

WEDDING of the Lamb, Part 1 of 3

Part 1 – WHERE and who.



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Summary: Most understand that our Messiah, the Son of God, is getting married to those in the Body who are led by God's spirit. But WHERE will that wedding take place? WHO will the Bride be? How many individuals comprise the Bride? Part 1 we answer especially Where and some details on WHO. Part 2 – we'll discuss much more on WHO will be there: the Bride, the guests, the attendants and others... and then in Part 3, we'll conclude with --WHEN the wedding takes place.

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The holydays of YHVH are called “the days of your gladness” and times of JOY - **Numbers 10:10**. One of the most joyous times in anyone's life is your *wedding!* Or even just being a *part* of anyone's wedding when both Bride and Groom are excited.

In August 1975, I experienced one of the most exciting and happiest days of my life. I was standing in a beautiful hall with the minister and my brother, who was my best man at the wedding plus other attendants – waiting for my BRIDE to come down the aisle. And soon enough the music started and there she was -- with her lovely smile and wedding gown, walking down with her dad. Minutes later we were saying our “I dos” and were husband and wife.

Now many years later, in spite of my imperfections, we're still very much married. Not long from now, there's going to be another wedding. This is one I also hope to be a part of – and this time, as part of the bride of Christ. If not part of the Bride, I hope at least to *be there* as one of the guests. What you and I will be at the wedding is God's decision. But I know I want to be there and do not want to take it for granted. Remember many are called to the wedding (Matthew 22) but the first invitees had reasons why they thought other things were more pressing, more urgent, more important. Let that not be our attitude.

Today we're talking mostly about WHERE the wedding of Yeshua the Son of God will take place, as he marries his Bride, the ekklesia, the church.

I recently gave a sermon about Pentecost and covered its primary well-known meanings of:

- On Pentecost **God sent his holy Spirit** as a down-payment and promise of what He has committed to for us.
- It was on Pentecost when God **gave Israel his 10 Commandments**
- It was on Pentecost **when God married Israel at Mt. Sinai.**
- How Pentecost is deeply connected to Wavesheaf day during the Days of Unleavened bread. There is no harvest and no Pentecost, without Wavesheaf Day when Christ was accepted for us in heaven.
- How Pentecost is all about the FIRSTFRUITS, the early harvests, of God's harvest of souls, harvested after the Wavesheaf was accepted by God in heaven. Peter's Pentecost sermon in Acts 2 was largely about Yeshua/Jesus! That's what HE preached about on Pentecost.
- Why we read the book of Ruth on Pentecost – which is about the wedding of Boaz and Ruth and union of Israel and Gentiles and the genealogy of the Messiah right around the Pentecost time.
- how the high priest **presented on Pentecost 2 leavened wave loaves** of wheat firstfruits flour raised up high and then lowered again ... and more. And ONLY on Pentecost was leaven allowed in the temple.

I hope on your day of Pentecost, these points were taught, explained, and discussed.

Today I want to focus on another huge aspect of a future Pentecost – that already has been alluded to even in the points above -- but that few seem to be fully aware of

We're talking about the Wedding of the Lamb, who is the son of God (John 1:29). HE's getting married!

- But to whom? Who will be the Bride?
- WHEN will that happen?
- WHERE will it happen?
- Will there be guests at this wedding?
- How LONG will that wedding last – a few hours, a few days, weeks? And will you be there?
- And is everyone who is in the first resurrection an automatic part of the Bride?

Interested? I hope so. I'll be talking about this today – and it will take a Part 2 to get it all done.

Hello everyone. I'm Philip Shields, the host and founder of Light on the Rock.org. Welcome all of you, all of you from all over the world ... whether India or the Philippines, Costa Rica or Croatia, UK or UAE, Australia, or Algeria. Welcome.

There is coming a very joyful WEDDING of the Lamb and his Bride.

