

A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory In Relation To: "The Traditional Jewish Wedding Ceremony" and "The Actions Of God Revealed Through This Ceremonial History"

Pre-Trib Rapture - "Introduction"

The reason for this particular view of the "Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church" is that most teachings concerning the subjects of "Post-Trib", or "Mid-Trib" never address the issue of the "traditional Jewish wedding", to my knowledge. I think I have done myself a great "dis-service" in searching for understanding by totally excluding from my studies the subjects of the ancient ceremonies of "God's Chosen People"... the Jews. This will change in my future studies because of what I "feel" has been revealed to me through an examination of "The Traditional Jewish Wedding Ceremony"... It is as follows:

The information that is about to be brought forth has been studied closely by Hebrew scholars. I was literally astounded AND excited to realize that the "Traditional Jewish Wedding", at least in "my" mind, clearly points to a "pre-tribulation - CATCHING AWAY" of the believer in Christ!

What I will attempt to formulate and present to you is a basic knowledge of the Old Testament and bring us all into the "customs" of the Jewish Wedding to help us understand why "I" think that the Jewish wedding, in "picture form", points to the "Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church"...

Pre-Trib Rapture - "The Beginning"

Revelation 19:7-8 - "Marriage of the Lamb"

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

8It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The "Saints" will enjoy a "marriage supper" of the Lamb! I'll comment further on this a little later, but something important to understand early on concerning this subject is:

When God "CHOSE" Abraham and raised up the nation of Israel, God not only raised up a nation, but God said in His Word that He would be "MARRIED" to this nation and to this people!

There is a wonderful connection between the "Ancient Jewish Wedding Customs" and the "Rapture Of the Church":

Isaiah 54:5-6

5"For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of hosts;

And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.

6"For the LORD has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," Says your God.

Isaiah 62:5

5For as a young man marries a virgin, So your sons will marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

Concerning Israel: The bible portrays God as the "Bridegroom", and Israel as the "bride" - God's bride! In Hosea 2:16, The Word says Israel will call God "Husband"...

The Hellenistic Jews considered the Song of Solomon as an allegory demonstrating the love between God and Israel, His bride. That is found in what is called the "Mishnah". According to Jewish sources, it is said ten times that Israel is described as "the bride" --> This is because of the Ten Commandments that God gave the Israelites, and also the ten garments that the Priest wore.

It is important to understand the foundation of this understanding. The ancient Jewish wedding was performed in two stages:

- 1.The first stage was called the "betrothal" stage;
- 2.The second stage was called the "consumation" stage

It is important to completely picture these two stages, because they will come into play a little later on in the Jewish wedding.

Going into the Old Testament, we can fully realize the "pattern" in which God "married" Israel! This pattern is also found in the Jewish wedding AND the covenant of the New Testament believer, as the "Bride Of CHRIST!" GLORY TO GOD!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#2 - A Bride Is Chosen

Step #1 In The Ancient Jewish Wedding: A Bride Is Chosen

Israel was given a "betrothal contract" from the Lord. In Hebrew, this is called the "khetooaba". The marriage contract (khetooaba) between God and Israel was the "Torah", which is the first five books of the bible.

Exodus 19:5-6

5 "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

So... The covenant that God made with Israel is found in the first five books of the bible (the Torah). This is the "marital contract", in Hebrew called the "Khetooaba", that God made with the nation of Israel. God says, "I will marry you. You will be Mine and I will be your Husband - You will be My bride and here is the contract of what We have to do together. I'll give you My promises if you will give Me all of your heart, mind and soul... and serve Me with "everything" that is within you!"

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#3 - Bride Accepts The Marriage Contract

Step #2 In Ancient Jewish Wedding - Bride Accepts The Marriage Contract, and is Sanctified...

After the contract had been presented to the Israelites, they had to decide to "accept" the terms of the agreement (khetooaba):

Exodus 19:7-8

7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

Here, Israel is accepting the "Torah", the "Khetooaba", the "engagement contract" of God.

After the bride (in this case, Israel) has accepted the terms of the khetooaba, they must be "sanctified" or "separated". This is called the "Kiddushin". This was done in the Old Testament by the washing of water.

Exodus 19:10-11

10 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. 11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."

