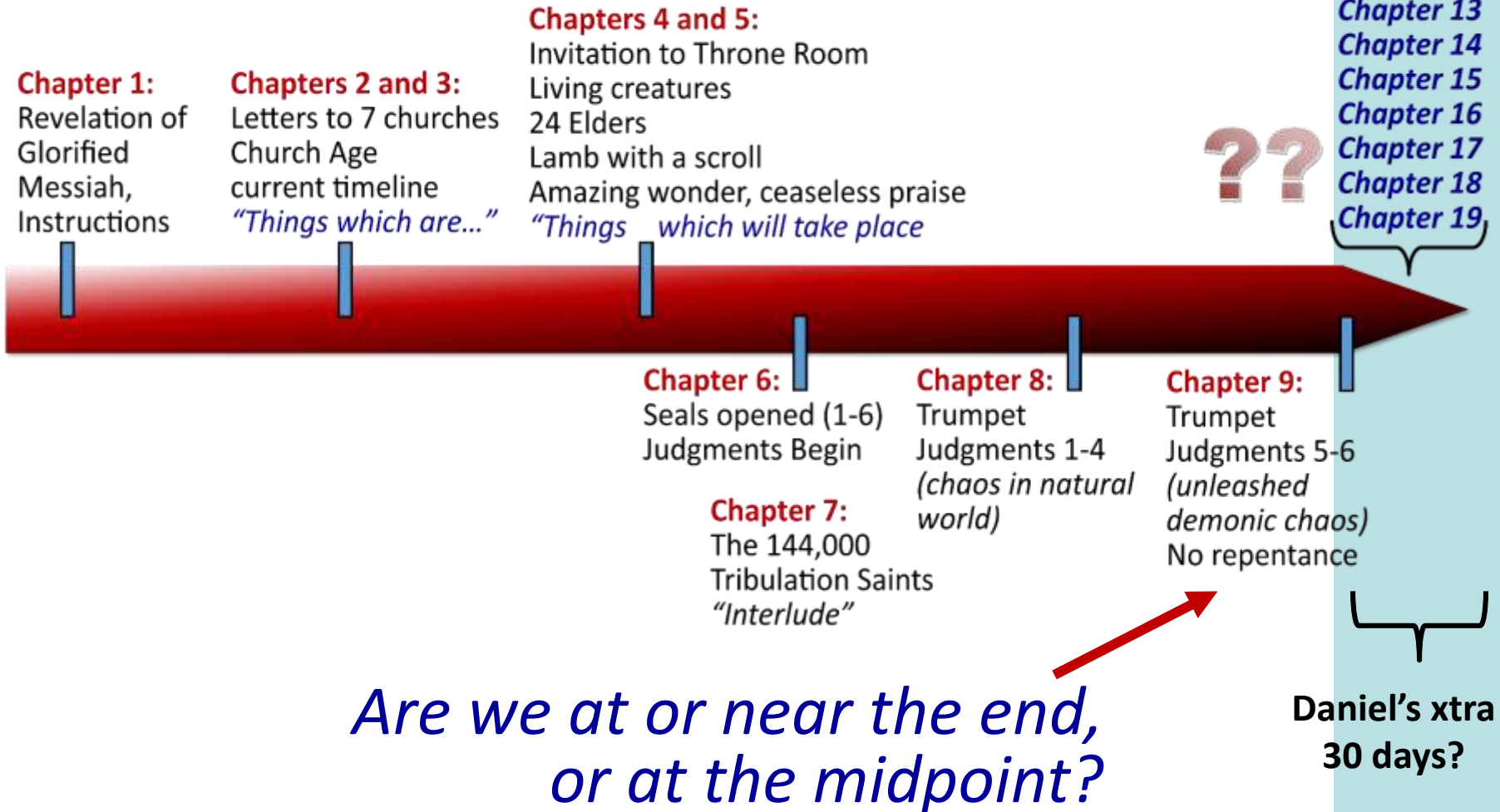
Revelation 14

3 Distinct “Scenes:”

- Lamb + 144,000 on Zion
- Messages from 3 Angels
- A Divine Harvest

Revelation 14

About chronology...