Revelation 19:6-9

“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**"

8 **And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen**, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, "Write: '**Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

It seems to me that first he describes the Lord God Omnipotent - and the Lamb and his Bride are mentioned next, and finally those who are called to be at the wedding *supper* are mentioned. Those called to the wedding supper are probably the ones referred to in Matthew 22 as “GUESTS”. The vast majority of those invited to the wedding supper of a wedding are not the Bride and groom but are the guests.

So there is a coming wedding. But *where will this wedding take place*, and *when* is it, and who all will be there? I want to focus today on the “where” aspect of the wedding. But first...

God married – then divorced - Israel

God says he hates divorce in Malachi 2:16, but it's also true that God himself had to finally divorce his wife Israel. He did not divorce her for the first or 5th or 20th case of infidelity – but eventually he does. But first remember that God the Word did marry Israel at Mt. Sinai – and it didn't take long before they were unfaithful with the gold calf worship and hundreds of years of unfaithfulness, finally resulting in God divorcing Israel. How patient he was, though.

Isaiah 50:1

Thus says YHVH:

"Where is the certificate of your mother's DIVORCE, Whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, and for your transgressions your mother has been put away."

Jeremiah 3:6-9

"YHVH said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: 'Have you seen what **backsliding Israel** has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot.

7 And I said, after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, **I had put her away and given her a certificate of DIVORCE;** yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also."

So God divorced Israel – and Judah was no better. In any case, Yeshua *died* for our sins, and of course the people of Israel had also died for that matter, and so once Christ was resurrected, he was free to marry again. That's all very clearly explained in Romans 7. There the bride is identified, and the Groom is. The bride is the church, the groom is Christ, raised from the dead.

Romans 7:2-4

"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.

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, **that you may be married to another — to Him who was raised from the dead,** that we should bear fruit to God".

WHERE will the wedding be held?

So the Word of God, Yeshua the Messiah, is getting married. Where will the wedding be? Here on earth after Christ's return? The earth will be a mess and in utter destruction. No, it won't be here.

Christ's own parable in Matthew 22:1-14 tells us a lot. God the Father wants a Bride for his Son, Yeshua – who is the WORD of God, who was also God with God, as John 1:1-3 clearly states. GOD the Word is getting married.

Matthew 22:1-2

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of **heaven** is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,"

We know the "KING" has to be God the Father, for he's putting on the marriage for his son, whom we know as Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah). **Where** is God the Father? "Our father, who art in heaven..." we say in the Lord's prayer. He's in the "kingdom of heaven." He lives in heavenly Mt. Zion, heavenly Jerusalem.

When God- the Word – married Israel at Mt Sinai, it was a frightening event. The next time will not be at an earthly mountain on fire.

Hebrews 12:18-19

"For you have *not come to* the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore."

It's not going to be like that in this 2nd wedding.

Hebrews 12:21-23

"(And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

22 "**But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the HEAVENLY Jerusalem,** to an innumerable company of angels,

23 to the general assembly and **church of the firstborn who are registered in HEAVEN, to God the Judge of all,** to the spirits of just men made perfect"...

So this tells us clearly that this time, we're going to heavenly Mt. Zion in heaven to get married. Christ returns in the clouds, has his angels collect his Bride after they are resurrected as spirit beings, and then He instantly takes us to be in God's city – heavenly Jerusalem – where we will be married.

After we are married, then we come back with Christ and the millions who are part of the angelic hosts, all of us riding on angelic white "steeds" or horses –

and return to earth to face the armies gathered together against us, and conquer them and take over the reins of government on this earth under Christ. We shall rule with him 1000 years. (Revelation 19:11-21; Zechariah 14:12-15; Rev. 20:4-6).

But back to the wedding and where it will be. Revelation 19:6-9 describes the wedding. WHERE? The context - Rev. 19:1-5 – makes it clear it all happens “in heaven” or describes places and beings who are in heaven! That’s the context.

Revelation 19:1-5

After these things I heard a loud voice **of a great multitude IN HEAVEN**, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God WHO SAT ON THE THRONE, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

5 **Then a voice came FROM THE THRONE, saying**, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

The CONTEXT of all that is clearly heaven. Plus, we can learn from other scriptures as well that the wedding is clearly to be in heavenly Jerusalem.

