

## **The Rapture of the Church as a Picture of a Jewish Wedding**

The ancient Jewish wedding provides a beautiful and symbolic picture of the Rapture of the Church. Each major part of the wedding custom corresponds to a stage in the relationship between Christ (the Bridegroom) and the Church (His Bride).

### **1. Marriage Arrangement**

In ancient times, marriages were arranged by the father of the bridegroom. God the Father chose the Church to be the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 1:4). Jesus came to earth to pay the bride price—His life (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

### **2. Marriage Covenant**

A written contract (ketubah) was made to detail the groom's promises. Jesus gave us His promises in the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6).

### **3. Bridal Price**

The groom paid a price to secure the bride. Jesus paid for the Church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

### **4. The Bride's Consent**

The bride had to agree to the marriage. Each believer must individually accept Christ (Romans 10:9–10).

### **5. The Departure of the Groom**

After the covenant was made, the groom would return to his father's house to prepare a place for his bride. Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you' (John 14:2–3).

### **6. The Waiting Period**

The bride waited and kept herself ready, not knowing when the groom would return. The Church is called to live in purity and expectation of Christ's return (Titus 2:13; Matthew 25:1–13).

### **7. The Return of the Groom**

The groom came at an unexpected time, usually at night, with a shout and a trumpet. This mirrors the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

### **8. The Wedding Ceremony**

The couple was officially married under a canopy (chuppah). The Church will be united with Christ in heaven (Revelation 19:7).

### **9. The Marriage Supper**

A great feast followed the wedding. This parallels the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).

## **Conclusion**

The Rapture reflects the joyful and intimate picture of the Jewish wedding. Just as a bride eagerly awaits her groom, the Church looks forward to the return of Christ.