Quick Summary Of The "Betrothal Process":

- 1. God chooses the bride and gives the khetooaba (marital contract)
- 2. The bride accepts it by agreeing to its terms
- 3. The bride (people) is sanctified...

This concludes the 1st "stage" of the marital contract between God and Israel.

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#4 - Enter the Chuppah

The second stage of the marital contract in the ancient Jewish wedding is the "Entering of the Chuppah" (pronounced "hoop-a") The "chuppah" was considered to be the "canopy" where the bride and groom were to meet to make the marriage public and official (ever seen anyone stand under an arch while taking their vows?).

God came down in a cloud, and met with Moses. According to the Jewish Rabbi's, this was the "covering", or "canopy" that God gave Israel!

Exodus 13:21

21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

Please take notice. That cloud was NOT just to lead them because they did stay in one place for thirty some odd years. In my opinion, and that of the Jewish Rabbi's, that cloud was also the "marital canopy", or the "chuppah"... the "covering" spoken of above!

Deuteronomy 33:2

2 And he said: "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them."

Now Israel is coming into their next step (stage) of the marriage. They have already accepted the engagement contract, and now they are getting ready to come to the chuppah, or "canopy", where all things are made public. This is another place where the marriage process gets exciting!

In brief review, the covering of the cloud that God came down on was the chuppah, or canopy, according to the Rabbi's. And now there are three things that will happen... Actually, several things...

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#5 - The Marriage Procession

In the Jewish wedding, the bride is escorted to the bridegroom. The procession will always be accompanied by torches and oil lamps... So there is fire... Remember when God made a covenant with Abraham and He cut the pieces up on the alter and scripture says that, "God

passed between the pieces, and there was a burning lamp/torch?" THAT was a "MARITAL CONTRACT" in ancient times! That's how you did it! God was making a covenant with Abraham, but it was like a marital contract for Abraham and his seed! In my opinion, that is a prophetic parallel that can be recognized here...

Exodus 19:18

18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

So, in the Jewish wedding, the groom will precede the bride to the canopy (chuppah). When the bride arrives, she walks around the groom, followed by their mothers, three times. This idea was taken from Jeremiah 31:22.

It is very important that a point be made here before we go into the New Covenant:

It has been suggested in other teachings I have heard, it has been said that there are two different kinds of olive trees...

- 1.The natural olive tree - prophetically represents the Jew
- 2.The wild olive tree - represents the Gentiles

I have heard statements made, and tend to agree with, that God the Father is married to the natural seed of Abraham, and God has a covenant with the natural Jew. This is why, I believe, God will gather them from all nations, make Jerusalem the capital, make David the King of Jerusalem, AND make Christ the King of the Earth, from the city of Jerusalem! I think, IT'S ALL ABOUT COVENANT!!!

So. God is married to Israel. Now God divorced them, according to the bible. Because of their "unbelief", God gave them a bill of divorcement. But then God said to Israel, "I love you enough, that I'm going to reverse the bill of divorcement. And I'm going to bring you back and save the entire nation!" One day they will look at the wounds of Jesus and say, "Where did You get those wounds?" And Jesus will say, "I got them in the house of My friends." Zechariah 13:6 **So, one day, in my opinion, the Jews will recognize Jesus as the Savior!**

None-the-less, God is called Israel's Husband in Is. 54:5 & Jer.31:32. God said He was "married to Israel in Jer. 3:14. God gave Israel a bill of divorcement for her iniquities in Is. 50:1... And God promised to eventually bring Israel back to Him again in Is. 62:4-5 !

The reason, I believe, that the Jews are still in spiritual blindness is because the age of Dispensation of the Gentiles and the church age is still on the earth!

When the dispensation of the Grace of God concludes, according to Ephesians, what will God do? He will "rapture" us out (Eph. 1:9-10). God will then turn His attention back to Israel, where God the Father can focus on restoring that "marital contract" that was made a long time ago through the seed of Abraham! Eventually, I believe, God will bring "His Chosen People" (Israelites - Jews) who have been in unbelief, back to Him (God)!

