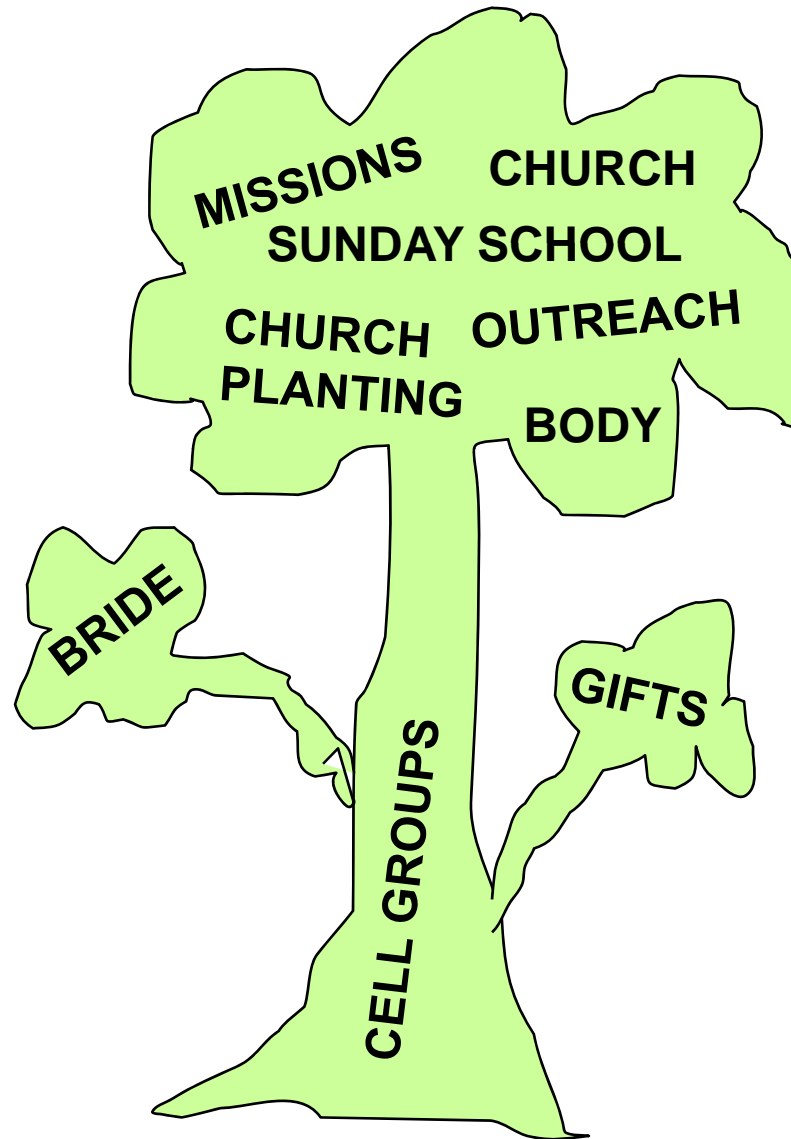


“ARISE MY LOVE”

Song of Solomon 2:10,13

“The Bride”

Our view of
CHRISTIAN
LIFE is often
like this:



Starts



Finishes

Gen. 2:24

**“The Lord made a woman
and brought her to
Adam....”**

Rev. 21: 2

**“I saw the New
Jerusalem,
coming down
out of Heaven
as a bride for
her Husband.”**

Gen. 2:22-24

Body, Cell groups Church, Outreach
Sunday School Missions, Church
Planting, Spiritual Gifts, etc.

**God’s plan is for “*The Bride*”
to be the foundation**

Rev. 21:3

**“Now is the dwelling of God with men, and He will live with them.
They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them.”**

In Genesis chs 1-11, the family lines are quickly mentioned through the **HUSBAND** until ch12, which introduces Abram and Sarai. From there on it gives a lot more detail about the **WIFE** and other different aspects. So we have:

1. MAN IN THE PLAN

2. GOD JOINS THE PLAN

3. GOD WITH MAN IN THE PLAN

4. THE FESTIVAL PLAN

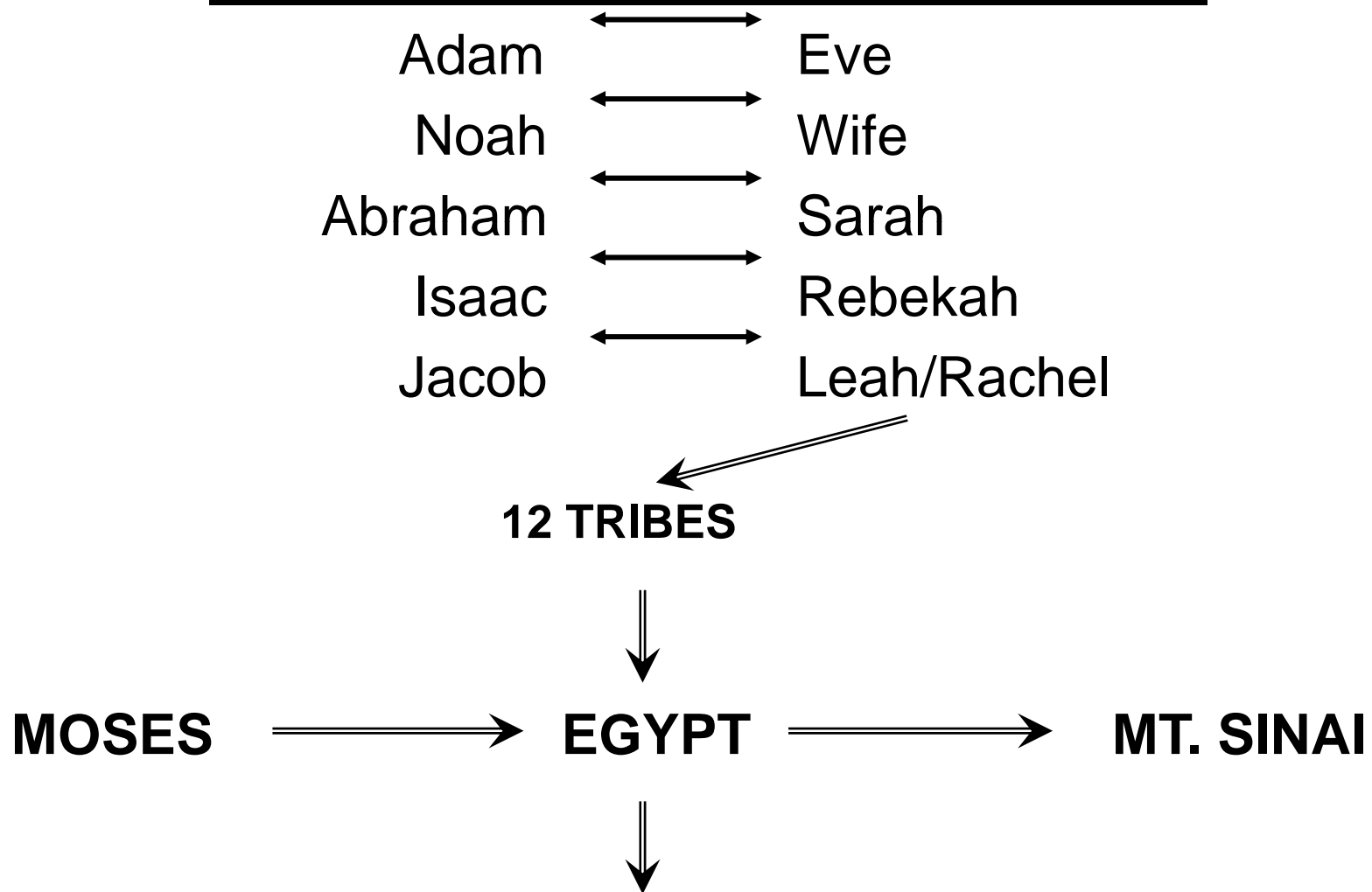
5. A PLAN FOR MAN

6. GOD AS HUSBAND IN THE PLAN

7. GOD AS MAN IN THE PLAN

1. Man in the Plan

MAN – IN COVENANT WITH HIS WIFE



2. God joins the Plan



MAN - Covenants

ADAM - EVE

NOAH - WIFE

ABRAHAM - SARAH

ISAAC - REBEKAH

JACOB - LEAH/RACHEL

COMES APPART



GOD – Covenants

- **PASSOVER**
- **UNLEAVEN BREAD**
- **FIRST FRUITS**
- **SHAVUOT (Pentecost)**
- **ROSH HASHANAH**
- **YOM KIPPUR**
- **SUCCOT (Tabernacles)**

