

“Going to the Chapel (A Bride to the Bridegroom)”

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

Revelation 19:6-9

BIG IDEA: God’s Bride prepares herself for her Bridegroom.

*“Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory,
because the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and His bride has prepared herself.”*

Revelation 19:7 (CSB)

Shiddukhim: “The MATCH”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - The Father initiates a marital match for the Groom.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - Christ acted on the initiative of the Father.

Mohar: “The BRIDE PRICE”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - As required by the Law, paid by the Groom’s Father.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - Christ Himself gave His life in “payment” for the Church.

Mattan: “LOVE GIFTS”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - Given by the Groom to the Bride.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - Believers are given gifts by the Lord out of love.

Shiluhim: “The DOWRY”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - Given to the Bride by her Father, in preparation for marriage.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - Believers are given gifts to equip them for their New Life in Christ.

Ketubah: “The MARRIAGE CONTRACT”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - A legally binding document outlining the terms of the marriage.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - The NT states the binding terms of the relationship between The Church and Jesus Christ.

Kiddushin: “The BETROTHAL”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - A mutual sealing and acceptance of the terms of marriage between the Groom and the Bride.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - The New Covenant & Ascension of the Lord Jesus constitute our “Bethrothal” period.

Nissuin: “The MARRIAGE”.

- **ANCIENT JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOM:**
 - The Groom’s Father announces the return for the Bride amidst joy and celebration.
- **FULFILLMENT IN THE CHURCH:**
 - Someday the Heavenly Father will announce the return of the Lord Jesus for His Bride with great joy and celebration.

BIG IDEA: God’s Bride prepares herself for her Bridegroom.

READ: Revelation 19:6-9

THINK: Reflect on the Jewish background & NT fulfillment of the BRIDE/ BRIDEGROOM metaphor, then ask yourself these questions: *What is the most memorable marriage ceremony you have ever attended or witnessed? What is your response to the thought that our Heavenly Father has sought us out to be united with His Son, Jesus Christ? What value does God place on each believer in offering up His Son in payment for our sins and to be relationally restored to Him? What “love gifts” does the Lord Jesus give to demonstrate His great love for us? How are we prepared & equipped to live our New Life in Christ? What is Christ’s responsibility now before He returns for His Bride? And what are our responsibilities during this waiting period for Christ to return? How do you imagine the great Wedding Feast between Christ & His Bride?*

DO: In your own words, write out a “marriage contract” between yourself and the Lord Jesus and describe your current understanding of what Jesus Christ is doing for you before His return and how you will prepare and ready yourself to be His “Bride”.