

# *"Behold What Manner of Love!"*

## **Part Five – Behold the Bridegroom Cometh**

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Part four of this series explored YHUH's maxim that two can't walk together except they be agreed. Followers of YHUH find themselves walking increasingly contrary to the ways of the world and their unbelieving spouse. The common sentiment divorce is evil and wrong is challenged by YHUH's divorce from Israel Himself, setting the precedent for righteous divorce. Differences between believer and unbeliever increase until divorce becomes a necessity for YHUH to accomplish His full will in the believer's life. Thus this kind of divorce in an unequally yoked marriage is a judgment on the unbeliever, and a righteous act for the believer.

Divorce for any reason is painful and looms as a lonely and empty shadow over the lives of those who feel their hopes and dreams crushed. As weeping endures for the night, divorcees wonder if joy will ever come in the morning. YHUH meanwhile has plans beyond anything man has ever imagined ready to reveal to those who fully separate themselves from the world. As His faithful followers sever the final cherished ties between them and their unbelieving mates, YHUH prepares to show them His exciting plan for couples in His kingdom. This plan is revealed at the wedding feast promoted through the call *"Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him."* In part five we look at what this call really means, and the incredible opportunity afforded those who answer it.

First, we should look at the call *"Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him"* as literally as possible. Is this a real wedding with a real bridegroom? As we consider this option the story the Messiah tells of a wedding feast in Matthew 22 gives us substantial evidence of an excitingly literal wedding:

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

- (1) And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
- (2) Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
- (3) Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:2-14)

In this story we see three scenes as numbered above. In the first scene the king makes a marriage for his son and sends his servants to call those who are bidden to the wedding and they refuse to come. The next scene he sends other servants to further invite those who were bidden the first time to the wedding, but they make light of it and give excuses not to come, while others actually kill the servants. At this the king becomes angry and sends his armies to destroy the murderers and burn their city. In the third scene, the king tells his servants those who were bidden and refused to come were not worthy, so he instructs them to go and invite anyone they can find, both bad and good, and the wedding is finally furnished with guests. One of the guests comes without a wedding garment and is taken away into outer darkness.

Obviously this wedding spans a long space of time, so it seems to be only a parable. However, details such as killing people and burning a city are literal. In order to understand this seeming inconsistency we need to go back to the beginning when YHUH united the first couple. As we understand the big picture, the details of the wedding fall into place beautifully.

Marriage on earth started when Eloheem created a man and woman and united them as one so they would be in His image, male and female. This male/female image of YHUH and His Son teaches us they also are male and female, meaning they both must have Brides as well. When Adam and Chavah sinned the Messiah became Heaven's representative of YHUH's design for men, and His Bride the same for women. Those who become like them can then be united by YHUH in His image, male and female, to achieve their likeness again.

For this reason the Messiah became the Bridegroom pattern, and His wife the Bride pattern, for all who desire to be united with their YHUH-appointed mate for His kingdom. YHUH then planned a wedding for all who came into His Son's likeness to be united to those who came into the likeness of His Son's Bride. This is why we see references to the bridegroom that pertain to the Messiah as well as to others:

Messiah as Bridegroom: *And YHUH Saviour said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast. Matthew 9:15*

Others as bridegroom: *Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate. Jeremiah 7:34 (see also Jeremiah 16:9; 25:10)*

If we plug this understanding into the wedding parable then it makes sense how it can be literal even though it spans a long space of time. Just as YHUH started the wedding process in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Chavah, He continues to seek to reproduce His image in us by re-creating us like the Bridegroom and Bride, and then uniting together in pairs those who come into their likeness. The wedding feast is the celebration for the completion of this union amongst His followers, which then makes them one with Him.

So it is ever since the Garden of Eden YHUH has been inviting mankind to the wedding feast celebrating His people being united together in His image, male and female, and thereby being united with Him and His Bride, and His Son and His Son's Bride. This is the unity the Messiah spoke of that He and His Father have always longed for with us:

*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. (John 17:21-23)*

The first invitation to this wedding is found in the call YHUH gave Israel to come out of Egypt: "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness." Exodus 5:1. When the time came for this feast YHUH called Moses up to Mt. Sinai to give Him His covenant for the people, which was His law written on two tables

of stone. This covenant represented a marriage contract; as they kept His law He could then build their homes by uniting them in pairs, giving them children, and blessing them in His land. Thus the feast YHUH called Israel out of Egypt for was the covenant or wedding feast, called the Feast of Weeks because of the count between Passover and this important day for celebrating the fulfillment of YHUH's union with His people through uniting them together in His likeness. I can almost see YHUH excitedly counting the days, hoping we would be doing the same. This was the day His people would be set apart as His peculiar treasure:

*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: Exodus 19:4,5.*

Israel would then become a treasure to YHUH above all people, even as a husband declares regarding His Eloheem-given wife “*Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*” Proverbs 31:29. The wedding feast celebrates YHUH setting His people apart for Himself even as a wedding celebrates a husband and wife being set apart for each other. The key to understanding this feast is that YHUH sets His people apart for Himself by joining them in couples who are then one with Him because they are in His likeness, male and female, keeping His law together.

This understanding explains why the golden calf apostasy was such a travesty. YHUH and Israel had just ratified the marriage covenant with the sprinkling of blood when YHUH called Moses up to Mt. Sinai to receive the covenant stones. While Moses was gone Israel betrayed their covenant with YHUH. He wanted to write His law on their hearts and recreate them into couples in His image, but they chose to indulge in the worldly practices between men and women instead. Notice what Israel was doing on this feast day YHUH had dedicated to celebrating His marriage covenant with them:

*And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To-morrow is a feast to YHUH. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play... And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.... And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)... Exodus 32:5, 6, 19, 25.*

This wasn't just a fun meal with some entertainment. Somehow this party was a corruption of YHUH's plan, for He told Moses “*Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them” Exodus 32:7,8.*

We can see how this was a corruption of YHUH's plan when we look at the meaning of the words “play” and “dancing.” “Play” is the same word used in Genesis 39:14 but translated as “mock” in which Joseph was accused of laying with Potiphar's wife: “*That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:.. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:” Genesis 39:14.*

The word “dancing” is also used in Judges 21:21-25 in which the daughters of Shiloh came out to dance so the children of Benjamin could take wives according to what was right (pleasing or convenient) in their own eyes:

*And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, Be favourable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them at this time, that ye should be guilty. And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.*

*And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance. In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.* Judges 21:21-25.

In other words, when the Israelites were “dancing” and “playing” at the golden calf they were engaging in sexual play between males and females and choosing spouses from amongst themselves.

Once we understand the feast YHUH brought Israel out of Egypt to keep was actually a celebration of the marriage covenant between YHUH and Israel we can see why their actions on that day were so appalling. Instead of seeking YHUH's marriage for them in unity in the truth, they sought sexual fulfillment through pleasure seeking instead. This is exactly the conditions that existed before the flood and will exist in the last days:

*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of Eloheem saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And YHUH said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh:... And Eloheem saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that [.] And it repented YHUH that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. (Genesis 6:1-6)*

*And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. (Luke 17:26-27)*

In the days of Noah, at Mt. Sinai, and in the last days men and women are found seeking fulfillment of their own desires in man-made marriages rather than seeking for YHUH to marry them in the truth thereby making them one with Him. No wonder YHUH was grieved in His heart as His marriage plans were rejected and replaced by man's marriages.

So we see the fulfillment of the first scene in the Messiah's marriage feast story. The invitation went out to Israel to bid them to the feast for the wedding at Mt. Sinai and they would not come. Stephen relates this event in his speech before he was stoned:

*This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. (Acts 7:38-41)*

The next scene in the story of the wedding feast describes how the king sends other servants to further invite those who were bidden the first time to the wedding, but they make light of it and give excuses not to come, and eventually some of them even kill the servants. The king is so angry he sends his armies to destroy the murderers and burn their city. This fulfillment is seen in the Messiah's heart-wrenching words to the leaders of Israel:

*Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres. Therefore also said the wisdom of Eloheem, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation. Luke 11:47-51.*

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how*

*often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.* Matthew 23:37-39.

The Messiah's declaration that their house is left desolate, followed by the burning of Jerusalem in 70 AD., fulfills the second scene of a so far sad turn-of-events for the wedding feast.

Next comes the third scene where everyone is invited to the wedding, “*both good and bad*” in which “*many are called, but few are chosen.*” This explains the commission the Messiah gave His servants to take the gospel, which is the good news about the covenant, to all the world: “*And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” Mark 16:15. Even though everyone is invited to become one with YHUUH through the covenant wedding feast, not all who come to the wedding will qualify.