COMES TOGETHER



3. GOD WITH man in the Plan

Jacob \longleftrightarrow Leah and Rachel = A dysfunctional family:

“... Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah ... when the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren”
Gen. 29:29-31

Leah's first four children:

1. Ruben – *See, a son* (God has seen my misery. Now Jacob will love me)
2. Simeon – *One who hears* (God hears and saw that I was not loved)
3. Levi – *Attached* (Now at last my husband will become attached to me)
4. Judah – *Praise* (This time I will praise the Lord) Then Leah stopped having children. **JESUS CAME FROM THE JUDAH!**

Rachel had no children and became jealous. She gave her servant girl, Bilhah, to Jacob to have her (Rachel's) children. Bilhah's children:
A) Dan – *He has vindicated* (God has vindicated me, or judged on my behalf) and,
B) Naphtali – *My struggle* (I have had a great struggle with my sister)

3. God with man in the

Plan (cont)

Here's a taste of what Dr Meg Meeker has to say from the book:

STRONG FATHERS, STRONG DAUGHTERS www.strongfathersbook.com

Men, good men: *We need you. We - mothers, daughters, and sisters - need your help to raise healthy young women. We need every ounce of masculine courage and wit you own, because fathers, more than anyone else, set the course for a daughter's life. Your daughter needs the best of who you are: your strength, your courage, your intelligence, and your fearlessness. She needs your empathy, assertiveness, and self confidence. She needs you.*

- *When she's in your company, your daughter tries harder to excel. When you teach her, she learns more rapidly. When you guide her, she gains confidence. If you fully understood just how profoundly you can influence your daughter's life, you would be terrified, overwhelmed, or both. Boyfriends, brothers, even husbands can't shape her character the way you do. You will influence her entire life because she gives you an authority she gives no other man.*

3. God with man in the Plan (cont)

MEN AS PREPARERS OF THE BRIDE

- Mordecai: Est. 2:5-7

3. God with man in the Plan (cont)

MEN AS PREPARERS OF THE BRIDE

- **Mordecai: : Est. 2:5-7**
- **Eunuch in the Palace (Hegai): Est. 2:8-16**

3. God with man in the Plan (cont)

MEN AS PREPARERS OF THE BRIDE

- Mordecai: : Est. 2:5-7
- Eunuch in the Palace (Hegai): Est. 2:8-16
- John the Baptist: Jn. 3:29

3. God with man in the Plan (cont)

MEN AS PREPARERS OF THE BRIDE

- **Mordecai: : Est. 2:5-7**
- **Eunuch in the Palace (Hegai): Est. 2:8-16**
- **John the Baptist: Jn. 3:29**
- **Paul: 2Cor. 11;2**

4. The Festival Plan

PASSOVER: Ex 6:6-7 - Four cups

1. I will **bring** you out
2. I will **free** you from slavery ...
3. I will **redeem** you from bondage
4. I will **take** you as My people

Jud. 6:9 (NIV)

I **snatched** you from the power of Egypt.

When God says “I will **take**” and “I **snatched**”, it is the imagery of the Groom fetching his bride for the wedding, i.e., taking from one owner and giving to another (Himself).

SHAVUOT: (Pentecost)

When the Israelites camped around the bottom of Mt Sinai, and the cloud and smoke were above, the imagery is like that of being under a “Canopy”, or (Wedding) “Chupppa”. When God spoke, it was like a marriage ceremony.

“You do this and I will do that” The rights and obligations for both parties were laid out. The Israelites responded by saying “We ... do ...”

Ex. 19:8; 24:3

Their wedding certificate – a “Ketubah” - is the Bible.

4. The Festival Plan (cont)

ROSH HASHANAH:

Known as the “Season of repentance” is ten days before Yom Kippur. Some of these themes tell a lot about the “Bride” coupled with “The last Days”:

- **Yom Teruah** – Day of the Awakening Blast
- **HaMelech** – Coronation of the King (Messiah)
- **Kiddushin/Nesu'in** – The wedding ceremony
- **Natzal** – Rapture
- **Shofar** – The Last Trump

Day of the Awakening Blast:

The theme is “To awake” or “Shout”
“The Last Trump” Rom.13:11, 1Cor.15:52,
Eph. 5:14, Col. 2:16,17 (Is. 66:23),
1Thes. 4:15,16 Mat. 23:39, 25:6,
(Ps.118:26) “Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord”

Coronation of the King (Messiah):

The Messiah will be crowned as King
Is 62:3-7. At a wedding, the Groom is
under the canopy (Chupah) and is
treated like a King.

