

# *Living Word Bible Class*

- 2 Corinthians 3:5-6
- *"And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."*

**SLB-033**

**12-10-06**

**Regeneration:  
Wedding and Betrothal Special**

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- *Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, Believe also in me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3.)*
- *“I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. This then is my joy, and it is complete. (John 3:29)*

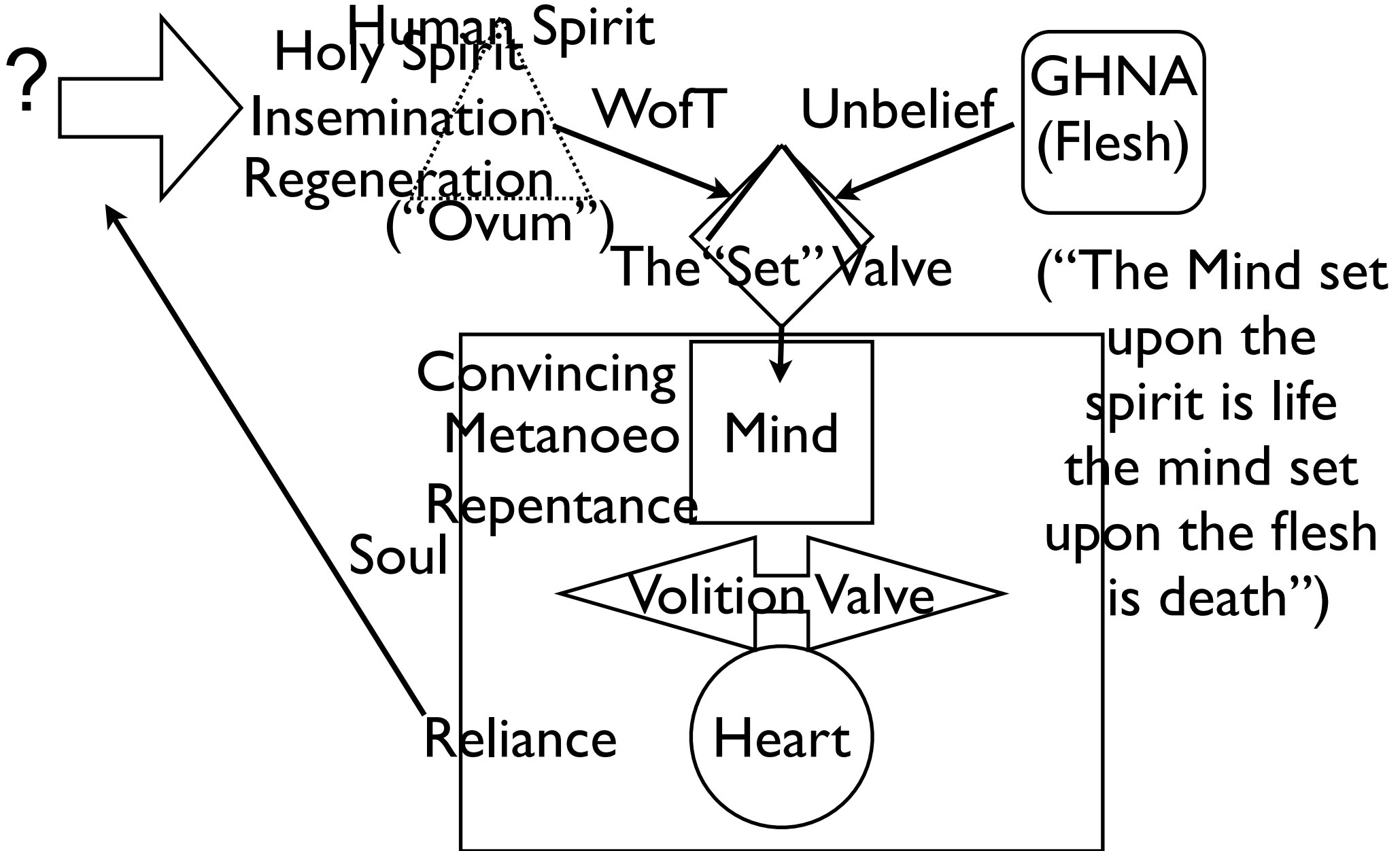
# Regeneration and Betrothal

- *Mark 2:19-20 And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bride do not fast, do they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day."*
- *Eph. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.*
- *Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- *Mt 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

# The Regeneration Mechanics



# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Luke 1:26-35
- <sup>26</sup>Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee. <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Luke 1:26-35
- <sup>32</sup>He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: <sup>33</sup>and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. <sup>34</sup>And Mary said unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: wherefore also the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God.