Revelation 14

- Some disagree and say that at the end of chapter 9 we **have only reached the midpoint of the Tribulation**. Often difficult to tell precisely WHERE we are on 7-year timeline.
- **Don't know exactly how far timeline advanced by the end of chapter 9**. Still have all bowl judgments in chapter 16, but those could take very little time.
- If at end of Tribulation in chapter 9, it does make sense that here in chapter 14, we are merely being given critical information, not advancing the tribulation timeline.

Revelation 14

Scene 1: The 144,000 and the Lamb on Zion



Revelation 14

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 14



¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Revelation 14

Just in verse 1 we had a few issues to solve:

- **The Lamb – obvious!!!**
- **Mt. Zion – earthly and heavenly**
- **The 144,000 - ?**



Revelation 14

- Logical, same 144,000 sealed by God in chapter 7. 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes. But we really don't know.
- In chapter 13 saw 666 mark of the beast. Here reminded those who love God are also sealed, but with the **mark of God**. These servants have *"their Father's name written on their foreheads."*
- **Contrast** to last chapter's mark, a mark of doom (*we will hear that later in this chapter*).
- Chapter 14 chapter of obvious contrasts to chapter 13.

Revelation 14

- The safest and best (at least for now) interpretation of the 144,000 here is that **these are those marked Jewish believers from chapter 7, shown here to indicate God was faithful in bringing them safely through the Tribulation.**
- If mid-point here instead, can assume these are **still being kept safe**, and their appearance here is a reminder of this.

Revelation 14:2

² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.




Revelation 14

- Greek “phone” also translated “sound.” Perhaps *not a voice*, but loud noise of harps.
- Seen harpists before, Chapter 5 = saints in heaven.
- Chapter 15 = tribulation saints, redeemed out of this terrible time.
- **Together, represent all redeemed of God.**



Revelation 14:3




³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Revelation 14

- A **new song** = song of another new deliverance by God. New act of divine deliverance/blessing - *deliverance of 144,000 through tribulation*.
- Proclaims **“Look what new thing God is doing!”**
- Church already redeemed, resides in heaven (ch 5). Now Jewish 144,000 also redeemed (ch 14).
- God is doing a *new thing* (redeeming Israel); are different from “Church.”
- No one else could learn song except 144,000, being sung in heaven. Exclusive to 144,000.
- **Not given lyrics of this new song** – only song in Revelation where this is true.
- Very loud noise! **Salvation for Israel is a BIG DEAL**, hence loud noise.

Revelation 14:4-5



⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 14

- Verse 4 is where **most of the controversy and differing opinions** come in regarding this group of 144,000.
- We are not given this information in the chapter 7 viewing of 144,000, so this is sometimes **thought to be a different group**, with a different set of characteristics. We cannot assume that.
- Fact that this group has come out of Tribulation and follows the Lamb is indication of their faithfulness and redemption, and **now “virgin” status spiritually** (*as well as physically, if we understand the correct meaning of the Greek*).

Revelation 14

- **Is this literal, or symbolic? It could be both.**
Perhaps these sealed believers are so dedicated to the Lamb they literally have no time or inclination for personal pleasure outside of following Him.
- One key to certain ideas is Greek word for “defiled.” *Moluno* means to be “**soiled**” or defiled and is used to indicate **sexual relations outside of marriage**, and resulting physical defilement (“*uncleanness,*” according to God’s Laws). Never applied to marriage union.
- Does **not necessarily mean they were not married** (*celibate, set aside for God like eunuch*).