The Wedding ceremony: (*Kiddushin*)

Betrothal & Marriage in the

Festivals (cont)

SUCCOT: *(Tabernacles)*

The Wedding feast:

- The 1,000 year reign
- Living under the “Cloud”, or in God’s presence

5. A Plan for Man

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures

1. BETROTHAL

A) Choosing the Bride:

- . An example of this is Gen. ch. 24. Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham, (a type of God the Father), wishes to secure a Bride for his son Isaac, (a type of Jesus). He sends his servant, Eliezer (a type of The Holy Spirit) to do the task. (3)
- . Moses was a type of the Groom's attendant. He escorted Israel to meet God at Mt Sinai Ex. Ch19. John the Baptist was the attendant preparing the way for Jesus the Bridegroom when He came Jn. 3:28-29. (3) Jesus came to receive His Bride, Israel. The phrase, "*Prepare ye the way*" is a call to receive the Groom.
- . The Bride was usually chosen by the father of the Groom, so we are chosen by God, Mk.13:20; Eph. 1:3-4; 2 Thes. 2:13; 1 Pet.2:9. (3)

5. A Plan for Man (cont)

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures (Cont.)

- . Sometimes the Bride and Groom did not see each other until the day of the wedding. We consent to have Jesus as our Groom even though we have not met Him 1 Pet. 1:8, so we wait with inexpressible joy.
- . The Bride must give her consent. On Mt Sinai, Israel said “I do” Ex. 19:8, 24:3. We must do likewise, Jn. 1:11-13 3:16; Rom. 10:8-10, etc
- . The Holy Spirit’s task is to convict the world of sin Jn. 16:7-8. i.e., to tell the world of the invitation of the Groom. (3)

B) Bride price: The price was Jesus’ life Mat. 26:39; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19. (3)

5. A Plan for Man (cont)

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures (Cont.)

C) The Bride and Groom are Betrothed:

God betrothed Himself to Israel in the desert at Mt. Sinai, Jer. 2:2, and will later do so again Hos. 2:19-20, and has also done to the wider world Jer. 31:31-33. Paul is jealous for the Bride (a pure virgin) in Corinth, he promised her to one husband, Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2 (3)

D) A document is drawn up, known as a “Ketubah”:

The Torah (first 5 books, in particular, Deuteronomy) and later the Tanach (the rest of the OT), are the “Ketubah”, or marriage document. The Bible is our “Ketubah”
2 Cor. 1:20. (3) 2 Tim. 3:16 is another way of saying what the “Ketubah” expects of us.

5. A Plan for Man (cont)

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures (Cont.)

- E) **Gifts are given:** Some of the gifts God has given us are:
- . Sabbath – God’s call to rest. Six days to work, one to rest;
 - . The Holy Spirit, Jn. 14:26, 15:26-27; Ac. 2:38; 2 Cor. 1:21-22,
 - . When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He gave gifts to men Eph. 4:7-8;
 - . He lavished the riches of God’s grace on us Eph. 1:8, 5:25
 - . Righteousness Rom. 5:17-18; Eternal Life Rom. 6:23;
 - . Grace Rom. 5:12,14-15; Faith Eph. 2:8-9;
 - . Spiritual Gifts I Cor. Ch12;
 - . Motivational Gifts Eph. 4:11-13. (3)
- F) **The Cup of the Covenant is shared:** The couple drink from a common cup, known as the cup of the covenant. God spoke of a covenant He would establish with Israel and Judah Jer. 31. Remember that the Groom says to his Bride at the time of their betrothal “I will not drink this cup until I drink it on our wedding day.” Jesus also takes that setting and says of it that it is the cup of the New Covenant Mat. 26:28,29 (3) Mk.14:22-25, Lk. 22:20.

5. A Plan for Man (cont)

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures (Cont.)

