

SLB-034
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Regeneration:
Wedding and Betrothal Special

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 7. Mikveh
- The Bride would ceremonially bathe in a Mikveh ritual bath showing her purity and worthiness to be wed, indicating the wedded union could be consummated in holiness.
- (The Mikveh was not a cleansing, but a testimony of purity, ending the days of purification.)
- Mikveh is the same word used for baptism.
- To this day in conservative Judaism a bride cannot marry without a Mikveh.
- The Mikveh, or baptism that Jesus provided for His bride was baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 7. Mikveh
- The Mikvah indicates a separation from a former way to a new way of life.
- In the case of marriage, it indicates leaving an old life for a new life with your spouse.
- Ephesians 5:26 *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*
27 *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 7. Mikveh
- Even the groom would enter a Mikveh, showing his purity.
- Jesus Christ was baptized, not because He was impure, but because He was pure.
- This took place in fulfillment of the Mikveh emersion necessary for the High Priest to fulfill his ministry duties and the Mikveh of the Bridegroom.
- Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, not because of any need for repentance, which was John's baptism for those coming to him, but to fulfill the Torah Law initiating Christ into His ministry and to identify Him as the Bridegroom.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 7. Mikveh
- According to Dr. Paul Maier, Professor of Ancient History, Michigan State University, in compliance with the Mosaic Law, John was supposed to be the High Priest following his father, Zachariah.
- But powers within the Jewish religious hierarchy who wanted to appease the Herodians under the Romans, appointed the High Priest instead.
- So Jesus' baptism was performed by John in complete fulfillment of The Mosaic Law, since John was of the appropriate godly line of High Priests.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 7. Mikveh
- John transferred his own rightful mantle of High Priest (whose position had already been usurped by imposters) to the Eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ, knowing that as The Lamb of God, Jesus would not be prevented from fulfilling His position to take away the sins of the world.
- Jesus Christ fulfilled the Mikveh, showing His purity, and His High Priestly position.
- He only had to do this once, just as we only need to be baptized once following our salvation.
- So, both the Bride and the Groom give testimony that they are ceremonially pure!

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 8. The bridegroom departs to prepare the bridal chamber.
- [John 14:2] *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.*
- At this point, the bridegroom leaves for his father's house to prepare the bridal chamber for his bride.
- It was understood to be the man's duty to go away to be with his father, build a house, and prepare for the eventual wedding.
- Before he goes, though, he will make a statement to the bride, "I go to prepare a place for you; if I go, I will return again unto you."

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 8. The bridegroom departs to prepare the bridal chamber.
- During the betrothal period, the bridegroom would prepare a wedding chamber for the honeymoon.
- This chamber was typically built in the bridegroom's father's house.
- The wedding chamber had to be built to the groom's father's specifications.
- Before the bridegroom could go and get the bride, his father had to be satisfied that every preparation had been made by the son.
- Only then could he give permission to the son to go and get the bride.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 8. The bridegroom departs to prepare the bridal chamber.
- If the bridegroom was asked when the wedding was to be, he might well say "it is not for me to know, only my father knows".
- Just as a bridegroom would have told his bride that he would go to prepare a place for her, so Jesus told His disciples: *"...In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. -- John 13:1-3.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 9. The bride dedicated herself to preparing to be the best wife she could be.
- [Rev 21:2] *And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 9. The bride dedicated herself to preparing to be the best wife she could be.
- During this time she prepared herself for the marriage.
- She likely had saved money all her life for this time.
- She would purchase expensive cosmetics and learn to apply them to make herself more beautiful for the bridegroom.
- She would learn the fine points of being a wife.
- She wouldn't know when her groom would come for her, so she always had to be ready.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- While the bridegroom was preparing the wedding chamber, the bride was considered to be consecrated, set apart or "bought with a price".
- If she went out, she would wear a veil so others would know she was betrothed.
- The veil (badeken) symbolizes the idea of modesty and conveys the lesson that however attractive physical appearances may be, the soul and character are paramount.
- A bride that was engaged to be married would lovingly wish to live in a chaste manner while she awaited her wedding day.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- In cases of “true love”, a “fallen woman” (one who had been with another man) could be brought into marriage IF the Groom’s father agreed to “waive” the requirement of virginity for his son.
- We see this in the Old Testament story of Rachab, a prostitute who married into the Tribes of Israel to become an ancestress of Jesus (Joshua 2:1 and Matthew 1:5); and we also see it in the entire Book of Hosea, in which a prophet is commanded to marry a prostitute in order to demonstrate God’s love for fallen Israel.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- As Christians, we are in the same position of not being able to present ourselves to Christ as being pure when we first met Him, but He overlooks that deficiency, and cleanses us Himself (1st Corinthians 6:9-11)
- The “fallen woman” was to “change” and become faithful to her espoused husband, forgetting her past and maintaining her purity from that point on.
- We, God's people, are now consecrated, or set apart, waiting for the return of our bridegroom.
- We should be spending this time maintaining our purity for Jesus' return.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- Just as the Jewish bride is declared to be sanctified or set apart exclusively for her groom once the marriage covenant was established, the Church has been declared to be sanctified or set apart exclusively for Christ (Eph. 5:25-27; 1Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10; 13:12).
- And, just as a betrothed woman was tempted to be unfaithful, it is possible for believers today to commit spiritual adultery against Christ before He returns to take His Church.
- Paul expressed concern over this possibility when he wrote the following to Christians:

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- *"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2-3).*
- James expressed the same concern when he rebuked Christians as follows: *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* (James 4:4)

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- The Jewish wedding captured the heart of a woman; romance, excitement, and anticipation.
- However, the bride would also feel nervous about her nakedness soon to come.
- The Church will have some apprehension as well.
- At the rapture, all will be revealed.
- We will be spared the same judgment as the rest of the world; however, we will undergo Christ's Judgment Day / "the Bema Seat of Christ" (Rom. 14:10, 2 Cor. 5:10) when the rapture happens.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 10. The Bride maintains her purity.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*
- [Rev 21:2] *And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 11. The bridegroom's return
- Before the bridegroom could go and get the bride, the groom's father had to be satisfied that every preparation had been made by the son.
- Only then could he give permission to the son to go and get the bride.
- In other words, while the bridegroom was working on the bridal chamber, it was the father who "okayed" the completion of the bridal chamber.
- *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

- 11. Bridegroom comes for his Bride.
- The time of the bridegroom's return is related to the bridal chamber's construction.
- When the preparations on the bridal chamber were completed then it would be the proper time.
- But the groom's father would be the one to give permission.
- It was a common expression or saying, a Jewish idiom, that a man would say when his friends asked him when his marriage would be; he would reply, "of that day or hour no man knows, but my father only."

