

Sheepfold Gleanings

YOM TERUAH - THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Genesis 21: 1-34
Numbers 29: 1-6
1 Samuel 1: 1 to 2: 10
1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17
1 Corinthians 15: 50-57
Revelation 11: 15 to 19: 10



The Bridegroom is Coming!

The final trumpet call for Messiah's Bride announcing her forthcoming wedding is sounded on Yom Teruah, the fifth of Yahweh's seven Levitical Feast Days. On this day, the blowing of two silver trumpets alerts the Bride that her Bridegroom is on His way. This High Holy Feast day, which is a Sabbath to Yahweh, falls on the first day of the seventh month (called *Tishrei*) in the biblical Hebrew calendar. The first day Tishrei/Yom Teruah is established by sighting of the New Moon called *Rosh Chodesh*, as it is the first lunar sighting of the New Moon that determines the *beginning of each month*. The day and hour of the new moon's sighting cannot be

pre-calculated definitely by man, as the moon may *tarry over Jerusalem* for one and a half to three and a half days before appearing in the night sky. Only Yahweh knows when that first sighting will appear (Leviticus 23; Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3).

🌿 **Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

In the prophetic parable of the five *wise* and five *unwise* virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, the shout (trumpet blast) was heard, “Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” The *time and season* spoken of here is the evening sighting of the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* on the first day of Tishrei, at the Feast of *Yom Teruah*/Feast of Blowing also known as the Feast of Trumpets. All of the virgins were in the betrothal stage of their Marriage Covenant with Yeshua and were anticipating His return to complete their marriage vows, but they had fallen asleep, as the hour was late (end times). Upon hearing the trumpet blast, they immediately woke up and set about trimming their lamps to greet Him. This implies that the virgins were in the tabernacle fulfilling priestly roles knowing the season and what needed to be done.

🌿 **Matthew 25:1-13** “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.’”

The *wise virgins* had honored Yahweh’s instructions describing their marriage preparations, (called the Mosaic Covenant/the Gospel) which their Bridegroom Yeshua Ha Mashiach gave to Moses at Mount Sinai. These virgins had prepared themselves in holiness by bathing daily in His Word and by not going their own way on the weekly Sabbath. They had gained maturity in keeping Yahweh’s Feast Days and set them aside as Sabbaths. This lifestyle taught them how to discern the clean ways from the unclean and the holy from unholy. Therefore, these wise virgins had enough *oil (holiness)* for their lamps to light their way. Only His Way could be a light to their path and a lamp to guide their feet as they went out to meet their Bridegroom. With a foundation made of gold, silver and precious stones they were Yeshua’s beloved Bride at His coming (Ezekiel 44:23-24; 1 Corinthians 3: 11-14; Revelation 2: 2, 19, 20; Psalm 119:105).

The *unwise virgins* had not kept their Marriage Covenant (Gospel) when their Bridegroom was away. They had not examined themselves closely. They had not chosen a walk of holiness according to Yahweh's Word, nor kept His weekly Sabbath or His Holy Feast Days as Sabbaths. Therefore, when the day arrived they lacked oil (*holiness*) in their lamps (*hearts/lifestyle*). Instead of making adequate preparations the unwise virgins tried to rely upon others for the oil needed to proceed through the night to meet the Bridegroom. The wise virgins were not able to share their oil with the unwise virgins, for holiness was something that could only be obtained by a heart of obedience to the instruction of Yeshua's Marriage Covenant, and could not be purchased. When the last trumpet sounded, the foolish virgins realized they were unprepared and desperately sought after their own resources outside Yeshua's provision to fuel their lamps.

The *unwise virgins* represent believers who regularly mix a common lifestyle with holiness. This parable revealed they had brought contamination upon themselves by not separating their hearts from unclean realms. Fostering a self-serving *preference* over Yahweh's *principles* in life choices repeatedly took them outside the Marriage Covenant. In not submitting to the Spirit of Yeshua to help them conform to their marriage preparations this brought a lack of *holiness* in their lives. Without the Spirit of Yeshua as their cornerstone, when the announcement of the Bridegroom's return was heard, these unwise virgins did not have enough oil (*holiness*) for their lamps to light their way. This preferred lifestyle would prove to be made of wood, hay and straw (1 Corinthians 3:12).