Shewie - Mercy!... Let Me Take A breath!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#6 - Summary Outline of the "Old Testament Marital Process"

Summary Outline of the "Old Testament Marital Process"

- *Moses wrote a book of the covenant -> [Ex. 24:47](#)
 - *Moses "sprinkled" the people with blood -> [Ex. 24:8](#)
 - *Moses and the Elders "Went Up" before God -> [Gen. 24:9](#)
 - *Moses and the Elders "saw God walking on sapphire" -> Ex.24:9
 - *Moses and the Elders "Ate With God" -> [Ex. 24:11](#)

O.K.. Here the parallels are really getting interesting - those between the "Old Testament Marital Process" and our own relationship with God under the New Covenant:

- *WE have the book of the Covenant--
 - *WE'VE been sprinkled with blood-- In my opinion, the rapture WILL happen, we will get "caught up" to the Throne Room Of God -
 - *WE are going to see the Lord -- The "Throne" is like a "sapphire" in the book of Revelation- then WE are going to have a "Marriage Supper!"
 - *The rapture will happen, WE will "go up" to the Throne Room of God
 - *We are going to SEE the Lord
 - *The Throne is like a sapphire in Revelation
 - *WE are going to have a "Marriage Supper" with The Lamb!

Please allow me to explain.

God said to Moses, "Come up with Me to the mount." A "cloud" covered the mount. On the seventh day God spoke out of the mount, and Moses "went up" into the cloud! Once again, everything we see here about how God built His relationship with Old Testament Israel and made a covenant and marital contract with them, the very same parallels are found in the New Testament that we all read... About the "rapture"... the "catching up"... the "gathering together"... the "marriage supper"... the Throne of God being like Jasper and Sapphire stone in the book of Revelations... all these things are "pictures"!

The Old Testament is the New Testament "Concealed" and The New Testament is the Old Testament "Revealed" !

I believe everything prophetic talked about here that will happen in the future, it's foundation can be found in the Old Testament. This is why this presentation begins in the Old Testament: To explain/show us from my point of view how God, through the Torah, made a marital contract with Israel. They accepted it, they washed themselves, and then the canopy (Chuppah) became their "covering" as they went to the promised land. While they were walking in the wilderness they were under His covering, but when they made it to the promised land, the cloud ceased. Because they didn't "need" the covering anymore... once they inherited the "Fullness of the Promise"!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#7 - Parallels and Parables

So, I believe all these things could be parallels for us today! From here it continues to get even more interesting!

- *Israel is the bride of God
 - *The Church is the bride of Christ! Ephesians 5:22-33
 - *Is there proof of this? [2 Cor. 11:12](#) & [Romans 7:4](#) says We are "married" to Christ! All of the "terms" listed in the above scriptures are referring to our own "marital contract"!!!

Jesus Himself gave a parable of a "wedding banquet". In [Matthew 22: 1-14](#), we are told of a "King's son" that was about to be married, and those invited did not show up! The King became angry and destroyed the city, and he told his servants to go out into all the public and tell "all the people" to come in!

Now there was a man that tried to "sneak in" without the proper "wedding garment" on. In that day, you had to have the "wedding garment" on, in order to attend the "marriage supper"! The King had the "unclothed" man "cast out into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth", because the man tried to attend in "soiled clothes", and did not have the proper garments to wear! Starting to make sense to you now?

This is a parable that is actually showing us how the Hebrew people were sent the prophets and the righteous people, and Jesus said in Matthew 23, "You have stoned the prophets, you've killed the ones that God sent you." "So the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth fruit in it's season." - Matthew 21

This is why "the church" was birthed! The church was birthed because God's "chosen people" (the Jews of Israel) fell into severe unbelief, killed the men of God that was sent to them, and rejected the Words of God... And so God said to Moses, "My people will one day disobey Me, but I will PROVOKE them with a people that "are not", and a nation that is not!" The people that "are not" were "The Church!" The nation that "is not" is "The Church!" Peter said, "You are a "chosen generation", a "Royal Priesthood" in a Holy Nation!" In my opinion, WE, The Church, are a nation within a nation! Every nation in the world has believers and Christians, but we are literally a "nation within a nation"! We are a "chosen" nation! We are a "blessed" nation! There is much more referenced here than just the U.S.A.! The entire Christian population around the entire world is referenced here!

When we all get to Heaven and we stand before the Throne of God, we're not going to be standing there as Baptists, Pentecostals, Church of God'ers, Methodists or any other denomination! I believe God will look at us and say, "Here's MY people! Here's MY nation! HERE are My chosen ones which I have raised up!"