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal
- 11. Bridegroom comes for his Bride.
- When the bridegroom's father deemed the wedding chamber ready, the father would tell the bridegroom that all was ready and to get His bride.
- The bridegroom would abduct his bride without warning, like a thief at night and take her to the wedding chamber.
- As the bridegroom approached the bride's home, he would shout and blow the shofar (ram's horn trumpet) so that she had some warning to gather her belongings to take into the wedding chamber.
- The bridegroom and his friends would come into the bride's house and get the bride and her bridesmaids.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal
- 11. Bridegroom comes for his Bride.
- Just as the bridegroom would come for the bride in the middle of the night, with a shout and the sound of a shofar, so the Lord will come for us.
- *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal
- 11. Bridegroom comes for his Bride.
- *And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. -- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 12. The Bridal chamber.
- The bride and groom will go to the wedding chamber, where the marriage will be consummated.
- They will stay in that wedding chamber for seven days to get to know each other intimately.
- *[2Cor 5:10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- John referred to this in John 3:29. At this signal, great rejoicing broke forth.
- The marriage was consummated on the first night.
- The bloodstained linen from this night was preserved.
- It was proof of the bride's virginity. ([Deut 22:13-21](#)).
- However, Jesus has, of course, provided our our “virginity” with His own Blood.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- In Revelation 19:11-16, John gives us a description:
- *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is Faithful and True, ... He has a name written on Him that no one but He Himself knows. He is clothed in a garment dipped in blood: and His Name is The Word of God... On His garment and on His thigh He has a name written: King of Kings, and Lord of Lords" (Rev. 19:11-13,16).*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Numbers 15:38-39 *Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe (tzitzit), that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring.*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 13. Marriage Supper
- Finally, there would be a marriage supper for all the guests invited by the father of the bride.
- After seven days in the wedding chamber, the bride and bridegroom would emerge and participate in a feast with friends and family.
- The bride would emerge wearing her wedding dress.
- The wedding dress, unlike the betrothal gifts of adornment, was a seal of love and approval, and total acceptance.
- The groom was letting her know that he now was ready to make her his wedded wife forever in holy matrimony.
- The betrothal garments could not be earned or merited, but were solely the unqualified gifts bestowed by the groom.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 13. Marriage Supper
- But the wedding dress carried a significance that acknowledged that the devotion and chaste preparations on the part of the bride were acceptable by the groom and his father.
- She was granted the privilege of being given her wedding dress.
- And now she stood cleansed and arrayed in purity before him.
- There would be joyous celebrating during this feast.
- The feast would conclude the wedding celebration.
- Just as the bride and bridegroom celebrated with a joyous wedding supper, so Jesus and His bride, the church will celebrate the marriage.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 13. Marriage Supper
- *For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"*
-- Revelation 19:6-9.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 13. Marriage Supper
- During the wedding festivities, the bride and groom would be referred to as “King” and “Queen.” Therefore, the honoring of the Groom at his wedding would be as that of a Coronation, and his Wife, Queen, would be presented in holy matrimony to him.
- *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!"*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 14. Depart for Home
- After the marriage supper, the bride and bridegroom would leave the groom's father's house where the groom had built the wedding chamber.
- They would go to their own home, which the bridegroom had prepared.
- Just as the bride and bridegroom left the marriage supper to go to the home that the bridegroom had prepared, so Jesus and His bride will depart for their new home.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 13. Marriage Supper
- *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 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..."*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- 13. Marriage Supper
- *“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (Rev 21:9-11)*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Following the consummation of the marriage the bridegroom (Jesus) will be crowned King over all the earth and the bride (believers in Christ) will live with Him and rule with Him forever.
- *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!"*

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Review
- From the pattern of the ancient wedding practices, we see that, like the bridegroom of ancient times, Jesus came to the home of His bride for the betrothal, made a covenant with His bride and sealed it with a glass of wine, paid the bride price with His life and sent His bride gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- We, the betrothed (the Church) currently await the return of our Bridegroom to take us to the wedding chamber (the rapture) to spend seven years (while the tribulation occurs on Earth).
- We will then celebrate the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and depart with our Bridegroom for our new home, the new Jerusalem.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal - Review
- Here are a few key examples of the significance of the Wedding Parallel.
- The bride price is paid by the groom for the bride.
- Jesus paid for us with his life.
- The virgin girl shows that she accepts the written covenant agreement of the marriage by drinking a glass of wine, and this has become the communion ritual that Jesus gave to the Church.
- The betrothed bride would also have a ritual cleansing bath, and this is like baptism of water and spirit, or the cleansing of the word in Eph 5.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Regeneration and Betrothal - Review
- The groom departs to build the bridal chamber where they will live together, and Jesus said John 14:2 "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." John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Review
- When finished, the groom would return at a time unexpected "of that day or hour no man knows" to fetch, or take away (rapture) his bride, like a thief in the night, which is a type of the action of the rapture.
- Thus, the intimate union between man and wife in the bridal chamber is a picture of being in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ after the rapture.

Regeneration and Betrothal

- Review
- After the marriage was consummated, the groom would announce the consummation to the Friend of the Bridegroom waiting outside the chamber, who would announce it to the other members of the wedding party. (John 3:29).
- Upon receiving this good news the wedding guests would feast and make merry for the next seven days.
- Following the consummation of the marriage the bridegroom (Jesus) will be crowned King over all the earth and the bride (believers in Christ) will live with Him and rule with Him forever.