The five *wise virgins* knew the season and the times of their Bridegroom and were able to meet Him. They came prepared and knew to gather the extra oil offered on the *Sabbath* and at the eternal Feast Days of Yahweh to look forward to the *Sabbath Rest* (Hebrews 4). The *unwise* were not aware of the seasons and times of Yahweh or the eternal outcome of their daily choices. They were accustomed to purchasing on the Sabbath, which showed little regard toward Yeshua's Covenant. What sets apart and identifies Yeshua's Bride, the *wise virgin*, is that she treats the Sabbath as holy and knows that is the sign (wedding ring) of her Marriage Covenant.

His Majesty Requests
An Invitation to The Royal Wedding of the Lamb
By Rebecca Park Totilo
Part one

THE INVITATION

His Majesty, the King of the Universe,
Requests the honor of your presence
At the Royal Wedding of the Ages (Rev. 19:7)
Between Yeshua Ha Mashiach (Messiah),
His only begotten Son,
And His Bride,
The called-out ones.

You are cordially invited to partake
At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
By being cleansed in His blood (Hebrews 9:14),
Which He shed for your deliverance (Hebrews 2:14).

By pledging your heart (Romans 10:9-10)
To His plans and purposes for your life,
He promises to lead (Romans 8:14)
And guide you in the ways of truth (John 16:13),
Provide for all your needs,
physically and spiritually (Matthew 6:32-34),
Shower you with gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-10; Romans 12:6-8)
by His Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit),
with whom He will fill you (Joel 2:28-29; Ephesians 5:18),
and
Wash you in the water of His Word (Ephesians 5:25-26)
so that you may be used (2 Timothy 3:16)
to tell others about this glorious feast.

As a token of His love for you,
you will be given a ring to seal you as His own (Ephesians 1:13)
as He rejoices over you,
His bride (Isaiah 62:5),
and clothes you in the wedding garments of salvation
and righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).

RSVP



Match Made in Heaven

✠ “You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

Since ancient times, the significant role of the *Shadkhan* (matchmaker) can be seen from its root word, *shidukh* (match). Its Aramaic translation, *sheket* (silence) implies tranquility, or peacefulness. The matchmaker’s lineage traces back to Yahweh Himself.

Though it was customary for the father to choose the bride for his son, in many cases the father relied on the services of a matchmaker to help him choose a person of the highest virtue and integrity. From the beginning, Yahweh acted as the first *Shadkhan*, creating Adam and Eve and commanding them to cleave together as one flesh. Eve, taken from Adam’s body, became the first bride.

In Genesis 24 Abraham’s servant Eliezer (Yahweh’s helper) acted as a matchmaker modeled after the Divine and found the suitable bride for Abraham’s son, Isaac. Abraham sent Eliezer to find the perfect match from among his own family and of his father’s house. In the same way, Yahweh the Father has sent His helper, the Ruach Ha Kodesh, the Spirit of Yahweh, to His family and body of believers to take a bride for His son, Yeshua.

Yahweh has chosen you to be a part of the Messiah’s bride. Yeshua’s bride will be taken out from His body (of believers), just as Eve was taken from Adam. However, not everyone who has received the gift of deliverance (salvation) will RSVP. Believers who continue to live a worldly, or carnal lifestyle will not be ready to meet the Bridegroom because they lack the purity (holiness) of a spotless bride. Come away with the lover of your soul now and make yourself ready for His return! (1 John 4:19)

The Proposal - The Bride Price



✠ “For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify Yahweh in your body, and in your spirit, which are Yahweh’s” (1 Corinthians 6:20).

In biblical times, it was customary for an Israelite to pay a *mohar*, or price, for his bride to her father. Though this practice seems archaic to us today, a bride price is still used in many cultures. Marriage by purchase reflects how much the prospective bridegroom values and cherishes his bride. It also reveals his own wealth and generosity.

