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REVELATION 19:5-9 = BREAKING BREAD (The cup of acceptance...)
[The Bride of Christ preparing her for the return of Christ]

#SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:26-30 (29), 1 Cor 11:23-26, Revelation 19:5-9 (7)

#SERMON=INTRODUCTION: Where/When was the one marriage ceremony you attended that you'll never forget? And then, *why was it unforgettable to you* - because of the location, the message, the vows or the reception/food?.. If you have children, and the possibility of a future wedding celebration is a reality, *what are the "special elements" you as parent (because you're older/more mature now) would like to suggest to your kids?..*

+TRANSITION: We know that the OC/OT was a forshadowing of things to come under/in the NC/NT. *Same applies to the guidelines Yahwe gave His people re the solemnisation of a marriage. It all pointed forward to our marriage with/the m'supper of the Lamb (REV 19).*

+EXEGESIS&APPLICATION: There are 3 phases: Engagement/solemnisation/celebration.
***The Decision:** *OT:* Somewhere in a Jewish home, a father calls his son: "My son, I've seen/picked the most beautiful bride for you. I want her to become my child too. I've found out where she lives. Please take the dowry and go and pay it to ensure she becomes yours. / *NT:* Jesus, God's only begotten/beloved Son (LUKE 2:22), was sent to earth to pay the price for His chosen bride. 1 PET 1:2 = "[To] the elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of JC."

*** (1) Engagement:**

~ (i) *OT:* He arrives at her home, knocks/enters & starts negotiating with her dad (according to the dowry he brought with). He also has a contract (ketubah) in which he promises/undertakes to take good care of her. After all of this he opens up another bag and takes out a chalice/cup, fills it with wine and puts it down in front of her/offers it to her. If she accepts his marriage offer, she'll take/accept the cup and drink of it. Once she has done it, they have cut a covenant. This covenant is binding, and although the marriage hasn't been officially solemnised - this covenantal relationship can only be nullified through a divorce. / *NT:* JOHN 3:16 / 1 COR 6:20 = "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." / LUKE 22:20 & 1 COR 11:25 = "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." In the light of what we have heard just now *re* the Jewish marriage under the OC/OT, *what Jesus implied by giving this 3rd cup of acceptance/salvation to these fisherman, was (a) that He was proposing: "Would you marry Me?" (b) Furthermore, up to this point the 3rd cup had always been left aside when the Jews celebrated the pass-over, because their promised Messiah hadn't come yet.* So this must have been quite outrageous to these simple men because by doing this, Jesus openly declared/confirmed that He indeed was the Messiah!

~ (ii) *OT:* The bridegroom then opens up another bag and blesses his new bride with the most wonderful gifts. Once he has left, the moment she sees/uses some of his gifts, *she'll be reminded of him and that she (in fact) belongs to him!* / *NT:* ACTS 1:4-8 = Gift of the power of the Holy Spirit (HS) / 1 COR 1:4-9 (7) = "...so that you come short in no gift." / EPHES 1:3 = "...who has blessed us with every Spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." JC gave us/His bride the ultimate gift, i.e. the Holy Spirit. *In practising the gifts/bearing the fruit of the HS, we are reminded that we're in a New Covenant (NC) with Him & belong to Him - our heavenly Bridegroom!*

~ (iii) *OT:* As he leaves, *the groom tells his bride that he's going to his father's home to prepare a place for the two of them (chadar).* It must be very special because during the 7

day wedding celebration, they'll be staying in it. NB: *Not even the groom himself knows when he'll be back to fetch his bride (could take up to 2 years!), because his father decides when the "bridal room" is finished/ready.* / NT: **JOHN 14:2-3** (part of the "Farewell discourse") = "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and receive you to Myself." **MARK 13:32** = "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

~ (iv) OT: While he's away, *the bride is being prepared/prepares herself for his return.* Apart from being anointed with oils/perfumes, *she also (at a certain point) goes through a purification bath (mikvah); it confirms her new status.* 1stly, by going under the water, she moves out from being under her dad's authority, and by coming up out of the water she moves underneath the covering of her new groom. 2ndly, with this ritual *she declares that she has now died to her "old life" (unmarried) and is resurrected into/with a new life/status.* / NT: **JOHN 3:5** = "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born from water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." / **ROM 6:3-6 (4)** = "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." **COL 2:11-12** = "...by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him..."

~ (v) OT: During this whole waiting period, *a small oil lamp burns continuously on her window-sill.* Why? Her groom can arrive any (unforseen) moment, and this burning lamp confirms to him (as he is approaching) that she is still faithfully waiting for him. / NT: **MATT 25:1-13** = 10 wise/foolish virgins waiting (virgins/church, lamps/Word, oil/HS).

* (2) *The solemnisation of the marriage:*

~ (i) OT: The father of the groom says all OK. With torches (*lappid*) and ramshorns (*shofar*) the groom, his 2 witnesses & other friends depart. *Close to bride's home they blow the shofar; they rush into the bride's home and "kidnap/snatch" her away.* In **EXOD 19:16-19** @ Mt Sinai, when God "engaged" Himself to Israel (10 commandments were "provisional ANC"), God's shofar was heard for the 1st time - and the sound grew louder & louder. / NT: **1 THESS 4:16-17** = Are we "rapture (*harpazzio*) ready"? *Feast of Trumpets* = this will be the 2nd time that we'll hear God's shofar. **MATT 25:1-13** = parable of the wise/ foolish virgins.

~ (ii) OT: The official solemnisation takes place at the groom's house. *He waits underneath a chuppah* (a small "canopy" made of the groom's prayer shawl, his *tallit*). The contract (*ketubah*) is read and is signed by the couple and 2 witnesses. *Then the couple once again drinks wine from a shared cup to seal the contract.* / *NT: The "*tallit chuppah*" symbolizes God's Presence and His covering. Tassels on the *tallit* = *tzitzit* (same word for the feathers at the end of an eagle's wings). **PS 91:4** = "He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge;" Jesus went to prepare our eternal covering (*chadar*) - the New Jerusalem. *Our marriage with our eternal Bridegroom, will officially be sealed at the "marriage supper of the Lamb":* **MATT 26:29** = "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

~ (iii) OT: Directly after this, the couple enters their prepared *chadar*. One of the groom's closest friends waits close to the room... *After a while he appears with the couple's blood-stained bridal sheet - the marriage has also physically been solemnised. Shouts of joy - she was a virgin, she kept herself pure for her groom.* / NT: Satan accuses us of not being "pure". *But the blood of the Lamb* - **REV 7:14** / **HEB 10:19**.

* (3) *The celebration:* 7 day celebration with many gifts exchanged.

+CONCLUSION: Let's celebrate our marriage to the Lamb...

(...\Preke\Nagmaal-B\Open19:7)