Isaac and Rebekah’s wedding and what it tells us

When Abraham – who pictured God the Father – sent out his elder unnamed servant to find and bring back a wife for his son Isaac, who pictured the son of God. The messenger went to a far country and returned – with Rebekah. Returned where? To where Isaac’s father was and where Sarah’s tent was. Sarah had died earlier but her tent was still up. **Read Genesis 24.**

Genesis 24:1-4 – Abraham makes the servant swear he would not allow Isaac to marry a Canaanite, but someone from Abraham’s lineage. The trip was incredibly blessed by God and Abraham’s servant’s approach is a case study in seeking God’s will and providence. Rebekah – a young relative – was agreeable to be the wife of a 40-year-old man she had never seen before.

Genesis 24:61-67

“Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.”

62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. 63 *And Isaac went out to meditate* in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; 65 for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

This is the first time the word “loved” is used in the Bible. But Isaac took Rebekah into Sarah’s tent and there they consummated the marriage.

Isaac’s mother Sarah had died – but her tent was still up. What did taking Rebekah into Sarah’s tent mean or picture? Scripture tells us!

Galatians 4:22-26 NKJV

For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman [Hagar], the other by a freewoman.

23 But he [Ishmael] who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

24 which things are symbolic. **For these are the two covenants:** the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar —

25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children —

26 **but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.**

So Paul clearly says that Sarah represents Jerusalem above. When Isaac took his new bride into Sarah’s tent, that was a huge statement to us, according to Paul, where our wedding to Christ will take place: in Jerusalem above!

“I go prepare a PLACE FOR YOU.”

I also have a full-length sermon on this titled “I go prepare a place for you.”

John 14:1-3 CJB

“Don’t let yourselves be disturbed. Trust in God and trust in me.

2 In my Father’s house are many places to live. If there weren’t, I would have told you; because ***I am going there to prepare a place for you.***

3 Since I am going and preparing a place for you, ***I will return to take you with me; so that where I am, you may be also.***”

Yeshua strongly implies that where he’s going is to his Father’s house! “Our Father in heaven...”, Yeshua taught us to pray.

The 2 leavened waive loaves

There’s more: the 2 LEAVENED wheat loaves that are lifted up (waved) on Pentecost! The wavesheaf of firstfruits barley during the days of Unleavened Bread, pictured Christ – and was raised/waived first of all, 50 days before Pentecost. What Christ did in John 20, ascending to heaven to be accepted in our behalf, is what the wavesheaf day offering all pictured. So Lev 23:9-11 picture Christ and what HE did – and that was absolutely tied to Pentecost.

Leviticus 23:9-11 The barley first fruits = Christ

YHVH spoke to Moses: 10 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land I am giving you and reap its harvest, you are to **bring the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest.**

11 He will wave the sheaf [omer] before YHVH *so that YOU may be accepted;* the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.

Then after that happened, the 50-day count to Pentecost – which means 50th – begins. It’s 7 sabbaths, or 7 weeks, so in Hebrew the name for Pentecost is Shavuot – weeks.

Leviticus 23:15-18 Holman

“You are to count seven complete weeks [or sabbaths] starting from the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the presentation offering.

16 You are to count 50 days until the day after the seventh Sabbath and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.

17 Bring two loaves of bread from your settlements as a presentation offering, each of them made from four quarts of fine flour, baked with yeast, as firstfruits to the LORD”.

I do not understand why orthodox Jews begin counting from the first holyday of Unleavened bread, instead of the weekly sabbath. The wording here clearly

is about 7 weekly sabbaths, then Pentecost being the 50th day, always on the first day of the week.

Pentecost 2 leavened loaves: the ONLY time leaven was allowed with any offerings or sacrifices was on Pentecost – the feast of FIRSTFRUITS. Those of us being called NOW are called “Firstfruits” (James 1:18). And we’ve sinned. So the loaves being leavened, having yeast – is very much a true picture of God’s children.