As His beloved bride, we have been bought with a price and no longer belong to ourselves. We are His – totally. Treasure the priceless gift of Yeshua’s love; hold it close to your heart. He paid it for you! (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Tears of Myrrh

Yeshua returns to a quiet garden on the Mount of Olives, yearning for comfort this evening. But this night the garden offers only anguish and solitude. Bruised under the weight of agony, Yeshua earnestly prays. Beads of sweat, mingled with blood from His pores fall upon the earth. Alone, Yeshua prays,

“If Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me” (Luke 22:42, 44).

His heart aches with a dying love for His bride. Is there any other possible way besides death? He questions Abba. Yahweh knows the deep friendship He once enjoyed with man in the Garden of Eden can only be recaptured if He lays down His life for him. With unconditional acceptance, Yeshua trusts His Father’s decision and says, “Nevertheless, not My will but Thine, be done.”

During the Messiah’s final agonizing hours in Gethsemane, the weight of the world’s sins crushed our Savior like a winepress, causing Him to sweat great tears of blood. His bitter suffering can be compared to myrrh, a highly-prized spice used for perfumes and incense, extracted by piercing the tree’s heartwood and allowing the gum to trickle out and harden into bitter, aromatic red droplets called tears.

The Cup of the New Covenant

✠ “Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you’” (Luke 22:20).

✠ “Behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says Yahweh. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their El, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know Yahweh,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-10).

The prospective Hebrew bridegroom pops the question by pouring a cup of wine for his beloved, and then anxiously awaits her response to his proposal. If she sips from the Kiddush (sanctification) cup, she shows her willingness to enter this union by saying yes to his proposal.

Their shared cup of wine at a betrothal ceremony called *B'rit* (covenant) symbolizes the sealing of their marriage covenant in blood. The betrothed couple, for all legal purposes, is married.

We see Yeshua drinking from the *B'rit* cup with His disciples after the Passover meal, sealing the marriage covenant with His bride. Lifting the cup with His right hand, the Messiah recites the blessing over the wine. As the True Vine speaks, He blesses the fruit of His Father's vine and praises the Creator for His bride – His choice fruit. He continues saying,

“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:27-28).

Yeshua invites all believers to say yes to His proposal and share in this cup, so that all who choose may become His promised bride.

To Die For

✠ “So when Yeshua had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit” (John 19:30).

It is finished. Fitting words spoken from a bridegroom to his bride. In Hebrew, the root word for finish is *ka'lal*, (complete, make perfect, or finish). It also shares the same root for *kallah* (bride). With Yeshua's final and dying words, He sealed the marriage covenant to His beloved with His blood.

The Ketubah



The wedding celebration is comprised of two separate ceremonies: the *kiddushin*, or betrothal, and *nissuin*, or nuptials. In a traditional betrothal, the engaged couple enters into a covenant with the signing of the Ketubah. In this marriage covenant are the terms of their agreement, such as the bride price and provisions the bridegroom agrees to make for her (including food, clothing and conjugal rights), and also names the wife as the heir to the estate, should he die. The *Ketubah* is read aloud for all to hear of their mutual devotion toward one another.

Moses received the Torah in Exodus 24.

“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, ‘We will do everything Yahweh has said; we will obey.’”

Properly signed and witnessed, the document is given to the bride, and she is instructed to keep it with her at all times, since there can be no marital relations if it is lost or destroyed. Just as a bride cherishes her beautiful *Ketubah* for its rich promises, the Bride of Yeshua cherishes her Ketubah, the Bible (Genesis to Revelation), full of promises from our Bridegroom. He promising

to take care of us, not only spiritually, but also physically, when we enter into a covenant with Him (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-10).

The Two Witnesses

☛ “And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth” (Revelation 11:3).

Prophetically, Yahweh divided Israel into the House of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and the House of Israel Ephraim, the Northern Kingdom. Both houses went into captivity, Ephraim to Assyria, and 125 years later, Judah to Babylon. Only Judah returned to the land while Ephraim was assimilated into the culture of the Assyrians and scattered across the face of the earth into all the nations. Many believers today may be a part of the Twelve Tribes of Israel and not know it!

Just as two witnesses are required as eyewitnesses to the betrothal and to sign the Ketubah, Ephraim and Judah make up Israel, the one true bride of the Messiah. Both serve as witnesses and give testimony to what Yahweh has done in the past and is doing now to bring about His kingdom on this earth. All true believers are a part of Israel (Zechariah 4; Rev. 11:4).