Glory - Praise - And Honor to The Most High God!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#8 -Pre-Trib Rapture Concept Begins

With the foundation of this understanding set in the Old Testament, here is what we must do to understand how the "rapture of the church", or the "gathering together", or "catching away" is tied into the "Pre-Tribulation Concept".

In my opinion, the "Pre-Tribulation Concept" can only be fully understood through , what is called "The Ancient Jewish Wedding".

The ancient Jewish wedding had two "stages": "The Betrothal Process", (just as in the Old Testament) and The formal ceremony conducted under the "canopy" or "Chuppah".

- Stage#1: "Betrothal Process" - occurred while Christ was on earth.
Stage#2: The "Formal Ceremony under the Chuppah", will begin at the "Rapture" of the church, and will conclude in heaven!

Here is why I think these things:

Marriage was considered a "taking" in the bible (Deaut. 24:1). The Jewish rabbi's considered the chuppah (canopy/covering) the "recieving" of the bride. The "consumation" of the marriage, where the "consumating act" took place, was called by the Rabbi's, the "bringing" of the bride.

Looking at these three things a little more closely:

- *The taking of the bride
 - *The receiving of the bride
 - *The bringing of the bride
- *First of all, Christ "TOOK" us - He REDEEMED us!
 - *Second, in John 14, He says, "If I go away, I will prepare a place and come and..."RECEIVE" you;"
 - *Third--> Then after He has received us, He will then "BRING US" and "PRESENTS US" at the "Marriage Supper Of The LAMB!" Revelations 19

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#10 - Phases 1 and 2 of The Ancient Jewish Wedding Phase #1 Of The Ancient Jewish Wedding Ceremony

- *The groom "chooses" his prospective bride. He approaches and introduces himself. The groom gives the prospective bride the invitation to "his father's house".
 - *The bride decides what she wishes to do and accepts the invitation.
 - *The groom returns to his father and speaks to him about his prospective bride, seeks the approval of the father, and then gains the fathers approval.

Phase #2 Of The Ancient Jewish Wedding Ceremon

After phase 1 is complete, the bride is then brought to the house of the son's father. There, the bride, the father of the son and the son himself are seated at a table to make some very important decisions! This is considered to be the beginning of the actual wedding, as they will ultimately "agree" on the "terms" of the "wedding contract", or "khetooaba".

At this table, there is a "price" given for the bride (1Cor.6:20). Her worth is determined right there and then. OUR PRICE was paid by Christ, purchasing us "BACK" to God!

Then a "scroll" is opened, which contains the "khetooaba", or "marriage contract" itself. This contract includes a list of obligations. It lists the obligations of the groom toward the bride, and the obligations of the bride toward the groom. It also names the specific "price" for the bride. It tells what the price of the bride is! It is the process that "LEGALLY" binds the man and the woman together as one! So...

*There is a Khetooaba, or marriage contract - Our khetooaba as "born again" believers in Christ is the New Testament.

*There is a groom - Our Groom is Jesus Christ!

*There is a bride - The bride is "The Church!"

*There is a price offered for the bride - The price paid for us, as the bride of Christ, was the life's blood of Christ, Himself... Crucified on the cross, for the sins of the bride!

Pledges Of The Groom, Jesus Christ

- *The token given to the bride: The Holy Spirit.
 - *The wedding of Jesus Christ: He will NEVER leave her, NOR forsake her!
 - *He will deliver her from ALL distress!
 - *He will answer her prayers.
 - *He will PROTECT her.
 - *He will feed her, with ETERNAL food!
 - *He will love her with an EVERLASTING love!
 - *He will return for her when He has prepared a place for her, in His Father's House!

The Pledges Of The Bride, The Church

- *She will set herself apart from the world, sanctified for her Bridegroom.
 - *She will use her time wisely waiting for His return.
 - *She will become pure, spotless, and free from sin.
 - *She will be faithful to Him alone, having no other suitors for her heart.
 - *She will be ready to go with Him when He returns.

Now for the explanation:

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#11 - The Contract and The Cup

The khetooba, or marriage contract between the Old Testament Jews and God was the Torah, or the first five books of the bible. Our khettoba is the 27 books of the New Testament from Matthew to Revelations. In this, Jesus has given His promises, and we are told of what we will do for Him.