“*Many are called*” as YHUUH instructs His people in Babylon “*Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues.*” Alongside this call is the invitation to the wedding, “*Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him.*” These two commands call His people out of oneness with the world to bring them into oneness with Him. The call to come out of Babylon requires coming out of any relationships tying us to Babylon, including unequally yoked Babylonian marriages. The warning we must come out of these relationships agrees with the proverb “*A companion of fools shall be destroyed.*” (Proverbs 13:20). Malachi 3:14 tells us the wife is “*thy companion.*” This means if a man or woman has as their companion (spouse) a fool, then they will be destroyed, even as Achan's wife was destroyed with him when he stole the Babylonian garments from Jericho.(Joshua ?).

We must come “out” in order to “go” into the wedding. Sadly, as exciting and full of promise as this invitation is, of those who respond to it, few will qualify to be chosen. The question this naturally brings up is whether or not this invitation is literal like the rest of the wedding story has proven to be. We don't want to miss the wedding because we symbolized away the invitation!

In order to be consistent we can't take just part of the wedding story and say “This isn't really going to happen because it's only symbolic” when the other scenes happened literally. Taking all of this story literally is confirmed in Zephaniah where we see the wedding events condensed into one verse:

*Hold thy peace at the presence of Adonay YHUUH: for the day of YHUUH is at hand: for YHUUH hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the YHUUH'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel. (Zephaniah 1:7-8)*

YHUUH bid His guests just like He said He would, and He's punished those who mistreated His servants as well. Now He also will punish those “*clothed with strange apparel*” because they come to His sacrifice inappropriately dressed, just like the man who came without the wedding garment.

This means there is one more invitation for the wedding feast, and this invitation is literal, and this time guests will come. Will you recognize the invitation? Will you be one of the guests? If it is your desire to be at the wedding then you will want to understand how the invitation and wedding are literal.

The way the wedding feast will be filled with guests is literal, perhaps surprising, and truly exciting. YHUUH says He's going to start out small: “*Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever; the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I YHUUH will hasten it in his time.”(Isaiah 60:21-22)*

In the Hebrew “*little one*” is “qatan” and “*small one*” is “tsaor” and mean “diminutive, literally in quantity, size or number, or figuratively in age or importance” and “little in number, few” respectively.

How few and insignificant will this little and small one be? The answer is amazing. Notice YHUH says “I YHUH will hasten it in HIS time.” The singular pronoun “his” must be referring to the “little one” who will become a thousand. Could this little one be a bridegroom representing the Messiah whom YHUH unites with the woman He chooses for him to achieve Eloheem's likeness as He planned in the beginning? The Messiah said, “Fear not little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32). David tells us who the flocks are that YHUH makes:

*Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock. The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of YHUH. (Psalms 107:41-43)*

YHUH makes “families like a flock” as they hear His voice and separate from the world to follow Him: “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” (John 10:16). As YHUH forms His little family flock, we are told the wise will see when this happens and they will “understand the lovingkindness of YHUH.”

YHUH never changed. He is the same now as He was in the beginning and He wants now what He wanted then. Just as He gave freedom of choice to Adam and Chavah, so does everyone in His kingdom have the power of choice for their lives. No one forces anyone into the Messiah's kingdom. And just as He made Adam and Chavah male and female united as one flesh in His image, so does He recreate His followers to be the same. In the last days YHUH will start with “a small one” that will become “a strong nation” just like He started with the first family, a small one in the garden of Eden, that He intended to become a strong nation for Him:

As the wise see YHUH's lovingkindness as He puts a small family flock together, this small start will become something big that YHUH calls “my planting” (Isaiah 60:21). This planting is further described as a wedding:

*To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of YHUH, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of YHUH: men shall call you the Ministers of our Eloheem: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I YHUH love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which YHUH hath blessed. I will greatly rejoice in YHUH, my soul shall be joyful in my Eloheem; 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. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so Adonay YHUH will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:3-11)*

This passage is loaded with meaning. YHUH's planting, which He says will start out as a little one, are described as a bride and bridegroom who are dressed in the garments of praise, the white raiment of the wedding feast:

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:7-9)*

This planting, as the first bride and bridegroom in the last days are married YHUH's way, will begin the process of other couples being united in truth, which builds as one couple after another are united in truth by YHUH so righteousness and praise springs forth before all the nations. These couples will be named the priests of YHUH and His ministers. He says He will direct their work in truth, and make an everlasting covenant with them, for the covenant of marriage between them and YHUH will never end. So it is their seed and their offspring will become known among the Gentiles as YHUH opens the wombs of the wives to bear children fulfilling Psalms 113:9: *“He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye YHUH.”*

While YHUH is one by one marrying His couples through uniting them in truth with the pure love from heaven, the world blindly pursues pleasure-seeking while committing to man-made marriages. When an invitation comes to attend a wedding feast in honor of a couple who are united in truth by YHUH it will take discernment to recognize what is going on.