Today, Jews (house of Judah) and Christians (house of Israel/Ephraim) are finding common ground in the Scriptures to begin the reunification of the ancient House of Jacob/Israel. Once reunified, Yeshua’s bride will be brought back to Zion where we can enter into the Promised Land, ready to meet our Heavenly Bridegroom.

As you spend time with the Beloved, ask for a deeper revelation of who you are in Him. Ponder whether you have become like Ephraim as so many in the Church today have become, by turning away from their Hebraic roots and chasing after the pagan ways of the world. Or, are you like Judah and have guarded Yahweh’s laws in your heart but are blind to the advancing light and the revelation Messiah Yeshua is revealing in these last days? *Selah*...think on this.

The Broken Glass

☛ “Yeshua answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (John 2:18-21).

Jewish wedding ceremonies today still include the tradition of breaking a glass, which is symbolic of the destruction of the temple. For the Jews, it means that even in the midst of joy there is the remembrance of sorrow when the stones and physical walls of the temple came

down. For believers in the Messiah, it represents another destroyed temple – the earthen vessel of Yeshua’s body broken for us. His life was crushed by the sins of the world.

The Departure

After the betrothal ceremony, the bridegroom leaves the bride’s home and returns to his father’s house for several months to prepare for his wedding day. Before departing, he makes a special promise to his bride: “I go and prepare a place for you and when it is ready, I will return for you.” (John 14:2-3) During this time of separation, the groom builds a bridal chamber in his father’s house while the bride gathers her trousseau and makes herself ready for his return.

Like an Israeli bridegroom, before Yeshua returned to His Father’s house, he comforts His disciples with these same words spoken in the ancient Jewish rite, “Let not your heart be troubled...In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:1-2). He reaffirms to His followers that He will come to sequester us into a chamber made ready for His bride (John 14:3).

The Hope Chest: The Mikvah

✠ “He who believes and is baptized (*mikvah*) will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

Prior to her wedding, the bride immerses herself in a body of living water, such as a river or lake, in a ceremonial washing as a symbol of spiritual purification. A celebration follows, where she is regaled with wine, sweets, and blessings as friends and relatives rejoice with the bride in her new marital status. She now belongs to her husband and is under his authority.

Yeshua, the Lamb of Yahweh, purifies our heart to make us ready for His return as our Bridegroom. With Yom Teruah approaching, has it been a long time since your own Mikvah, or water baptism? Take this time now to immerse yourself in Yahweh’s holy presence and re-cleanse your heart by confessing your sins ready to enter into Holy union.

✠ “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (John 1:25; 29; 1 John 1:9).

Washing of the Word

✠ “Husband, love your wives, even as Yeshua also loved the ekklesia (the body of believers), and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26).

At the ancient betrothal ceremony, the words cleanse her with the washing of water by the word are part of the vows spoken by the bridegroom. As the priest of the home, he sets her apart as his bride, for she is spoken for and paid for.

The Redeemer sanctifies His bride, making you holy and pure, and sets you apart as His own. His complete forgiveness and cleansing work through His blood, prepares you to enter Yahweh's presence. Allow Yahweh to bathe you in His Word so that you may go into the Holy Place; for it is His words and sacred vows in the Bible that sanctifies you in the truth. Consider spending time each day reading your Bibles so you will be prepared to walk as a pure bride.

Tokens of Love

✠ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?” (Luke 15:9-10).

The silver coins called *kessef* were given to the bride as a token of his love. Similar to today's wedding band, it was customary for a married Jewish woman to wear ten silver coins woven into an elaborate piece of jewelry over the veil as a headdress. As an expression of a groom's love and commitment to his betrothed, silver coins were considered valuable gifts, especially to the lady who lost one in the parable of the lost coin. For these tokens of love belonged to her and no one could take them from her, not even to pay a debt.

Like the lost coin, we were all lost sinners from the earth's dust. Yeshua pursued us with a persistent love until He found His bride. Our life, once darkened by sin, illuminates now with His presence. Yahweh's Word, like an oil lamp, helps light our pathway and shows us where we can find true joy and peace.

