

A WEDDING AND ONE HUNDRED- EIGHTY GALLONS OF WINE

The first wedding ceremony was performed by God Himself in a beautiful garden, called the Garden of Eden. Since Adam was created before Eve, there was not found a helper meet for him fit to be his wife. God however, performed an astounding act to make this happen. He caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs or a part of his side and closed up the flesh. **And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man, He built up and made into a woman**, and He brought her to the man. Then Adam said, This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of a man. (Gen. 2:21-23). Adam's rib constituted a covenant that united the two to be one. They were one in the flesh, one in body in God's plans for them. The beauty of this union is very significant for today's confusing life style, for God didn't create two women, or two men to unite them as husbands and wives, but one male and one female in order to procreate and fill the earth. Constituted by God, the first wedding was sealed by Him, saying, therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). Adam woke up from surgery pleasantly surprised seeing what God had brought him out of his own body. He then called her Woman, for she was taken from him. She was created for him to be a help mate. Life was complete for Adam. In perfect harmony Adam and Eve lived happily in that beautiful garden, until sin entered into their souls. And their lives became what we experience today.

In the New Testament, John chapter 2, the story is told that YAHSHUA was invited to a wedding, perhaps his mother's family. The incarnated God, Who performed the first wedding in a garden, was now performing His first sign at the beginning of His ministry by participating in the celebration of the wedding, when providing a new wine at the end of the old one, - an ample supply of one hundred eighty gallons! (John 2:6) It was not just a wine as usual at a wedding celebration; It was a wine that symbolized the new covenant- the covenant of blood, which was to be made reality at the shedding of His blood for our redemption. It was the new covenant when Jews and gentiles would be as one in the sight of God, in His purpose of their salvation. As the bridegroom of His church, YAHSHUA was going to pay for His bride's redemption with His own blood. But it is necessary for His bride to be a willing bride, as it was in the case of Rebecca, who was willing to leave family behind to be Isaac's bride. YAHSHUA became the bridegroom of whosoever will accept His gift of redemption. When the time comes, He will come back to fetch His sanctified bride as she is now being sanctified by the Holy Spirit; She will be presented to Him blameless and holy. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, He constitutes the guarantee of her salvation. As a ring guarantees the bride of her bridegroom's commitment to her, so, the Holy Spirit seals us with the engagement ring guaranteeing our salvation. Revelation registers the future wedding of YAHSHUA with His bride by saying, **Let us rejoice and shout for joy; let us celebrate and ascribe to Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself. She has been permitted to dress in fine linen, dazzling and white- for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. That was the result of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification. Now glorified, the bride of Christ became as He is in holiness (Rev. 19:7-8).**

YAHSHUA'S response to His mother when she approached Him concerning the wine, "Woman, what is that to you and Me?", did not constitute lack of respect toward her. He directed His words to her in the manner of the Jewish custom. His response to her, showed His independence from her as a mother. Her responsibility as His mother had come to an end. At that moment, He was expressing His divinity as the Son of God, although still in the flesh. From that time on, YAHSHUA would be realized as the Son of God, through the works of miracles and wonders He was to perform. The time had come for Him to accomplish His Father's purpose for which He had come to do. The sign of the wine was His first sign, with many others to follow. That was the beginning of His ministry as the Son of God, which lasted three years- His last three years on earth. When Mary said, "Whatever He says to you, do it" she had stepped aside, recognizing His authority as the Son of God. More than anyone, Mary knew Who He was and for what purpose He had come to the world; she was just an instrument through whom God brought His Son to the world and that's all. The time had come however, for the glory of the Father to be revealed to the world through His Son apart from her. Mary's words confirmed the agreement of what YAHSHUA had told her. On another occasion, when He was just twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem to a feast, as it was their custom. And when the Feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy YAHSHUA remained behind in Jerusalem. Now His parents did not know this, but supposing Him to be in the caravan, they traveled on a day's journey; and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances and when they failed to find Him, they went back to Jerusalem, looking for Him all the way. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished and overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His intelligence and understanding and His replies. And when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, Child, why have You treated us like this? Here Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You. And He said to them, **How is it that you had to look for Me? Did you not see and know that it is necessary for Me to be in My Father's house?** Did you not know, Mary that my place is in the presence of my Father? That confirms the fact that Mary knew God's purpose to have sent His Son into the world. (Luke 2:41-52). The age of twelve in the Jewish custom marks the time when a boy or a girl becomes a Jewish adult. Now they are responsible for their own actions and can decide for themselves. So, YAHSHUA was not out of line when He behaved the way that He did. At thirty years old, His words expressed to His mother at the wedding were a reminder why He had come to the world. They echoed the words spoken to her at the time when He was twelve years old.

Before He died, YAHSHUA had one more thing to do in relationship with His mother, for being the oldest of seven children. While on the cross, seeing His mother and the disciple John He said to His mother, See, your son! Then He said to the disciple, See, your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home (John 19:26-27). With that, YAHSHUA fulfilled His duty of an older Son as it was the Jewish custom. His best friend, John, cared for her until she passed.

There will be a great wedding in the future. YAHSHUA'S bride awaits that day with anticipation. There will not be invited guests for the wedding itself, but there will be invited guests for the celebration afterwards. The invited guests will be the Old Testament saints. The celebration will be on earth, at the beginning of the millennium. Here my friends, I leave an invitation for you

while there is yet time for you to accept YAHSHUA as your Savior and Lord. He will be then your bridegroom and you will be His bride.