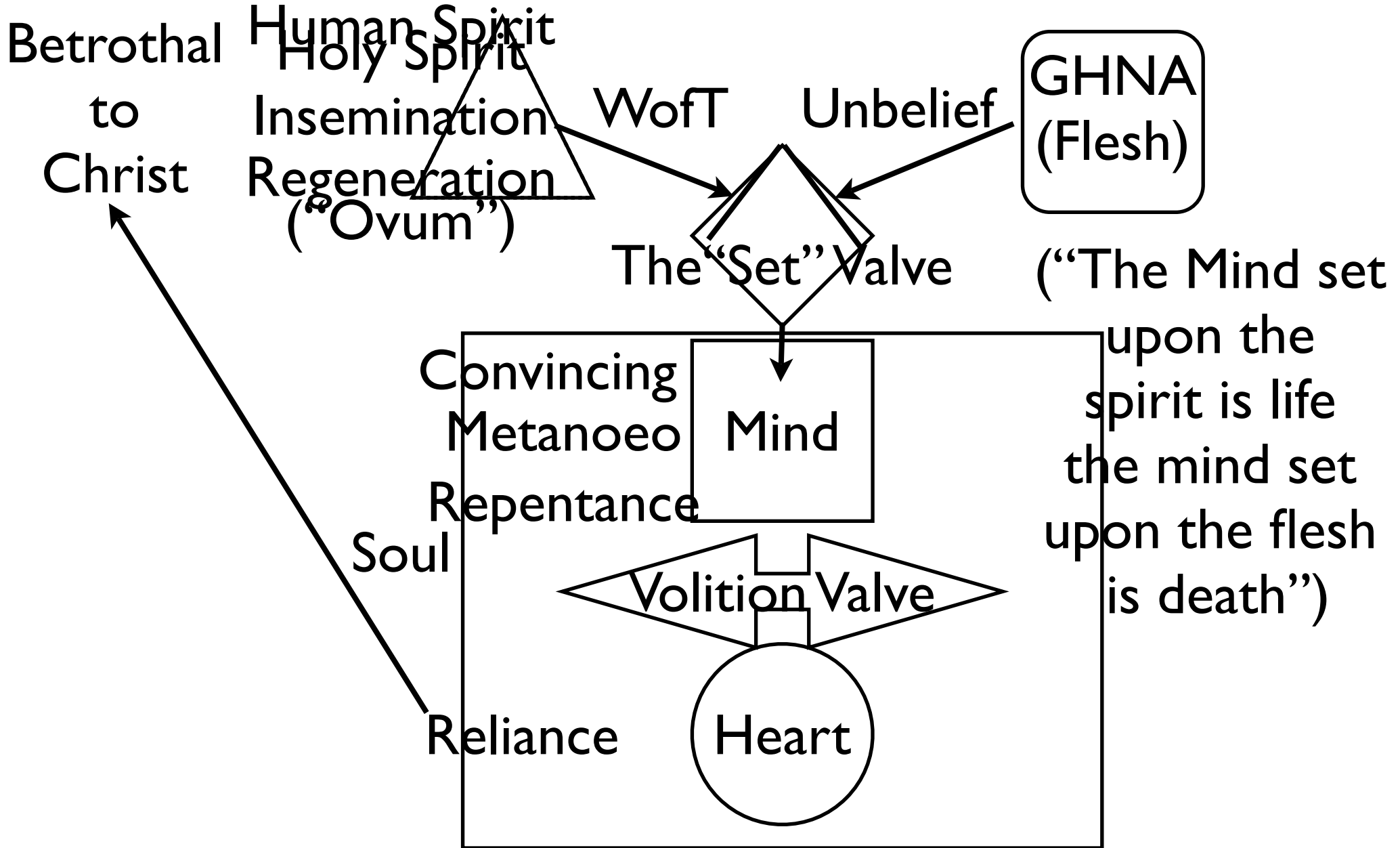
# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Luke 2: 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; <sup>5</sup>to enrol himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him, being great with child.
- It is not coincidental that it was during the betrothal phase of their marriage that the Holy Spirit conceived in Mary the Holy Child.
- It is during the present age, the betrothal age, the Church age, that the Holy Spirit “inseminates” us causing a Spiritual conception and birth from above..
- Therefore, a study of the Doctrine of Betrothal and Marriage is pertinent:

# Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal
- (Ephesians 5:31-32) *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery -- but I am talking about Christ and the church. (NIV)*
- *Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him; for the time has come for the wedding banquet of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. (Revelation 19:7 TLB)*
- Just as Mary was inseminated by the Holy Spirit during her Betrothal period of marriage, Regeneration, our Spiritual “insemination” resulting in a Spiritual conception and birth from above, during the Betrothal Age, the Church Age.