Golden Gifts

✠ “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11).

An ancient custom of Israel required the groom to give a *mattan* (Hebrew for 'gift') to his bride at the betrothal. These voluntary gifts are an expression of his love for his bride and vary greatly depending on the prosperity of the groom. A biblical example of this practice is Eliezer giving articles of silver, two gold bracelets, and garments to Rebekah (Genesis 24:22).

Our bridegroom, Yeshua, also offers *mattan* to His bride. Some of the gifts He gives us are eternal life and peace. Other gifts are in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. Yeshua offers anything we ask in His name (John 14:13). These gifts are given to make ourselves ready for His return and to be used for Yahweh's glory!

With This Ring

✠ “And you also were included in Yeshua when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Like the dipping of a signet ring in wax, Yahweh bears His impression upon us by the Ruach Ha Chodesh, Yahweh’s Spirit, sealing His promise to return for His Bride. The ‘ring’ for the bride is called the ‘Sabbath. The Sabbath serves as a reminder of Yahweh’s unbroken and never-ending covenant. Yahweh created the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27). It is our sign and commitment to be faithful to him “In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions” (Exodus 16:4). An unfaithful bride takes off her wedding ring.

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh shall call” (Acts 2:39).

Saying “I Do”

“*Will you go with this man?*” they asked Rebekah in Genesis 24:58 after Abraham’s servant, Eliezer, proposed marriage on his master’s behalf. Never having set eyes on Isaac, Rebekah gave her consent and said, “*I will go.*” With blind faith and complete abandonment, she said, *I do*. Her faith was much like ours today – we have never seen our Bridegroom, yet we abandon all to be with Him.

Just as a bride has to be in agreement with the marriage she enters, so it is with the Bride of Yeshua. The root meaning of the Hebrew word ‘bracelet’ means to bind, or join. By accepting the bracelets, Rebekah willingly became bound, or joined, to Isaac. As believers, we too become bound to Him. Yahweh never forces us to say I do. It is by our own free will that we enter into a relationship with our Bridegroom, Yeshua, our Messiah. With our lips we confess I do by believing in our hearts that Yahweh raised Yeshua from the dead, and we declare it with our mouths that He is Lord. Salvation is for today. Say, I will go.

The Bride of Yeshua: The Fragrance of the Bride

Spikenard comes from a very rare plant that is usually blended with olive oil for anointing in acts of consecration, dedication and worship. The root word for spikenard in Greek means genuine or pure.

In John 12:3 and Mark 14:3, the Bible tells how spikenard was used to anoint Yeshua, the pure and spotless Lamb, just days before His death and burial. As we desire to become the spotless bride of Messiah, we must walk in holiness and love, burying our sins at the cross. With His life broken, He doesn’t leave us alone to ‘waste away.’ Instead, the oil, symbolic of the inner working of the *Ruach Ha Chodesh*, has been poured out for us, so we can live a life that is rich with a sweet, heavenly fragrance.

Beauty of Holiness

A common practice in the Middle East was the ritual of baths, followed by the anointing with oil in preparation for a future wedding (Esther 2:12). As a remnant of Yeshua's body, we are to be made ready with the burial of our sins at the altar. We must die to the old life, as death is the first step in preparation for those who will become the Bride of Yeshua. This process doesn't happen all at once but takes time when obedience is learned and our own selfish desires are conformed into His image.

The second part of the virgin's preparation involved beauty treatments, pampering her with massages and using oil perfumes. Yahweh Himself, in Ezekiel, tells how He bathes and anoints His bride Israel with oil. (Ezekiel 16:9) The application of the word in our life produces the oil. Our beauty treatments, however, will not be complete until we meet our Bridegroom face to face.

Crowning Headpiece

As His bride, we are holy and have been set apart as His own. His love draws us away from the things of the world - the bustle and busyness of life - to a place where we can thrive and grow in Him. The unpleasant thorns - those things under the curse such as vanity, envy, pride, bitterness and evil speaking - keep us from entering into the blessed fellowship with our Beloved. Respond to the love of His heart by turning away from those things that hinder our spiritual growth. Yahweh loves Israel and describes our beauty as:

“Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters” (Song of Solomon 2:2).