This brings us to a very important question. How are we to know who the bridegroom is that we are to be prepared to go with into the wedding? We already showed from Scripture this is either the Messiah or someone who is like Him. This means the first and most obvious proof for the bridegroom is his character. He must be keeping the Torah and obeying the testimony for our day even as the Messiah did in His day. This is not something that is merely symbolic in his life, but is literally lived out. This is so simple and straightforward a child can understand it, which is why we are admonished, *“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous”*(1 John 3:7), and *“If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”* (1 John 2:29).

This proof is critical for discerning between the counterfeit and the true. If a man divorces his wife to marry another woman, it is automatically assumed he was unfaithful to his wife. In most cases this is true. However, if a righteous man divorces his wife because YHUH shows him he is unequally yoked with her outside the truth and YHUH wants to unite him with a righteous woman so they can be in His image, then this divorce is not because of unfaithfulness by the husband. Yet the appearances are very similar. Both men are divorcing their wives, and both men may have strong relationships with another woman. The difference is that one man is living his life in strict obedience to YHUH, and the other man is not.

Obviously this leaves a lot of “wiggle room” for people to justify having an affair on their spouse. They could say it is YHUH's will for them to be with someone other than the one they married, when they were instead seduced by lust. Of course YHUH knows if they are divorcing their spouse because He is leading them to do so, or because of their own heart. This makes it mandatory for anyone who is feeling led to divorce their spouse to examine their hearts to make sure they are doing so in obedience to YHUH and not because of their own lusts.

It takes the same kind of discernment to know when YHUH brings two people together. While man-made marriages are held together by physical attraction, emotions, false doctrines and compromised beliefs, YHUH joins couples together with truth. As two people devote themselves to learning from and obeying YHUH, they become likeminded in the truth. As they enjoy this fellowship in the truth, YHUH then gives them His love from heaven to reveal to them the union He has planned for them. As they in amazement behold this love that is unlike any they have ever experienced before, they can't help but have questions. What kind of love is this? Is it right to love someone in the truth this way?

Since those who follow YHUH are accustomed and determined to walk by the light of Scripture, they study to find instruction for what they are experiencing. If what is happening to them is wrong, then they want to *“avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away”* (Proverbs 4:15). If it is from YHUH then they want to take fast hold of it and let it not go, knowing it is their life (Proverbs 4:13).

This leads to the discovery of the real meaning of YHUH's command "*that ye love one another*" (John 15:17). As we looked at this love in previous parts to this series we beheld nearly in disbelief "*what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of Eloheem.*" What we learned was so contrary to what we were taught in our culture and religions that it seems as if our understanding of marriage and divorce was turned upside down. No wonder we are told "*therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*" (1 John 3:1). The world doesn't recognize the righteousness of YHUH's couples because they don't know the one who is authoring their lives. How could they understand the relationships He builds and fills with His love when they don't even know Him?

In part 4 of this series we noted how James explains that this issue is easy to err on:

*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of Eloheem: for Eloheem cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. James 1:13-18*

The warning not to err indicates many err here. They don't make the distinction between those who are tempted and give in to lust from those who receive YHUH's good and perfect love bestowed on His children without any lust. Seeing worldly lust and YHUH's love as the same, they condemn them both. Because they don't know YHUH, they don't recognize His people or the love He gives them.

The invitation to the wedding feast for YHUH's couples tests people's knowledge of Him. Those who know Him, and recognize His righteousness in the lives of His followers, will see the validity of the union of those whom His truths have united while the world is condemning them. This test will require people to either admit that man-made marriages are a counterfeit to the true and will desire to go to the marriage feast for YHUH's couples, or they will condemn the YHUH created unions as an assault on the man-made marriages that they hold as true and binding.