Taking note of a few things, the marriage contract was not official until it had been signed. Our contract has been signed, through the blood of Jesus Christ, and our whole-hearted acceptance of it! The contract now has been laid back on the table as a reminder of the promises that have been given.

There is a process that must tie in with this. - The bride has read the khettoba, she has looked at it, but the bride has to "agree" that this is the Man she wants! The bride thinks about this for a moment, because she knows this is going to completely change her life! She may lose some of her "old friends"... There may be some people that will become "offended" by her, because now, she will have to live a different lifestyle...

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, there may be some people that will become upset with you, wondering why you chose "Christianity"...

So. The bride knows it's an exciting thing to be married and it's exciting to get the "man of her dreams"! But she also knows there is a personal price she must pay... And she thinks about it... And finally, she makes her decision as they look at one another. The bridegroom is waiting for her... to see what she is going to say...

And she realizes at that point, "I will choose this Man, and He will give me His life, and I will give Him mine." And the bible tells us that with the "HEART" man "BELIEVES" unto righteousness. With the MOUTH confession is made unto salvation. "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU SHALL BE SAVED!" Amen!

Please take notice that all of this happens while they are at the table...

But there is one more process that is really interesting, because it ties in perfectly with the New Covenant...

There is a "cup" at the table. It is a silver cup, because silver represents "redemption". Oddly enough, a silver cup is also used at the "Passover". Also, the "wedding cup" is silver. I have studied this in short manner, and hopefully sometime in the future I'll post what I have found through that... but concerning the cup in the wedding process;

Now, the contract has been given, the contract has been signed, the agreements have been made, but they "seal" their contract by "drinking" of a sip of wine from the "cup of redemption". Silver in the bible represents redemption. They drink from the cup which indicates they will share their life... together. They are "one" when they drink from the cup, even though there is no "consumation" of the marriage for possibly as long as twelve

months! Even though they will not see one another, nor date one another for at least twelve months! Despite this, they know they are "Married in The Spirit!"

This is why when Joseph was espoused to Mary, they went through the entire process of what is said right here.

Are you aware that when Mary became pregnant through the Holy Spirit, Joseph thought about "putting her away?" "Putting her away" is a term used in the english translation of the bible for "divorcing her". Why would Joseph have to give Mary a "divorce" if they hadn't been officially married and consumated? Because this was an official contract. They were engaged-married! If the contract were broken, it would be punishable!

So, now our contract has been "sealed". Jesus held up the cup after the supper saying "This is the cup of the New Testament - My blood which was shed for you!" When Jesus held up that silver cup, and those disciples drank from that cup, they were saying, "We understand what we are doing. We understand that our khetooba (marriage contract) is the Word of God. We understand that You are going to have to "seal" it somehow, and pay a price. But we also understand that when we drink from this cup, we are ONE with YOU, JESUS! What You have is mine, and what I have is Yours, and together, we can do ANYTHING!" Glory To God!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#11 - Gifts To The Bride...

Finally, still seated at the table, "gifts" are given. This is another part that is especially interesting, because normally, there would be such things as precious jewels, gold coins, necklaces, and bracelets. It has been recorded that the one who beared the gifts to the bride from the groom has had as much as NINE CAMELS loaded down with jewels, as gifts for the bride! But it depended on the wealth of the family of the groom as to what the bride would recieve. But in each case, the family of the groom would give the very best they had!

When the groom presents these gifts to the bride, something the bride always knew since she was a little girl that she would be able to get on this day, it's something that she'll be able to show her friends... that the "marriage contract" had been sealed...

But you'll probably ask, "How does that tie into the New Covenant Church?" Well one way to see it is that after Jesus gave us His covenant, and after we drank from the cup, in Acts 2 the Holy Spirit came! And with the Holy Spirit came NINE GIFTS in 1Cor.12! In Ephesians, we are "SEALED" with the Holy Spirit a promise, which is the earnestness of our inheritance 'till the day of redemption of the body! **The word "earnestness" in the Greek, means "ENGAGEMENT RING"!**

So maybe, just maybe, we should understand, when someone says, "Wait a minute! If I'm engaged to Christ, where are MY gifts?", that when Christ gave us the Holy Spirit, He gave us the GIFT, which is the "ENGAGEMENT RING"! Everytime we pray in the Spirit, everytime we worship in the Spirit, everytime you feel the unstoppable resurrection power of the Holy Spirit in your body, you can say, "I'm ENGAGED! I'M ENGAGED! I got a supper waitin' on me in GLORY! I KNOW who I am! I KNOW I AM HIS! I AM HIS BRIDE!"