Yahweh will bestow upon each of us a golden crown as His eternal bride. And, because of His shining greatness, honor, and power, we will, as Revelation 4:10 tell us, lay our crowns before Him and worship the Creator of all things. Worship Him now.

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which Yahweh, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8).

The Fruit of Another

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their won lusts. And saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?””

Unbeknownst to the bride, someone had been watching and waiting for the opportune time to make his move. While her guard was down, the maiden removed her veil and fell into the enemy's trap.

During the first few months after her bridegroom's departure, the ancient bride didn't have any difficulty remembering her love by all the wonderful gifts he had left her. However, as time passed, and he delayed in returning, she may have been tempted.

In one way or another, we have all betrayed our love to Yeshua. Whether it is following false teachers with unsound doctrines or living sinful lives, we all struggle with doing things we know we shouldn't do. Though our Bridegroom tarries, we should remain faithful and ready for His return.

As the bride, we must fast and pray to keep ourselves from falling into temptation. Try committing a time each week to fasting. If you have never fasted before, try skipping one meal, and spend that time with Yahweh. Pray and ask the Father to strengthen you and help you to resist the schemes of the enemy (Matthew 9:15).

I Stand at the Door

🦁 **Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

What does your heart say to your beloved Bridegroom? Yeshua said in Matthew 22:14,

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Many followers have entered in through the door of salvation and are part of the Body of Yeshua but have turned away from the Holy Spirit/*Ruach Ha Kodesh's* invitation to enter into a deeper intimacy with the Messiah. Yahweh calls those followers His concubines, queens, and virgins, as seen in Song of Songs 6:8.

Our Heavenly Bridegroom refers to His beloved bride as the only one who has said yes to His request, ‘Open to me,’ and has entered into a deeper relationship, identifying with the full mystery of His death and resurrected life. It is we who will determine how close we want to be with our Savior. We must not ignore His voice but answer His call.

Clothed In Splendor

🦁 **Isaiah 61:10** “I will greatly rejoice in Yahweh, my soul shall be joyful in my El; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

It was customary in ancient Israel for the hosts of the marriage ceremony to provide their wedding guests with suitable apparel. By not wearing the garments provided by the groom's father, the guests showed a lack of appreciation and respect for him. No real excuse could be given for not wearing the proper wedding garments.

In the parable of the guest improperly attired in Matthew 22:11-14, Yeshua described the king's furious reaction to the guest who insulted him by not wearing the wedding garments. For guests who attempt to attend the Messiah's wedding in apparel of their own, they will be cast into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As His bride, we must not seek apparel of our own choosing, such as trying to obtain salvation based upon our own good works or without true faith or repentance. We must be willing to clothe ourselves with Yeshua by putting on the new man and adorning ourselves with righteous deeds. By being ever ready to do good works (walking in the realms of life), we bring glory to Yahweh. Are we doing all we can to be clothed in splendor?

🌿 **Jeremiah 2:32** “Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.”

Enraptured by Love

🌿 **Matthew 25:6** “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’”

His Majesty Requests: An Invitation to the Royal Wedding of the Lamb by Rebecca Park Totilo
To be continued in study: Yom Kippur www.sheepfoldgleanings.com

YOM TERUAH – The Day of Blowing

🌿 **Leviticus 23:23** “Yahweh said to Moses, Say to the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest (Sabbath), a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work, but present an offering made to Yahweh by fire (a sacrificial gift).”

“Once the groom's father gave his final approval to the inspection of the bridal chamber, the bridegroom would leave his father's house with his best man or friend (Moses) to gather his bride. These men, along with many other companions, would travel to the bride's home, typically at night, carrying torches to light the dark streets, as mentioned in Jeremiah 25:10. Another reason for this custom is that the candles or torches represent light and joy, which was present at Mount Sinai at the wedding between Yahweh and Israel. In Exodus 19:16-18, it tells us the Israelites were accompanied by lightning, and Yahweh was accompanied by fire. Couples today still use candles at weddings for enhancing their joy.