- G) **The Groom prepares the Bridal chamber, or house:** Jesus points to Himself as the Groom coming to fetch the Bride, when, during Passover, He tells them the following: “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.... I will come back and take you to be with Me ...” (John 14:2,3). The Bride lights and maintains a candle in her window to let him know that she is ready for whenever he comes, which is usually at midnight. Jesus refers to this in Mt. 25:1-13; Mk. 13:32-37. (1)
- H) **The Bride would had a “Mikvah” or Baptism:** The Bride, next went through the “Mikvah”. It signified a time of cleansing, separation and preparation. It brought her onto a new level of Spirituality for her future marriage. Israel also went through the waters of Baptism, i.e. the Red Sea, Ex. 14:21. Paul says that “... They were baptised unto Moses” 1 Cor.10:2. We are baptised unto Christ Mat. 28:19, Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27, Col. 2:12. (3)

5. A Plan for Man (cont)

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures (Cont.)

- The Bride was “Separated” unto the Groom, or a “*Kidushin*”. We are separated unto Jesus Jn. 10:36, 17:17,19; Ac. 20:32, 26:18; 1Cor. 1:2, 6:11; Eph. 5:26; 1Thes. 5:25; 1Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:11; 10:10,14,29 13:12; 1Pet. 3:15; Jude 1:1
- The Holy Spirit, the Grooms “attendant”, is also our “Sanctifier” Rom. 15:16; 1Cor. 6:11; 2The. 2:13; 1Pet. 1:2
- As the Bride prepared herself, she would make her wedding garment, called “*a garment of praise*” and find out as much as she could about her husband and his family. (1) We need to find out as much about our future family as well, both Christians and the Jewish people, for we are grafted into that family, Rom. 4:16 “The promise comes by faith...to those who are of Abraham (s seed). He is the father of us all” 11:17-24 “you a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in..” Gal.3:6-9 “Those who believe are children of Abraham...”

5. A Plan for Man (cont)

Marriage customs *in the* Scriptures (Cont.)

2. **FETCHING THE BRIDE:** The Bride had to be ready to receive her Groom at any time. When the Father told the Groom that his house building was complete, the Groom returned with his friends to snatch (abduct) her, usually at midnight. Israel was like a Bride snatched from Pharaoh Jud. 6:9. She left Egypt at midnight Ex. 11:4, 12:29-33. When the Groom approached with his friends, it was at midnight with a shout (“Blessed is he who comes.”) Mat. 25:6 and blowing the Shofar.
3. **THE MARRIAGE:** After the Groom has fetched his Bride, he would take her to his Bridal chamber, where the marriage would be consummated. It was to be done on the first night Gen. 29:21-28 (Gen. 24:66). The friend of the Bridegroom would stand outside the door and announces when that has taken place. (1) When Israel met God at Mt Sinai it was a Marriage ceremony. God met with each of them personally there. It was under a “Cloud” or “Canopy.”
4. **MARRIAGE SUPPER or FEAST:** After the consummation, the couple leave the room and take part in the marriage feast. (3)

6. God as Husband in the Plan

God:

1. Betrothes,
2. Marries,
3. Separates,
4. Divorces and
5. Remarries Israel - God has never stopped loving her,
6. Jesus, who is the Bridegroom.

6. God as Husband in the Plan (Cont)

The Scriptures have much to say of God (Jesus) being our passionate lover. Here are some of them:

- Is. 54:1-7 v.5 “for your husband is your maker...He has called you back like a wife abandoned, grief stricken....A wife married in her youth cannot be rejected...but I briefly abandoned you.....I will have compassion on you...”
- 62:4 & 5 “You will no longer be spoken of as ‘Abandoned’.... as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, your God will rejoice over you.”
- Jer. 2:2 ‘I remember your devotion when you were young; how, as a bride, you loved Me; how you followed me through the desert, through a land not your own....’(plus the rest of the chapter).
- 3:14-20 “Return faithless people...I am your Husband.. But like a faithless woman who betrays her husband, you, house of Israel, have betrayed Me.”