Revelation 14

- Commentators indicate this passage should never be used to justify celibacy (or “monkery” as it was sometimes called). It means relations OUTSIDE the marriage bed, repeatedly condemned throughout scripture.
- **Sexual sin one of humankind’s biggest downfalls.** Tribulation will be known for rampant sexual sin, thought to be part of end times one world false religion, just as it was (*and is*) with paganism. Already well on it’s way.
- Greek word for “women” is ***gune***, which is “women” but specifically WIFE. Both spiritual and physical adultery (sin) intended here.

Revelation 14

- Possible this group has determined their role will be as proclaimers of the Gospel, and as such during this terrible time there will be no opportunities for marriage and families, yet the temptations to sin in this way will be everywhere.
- Some argue that these could also be purposely physically chaste, such as **Jeremiah, who was forbidden to marry** (Jeremiah 16:1-4).
- Others say *“The 144,000 virgins are undefiled in the sense that they have refused to defile themselves by participating in the fornication of worshipping the beast.”* (Ladd)

Revelation 14

- Most likely symbolic that 144,000 are Jews of ch 7, and **God likened unfaithfulness of Israel to adultery.**
- Israel was the “wife of God” and committed adultery by “fornicating” and prostituting “herself” with other gods. **Adultery was a metaphor for infidelity to Israel’s real husband...** Elohim.
- When Israel faithful, called **“virgin.”** When unfaithful, called **“harlot.”** (See 2 Kings 19:21, Isaiah 54:5, Hosea 2:5, Ezekiel 16, 23)
- Likewise, in New Testament, after birth of the Church, body of **believers is called the virgin bride of Christ.** *“...I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”* (2 Corinthians 11:2a)

Revelation 14

- These are faithful believers, hence “**virgin.**”
- Women in scripture *generally* symbol of seduction and unfaithfulness (*sorry gals!*).
- In a nutshell, these 144,000 are **probably both physically chaste** (“virgins”) *whether married or not*, having not defiled themselves with sexual relations outside of marriage (*will be common in that time*) **AND spiritually faithful to the Lamb**, as His spotless bride (*not worshipping the Beast*). This would be true even if these are consecrated and “set aside” and do not marry.

Revelation 14

COMMENTARY: During the Great Tribulation there will be an exaggerated emphasis upon sex, and obviously immorality will prevail. The 144,000 will have kept themselves aloof from the sins of the Great Tribulation. Now, considering adultery in the spiritual sense, in the Old Testament idolatry was classified as spiritual fornication. The classic example is in Ezekiel 16 where we find God's severe indictment against Israel for fornication and adultery—which was idolatry. The 144,000 will also have kept themselves from the worship of the Beast and his image during the Great Tribulation.

Therefore, the comment, "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins," is probably referring to chastity in both the literal sense and the spiritual sense. (McGee)

Revelation 14

- These believers follow the Lamb everywhere. Where He leads, they follow. **DO WE?** Personal will, desires, lusts, goals are all submitted to Him. **ARE OURS?!!**
- Another contrast to “**inhabitants of the earth**” who follow unholy trinity (dragon, 2 beasts).
- **Notice also that a believer follows the Lamb. Too often we head out in front of Him!**
- These are “*redeemed from among men...*” – they are human, redeemed by blood of the Lamb, just as all other believers are redeemed. (*Most likely men, not women.*)

Revelation 14

- Being “**firstfruits**” may indicate they are first of many to come, representative of all Israel redeemed. *Firstfruits* generally the best, and the first of an expected harvest. May also be firstfruits of populated Millennial Kingdom.
- *“And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.”* Deceit here most likely “**the Lie**” of the enemy. Original lie is that we can be like God, or gods ourselves, and do not need the Almighty or His gift.

Revelation 14

- That was the first lie told and the one the enemy continues to tell. **These redeemed had no such lie.** They know the truth, and have not embraced the lie. And believing this, they “are without fault” (or *blemish*) before God.
- What is the **ONLY way we can be without fault before God?** To receive the gift of life from Him, the blood of Jesus. By not believing the LIE.



