

Jewish Wedding

I have found that as learn more about the Jewish traditions and rites of Jesus' time, the brighter the Bible shines. For instance:

When two decided to marry, the two fathers would get together and negotiate the bride price. When they had assigned the bride price, the young man would offer a glass of wine to his intended. She had two choices, she could refuse the glass and him OR she could accept the glass and seal the bargain, they would then be committed to be married at that point the young man would say to his bride, "I'm going to go to my father's house and prepare a place for you." And when I have prepared a place for you I will come back and take you to be with me as my wife.

By accepting the glass she was saying "I accept you and your life" she would then have to wait. She didn't know when the wedding was going to be. Might be six months, might be nine months, one year, might be two years. She just had to be ready at any given moment.

She was called "one who had been bought with a price". The Apostle Paul uses that to describe us. We are bought at a price. Jesus died for us. When I accept the communion, I am saying "I accept Jesus and his life and must be faithful to my bridegroom Jesus, because he is going to come back for me.

Where is your bridegroom today? He is preparing a place for me, for us. When is the second coming? When is he coming back? Matthew 24:36 "No one knows the day or the hour of my return. Not the angels, not the son only my Father knows."

Eventually it is finished. The young man gets his friends and they go to center and they blow the trumpet (the shofar) to announce the wedding. Every girl thought "my wedding". Of course it was only one girl's. Every girl had to suddenly run around and get the bridesmaid's dresses ready, her dress ready and get all of the stuff she had prepared. We remember the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, some were ready some were not. They would gather in the courtyard.

Jesus says "I love you ... I'll pay the bride price (his own life). He also tells us "in my Father's house there are many rooms (a big insula) if it were not so I would have told you."

So when he offers the cup at communion, I have two choices. I choose to accept the cup, to accept him and his life. So I am to prepare for his coming, to be ready