“As they drew close to the bride's home, the men would blow trumpets (sound the shofar on the year of Jubilee) and shout, announcing the soon arrival of the bridegroom, sometimes even calling out the name of the bride. The bride, with her attendants, would come out to meet the groom and in the joyous procession filled with musicians, singers, and dancers,

back to the *prepared place* where she and her beloved would enjoy the marriage supper together.” (R. Booker)

Yom Teruah is the day of the sounding of the trumpet and the *opening of the doors* for the Bride. Doors represent a passage from one realm into another realm as in the Covenants. On Yom Teruah it is the wise virgin, the one who has prepared for her wedding, whom the door *opens* to receive. As the Bride enters she transforms or passes through the veil/door of the Tabernacle *from* the Holy Place as a priest, *into* the Most Holy Place as a High Priest in her marriage with *The King*. On their wedding day (Yom Kippur) the doors will *close*, so it is vital the Bride understands her identity and prepares for the season she is entering.

Will we be waiting and prepared as Yeshua’s Bride? Will we hear the sound of the Bridegroom coming? (1 Corinthians 15:52) Will we run to meet Him dressed in our wedding garments? (Revelation 11:15).

🌿 **John 12:13** “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!”

For centuries, the best man at a Jewish wedding has spoken these same words before the Bridegroom appears at the wedding ceremony. It is for this reason that Yeshua told us,

“For I tell you [*Believer*], you will not see me [*the Bridegroom*] again until you say, ‘Blessed is *he* [*the wise virgins*] who comes in the name of the Lord’” (Matthew 23:39).

Yeshua – the Lord of the Sabbath/*Yom Kippur* - was talking to His Bride, encouraging her to prepare His return. He desires to enter with her into the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

Those who keep this Feast are rehearsing for the return of the Messiah, the Bridegroom, the King of Kings!

🌿 **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** “For Yahweh Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with *the trumpet call* [*Yom Teruah*] of God, and the dead in Yeshua will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet Yahweh in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

As believers entering the Fall Sabbath Festivals, we all desire to be part of this wedding. The choice is up to each of us to enter into the Marriage Covenant (Mosaic Covenant/Yeshua’s Gospel) so that when that seventh trumpet sounds on *Rosh Chodesh* we are dressed, ready in our wedding garments, with our lamps trimmed, as well as an extra supply of oil *in us for the days ahead*. Yeshua our Bridegroom has gone before us and made the way. We have heard His Word and His trumpet blast on the Mountain (Sinai). Everyone is invited and has this great opportunity to enter in. The doors open on *Yom Teruah* for the Bride to enter His Sabbath Feast with rejoicing and great celebration. His banquet table is made ready. His wise virgin Bride, arrayed

in fine white linen, is prepared to greet Him when He arrives, ready to move on into His Holy of Holies on their wedding day - *Yom Kippur* – and to *Tabernacle* with Him forever.

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

How to Celebrate Yom Teruah:

Yom Teruah is a lot of fun. On a high mountain with a great view we gather for a wonderful picnic while enjoying praise and worship music waiting for the sun to set. When the new moon is observed we gather our silver trumpets and shofars and blow! It is great fun for the whole family! In other years we have gathered at the seashore. Some enjoy a park or other special setting where they can make a joyful noise! This event is a Sabbath so we take that whole day to enjoy with Yeshua.

Here is a website to help sight the new moon:

<http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/moonwatch/nextnewmoon.html>



Special Notes

Thank you to Rebecca Park Totilo for permission to print your book *His Majesty Requests: An Invitation to the Royal Wedding of the Lamb* for all to enjoy. For more information or to purchase a copy please visit: <http://rebeccaatthewell.org>

Music

The Journey of the Bride by Lenny and Varda Harris www.lennyandvarda@juno.com

Short music clip: *The Journey of the Bride*

<http://www.lennyandvarda.com/musicclips/JOURNEY%20OF%20THE%20BRIDE/9-5%20JOURNEY%20OF%20THE%20BRIDE%20CLIP.mp3>



Reference

Here Comes the Bride by Richard Booker <http://www.amazon.com/Here-Comes-Bride-Richard-Booker/dp/0961530243>
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible by David Stern. Jewish New Testament Publications, Inc.

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