If we put YHUH's plan for uniting His righteous followers together, male and female, to be one with each other and therefore in His likeness and one with Him, alongside satan's plan to create a one world government united under him, then we can see the two great powers of good and evil with their respective kingdoms in the last days arrayed for battle. The Messiah's kingdom is united by truth and love from heaven. His followers have one mind and one heart because their minds and hearts are representative of His. They are one with Him by their choice, and one with each other by YHUH's design as He bestows His love from heaven on men and women to unite them as couples after His image just like He did in the beginning for Adam and Chavah.

In the final showdown between the two kingdoms, YHUH pits His original plan of a man and woman in His likeness against satan's monstrous plot of a world united in compromise, force and deception. As we noted earlier, in Isaiah 60:21 we are told He starts with a "little one":

*"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation" (Isaiah 60:21).*

In Zechariah YHUH describes the day of "*small things*" which is the same Hebrew word "qatan" used in Isaiah 60:21. This is describing the day when the "*small one*" will be important. He then shows Zechariah two olive trees on either side of a candlestick and told Zechariah what these two olive trees associated with the day of small things were:

*For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of YHUH, which run to and fro through the whole earth. Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of*

*the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Master of the whole earth. (Zechariah 4:10-14)*

In the day of small things these two olive trees will be seen which stand on either side of the candlestick. John identifies the two olive trees as YHUH's two witnesses in the last days:

*And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the Eloheem of the earth. Revelation 11:3,4.*

This means this “*small one*” in Isaiah 60:21 is referring to just two people who witness in behalf of YHUH's kingdom in the last days. Since the small one is “*the branch of (YHUH's) planting*” (Isaiah 60:21) that becomes a strong nation, and His planting is described “*as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels*” (Isaiah 61:10), it becomes apparent that the two witnesses are a bridegroom and bride. This is why the call “*Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him*” is so important for differentiating between the wise and foolish. Only the wise will recognize by the message and character of this couple united by YHUH in truth and love that they are indeed the small and insignificant “qatan” whom YHUH will use as His witnesses in the last days..

While YHUH positions His two witnesses, and instructs them to invite everyone, bad and good, to their wedding feast, satan is moving his pawns into position. The beast, the image to the beast, and the kings of the earth unite to force the inhabitants of the earth into their counterfeit unity based on power, compromise, pride, fear, lust and love of money. The hierarchy required in order to achieve this unity has been carefully laid over the years. Heads of governments rule over religions who rule over husbands who rule over wives and children. As long as no one breaks the chain of command, satan has unchallenged power because he owns the pawns at the top. When everything is in place satan will call for the implementation of the mark of the beast. Now, anyone who doesn't join his “oneness” group will not be able to buy or sell, and eventually will be threatened with death.

YHUH's two witnesses, though small and insignificant to the world, are given tremendous power as YHUH's representatives. Earth was lost by one couple, and it seems YHUH is going to use one couple in the end to recover what was lost. This couple will fulfill what Adam and Chavah failed to do. They exhibit YHUH's likeness as a united male and female, and demonstrate His character through their obedience to His law and their love for one another and others.

As satan's powerful one world government is quickly forming, all evidences point to an easy victory. How could an insignificant couple stand up to his mighty forces? Truly this becomes the Elijah showdown replayed as the same power behind Elijah is now manifested behind the two witnesses and the same power behind the prophets of Baal is behind all the world powers combined. As Elijah called fire down from heaven, the two witnesses also devour their enemies with fire and have power to shut heaven so it doesn't rain and turn the waters to blood and smite the earth with plagues (Revelation 11:3-6).

This is decision-making time for mankind. As they witness the character and power of the two sides of the conflict they align themselves with one side or the other. Most will choose to join the Beast power and its allies either because they believe sacrificing truth for the sake of unity is right and they agree in using force in order to achieve this unity, or they are too afraid to resist. Some however will see the rightness in the message of the two witnesses that testify that YHUH uses truth to unite His people in His kingdom, not compromise, and those who seek His kingdom do so because they love, trust and obey Him of their own free will. They desire the unity YHUH gives, including the union they obtain with Him through being recreated in His image, male and female, and receiving the incredible love from heaven that only He can bestow on that union

The result, as people align themselves with one camp or the other, is that the vast majority of people will be “*marrying and giving in marriage*” (Matthew 24:38) as it was in the days of Noah when men “*took them wives*