**And now a slight
diversion, but critical to
our understanding of
God's plan...and fitting
perfectly into this
section of scripture....**

Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- **God and Marriage**
- **Hebrew Marriage Traditions**



Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- **Marriage theme prominent in scripture**, beginning in Genesis ending in Revelation.
- God uses this relationship to demonstrate His own love for His people. Intended marriage as a sacred covenant relationship.
- Instituted marriage between one man and one woman in Genesis, then used this model to demonstrate the kind of love He has for us.
- Marriage covenant, model for covenant w/Israel.
- **“Covenant” very solemn, serious.** Ritual in Genesis 15, as God entered into eternal and unconditional covenant with Abraham (*still in effect*), shows this.

Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- In Tenach (OT scriptures) God **refers to Israel as His “wife.”** Israel already married to Elohim (God).
- He saved her, cleansed her, rescued her from the world, loved her and brought her to Himself in a spiritual “marriage” covenant.
- Covenant can be either *conditional*, or unconditional. Abrahamic covenant is unconditional. God would do what He said He would do, no matter what Abraham or his descendants did.
- **Mosaic covenant**, however, is conditional. ***IF*** key word. God would bless Israel ***IF*** Israel was obedient.

Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- But Israel strayed from God repeatedly. Holy Spirit references **Israel as a harlot**, whoring after other “husbands” (gods), not faithful to Yahweh.
- Israel warned, and disciplined, even “**divorced**” by God (Jeremiah 3:8), but always reminded of a promise of ultimate restoration with Him (*a “remnant” to be saved and brought back into the marriage covenant with Elohim*).
- In New Testament entirely new picture of marriage is given, with new partners.
- Messiah referenced as the “bridegroom” and all who believe in Yeshua (*Jesus*) are considered His “bride.”

Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- Word “bride,” however, is understood in our vernacular as “**engaged**” or “**bound**” to Him (*by a contract sealed with His blood*), but not yet married (not yet a wife).
- Marriage ceremony and feast is coming later, when we are united with Him.
- Throughout scripture God speaks of ***what marriage should be***, a union where two actually “become one.” This speaks not only of a physical union, but also of a spiritual union. A man and wife are to be of one mind, one spirit. (*i.e., “do not be unequally yoked...”*)
- Man has perverted the marriage covenant. In our culture has become merely a word, not a sacred covenant relationship. We do not understand it.

Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- **We have destroyed the beauty of the marriage** covenant that God used to describe His love for us. All we need do is read the scriptures to know what God intended it to be, and know why He uses that metaphor to describe His relationship with us.
- Marriage should mean that both husband and wife are completely given, sold out, committed, and loving unconditionally, as God loves us. Unfortunately, sin has made the marriage covenant today, as practiced by His creatures, something much less than what God intended. In our sin we have so destroyed the original concept of marriage that we can no longer see how it relates spiritually to our relationship with the God of the Universe.