6. God as Husband in the Plan (cont)

- Jer. 31:32 “It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand (betrothed couple holding hands?) and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for My part, was husband to them” (4)
- Ez. 16:1-63 (vs. 7-10) “...you did increase, you developed, you reached puberty, your breasts appeared, and your hair grew long; but you were naked and exposed. Again I passed you by, looked at you and saw your time had come, the time for love. So I spread my cloak over you to cover your private parts and entered into covenant with you,” says Adonai, “and you became Mine. Then I bathed you in water, washed the blood off you, and anointed you with oil.....” and ch 23:1-49
- Hos. Ch 2, especially v. 7 “..I will go and return back to my first husband ...” v.14 & 15 “...but now I am going to woo her... she will respond there as she did when she was young, as she did when she came up from Egypt. On that day...you will call Me my husband” v. 19 & 20 “ I will betroth you to Me forever, yes I will betroth you to Me in righteousness, in justice , in grace and in compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness...” (4)

6. God as Husband in the Plan (cont)

Israel, a wife that became an adulteress: “You adulterous wife!” Ez.16:15-45. Ez. 23:37-45 “for they have committed adultery”. Hos. 2:2-13, 3:1, 4:15, Jer. 3:6-20, 9:2 Israel followed after other “gods”, or different “religions”.

- **ALL RELIGIONS ARE NOT THE SAME!**
- **THEY ARE NOT DIFFERENT ROADS LEADING TO THE SAME GOD!**
- **GOD SAW THEIR IDOLOTRY AS ADULTRY**

When the “church” starts saying:

- That other religions are of equal value,
- When she denies the Divinity of Christ and the authenticity of the Scriptures, then she is crossing the line into adultery with Christ.

6. God as Husband in the Plan (cont)

DIVORCED - Jer. 3:8

I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away ... (Is. 50:1)

Is.54:5-10; Jer. 8:18 - 9:2

God's pain and anger because of their adultery. God/Jeremiah weeps for the sin of His people.

RECONCILIATION – Jer. 31:

31-32, “..I will make a new covenant .. (as a Husband), I will put My law in their minds and write it in their hearts.”

Also Is. 54:7-10 and 2 Cor. 5:19

“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”

BETROTHED AGAIN -

(In the future) Hos. 2:14-20

God as Man in the Plan



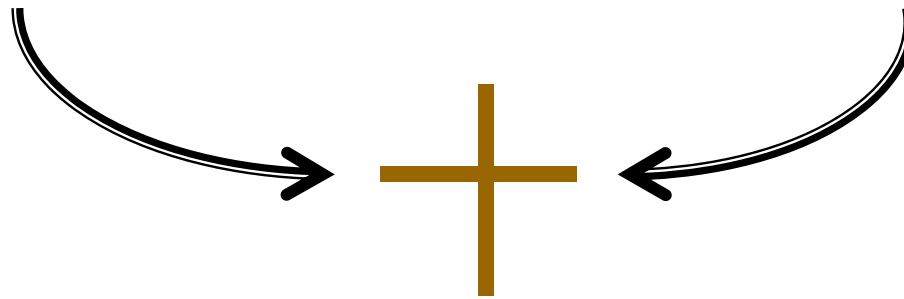
Man in Covenant

Cana
Jn. 2:1-11



God in Covenant

A “Wedding Feast” is the setting of Jesus’ first revelation of Himself.
The “Marriage Feast” is the setting for the final revelation of Himself.



In the Wedding Feast in Cana, Jesus shows the richness that He had intended for the bride and groom. A picture of Himself and Israel. His first miracle at Cana speaks of the original foundation with His creation, that of a husband and wife. Jesus affirmed again the richness that He gave for marriage, Gen. ch2. (4)

God as Man in the Plan

•Jer. 31:31-33 “... I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made ... when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt ... though I was a Husband to them ... I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts ...”

- It was Jesus the Israelites met on Mt. Sinai, when they met “God” there.

- It was Jesus speaking, when God said, “I will make a New Covenant...” (Jesus also said this at His last Passover “This is the cup of the New Covenant...”)

- Jesus made the New Covenant with the Jewish people, not the Church or us. We are **GRAFTED** into the Covenant He made with His people.

- The New Covenant is done with the same thought of Jesus being a (future) husband to us as He was to the Jewish people back then.

God as Man in the Plan

(cont)

- 1 Cor.10:3 says that the Messiah accompanied them, He was the Rock from which they drank.
- Jesus is “The Angel of the Lord” mentioned in the Old Testament.
- When Jesus came to Israel in His earthly ministry, He came as a Groom to meet His Bride. John gave testimony to that, Jn. 3:29 “The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for Him” and so did Jesus Himself, Mat. 9:15 “Can the guests of the bridegroom mourn **whilst He is with them?**”
- Jesus participation in the wedding at Cana enables us to look through Gods door at marriage.