*of all which they chose.” (Genesis 6:2). Meanwhile YHUH will be recreating people for His image. The first couple are the “qatan” or “small one” who begin the process called His planting. As they forge the way, other righteous men and women obey YHUH's command to come out of unequally yoked and therefore compromising relationships so He can now unite more couples in His likeness. In this way righteousness and praise spring forth one couple after another before all the nations (Isaiah 61:11). Expedient in this whole conflict then is the marriage decision: do people support and defend the man-made marriages governed by the kingdoms of this world, or do they believe in YHUH recreating couples in His image and uniting them for His kingdom?*

The feast of Pentecost now takes on a wonderful meaning and role for YHUH's people. I've wondered before why YHUH required attendance in Jerusalem for a one day feast (Deuteronomy 16:16). Traveling by foot all the way to Jerusalem for a week-long feast seemed worthwhile; but what was so significant about the feast of Pentecost that YHUH would expect His people to travel that far for just one day?

The significance of Pentecost is that it is a wedding feast! YHUH first demonstrated this when He sought to give the marriage covenant to Israel at Mt. Sinai:

*And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of Eloheem. Exodus 31:18.*

We see the wedding theme again when the disciples gathered to keep Pentecost after the Messiah returned to heaven. Notice the disciples gathered “*with the women*” The Greek word for “*women*” in this verse is “*goonay*” and means “*a woman, specifically a wife.*” Thus YHUH confirmed His covenant with couples on this Feast of Pentecost:

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8.*

*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of YHUH Saviour, and with his brethren. Acts 1:14.*

The power YHUH gave His disciples with their wives at this Pentecost will be seen again when His two witnesses appear in the last days:

*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.*

According to the precedents set at Mt. Sinai and after the Messiah's ascension, YHUH will make His covenant with the two witnesses and give them His power at the feast of Pentecost just like He gave His power at Pentecost previously.

We also see the marriage theme at Pentecost in the symbol of leavened bread waved at the feast. This is the only feast in which leavened bread is brought before YHUH:

*And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto YHUH. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto YHUH... And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before YHUH, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to YHUH for the priest. And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. Leviticus 23:15-17, 20, 21. .*

At Pentecost two loaves of leavened bread are waved before YHUH as symbols of the two tables of stone He

gave us at Mt. Sinai written on our hearts of flesh:

*Behold, the days come, saith YHUH, that 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 bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith YHUH: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith YHUH, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their Eloheem, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:31-33)*

The two stones and the two loaves therefore represent two people. The law was written on two tables of stone at Pentecost because this was the covenant YHUH was establishing for the perfecting of His people in His likeness. Even as the law was not complete except the two stones were together, so is the fulfillment of that law not complete unless it is written on the hearts of two people who complete YHUH's likeness. A couple recreated and united in YHUH's likeness have then entered His marriage covenant. This is the meaning of the feast of Pentecost.

YHUH desires us to “*be made perfect in one*” (John 17:22) today just as He did in Eden when He created a likeness of Himself in the form of male and female. Adam was not perfect until he was united with Chavah, for YHUH declared “*It is not good that the man should be alone;*” (Genesis 2:18). In order for us to be perfect again we have to be made one as Adam and Chavah were: “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*” Genesis 2:24.

The marriage feast then culminates the wonderful process of our perfection so we again are in the likeness of our Father in Heaven: “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*” (Matthew 5:48).

In Isaiah YHUH speaks of the the people He forms for Himself:

*Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise. Isaiah 43:19-21*

Amazingly He calls the forming of these people a “*new thing*” that “*springs forth.*” We saw in Isaiah 61 how the setting up of His brides and bridegrooms would “*spring forth*” before all the nations. These couples and their children constitute His people who shew forth His praise. Since YHUH has been sending out the invitation to His wedding throughout history but the wedding is filled with guests only in the end, truly this then will be a “*new thing.*”

The call “*Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him*” is the final call to the new thing YHUH is doing in forming His people for Himself in these last days. As He unites His people in couples to complete and perfect them in His likeness, He invites everyone to the wedding feast to celebrate what He is doing. This invitation starts at the feast of Pentecost. As the invitations go out it becomes decision time for mankind. Do they choose the kingdom that marries couples in compromise and forced obedience to man-made laws, seductions, and pleasure seeking? Then they will choose what the antediluvians chose:

*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, Matthew 24:37,38.*

Or do they choose the kingdom that unites couples in truth and loving obedience to YHUH so they are recreated in His perfect likeness? Those who accept this invitation are likened to the wise virgins whose lamps were lit. They have the discernment to recognize the validity of YHUH's couples being united by Him as opposed to the commonly accepted marriages instituted by man. They also recognize when a man

qualifies as a representative of the Messiah as the bridegroom. By attending the wedding feast of a couple united by the truth they are choosing YHUH's way over man's way. This is why all the guests at the wedding feast must wear the wedding garment signifying their acceptance of YHUH's instructions for this wedding feast.