Glory To The Father And His Son, Jesus ONLY! Amen!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#12 - The Washing Of The Bride

Another interesting point "IF" any of this intrigues you... is about the bride - "washing".

The bride, before her wedding, dis-robes as young virgins surround her, as she dips herself, to "sanctify" herself, and "purge" herself... Just as Moses told Israel to do when they received! And Peter, on the day of Pentecost after they were converted, "baptized them in water", which could be considered symbolic of the "dipping" and "baptizing" of the bride!

A Quick Summary:

- *Jesus Christ comes, and gives us the Word...
 - *He drinks from the cup of communion...
 - *He pays the price...
 - *We "consent" to obey Him by believing in Him...
 - *Those who believe are "baptized" in water...

I think that just about anyone should be able to see this is the process of the wedding! We're not just sinners saved by Grace, with our names in the Lamb's Book Of Life! WE ARE THE BRIDE!

Now at this point, the bride gets to take her gifts with her, and the father of the house greets her one last time. He welcomes her into the family, and looks forward to the day when he will have his grandchildren, as all grandparents do.

And then the groom..... out of respect for his father, showing no sexual intent such as kissing or "any" other physical show of emotion, greets his bride for the final time..... And here is what the groom of the ancient Jewish wedding "traditionally" says to his bride:

"I go to prepare a place for you.....And when my father says it is ready, I will come, and receive you unto me."... Which is EXACTLY the words of John, chapter 4: "In My Father's house, there are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and "receive" you unto Myself, that where I am, there will you be also!"

Glory To God! Is any of this starting to dawn on anyone yet!?!? But there is much much more!

The odd part is, then the father AND the son depart, leaving her there on the outside of the house, and the groom does not see his bride again until he and his father prepare a "bridal chamber" on the house. THEN, the father will tell the son, "Now it is time to go get her."

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#13 - Consecration Of The Bride & The Ten Virgins

From this point on, there is enormous anticipation from the bride. Now the bride goes back to those friends who have been waiting for her, and she begins to say things like, "Look at what he gave me! Can you believe this ring? He gave me an engagement ring! Look at this gemstone that has been in the family for years! Look at this! Look at that! Can you believe he gave me all this stuff?"

The girls around the bride start looking at the bride's gifts and they begin to anticipate their own day that will come, when they find the one of their dreams...

Here is what has to happen according to Jewish sources. The bride does not see the groom again for maybe twelve whole months, maybe longer! The young friends remind the bride during this entire time of absence that she is MARRIED! They tell her it is now time to "veil" herself. The way in that day, that you knew someone was engaged, is when they carry a

certain veil and they attach it, it meant, "You can't look at me. You can't have me. I belong to someone else."

~~The Consecration Of The Bride~~

During this time of separation of the bride and groom, all the different friends of the bride (the virgins) are becoming excited. They are checking out all the gifts that the bride has received from her groom. They are rejoicing over "who" she is now engaged! He may be from a very good family. They are hearing the bride talk about her groom. They are excitedly asking questions about what the groom is like. The bride expresses to her friends, "I can tell you that just by the way I "feel" in his presence, that he loves me!"

In the parable of the ten virgins, it tells us they had oil lamps. In many Jewish weddings, there would be 6 to 10 individuals that would follow the processional with oil lamps attached to poles. You would put olive oil on the inside, and you would put some kind of linen flax through the opening that served as your wick, so that once it was wet with oil you could light it.

You had to keep the wick trimmed. If you didn't trim the wick, black soot would fill the air. It would stink the house up and become very uncomfortable. The walls would turn dark and sooty. In the parable, they are told to keep their lamps trimmed and burning, and to keep their garments spotless. This is all part of what these virgins had to do. The virgins had to make sure the bride stayed excited about her engagement, and help the bride eagerly anticipate the day when her groom would come and "take her unto him". Five... to eight...to twelve months of not seeing her man "COULD" make it awful easy for her to start looking "elsewhere".