But remember that once the loaves are baked, the leaven no longer keeps leavening. Once we respond to God’s call, we should be done with wanting to sin or wanting to live a life of continual sin, though we still occasionally stumble; but it’s not what we want any more. And God’s children are done with receiving any pleasure from watching sinners sin!

(POST next 2 sentences as I say it)

The 2 leavened loaves are raised up high, then the priest’s arms came back down again, with the loaves.

WHY? Because they picture the firstfruits being raised to heaven – to be accepted and married to Christ – and then brought back down to earth again after the wedding to Christ.

So, so far, what shows us the wedding is in heavenly Jerusalem?

- the whole CONTEXT of Revelation 19, about the wedding, is in heavenly Jerusalem.
- The **picture of Isaac marrying Rebekah in Sarah’s tent** – pictures heavenly Mt. Zion/Jerusalem above. Isaac marrying Rebekah is a picture, I believe, of Christ marrying the church.
- Christ said he goes to heaven to prepare a dwelling place for us and to take us back there. See John 14:1-4
- The 2 leavened loaves are raised up to heaven on Pentecost – and then back down.

We know the resurrection takes place at the last trump. The last trump mentioned is the 7th trumpet. You have 7 SEALS that are opened first, and then the 7th SEAL has 7 trumpet plagues. Then the 7th trumpet has 7 final last plagues of God’s wrath.

The last trumpet

JUST before the 7th trumpet sounds, the 2 witnesses are killed, there’s great rejoicing over the earth over their death, but then they are resurrected 3-1/2

days later and raised to heaven (Rev. 11:11-13). This was before the 7th/ last trump

Revelation 11:11-13

Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Revelation 11:15-16

"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God..."

Have you ever followed that example and prayed with your face on the ground? There are several examples of that. How about lifting your hands in praise and prayer? I have a sermon on that – "Lifting holy arms".

Revelation 11:19

"Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."

That 7th trump seems to be the last trump we read about leading to Christ's return. What is said about that and probably how this is depicted by the 2 leavened loaves:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

“Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

Let that sink in. The kingdom of God is not with flesh and blood. The Lion and the lamb logo are part of the millennial reign but it's not the kingdom of God itself. The kingdom of heaven has always existed and is composed of spirit. Let's continue in 1 Cor. 15.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed** — **52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**”

We need a spirit body and will have an immortal, perfect and glorious spirit body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is **raised in power**.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” **The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.**

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust; **and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.**”

So we're changed to spirit – for we must be of the same KIND as the One we're marrying. More on that in part 2.

But the context is we meet Christ in the air – and then we're seen in Heavenly Jerusalem.

The 144,000 are shown as being with Christ, being firstfruits, redeemed, etc. – in Revelation 14. I'll have more to say about them in Part 2.

But now again, we see another group mentioned in Revelation 15. Many believe this Rev 15 group is the same as the 144,000, but that is not clearly stated here.

Revelation 15:2-3

“And I saw something **like A SEA OF GLASS MINGLED WITH FIRE** and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying...”

These people in Revelation 15 are depicted as those who have defeated the Beast power of the very end times – and seem to be a similar description of the innumerable multitude of Rev. 7. They are not called the Bride here. But they're there, in heaven! On the Sea of Glass, which is before the throne of God.

So absolutely, I'm convinced, the wedding takes place between Christ and his church, the Bride (Ephesians 5:32; 2 Cor. 11:2). **In Part 2** we'll talk about others who will be at the wedding, but who are not the bride. And much, much more about this *exciting* wedding coming up – and I believe you and I are being called to be a part of that wonderful relationship with our Creator and King.

In Part 2 we'll also say more about WHEN this all takes place.

So until next time... may you cherish your high, high, calling brethren to be at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb – and perhaps even as the very BRIDE, the WIFE, of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior, and our God.

Be sure to hear the exciting Part 2 to this message.

Closing prayer.