# The Regeneration Mechanics



# Regeneration and Betrothal

- The Unbeliever is Dead (Spiritual Death - no Spirit Function)
- Unbelief connects the GHNA (Flesh) to the Soul.
- The Word of Truth “closes”, flips the valve that joins them together.
- The Holy Spirit Convinces the Unbeliever.
- Repentance may result (metanoeo).
- Reliance (Belief) in Christ creates the Marriage Betrothal relationship for the Holy Spirit to enter.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- The Divine Romance
- At the heart of the Bible is an overlooked love story.
- It is the divine romance.
- It fills the Old Testament where the nation of Israel is seen as the wife of Jehovah, and it stretches throughout the new where the Church is shown to be the bride of Christ.
- God's intention, right from the Garden of Eden, is to have a people separated for Himself... a bride!

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Rev 21:2-4 *“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*”

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Jesus turned water to wine at a wedding as his first miracle.
- John 2:1 *And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:*  
2 *And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.*
- 11 *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*
- The interesting thing about this wedding feast is that it took place on the third day.
- [Hos 6:2] *After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Jewish weddings in the day of Christ began with a covenant. A prospective groom would “propose” his terms to the family of a prospective bride and their agreement would become a covenant between them. God has described our relationship with him as a covenantal one, and he describes his covenantal love of that of a husband.
- *"The day will come," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord.*  
(Jer. 31:31-32 NLT)



# Regeneration and Betrothal

- *Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, Believe also in me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3.)*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal
- Those who live in the modern western world do not catch the full significance of Jesus' promise.
- This is due to the fact that in His promise Jesus was referring to the Jewish marriage customs in biblical times.
- Since this is so, those marriage customs must be examined if one is to grasp the significance of the promise.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- The marriage relationship between Christ and the Church is described in Ephesians 5:31-32
- *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery -- but I am talking about Christ and the church."*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Eph 5:25 *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church... "*,  
2Cor 11:2 *"...I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."*,  
Rom 7:4....*"ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead..."*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- What does Scripture mean when it refers to the church as a bride and Jesus as a bridegroom?
- Is this just flowery language?
- Is it merely indicating God's love for His people?
- Understanding ancient Jewish wedding practices makes the meaning of Scripture clear.
- The wedding is a picture of the covenant Jesus made and reveals His plans to return for His bride, the church.
- The people of ancient Israel understood what Jesus was going to do because they understood the model of the wedding.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal
- Betrothal (kiddushin, or erusin) was a much more formal concept in Jewish antiquity than our modern state of engagement.
- A betrothed couple was, for all legal purposes, considered to be married.
- For example, men who were betrothed, even if not actually married, were subject to the one year exemption from military service (Deut. 21:7).
- The only respect in which this was not true was sexual---consummation of the marriage before the actual nuptials was forbidden.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- The ancient Jewish wedding ceremony God gave to the Jewish people was to teach us also about the wedding of the Messiah.
- This ceremony consisted of 12 steps.
- We will study the similarities to this wedding ceremony and the Church, or Bride of Christ today.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- First came the betrothal [*erusin*]; and later, the wedding [*nissuin*].
- Betrothal involved the establishment of a marriage covenant.
- By Jesus' time it was usual for such a covenant to be established as the result of the father of the prospective bridegroom taking the initiative.
- The representative of the prospective bridegroom would travel from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride.
- There he would negotiate with the father of the young woman to determine the price (mohar) that he must pay to purchase his bride.



# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 1. The selection of the bride.
- The bride was usually chosen by the father of the bridegroom. (*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. John 6:44*)
- The father would send his trusted servant, known as the agent of the father, to search out the bride.
- In Gen 24 , Abraham (a type of God the Father) wishes to secure a bride for Isaac (a type of Messiah) and send his servant Eliezer (a type of the Holy Spirit) to do this task.
- *And when He [the Comforter] is come, He will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 16:8)*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 1. The selection of the bride.
- The Bride must be willing
- Gen 24:8 "And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath".
- Luke 9:5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 2. A bride price was established.
- When a young man desired to marry a young woman in ancient Israel, he would prepare a contract or covenant to present to the young woman and her father at the young woman's home.
- The contract showed his willingness to provide for the young woman and described the terms under which he would propose marriage.
- The most important part of the contract was the bride price, the price that the young man was willing to pay to marry the young woman.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 2. A bride price was established.
- This payment was to be made to the young woman's father in exchange for his permission to marry. The bride price was generally quite high. Sons were considered to be more valuable than daughters since they were physically more able to share in the work of farming and other heavy labor. The bride price compensated the young woman's family for the cost to raise a daughter and also indicated the love that the young man had for the young woman -- the young woman was very valuable to the young man! The young man would go to the young woman's house with the contract and present his offer to the young woman and her father.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 2. A bride price was established.
- God ordained and established marriage and its divine sanctity in Genesis, when He brought Adam and Eve together to become one flesh. (Genesis 2:21-24)
- Adam is a type of Christ here. ([Rom 5:14](#))
- God had a deep sleep fall upon Adam.
- Sleep is synonymous with death. ([Eph 5:14](#))
- The deep sleep that God caused to fall upon Adam is a picture of the crucifixion and death of Jesus.
- God brought a deep sleep upon Adam so He could take a rib from the side of his flesh.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 2. A bride price was established.
- This required the shedding of blood.
- This is a picture of Christ who was pierced in the side of His flesh, shedding His own blood when He hung on the tree.
- From the rib of Adam, God made Eve.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 2. A bride price was established.
- 1 Peter 1:18 tells us of the price which Jesus was willing to pay for His bride.
- *'For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ...'*
- Jesus, being our bridegroom, paid a very high price for His bride, the body of believers.
- The price He paid was His life.
- [1Cor 6:20] *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 3. The establishment of the KETUBAH (the marriage contract):
- This contract states the bride price, the promises of the groom, and the rights of the bride. The groom promises to work for her, to honor, support, and maintain her in truth, to provide food, clothing, and necessities, and to live together with her as husband and wife. This contract was the unalienable right of the bride. It must be executed and signed prior to the wedding ceremony. The Bible is the believers contract. All the promises that God provided for the believers in Christ are legally ours.



# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 3. The establishment of the KETUBAH (the marriage contract):
- EVERY Jewish marriage was preceded by a contract that bound the 2 people together. See Matthew 26:28. It is interesting to note that the woman was under the control of her father until she was officially betrothed, at which point she came under the authority of the Groom. See John 8:44. The contract included the following items:
- The Groom is to provide for the bride's needs during the engagement period, as well as after. See 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:21-22 and Ephesians 1:13-14. The HOLY SPIRIT is given to us to “meet our needs” until we fully come into the marriage.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 4. The Cup
- Early in Jewish history, the tradition of the "cup of acceptance" was established.
- Once the terms of the ketubah had been specified and the father of the bride had agreed to them, the prospective bridegroom would pour a cup of wine for the prospective bride.
- The wine would be blessed with the ritual prayer: "Blessed art Thou, Eternal our God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, who has given us the fruit of the vine, Amen."
- If she agreed to the match, she would drink from the cup, indicating her acceptance.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 4. The Cup
- In this manner, the covenant was sealed, and the couple was considered to be betrothed.
- The betrothal period typically lasted one full year, commencing with the sealing of the covenant and ending with the nuptials themselves.
- Betrothal was legally binding, just like a marriage.
- The only difference was that the marriage was not yet consummated.
- A typical betrothal period was 1-2 years.
- During this time the bride and bridegroom each would be preparing for the marriage and wouldn't see each other.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 4. The Cup
- Just as the bridegroom would pour a cup of wine for the bride to drink to seal the marriage contract, so Jesus poured wine for His disciples.
- The wine-skin of wine provided by the groom was especially significant. The bride would be allowed to partake of it whenever she wished while he was absent, remembering him until he returned for her. He made a solemn promise when he shared the wine-skin of wine with her. On taking his leave to make His own wedding preparations, he would promise that he would not again partake of any wine at all until their actual wedding in his father's house.
- His words described the significance of the cup in representing the bride price for the marriage contract: Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." -- Matt. 26:28-29 The disciples drank of

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 5. The bride must give her consent.
- Genesis 24:58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.
- The personal application is to believers who accept his invitation to do so by faith. As His bride, we are saying 'I do'.
- John 20:29 *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 6. Gifts for the Bride
- Next, the bridegroom would present the bride with special gifts.
- The purpose of these gifts was to show the bridegroom's appreciation of the bride.
- They were called the “gifts of adornment”.
- They were also intended to help her to remember him during the long betrothal period.
- He provided her with all of her clothing needs.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 6. Gifts for the Bride
- While he was away, the bride would wear the robes her bridegroom provided, revealing to all around her that she was chosen and set apart in betrothal.
- She would set aside her previous wardrobe, and in all humility, love, and honor, wear the wardrobe her beloved provided.
- These betrothal robes identified her with her bridegroom, and gave him honor, letting all know who he was, and that he had rightful, and legal claim to her love and devotion, and she to his.
- Her clothing, and her actions revealed her betrothed state.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 6. Gifts for the Bride
- The gifts that Jesus gave us are the gifts of the Holy Spirit: *We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit -- 1 John 4:13.*
- Jesus described this gift in John 14:26: *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*



# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 6. Gifts for the Bride
- On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." -- Acts 1:4.
- The gifts to the bride are symbols of love, commitment, and loyalty.
- The gift God gives to those who accept Jesus is the gift of the Holy Spirit and our Spiritual Gifts.

# Regeneration and Betrothal

- 6. Gifts for the Bride
- When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He gave us gifts, including His righteousness, eternal life, grace, faith, and our spiritual gifts.
- Ephesians 4:7 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*