In retrospect to this, it is easy for Christians who are in love with Jesus to get their eyes on the world again. If you've been a Christian all your life and you're 60 years of age, at times you "might" tend to entertain the thought of, "I've heard that sort of preaching all my life! Is He really coming again? I haven't seen Him... Does He really still love me?" THAT'S why you need a church to aid and search with you the "inspirations" of God... to "assure" you that He STILL loves you! To aid you in your walk... and to help keep your eyes on the fact that, yes, one day He is coming back! He WILL/IS coming again for us!

In this parable, the virgins thought he was going to come at a certain time, and he didn't come. They were supposed to have extra oil for their lamps in case there was a delay. In this case, five had extra oil because they knew he may not come exactly when they wanted him, or expected him, but they knew he was going to come. But The other five didn't feel the same way. They grew tired. And even the ones that had the extra oil in the lamps got weary, because he didn't come when they thought he would!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#14 - The Return Of The Groom

About the bridegroom coming back:

By the Jewish Rabbi's, weddings were called "receptions". When the groom brought the bride to the chuppah, that was considered the "consumation" of the marriage. Most bridegrooms would return late at night for their bride (Matt.25:6). His return was always secret, sudden and unannounced (Matt. 24:4). The bridegroom's father was the only one that knew when the bride's marriage chamber was ready, and was the only one that could give the permission for the son to return. That's why Jesus said, "No man knows the day, nor the hour. Not Me, not the angels, but My Father only!" I think this is why Jesus said that! It's the wedding!

The bridegroom will also send bridesman in advance to announce that the bridegroom is coming just behind them. In Matt. 25:6 it says, "But at midnight, there was a shout, "Behold the Bridegroom! Come out and meet Him!"

And often, as mentioned earlier, different ones with staffs of oil would take the bride, and "sweep her out". Song of Solomon puts it this way:

Song of Solomon 2:10-13, "10My beloved responded and said to me,'Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along. 11'For behold, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. 12'The flowers have already appeared in the land; The time has arrived for pruning the vines, And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land. 13'The fig tree has ripened its figs,And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along!'"

For these reasons, I believe the rapture will be sudden and unexpected. Matt. 24:42 says, "Therefore be on the alert! For you do not know which day your Lord is coming." Matt. 25:13 says, "Be on the alert then! For you do not know the day nor the hour."

Why do we not know the day or the hour? Because He has to prepare a place for us, and when the preparations have been made, the Father will announce to the Son that He can return.

So. In my opinion, the virgins represent believers. Some are "whole hearted" and really believe, they are perfect in faith and sealed by the Spirit. But others are not. Some believers in the church believe with all their minds AND hearts - they are ready and prepared. The others may have believed to a point with their minds, but never really had in their heart in it - they "are not" prepared. They were only in it for the excitement, etc. They "will NOT" make it to the wedding procession. They will be "left behind". Some of these "lukewarm" people will endure the tribulation, I believe.

But, there will be others that are ready, and have oil in their lamps. They will be the one's whose only "object of faith" is Jesus Christ! That faith in Him alone will birth many things within them; They will be "sealed" by the Spirit; they will serve Him out of love for Him; they will be "filled" with His Spirit; they go to church; they will worship Him with all their heart, mind and soul; through their faith in Jesus Christ alone, and The Holy Spirit, they will "obey" Him. "They" will be the one's that are ready!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#15 - Explanation Begins And Then The Lord Will Return

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, "16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord." *(It's the wedding again! We, the bride, will be "caught up" to the Groom!) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus, we shall ALWAYS BE with the Lord!*

Then, the Wedding Celebration Will Begin!

In the ancient Jewish wedding, the bride is "carried" to the chuppah (canopy) in an apparion. The apparion is the box she sits in while being carried, much like the ones you see on old movies where the servants carry their masters in a box atop 2 poles with four handles, two on each end, that usually four people carried. So, why was this?

The arc of the covenant was carried on the shoulders of four priests. The bride is carried in the same manner on the "apparion" - notice the symbolism here - When the bride is brought under the chuppah to begin part two of the official wedding ceremony that will lead to the consummation, she is "**lifted up**", or "**caught up**"... and carried to her wedding place!

To me, THIS is the rapture of the church! The bride of Christ! Everything in this wedding is a picture of a "pre-tribulation" rapture!