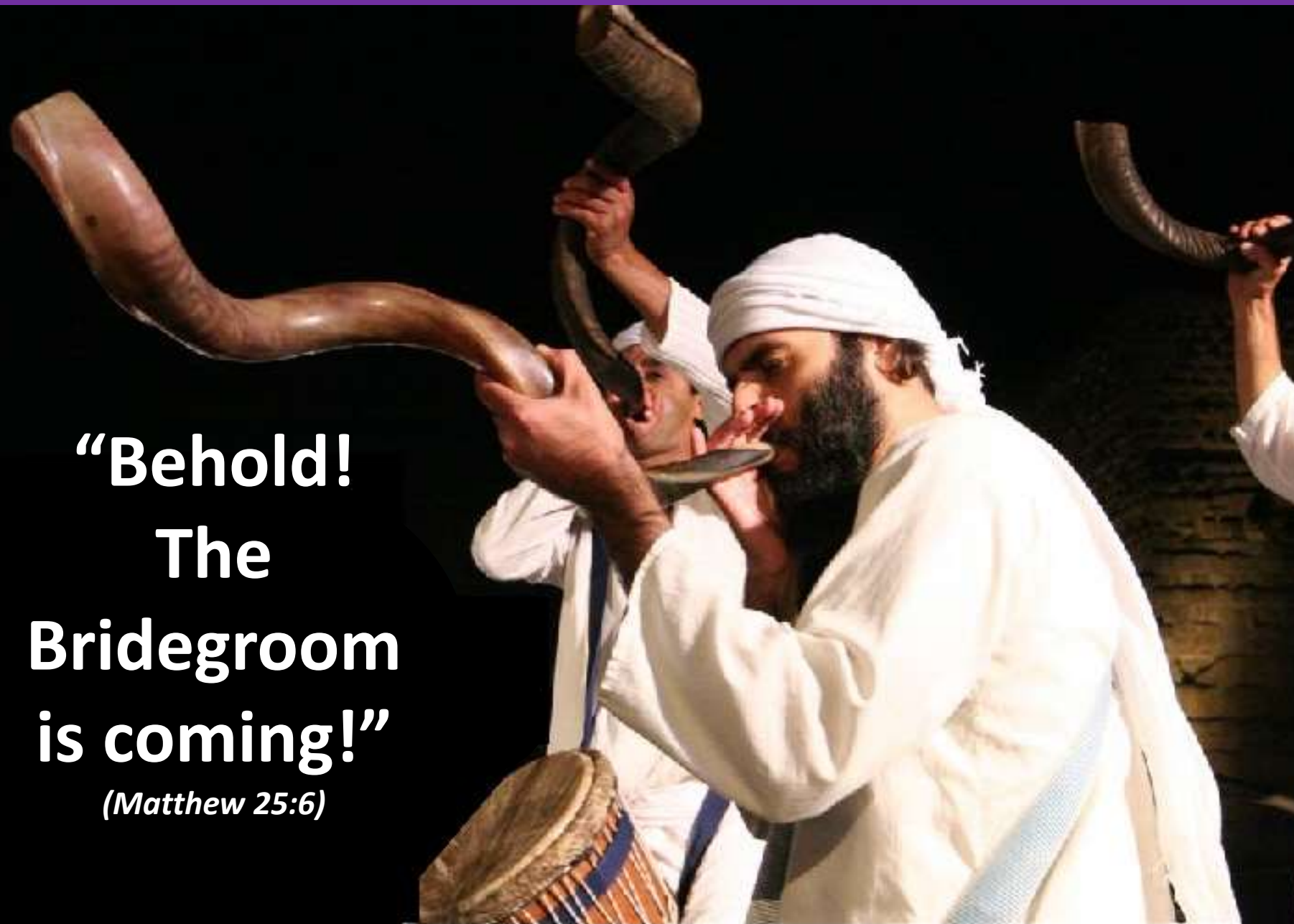
Marriage Covenant in Scripture

- **Thankfully**, through scripture, we can know and understand the divine marriage God has in mind. It is much bigger than we think.
- A **New Covenant** was instituted between God and His people. It will replace the Mosaic Covenant, the *old marriage covenant*.
- A new “groom” and a new “bride” are presented in the New Testament.
- Traditional Hebrew customs and traditions of marriage relate beautifully to the role of our bridegroom, Yeshua, and to us His bride.
- We are blessed and drawn closer to Him when we understand these. ***It's time to do just that...***

The Bride of Messiah

**“Behold!
The
Bridegroom
is coming!”**

(Matthew 25:6)



The Bride of Messiah



Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

BETROTHAL: THE MARRIAGE COVENANT (*Ketubah*)

Betrothal process, Groom travels to bride's home to make arrangements

Jesus left His Father's house in heaven and traveled to earth, home of His prospective Church, over 2000 years ago for the purpose of obtaining the Church through the establishment of a covenant.

Covenant (marriage contract) established, negotiations for price to be paid (*mohar*) to purchase bride

Yeshua paid a price to purchase His bride, the Church. The price that He paid was His own life blood shed on the cross. The Father “covenanted” this promise throughout OT.