Now we can understand why the cry "*Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him*" is so important. This invitation prepares people for the coming kingdom with a renunciation of the manmade replacements for YHUH's couples, and a seeking after the fulfillment of YHUH's dream of males and females united by Him in His likeness for His kingdom.

Are you ready to get an invitation to a kingdom wedding feast? Most people will quickly answer "yes, I would love to go." But when the invitation actually comes, Scripture tells us most will say no. Why? Why won't most people accept this invitation? Because going to this feast will not just be a party to attend. It will require a change in their thinking that most people will object to. The bride and bridegroom will be people who have separated themselves from the world in ways that most people don't understand. The members of their former churches don't understand why they left the church and most likely believe the accusations made against them by their church leaders as dangerous, prideful, and legalistic. Their families and friends will likewise not understand why they left their spouses who they were unequally yoked with. In a society that condemns divorce for any reason except sexual infidelity, they will be accused of being unloving and unfaithful. Their unusual beliefs will further alienate them from the masses as they go about dressed according to Scripture, keeping the Sabbath and Feast days on a different calendar, and refusing to use words that glorify pagan deities while insisting on praying only to YHUH. To go to a wedding of a couple like this will require spiritual discernment most people won't have. So they excuse themselves on the basis of other priorities in their lives. It's easier to say no to this unconventional wedding feast than to risk being identified with people who are spurned in society.

As the wedding feast message is spread, most the friends and families of the brides and bridegrooms will oppose their union even as they opposed everything else the bride and bridegroom did in their pursuit of righteousness. So YHUH tells His servants to go and invite everyone, good and bad, to the feast. Those who don't know the couples will not be prejudiced against them by the reputation they have amongst their family and friends, so they will not be opposed to attending their wedding. They might be surprised to be invited, but Scripture says they will agree to the invitation nonetheless and the wedding will be filled with guests.

The guests at the wedding feast of a couple YHUH unites will have the opportunity to learn what YHUH's plan is and choose if they want to be a part of that plan. If they do, then they also can choose to follow the path to the wedding feast that the bride and bridegroom chose. They will have to get the leaven of manmade doctrines out of their lives and overcome sin by the continual exercise of their Eloheem-given power of choice. They also must eat the Messiah's flesh and become one with Him through learning and obeying the doctrines of the Kingdom of Heaven. By getting out the old leaven and filling their lives with the new leaven, YHUH can then re-create them for a spouse just as He did for the bride and bridegroom at the wedding they attended. Now they can invite others to their wedding feast as YHUH uses truth to unite them with the spouse He re-creates them for. In this way YHUH's couples will spring forth before all the nations contrasting His way with the man-made marriage ways of the world.

Are you prepared to accept an invitation to a wedding feast like this? If you want to attend a wedding feast at Pentecost, then you need to get ready now. You don't know which year the invitations will go out. Be prepared to make a trip to Israel at any time. Get your white raiment and buy your passport for travel now. YHUH will help us as we help ourselves. He wants to see if we discern the gargantuan blessing He has in store for those who want Him to unite them as His couples in His likeness rather than in man-made marriages in the world. Is this what you want?

In our next study we will look at what a relationship made by YHUH is like as compared to the relationships formed by man. This is the finale of history as YHUH's dream of what men and women would be to each other and Himself is fulfilled in the relationships that He creates at their request. These unions are filled with a love from heaven that is nearly incomprehensible to man. Yet we are asked to behold it. In our next study we will

attempt to behold what manner of love YHUH hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of Eloheem, just like He created Adam and Chavah to be. If you haven't been convinced to want to attend the wedding feast of a couple YHUH joins in this manner yet, then after beholding the manner of love YHUH bestows on His couples, hopefully you will not only want to attend the wedding feast, but you will want to qualify for a wedding like this for yourself as well. Then you can become a part of the planting of YHUH that springs forth before all the nations as His righteousness and praise are demonstrated by the couples who fulfill what His original design was and always will be.