Concerning the "Chuppah", also called "God's Covering" or "Canopy":

In the time of Moses, the cloud covering on Mt. Sanai was that "chuppah". The chuppah is where the couple to be wed stand, as the Rabbi begins to bless them.

The comparisons to this are:

- *In [Isaiah 26:17-21](#), Isaiah talks about a woman in "trevail". Jesus said there would be birth pains, or travail, before His coming.
 - *Isaiah says men will awake from the dust - [1Cor. 15:51](#) says that we shall arise if we are dead in Christ!
 - *Isaiah says, "Enter into your chamber"...- In [Revelations 4:1](#), the Saints enter into heaven!
 - *The bible says the "indignation" (this is a word that eludes to the tribulation) will be "passed".
 - *Matt. 24:29 says, "After the tribulation of those days, the Lord is coming to punish the earth."
 - *2Thess.1:8 says, " God will deal out retribution to those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

But the main point I wish to make is this:

[Isaiah 26:20-21](#) says, "20Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course.

21For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His placeTo punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.

What I believe the above scripture eludes to, is the chuppah, the covering of the Lord, the "canopy" where the bride and groom stand to receive blessing... A place where the wedding is "consumated".

Where will that be? On a sea of glass, before the Throne of God in heaven! What will be our covering? The Glory Of The Lord!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#16 - Best For Last

Lastly, I think I've saved the best for last. This is the thing that pretty much has me convinced of the "Pre-Trib" rapture of the church:

If you go back, for example do you remember when they ran out of wine at the wedding that Jesus attended? Do you know why they ran out of wine? Because back then, and even back into the Old Testament to Sampson's day and even before, a Jewish wedding lasted for SEVEN DAYS! **Back in that day, they held this "seven day reception" at the father's house!** And then the couple would return into the public for a celebration!

Hold on to your pencils:

The book of Revelation covers a seven year tribulation period. Forty two months, and forty two months. I believe we are outa here in chapter 4, verse 1 of Revelations, and we are back in chapter 19 at the end of a seven year period.

The tribulation is seven years on the earth - I don't think we will be seven days, but SEVEN YEARS IN HEAVEN UNDER THE "CHUPPAH"!

One of the final things we will do at the conclusion of the seven year time frame, according to the chronology of the book of Revelation, is in Rev. 19:7 - "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the "Marriage of the Lamb" has come and His bride has made herself ready!"

There is a banquet hall in heaven! Jesus said at the last supper that He would not drink of that cup again until the day that He drinks it in the Kingdom! Now when do "you" think He's going to drink it?

We must understand that not only does the bride and groom drink from a cup sitting at a table of agreement, but also the drink from a cup seals the wedding under the chuppah!

At the marriage supper of the Lamb, I think we're going to drink from a cup. He's going to give us the cup and rejoice in finally having His bride "with" Him!

After the blessing from the Rabbi's, it's time for the bride and groom to dance, at the ancient Jewish wedding! If you don't believe in dancing, you might want to consider changing your mind, because there is a good chance you'll be doing it there!

Pre-Trib Rapture; Post#18 - Summation:

In Summation:

- *Jesus gave us His Word.
 - *Jesus paid the price.
 - *The communion was drinking from the Lord's cup at the Lord's Supper. *That "sealed" the marriage.
 - *We have not seen Him have we? But we trust Him because He said He goes to prepare a place for us.

No man will know the day or the hour of His return, but when The Father gives the signal, He will return for us, His "protected bride", preluded by a shout from the Arch Angel and the trumpet of God.

Jesus fulfilled the first phase of the marriage, and we have already fulfilled the first part. But do we realize we are not just engaged to Jesus, but we are "Married" to Him?!? ALREADY!!!

But when we are "caught up" into that spiritual "apparion", and we are "caught up" and "carried" into the heavens, to The Father's House, and we step out under the "chuppah", in the Throne Room Of God, with the angels and the Lamb, breaking the seven sealed book, and then in chapter 11 of Revelation... the "supper" at the end... It will all be worth everything we had to endure, to be called to His Name!

I think, the "Ancient Jewish Wedding" is a picture of the "Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church", of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Amen & Amen!

In Christ's Vineyard,
Matt (*picture albums*)



Titus 2:11-14, "**For the Grace of God** *that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" (*This is our "evidence of faith")



"Grace (Jesus Christ) Is Our Saviour, our Teacher and our Motivation!"