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

BETROTHAL: THE MARRIAGE COVENANT (*Ketubah*)

As symbol of covenant relationship established, groom and bride would drink from a cup of wine and betrothal benediction was pronounced.

Communion is a symbol of the “new” covenant through which Yeshua has obtained the Church (1 Cor. 11:25). He referenced this during Passover meal with the disciples before His death.

Price paid, covenant established, bride declared to be consecrated/ sanctified, set apart for her groom.

Church has been declared to be sanctified/set apart exclusively for Messiah (Eph. 5:25-27; 1Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10; 13:12).

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

SEPARATION: PREPARATION

After marriage covenant established, groom would leave home of his bride and return to his father's house. There he would remain separate from his bride until appointed time.

Jesus left the earth, the home of the Church (His Bride), and returned to His Father's house in heaven after He had established the new covenant and risen from the dead (John 6:62; 20:17).

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

SEPARATION: PREPARATION

During separation, any relations with another man were considered adultery. Betrothal was contractually binding.

(Mary's dilemma)

This separation gave the bride time to prepare for married life.

Yeshua has been away from the Church almost 2000 years. Bride is now in period of separation. It is possible for believers to commit spiritual adultery before He returns to take His Church. Paul was concerned about this (2 Cor. 11:2-3)

This time of separation is a time of preparation for the Church. It is the sanctification process of the Holy Spirit to prepare us to be with Jesus.

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

SEPARATION: PREPARATION

Groom spent this time preparing a home in his father's house to which he would bring his bride upon their union.

Jesus has been preparing a home for us (the Church, His Bride) in His Father's house during His separation from His Bride (John 14:2)

Only father of the groom knew when time was right for his son to go get his bride. Father would tell his son when that time was, when her home was ready and all preparations were complete.

Jesus said that no one except the Father knows the hour of His return (Mark 13:32).

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

REUNION: MARRIAGE

At the end of the period of separation the groom collects his bride to live with him.

Jesus will come to take His Bride to live with Him at the end of the period of separation (John 14:3).

The taking of the bride usually took place at night. The groom, best man and other male escorts would leave the groom's father's house and conduct a torch light procession to the home of the bride.

The taking of the Church will be accomplished by a procession of Jesus and an angelic escort from the Father's house in heaven to the home of the Church/Bride (1 Thess. 4:16). *(the "rapture" or catching away, snatching)*

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

REUNION: MARRIAGE

Although the bride was expecting her groom to come for her, she did not know the exact time of his coming. She was always prepared.

The groom's arrival was preceded by a shout. This would forewarn the bride to be prepared for the coming of the groom.

The Church does not know the exact time of Jesus' coming for her. The Bride of Messiah should be prepared at all times.

Yeshua's arrival to take the Church will be preceded by a shout (1 Thess. 4:16). The Church should be ready at all times.

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

REUNION: MARRIAGE

After the groom received his bride, together with her attendants, the enlarged wedding party would return to the groom's father's house.

The wedding guests had already assembled for the marriage/feast.

The Church will return with Yeshua to His Father's house in heaven after she is snatched from the earth to meet Him in the air (1 Thess. 4:17; John 14:2-3).

Yeshua and His Bride (the Church) will find the Old Testament saints assembled in heaven when they arrive. These serve as wedding guests.

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

REUNION: MARRIAGE

Shortly after arrival bride and groom are escorted to the bridal chamber (*huppah*). Prior to entering the chamber the bride remained veiled so that no one could see her face. Bride and groom entered the bridal chamber alone. There they would enter into physical union for the first time, consummating the marriage that had been covenanted earlier.

The Bride of Christ will be safely hidden away during the 7 years of the Tribulation. (Isaiah 26:19-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) She will not be seen by anyone on earth. She is still “veiled.” Our spiritual and eternal union is consummated.

Your dead shall live;

Together with my dead body they shall arise.

Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust;

For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs,

And the earth shall cast out the dead.

²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers,

And shut your doors behind you;

Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment,

Until the indignation is past.

²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place

To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

The earth will also disclose her blood,

And will no more cover her slain.

(Isaiah 26:19-21)



The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

FEAST: MARRIAGE

After marriage was consummated, groom would announce this to wedding party waiting outside the chamber (John 3:29). These people would pass on the news of the marital union to the wedding guests.

Upon receiving this good news the wedding guests would feast and make merry for the next seven days.

Jesus and believers will experience spiritual union after their arrival at His Father's house in heaven, thereby consummating their relationship covenanted earlier. Assembled wedding guests will rejoice!

Bride to remain "hidden" for 7 years after arrival at Yeshua's Father's house in heaven. While the Tribulation is on earth, believers in heaven totally hidden.

The Bride of Messiah

Hebrew Marriage Customs

The Bride of Messiah

FEAST: MARRIAGE

During the 7 days of wedding festivities, sometimes called "*7 days of the huppah*," the bride remained hidden in the bridal chamber, with her bridegroom. At the end of these seven days groom would bring his bride out of the bridal chamber, now with her veil removed, so that all could see his bride.

Jesus will bring His WIFE out of heaven in His Second Coming at conclusion of 7-year Tribulation in full view, so that all can see who the true Bride is (Col. 3:4). She is "unveiled" at this point. (Revelation 19:7-8, Jude 14-15, Zech 14:5). The marriage has already happened.

BUT WAIT...



THERE'S MORE!!!

Something Remarkable!!!

- God “divorced” Israel in the Old Testament, but He never intended divorce. He allowed it under Moses because the people were sinful and stiff necked, but He established very clear guidelines for divorce. (*Israel’s unfaithfulness*)
- Divorce is NEVER God’s plan. In fact, He says He HATES it (Malachi 2:16). If marriage is practiced as God intended, there would NEVER be a divorce, ever.
- While God allowed divorce under certain conditions, He is not fallible or stiff necked like man, and is not held to His own Law for man. **Israel was His wife, and would be again.**

Something Remarkable!!!

- **The way He went about it is so beautiful.**
Romans 7 gives us a glimpse of the marriage covenant under the Mosaic Law: *“Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? ² For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. **But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.** ³ So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.” (7:1-3)*

Something Remarkable!!!

- Paul reveals this truth about the Mosaic Law to make the point that the old “husband” was the Law (which brought death) now believers’ new husband is the Messiah Himself, the perfect keeper of the original Law on our behalf (grace).
- **But it goes much further than this. Do you see what God did? HE DIED TO RELEASE HIS “WIFE” ISRAEL FROM THE LAW, SO SHE WOULD BE FREE TO MARRY ANOTHER...The Messiah! God Himself.**
- Although too much for us to completely understand we see the perfection of God’s plan, releasing His “Wife” from the Law to be Married spiritually to the Messiah. **Wow!**

Something Remarkable!!!

And we rejoice, together
with Israel in her Sh'ma:

**Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai echad!**

**Hear O Israel, the LORD your God,
the LORD is ONE!**

Deuteronomy 6:4

**Yahweh and Yeshua are ONE, one bridegroom with
one wife – the united houses of Ephraim (*the fullness
of the gentiles*) and Judah – the bride of Messiah.**

**Beyond our comprehension,
but not beyond our complete awe at the beauty and
perfection of God's Word, and his plan.**

Something Remarkable!!!

What follows the Sh'ma is our duty (our vow) to our “husband” – called the Ve’ahavta...

**You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your
soul, and with all your strength.**

Deuteronomy 6:5

The bridegroom is indeed coming soon. **Until He arrives, we keep ourselves as “virgins” also, true to Him, and **undefiled.****

The Aaronic Blessing: Birkat Kohanim

May the LORD bless you and keep you

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD make His face shine
upon you and be gracious unto you

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and
give you peace.

יְשֵׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