There was a marvelous wedding blessing used in marriages during the time of Jesus, which in part says:

“.....Blessed be Adonai our God, king of the universe,
who made the groom and bride to rejoice in each other –
may He give gladness to them as He gave gladness in the
Garden of Eden!

..... Blessed be Adonai our God, king of the universe,
who causes the groom to rejoice in the bride! ” (4) (Is.62:5)

God as Man in the Plan

(cont)

We are made in the image of a Passionate Lover sharing the pleasure of His Bride!

This blessing is said during the Wedding ceremony over the Bride and Groom. This last phrase perhaps encapsulates all that God desires for everything that He has done. It eloquently says two things: (4)

God is the source of all pleasure and delight!

Sometime our lives with the Lord gets reduced to the basic ingredients, i.e. "The 4 spiritual Laws", "Admit, Believe and Confess!" or even "Lord, show me what You want me to do." Whilst the basics are necessary (these are only a few), Jesus purpose is that we rise above these things to **revel in His passionate love for us!**

He desperately desires passionate, joyous love! (4)

The central command of the scriptures is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources." (CJNT) Duet. 6:5, Matt. 22:47, Mk. 12:30

Love is more than being faithful. It **delights** in your wife and Jesus with **joy and passion**,

"Let your fountain, the wife of your youth, be blessed; find joy in her always be infatuated with her love." (Prov. 5:18-19),

God as Man in the Plan

(cont)

“Without seeing him, you love Him. Without seeing Him now, but trusting in him, you continue to be full of joy that is glorious beyond words.”

(1 Pet. 1:8) (4)

Jesus public ministry started with a revelation of Himself at wedding, where the express purposes of Himself were sounded out in the wedding Blessing;

“Blessed be Adonai our God, king of the universe,
who made the groom and bride to rejoice in
each other - may He give gladness to them as
He gave gladness in the Garden of Eden!”

This, perhaps, **IS** the Gospel in a nutshell - Jn 3:16 is a follow on from that. (4)

- At this wedding, and many others, Jesus could only be a spectator, He could never have a bride of His own. Whilst He could “Love everybody”, He could never be “In love” – until in the final revelation of Himself, which will culminate in His own wedding.
- His first act as a Rabbi was to be received as a wedding as a guest, His final act will be to receive guests at His own wedding.
- **WE** are His deepest passion and delight, **WE** fulfill His longings. (4)

Song of Solomon

In seeking to love God and be what He wants us to be, our focus is often on how much He is, not on what He thinks of us. So I have put together the words exchanged between the lovers. It is surprising what He thinks of us!

Beloved (Bride)

1:2 Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth.

1:3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes, Your name is as perfume poured out.

1:12 My perfume spread its fragrance at His table.

Lover (Jesus)

1:10 Your cheeks are beautiful

7:8,9 May... your mouth be like the best wine

4:10 How delightful is your love my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than spices.

Song of Solomon

Beloved (Bride)

1:13 My lover is a sachet
of Myrrh between my
breasts.

2:3 I delight to sit in His
shade, and His fruit is
sweet to my taste.

4:16 Awake north wind, come
south wind, blow on my
garden that it may spread
abroad. Let my Lover
come into His garden and
taste its choice fruits.

Lover (Jesus)

4:12 You are a garden
locked up... My bride...

4:13 Your plants are an
orchard... with choice
fruits... with every kind
of incense tree... and all
the finest spices.

The west wind brings rain 1King 18:44-55

The east wind is hot and withering
Gen. 21:43 Job 27:27

The north wind clears the air with cool
breezes Job 37:21-22

The south wind brings warmness Job 37:17

Song of Solomon

Beloved (Bride)

1:16 How handsome You are,
my lover! Oh, how charming!

2:16 My Lover is mine and I am
His.

3:1 All night long on my bed I
looked for the one my heart
loves.

3:2 ...I will search for the one
my heart loves.

3:5 I found the one my heart
loves, I held Him and would
not let him go...

Lover (Jesus)

1:15 How beautiful you are, My
darling! Oh, how beautiful!

4:7 All beautiful you are, My
darling; there is no flaw in
you.

2:14 My dove in the cleft of the
rock....show Me your face,
let me hear your voice; for
your voice is sweet, and
your face is lovely.

4:1 How beautiful you are, My
darling! Oh, how beautiful!

Song of Solomon

Beloved (Bride)

1:4 Take me away with You
– let us hurry....

1:7 Tell me, whom I love....

Lover (Jesus)

2:13 Arise, come, My darling, My
beautiful one, come with Me

4:8 Come with Me from Lebanon,
My bride.....

2:10 Arise, My darling, My beautiful
one, and come with Me....

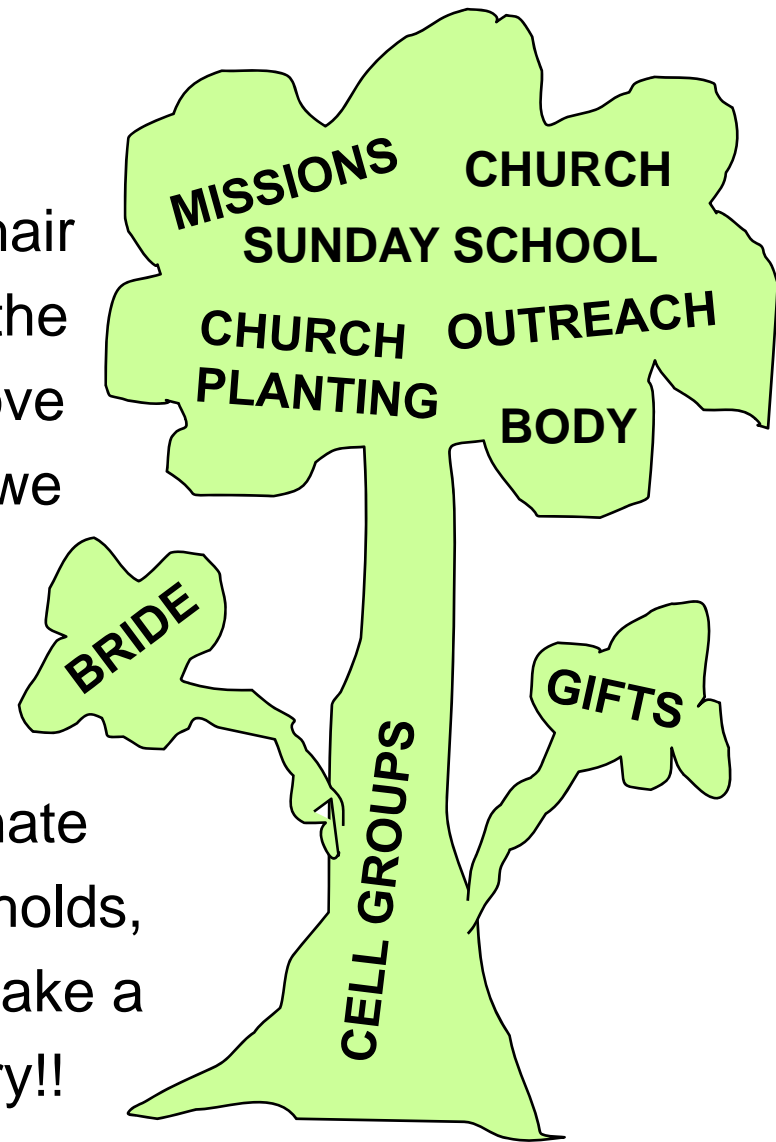
6:9 My dove, My perfect one, is
unique.....

7:6 How beautiful you are and
how pleasing, O love, with
your delights!

4:9 You have stolen My heart
...My bride; you have stolen
My heart with one glance of
your eyes, with one jewel of
your necklace.

“The Bride”

Is the Bride just one who sits in a chair sewing, having tea parties, playing the piano, etc? **NO!** With our intimate love for Jesus brought back on the boil, we now go **forward** as the Bride to do the different things God has called us to do. We are warrior's, kingdom builders, servants, passionate lovers of Jesus pulling down strongholds, setting people free! We rise up to make a difference in our families and country!!



Acknowledgements

NOTE: The information on “Marriage in Biblical Times” and the “Festivals” in the previous slides is a compilation from the authors below:

- (1) “Lessons in Living From the Lives of the Patriarchs.”
(Marriage customs in the New Testament Times), pp 49-50,
by Jesma O’Hara;**
- (2) “Biblical Lovemaking” Study of Song of Solomon by Dr.
Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, pp38-39 ;**
- (3) “The Seven Festivals of the Messiah” pp 75-78,117-127,
by Edward Chumney and**
- (4) “Praying like the Jew, Jesus” pp 25-37, by Timothy P. Jones**